Networking and cooperation between areas
Networking and cooperation: additional tools

**Networking**
- All services and tools
  - intended for local development players
  - to encourage exchanges and cooperation
- Formalised mechanism to complement informal relations

**Cooperation**
- Instrument for
  - reinforcing the activities of local actions groups
  - resolving problems
  - adding value to local resources
  - injecting dynamism into the economy
- Formal commitment
Objectives of networking

- Forging links
- Exchanges and transfers
- Stimulation of cooperation between areas
- Capitalising on lessons learned
Networks: different types ...

Geographical level
- Local
- Regional
- National
- European

Type
- Institutional
- Associations
- General
- Thematic
... and different roles

Geographical level
- Local
- Regional
- National
- European

Type
- Institutional
- Associations
- General
- Thematic

Role
- “Animator”
- Operator
- Mediator
- Political
Mission of the LEADER European Observatory

- Identification and analysis of good practices
- Information on rural areas
- Organising exchanges
- Meeting beneficiaries
- Exchanges between administrations
- Stimulation of cooperation
- Analysis of lessons learned
The impact of networking

Accessing useful information

Broadening the horizons of the LAG

Reinforcing the credibility of the project

Enhancing the approach collectively

Encouraging mainstreaming

Promoting cooperation
Transnational cooperation in LEADER II

46% of groups involved in

255 projects known to the Observatory

Often limited number of partners (3 on average)

Sectors
- Agri-food production
- Rural tourism
- Information technology
- Environment and heritage
- Rural services
Objectives of cooperation

- Enhancing complementarities
- Achieving critical mass
- Capitalising on similarities
From idea to action: the project path

Emergence of the need for cooperation

Definition of the cooperation project

Feasibility analysis

Implementation

Definition of the need

First meeting

Partner search
Qualitative aspects of cooperation

Opening up and cultural melting pot

Emergence of a culture of cooperation

Spin-off outside the local group

Learning through experience
Transnational cooperation in LEADER+

- Inter-territorial cooperation
- Transnational within the Union
- Areas outside the Union, set up according to the LEADER approach
Cooperation: a demanding process

- Focused on the unifying theme and the added value for the sectors, development players and communities
- Precise identification of the relevance
- Consideration of respective interests
- Arises in the process “in its own good time”
- Major harnessing of time and energies for a sometimes unpredictable outcome
Difficulties and tips to overcome them

**Difficulties**
- unclear or over-ambitious objectives
- coordinating the action

**Tips**
- objectives responding to real local needs
- well-defined plan of action
- effective coordination structure
Difficulties and tips to overcome them

**Difficulties**
- Administrative, financial, and legal problems
- Local recognition

**Tips**
- Effective coordination structure
- External assistance
- Realistic budget
- Combination of public and private funds
- Suitable legal models
- Good communication
A) Participation in networks:
- Why?
- What is the added value?
- What are the obstacles?

B) Transnational cooperation:
- Why?
- What can it bring?
- What are the impediments?