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LACs in the past not only the subject of evaluations of the RFP itself, but in the programming period 2014-2019, Local Development Groups (LDG) are asked to go one step further. According to Article 143 (g) of the European Financial Regulation (EFCFR), each LDG shall carry out specific monitoring and evaluation activities related to their CLLD strategy. In practice, this may include a self-assessment or optionally even an independent external evaluation of their CLDG strategy. To organize this process has been particularly challenging for LAGs, since also for the Managing Authorities and relevant actors (RWIs) aiming to guide and support LAGs in these activities.

This fact sheet focuses on Kenya's efforts to strengthen evaluation knowledge and culture among the LQs and other evaluation stakeholders.

While evaluation activities can be very helpful and provide deeper insights at the local level it has become clear that to achieve this it requires a specific skill set that is not always available within the LARs of LACs. Nevertheless, Rasmus believed that they could serve as an opportunity:

- To employ skills with care and profitable skills that could be used beyond the fulfildom of any obligation.
- To find out the role of student in class at the local and programme level and the benefits it can bring about to improve performance.

Therefore, the objective of this evaluation support activity was to coordinate, guide and support all parent LAGs in Tarragon with their first attempt at local level LAG2020 activities. This support process was based on a participative and inclusive approach. The project started in October 2019 and concluded in February 2021 with the objective to create a methodology applied to such LAGs needs and capacities. The building blocks and the methodology of the framework were the same for each LAG and included the standard evaluation criteria, different roles, indicators, in-house, but the contents were dependent for each LAG according to its needs and specific situation. By doing so this activity provided each LAG with the essential knowledge and capacity to either organize their own self-assessment or know how to look for others conducting an external evaluation for evaluation.

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Furthermore, this support activity tended to stimulate LAGs to go beyond simply fulfilling the requirement and tended to help them to truly take into mind the meaning of evaluation, which can also be used as a tool to improve their performance and better implement their strategies for the future. It is important to highlight the importance of this activity for the evaluation of LEADER in the GDP (not as a gross mere capacity to LAGs and can therefore assist in the collection of meaningful data making it more useful and trustworthy).

The main action that were involved were the leaders, MA facilitating activities, LAGs, local authorities and other stakeholders/institutions. The evaluator in this process served as an evaluation expert that facilitated the LAG-level self-assessment activities.

This project was divided into two main stages:

1. The facilitating evaluator lacked by the Region and the IM carried out various participatory activities involving LAs, other evaluative stakeholders and local authorities (e.g. surveys and power and local authorities) to identify what the main topics of evaluation could be and to develop a systematic methodology that would allow LAs to answer the evaluation questions themselves.

New Factsheet! - Building the Evaluation Culture in Tuscany

[1]

This factsheet focuses on Tuscany's efforts to strengthen evaluation knowledge and culture among the LAGs and other evaluation stakeholders.

[Download the factsheet now!](#) [2]

Source:

- Evaluation Helpdesk

Publication date:

06/10/2021



20 news schemes supporting the Birds@Farmland initiative

[3]

The Birds@Farmland initiative of the European Commission aims at supporting EU Member States in conserving wild birds living in agricultural landscapes. The initiative will develop twenty farmland bird conservation schemes in ten Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, and Portugal) based on sound scientific knowledge and agricultural and land management practices proven to work.

The initiative aims at involving agricultural and environmental authorities, farm advisory services, farmers' organisations, NGOs, land users, and experts in the process. Through workshops and stakeholder meetings at national and EU levels, Member States are invited to consider these conservation schemes that will be developed in the course of 2021 in their CAP Strategic Plans as well as other relevant policy tools. All EU Member States are invited to participate in the initiative to share their experience and to reinforce their measures for farmland birds.

More information can be found on the "Birds@Farmland Wiki-page" available here (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/birds_farmland_en.htm [4]). To request Wiki-access, please email t.metodiev@pensoft.net [5] or follow the instructions available on the website.

Source:

- EU institutions

Publication date:

30/09/2021



[EAFRD Projects Brochure "RIA2020" available in 6 languages](#)

[6]

This [EAFRD Projects Brochure](#) [7] presents the 15 finalists of the Rural Inspiration Awards (RIA) 2020, ENRD's EU-wide rural development good practice competition. This edition focused on EAFRD-funded initiatives that are promoting rural climate action and the bioeconomy.

The publication is available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish.

Source:

- ENRD Contact Point

Publication date:

30/09/2021



[Rural Connections 2-2021 available in 6 languages](#) [8]

[Rural Connections 2-2021](#) [9] is now available in 6 languages!

In this edition of the Rural Connections magazine, rural development stakeholders from across Europe look at the future of their territories and of rural Europe. They share their views on a range of topics, including the role of rural youth, the importance of broadband development and the use of LEADER to support cultural projects.

Source:

- ENRD Contact Point

Publication date:

21/09/2021



EU Rural Review 30 'Climate action in rural areas' now available in 6 languages ^[10]

The EU Rural Review 30 'Climate action in rural areas' ^[11] is now available in 6 languages!

This edition of the EU Rural Review looks at how rural areas are making significant contributions towards climate action, also thanks to EAFRD support. The publication is available for download in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish.

Source:

- ENRD Contact Point

Publication date:

21/09/2021



New Report! - A journey through evaluation plans: Learning from past experiences for the future CAP ^[12]

This report summarises the major outcomes of the Good Practice Workshop, 'A journey through evaluation plans: Learning from past experiences for the future CAP'.

Download the report [here](#) ^[13].

Source:

- Evaluation Helpdesk

Publication date:

31/08/2021



Partnership with French LAGs ^[14]

French LAGs (Local Action Groups) invite any European LAG interested in cooperating with them to get in touch to identify possible future partnerships.

Leader LAG integrates transnational and/or inter-territorial cooperation. During the current programming period, many difficulties have been encountered by LAGs in the implementation of their respective development strategies, and, consequently, in the emergence and implementation of Leader cooperation projects.

If you are a LAG interested in cooperating with any French LAG, please write to the following email address: and find out more information on the webpage of the [French Rural Network](#) ^[16].

Source:

- National stakeholders

Publication date:

14/07/2021



Promoting Romanian forests as cultural and natural assets

[17]

The Association for Environment and Development - [ADEMED](#) [18], Romania supports three villages in reviving traditional community celebrations in the forest.

The Administration of National Cultural Fund, Romania, supports a five-month project by ADEMED to promote folkloric theater in Bosorod, Pietriceaua and Pesac, three settlements in the Carpathian Mountains. Between June and July 2021, cartoonists, actors, teachers and residents team up to translate three local legends into comics and then perform them in the forest.

The villages seed to form a network promoting the forest's cultural role and raising awareness of their role as cultural and natural local assets, promoting their conservation.

Source:

- National stakeholders

Publication date:

14/07/2021



International Film Festival Agrofilm 2021: submit your film!

[19]

Agrofilm is a unique festival organized by a research institution in cooperation with film professionals. The presentation of the results of the EIP AGRI working groups is welcome and contributes to the dissemination and use of good solutions.

This festival welcomes films on agriculture and food, which present examples of good practice, cooperation between farmers and researchers and innovative solutions that are the basis for effective

implementation of the new policies such as Green Deal, Organic Action Plans, Farm to Fork Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy. Submit your film by 31 July 2021 using [this form](#) [20] to

Source:

- National stakeholders

Publication date:

14/07/2021



[Rural Coworking Guide by CoLabora](#) [22]

[CoLabora](#) [23], a European cooperation project promoting coworking in rural areas, has released the toolkit '[Rural Coworking Guide](#)' [24] - Tips for the successful creation of a rural coworking space'. The toolkit is available for free download.

Coworking spaces can contribute to rural areas' development. This new model of places designed for professionals offers them an opportunity to efficiently work where they choose to live, without the need to move away from their rural environment.

CoLabora is a transnational LEADER cooperation project gathering seven LAGs from Spain, France, Germany, Latvia and Wales.

Source:

- European stakeholders

Publication date:

12/07/2021

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[1] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/new-factsheet-building-evaluation-culture-tuscany_en

[2] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/publications/building-evaluation-culture-tuscany-local-level-leader-evaluation-support_en

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[5] [mailto:t.metodiev@pensoft.net](#)

[6] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/eafrd-projects-brochure-ria2020-available-6-languages_en

[7] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/publications/eafrd-projects-brochure-rural-inspiration-awards-2020_en

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[10] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/eu-rural-review-30-climate-action-rural-areas-now-available-6-languages_en

[11] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-rural-review-30-climate-action-rural-areas_en

[12] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/new-report-journey-through-evaluation-plans-learning-past-experiences-future-cap_en

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[18] <http://ademed.eu>

[19] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/international-film-festival-agrofilm-2021-submit-your-film_en

[20] <http://agrofilm.sk/index.php/en/application>

[21] [mailto:agrofilm2021@gmail.com](#)

[22] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/rural-coworking-guide-colabora_en

[23] <https://www.colaboracoworking.eu/>

[24] https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5e5e5b9d3f2bf9c3d3d51b43/6087ff5b353220f969bb6186_Rural%20Coworking%20Guide.pdf

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