LEADER implementation in Finland

ENRD Seminar Designing LEADER for the future
Workshop session on animation, networking, cooperation
10 March 2020
Laura Jänis, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
LEADER in Finland 2014-2020

- 54 rural LAGs + 1 in Åland
- 100% of rural population
- 14,000-123,000 inhabitants, average 50,000
- Total public funding 300 M€
- Per LAG 3-11 M€
Vision for LEADER
Now and in the future: all areas covered

2014-2020
Quality & Results

Focus on quality and results
• Quality management - process
• LAG as a learning organization / network: learning plan included in the LDS
• Quality of the LDS as a basis for LAG budget
• Good results and implementation of the LDS → bonus for the LAG budget

2021-2027
Quality, Results & Networking

Better networking → better quality and results
• Strengthening the networking approach
• Network management - capacity building for LAGs and the whole delivery chain
• Dynamic network analysis included in the LDS
Our approach in 2014-2020

Quality management of LEADER

• Continuous development of LEADER work: Shared quality management of the LEADER delivery chain

1) Quality of plans: local development strategies and their drafting process
   • Better strategy → bigger budget

2) Quality of action: Implementation of local development strategies
   • Good cooperation between LAGs, NRN, MA, PA
   • Capacity building for LAGs
   • All LAGs have their own quality management handbook / manual
   • Peer auditing between LAGs (3rd round 2020)

3) Quality of results and impacts
   • Good results → bonus for budget
   • LAG’s annual reporting to stakeholders and MA, common framework, max 10 pages
   • External and self evaluations – both on the LAG level and national level
Elements of success in our LEADER delivery system

Working together

• All areas covered
• Strong support for LEADER by the administration – at the same time respecting the bottom up approach
• Forums and clear practices for dialogue between the administration and LAGs
• NRN facilitates networking, capacity building, exchange and experimenting new ideas
• Trust → stronger network between LAGs – MA – PA & local – regional – national level

Informal Skype between MA, PA, NRN and LEADER ombudsman weekly

‘LEADER expert group’ MA, PA, NRN, regional adm., LAGs ~ every 2 months

‘LEADER days’ for LAG staff and administration biannual

‘LAG Board member days’ annual

Meeting of LAG presidents biannual

Other examples
- Quality management training (annual)
- Meetings of regional authorities working with LEADER

LEADER2030, CLLD2030, Rural2020 - processes 2016-2018
Leader evaluation and workshop on LEADER criteria 2019
Building a common understanding
What kind of LEADER is needed in the future?
Thank you!

LEADER

For ideas on a human scale!

laura.janis@mmm.fi