The ESF perspective on social inclusion

ENRD Workshop on the role of LEADER/ CLLD and networking in supporting social inclusion in rural areas – 17 March 2016

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Social inclusion policies and rural areas (1/2)

**EU policy Framework :**

1) Commission recommendation on Active Inclusion (2008) with 3 strands :

- *Adequate income support*
- *Inclusive labour markets*
- *Access to quality services*

*Including the use of "the Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund, to support active inclusion measures".*

2) Social Investment Package (2013) :

*Promoting cost-effectiveness of social investments through integrated services delivery (one-stop shop model) and a better targeted support from social protection systems and activation measures.*

3) The future 'European Pillar of Social Rights'
Social inclusion policies and rural areas (2/2)

- No **specific territorial targeting** for addressing the specific features of rural poverty

- A **lower take-up of active inclusion in rural areas**:  
  - Lack of availability and accessibility of quality services  
  - Difficulties in access to information and advice about public benefit entitlement  
  - Specific culture of independence and self-reliance
The ESF and social inclusion in rural areas

Preliminary remarks

- The ESF is not a place-based Fund but focuses on raising the human capital of people (employability, social inclusion, education).
- A long experience in reaching out and engaging disadvantaged groups of people both in urban and rural areas.
- The ESF and CLLD: past experience in territorial approaches.
  - Experience of EQUAL in 2000-2006
  - Few examples approaching the CLLD model in the 2007-2013 period: e.g. “Stärken von Ort” (DE)
The ESF and CLLD under 2014-2020 (1/2)

- CLLD programmed for the first time under the ESF
- A dedicated investment priority under Thematic Objective (TO) 9 on 'promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination' (IP 9 (vi))
- But as delivery mechanism, CLLD can support any other Thematic Objectives and Investment priorities within TO9.
- 634 € M programmed under IP 9 (vi) covering 13 Member States and 25 ESF OPs.
- Monitoring and evaluation: Specific objectives, indicators and targets in case CLLD is programmed as Investment priority within a priority axis to better track the social outcomes of CLLD approaches
## The ESF and CLLD under 2014-2020 (2/2)

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Looking ahead

Building up inclusive CLLD strategies and LAGs:

• In the start-up phase: an extensive use of preparatory support, capacity-building, targeting and outreach is needed to answer the local social needs

• Bringing together all the relevant partners in the LAG decision-making and functioning (including social/anti-discrimination NGOs, service providers...) to deliver integrated and innovative solutions to address social exclusion in a territory

• Promoting participatory methods to directly engage the disadvantaged groups of people targeted including through empowering activities

• Setting up a more social-friendly evaluation system to capture the results achieved in terms of social inclusion
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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