

Minutes of the LEADER/CLLD Subgroup meeting

21st of February 2017, Brussels

Summary compiled by Kristiina Tammets

LEADER Subgroup handled following themes:

- State of play of LEADER/CLLD implementation
- Improving LEADER/CLLD for 2020+: Cork 2.0, Bastad Conference, Tartu declaration
- Practitioners Working Group input for improving TNC
- Evaluation Guidelines for LEADER/CLLD
- Update of calendar and activities of ENRD

Presentations of the Subgroup are available here http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/leaderclld-sub-group-1_en

ELARD president Kristiina Tammets introduced LEADER/CLLD declaration and its' main messages for the programming period 2021-2027. Presentation is available here http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/leader-sub-group-4_elard_tammets.pdf.

Full text of LEADER/CLLD declaration is at ELARD website <http://www.elard.eu/uploads/tartu-declaration-leader-clld2020.pdf>

Main reflections from Subgroup:

1. So far **2000 LAGs** have been approved, some countries including 13 regions are still waiting for approval of their strategies;
2. There are **3 important umbrella positions** for improving LEADER/CLLD for 2020+: Cork 2.0, Bastad and ELARD Tartu declaration;
3. In figures about 75% funding should go through multi-funding. **In 20 Member States multi-funding is allowed in legislation, but only a little bit more than 200 LAGs implement multi-funding in real.** For example in Spain it is up to regions to decide multi-funding, finally there is no multi-funding in Spain. Multi-funding is allowed in many countries but in real life actually not used that much. The method is very good but needs simpler implementation framework and better understanding how to use it;
4. **LAGs and their average budgets.** There are big variations among Member States from 1.5 million in Croatia to 9.5 million in Greece. It is expected that 54% of rural population to be covered by LDS, jobs created 46 000; population benefitting from improved services: 50.4 mln (EAFRD);
5. **“Omnibus regulation” (adoption will be end of 2017).** Clarifies roles of LAGs, LAGs can establish simplified costs, cross funding of Technical Assistance, introduces lead fund option for preparatory support. LAGs can establish lump sum schemes for their activities. This is new mechanism to involve LAGs into the design of technical implementation framework;
6. LDS themes contribution to Focus areas – **main themes: employment, local economy, diversification;**
7. **Who takes care of urban areas? – DG Regio.** DG Agri tries to coordinate as much as they can from their perspective and with their possibilities;



8. **What makes CLLD special?** – Bottom-up approach. Real decision making by local people;
9. Evaluation ensures accountability, transparency and collective learning. **LAGs have responsibility to organize evaluation of their LDS.** Managing Authorities have responsibility to organize the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD implementation. Evaluation guidelines are ready and available here http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/leader-sub-group-4-guidelines_wimmer.pdf. Until 20.03 the Evaluation Helpdesk will wait for comments, questions about the Guidelines.
10. European Solidarity Corps program supports young people 18-30 knowledge exchange, 2-12 months for solidarity jobs;
11. There should be organized **annual meetings of LAGs** similarly to National Rural Network meetings organized by ENRD Contact Point;
12. Update of the ENRD calendar is available here http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/upcoming_en