



European Network for
Rural Development

Achieving Results the CLLD Way: Putting the Method to Work

7-8 December 2016, Sweden

Rural Evaluation Helpdesk Corner Session

“How can evaluation foster the implementation of the CLLD method?”

The Rural Evaluation Helpdesk organised and delivered a ‘corner session’ during the marketplace where participants were able to meet Helpdesk team experts. The session participants included Managing Authorities, Local Action Groups and national Rural Networks.

The principal objective of the corner session was for the Helpdesk team and CLLD stakeholders to discuss the importance of the LEADER method for delivery of the added value which LEADER / CLLD is expected to deliver. The discussion also covered how the evaluation of the implementation of the method can help to ensure that the seven LEADER principles are respected and addressed via the delivery mechanism prepared and implemented at the EU, national, regional and local level.

Participants discussed the following issues in relation to the assessment of LEADER method:

- What can be done if the top down delivery system procedures are too rigid in their design and implementation and compromise the application of the seven LEADER / CLLD principles?
- What are the examples of indicators suitable for the assessment of the LEADER method, e.g. the decision making power of LAGs, the independence of the LAG from the local government, the fostering of common agreement among partners regarding priorities for support, participation in the LAG and its work and the implementation of the bottom up approach?
- The discussions briefly explored what could realistically be done in the situation where both time and budget and budget are limited.
- The discussion also considered which method should be used to assess ‘failures’, i.e. innovative projects which had been unsuccessful in achieving their objectives and the basis for the LAGs (and MA / PA) acceptance of this

Stakeholders who participated in the corner session have requested the following main elements of support from the Rural Evaluation Helpdesk:

- that they provide them with advice and practical tools with regard to how the delivery of the LEADER method can be assessed; and
- that they facilitate the exchange of existing evaluation practices between the Member States in this field.