



European Network for
Rural Development

Achieving Results the CLLD Way: Putting the Method to Work

7-8 December 2016, Sweden

'Informal' Cooperation meeting of the Practitioner-led Working Group (PWG) on LEADER/CLLD

An 'informal' meeting of LEADER Cooperation PWG members present at the CLLD event took place on 7 December 2016 at the 'market place' of the event. The meeting started with a short description of the LEADER Cooperation PWG, its key objectives. Participants represented Managing Authorities, Local Action Groups, National Rural Networks from Poland, Portugal, Germany, Estonia, Sweden, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary as well as the ENRD CP, and DG AGRI.

As part of discussing the outcomes of the TNC workshop in Tartu (23-24 November 2016), the key message of the 'Tartu Declaration' from ELARD was presented. The relevant part of the Tartu Declaration (draft) states

"This demand for full involvement of national LAG organisations applies especially to the procedures for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation among Local Action Groups, which have to be designed on the basis of good practice. The harmonisation of rules for such cooperation is crucial, and should therefore be fixed at EU level."

This message underlines the importance of using good practice as the basis of designing procedures and harmonisation of rules for cooperation – both part of the remit of the PWG as well.

In the second part of the meeting, the current status, next steps, focus until the end of Phase 1 of the PWG (February 2017) were discussed. A possible key outcome from the work of the PWG – subject to the development of relevant recommendations – is the update to the DG AGRI Guide to LEADER Cooperation in the 2014-2020 programming period. The proposal to focus on the most „popular” themes was presented. These themes of the PWG that members commented on and contributed to the most include the “ideal” elements of TNC, common definitions (joint action, common cost, selection, approval), common templates (cooperation agreement, template for information provision on TNC procedures). Another topic discussed and agreed upon was demonstrating the 'added value' of cooperation and based on PWG member suggestion the ENRD CP is going to explore the possible use of project descriptions from the Nordic-Baltic cooperation award (2013) as a good source of 'good practice' examples and case studies for cooperation projects.

Outcomes

- ❖ A timeline for next steps was agreed. This includes the preparation of a first draft of proposals and its dissemination among PWG members by the ENRD CP by mid-January. The PWG will develop the final draft by the end of January, and this will be discussed with DG AGRI as part of preparations of the PWG proposals to be presented at the ENRD LEADER Sub-Group meeting (February 2017).
- ❖ Five participants of the meeting requested to become members of the PWG. They represented a Managing Authority in Sachsen-Anhalt (Germany), Local Action Groups in Ireland, Croatia, Slovenia, and DG AGRI.