

European Commission Agriculture and Rural Development



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LSC Focus Group 4 Better Local Development Strategies:

Draft Report

8th LEADER sub-committee meeting 31 May 2012, Brussels



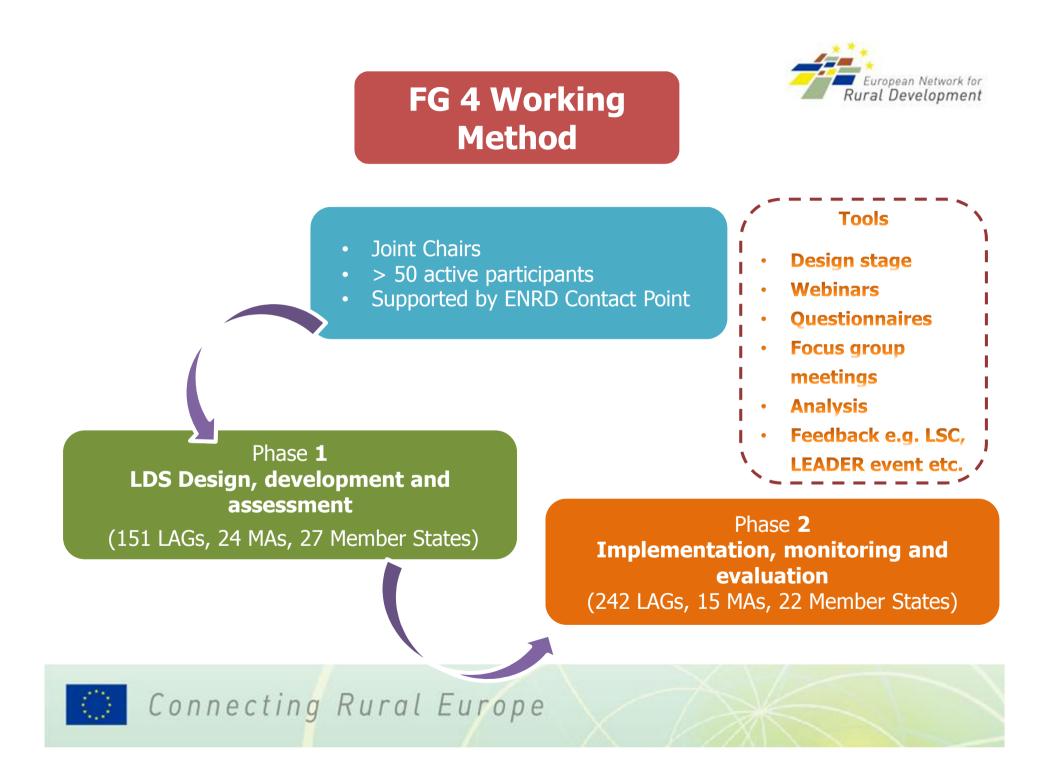


- To advise the Member States with regards to the current and the next programming period; and
- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the LEADER approach.

The two main operational objectives of the focus group are:

- To identify the critical requirements in the design of the Local **Development Strategy; and**
- To collect tools and good practices used at Local Action Group \bullet (LAG) level ensuring an efficient implementation of the Local **Development Strategy.**







Making a start

- Phase 1 Conclusions [1] Start early, LAGs should take responsibility
 - Allow enough development time for process
 - Involve people, local stakeholders
 - Ensure continuity, support and resource development
 - Knowledge transfer, mentoring etc.
 - A staged approach, allow time for quality

Guidance

- Coordinate for effectiveness: what, when and how
- Guide the LDS method, supportively
- Assess and meet diversity of LAG needs
- Training: build the capability, improve standards, invest in the people and process





The Local Development Strategy

- Phase 1 Conclusions [2] \succ Specify content and process more clearly,
 - Target improving the essentials.
 - Strengthen the logic, needs, objectives, targets etc.
 - Improve/understand innovation
 - Include training action plan
 - Plan in monitoring and evaluation

Strengthen alignment of both local and wider strategic fit

Flexibility within the parameters, enhance autonomy \geq

Strategy selection

- Competition but based on guality
- Using objective criteria
- Use feedback to improve, develop winners
- Budget based on evidence and analysis

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- □ Most got what they asked for
- But its often not enough

Phase 2 Conclusions [1]

> Needs improved financial planning re costs, match and elasticity.

Delivering objectives:

- □ Half can concentrate on this
- But financial imperative can dominate
 - Improve through planning their proactive pursuit
 - ➢ Use the LEADER <u>methods</u>
 - > Reflect, review performance

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Phase Low Monitoring and indicators

- Strengthen M&E planning, structure
- Improve LAG/MA understanding of indicators & their use
- Better LEADER specific indicators reducing demand for additional indicators
- Strengthen and support the system e.g. better use of existing systems and data

Evaluation

- > Design a common structure, strengthen consistency and comparability
- > Align evaluation purpose and methods and guide to strengthen learning
 - \checkmark (and the application of the lessons!)
- Make better use of feedback, structure and target for improvement





Self evaluation

- phase 2 Conclusions (3) > Broaden involvement, strengthen relevance
 - Improve the methods and design, add real value to LEADER evaluation \geq
 - Build in consistency
 - Build capacity and capability
 - Training, guidance and best practice

Monitoring and evaluation support

- Improved evaluation and self evaluation needs strengthened knowledge \geq skills and capabilities
- Linked to the LDS process
- Underpinned by
- Better definition of M&E
- Clear consistent and understood methods
- Proactive targeted and needs based support
- > A common framework.







Some common improvement themes

- ✤ Linking LDS design, implementation and M&E in an effective way is a priority.
- Capitalise on the depth and breadth of LEADER experience in an organised and structured way.
- Build on this for improved LEADER, LAG and LDS organisation, structure and delivery;
- Greater consistency and clarity to improve LAG autonomy, accountability, exchange and learning;
- Being proactive, taking a lead, starting now.
- Implementing of the 'full' LEADER method, particularly its bottom up, integrated, innovative and local needs focused basis, but ;
- *in an improved, better structured, more accountable and well supported way.*



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