

Workshop # 1 "How to implement LEADER/CLLD added value in the local development strategies" 23.6.2021

Moderator: Pedro Brosei

Rapporteur: Kirsten Birke Lund

Participants of the group:

Marion Eckardt, SE; Pedro Brosei, DE; Jela Tvrdonova, SK; Monika Slížiková, SK, Pascale Lacroix, SE; Kirsten Birke Lund, DK

Pedro Brosei opened the meeting by introducing the participants – all fairly known to one another except for Pascal, who introduced herself.

Pedro commented on the presentations of today's meeting which had all been very bottom-up-like and he continued with a short intro of his own impression of LEADER from the very beginning, where he found the method was more prominent than the money.

1. What practises do you use to generate added value in your daily work? (The added value is improved social capital, good governance and better results, that are generated from the seven principles) The following points taken together:
 - At the office (templates, workingmodels, other...)
 - With the LAG (organising local activities, communication, engagement of local people, animation activities...)

Marion: We need to remind us daily about the principles and the added value – it is not obvious – not to the LAG staff nor to the board – the main focus is on projects.

Have developed a vision and purpose of the LAG-organisation and part of this is to ensure the method is high on the agenda – together with options and obstacles of the LAG-region. Communication is seen as a very important to ensure knowledge about the method.

Unfortunately, in many LAGs the staff is limited to 2 persons who'll both be focusing on projects only.

Marion has a staff of 8 – by implementing also LAG's own projects and also and are starting to also attract new funding from regional money – shift from being not interesting for the region to now more interesting (standard LAG-budget is used for administration – standard for Sweden)

Marion has set up tasks for her employees to describe their intentions/actions (within the next 6 months) in relation to all 7 principles. (to remind them)

Pedro: many LAGs are not working according to the principles – but it's a challenge – money decides and often we see it's due to lack of understanding of the method.

Jela informed about their challenges with the budget for animation and operation being split between two MAs (Rural development and Regional Development) leading to many LAGs having huge problems operating – and with hardly any budget. Letter explaining the situation has been sent to Commission (supported by ELARD) but no reply.

Pascal confirms that it's difficult to avoid the administrative trap. Even with good intention included in the strategy – but unfortunately not happening in the everyday life.

There is added value to individual projects – and in the networks created – but it stays as islands of projects (not inter-linked) hence the synergy is not visible to the area.





2. How do you use lessons from these practices in the development of your new Local Development Strategy? (So that the future LDS will generate added value)

Pascal informs that they do want to include incentive in the LDS – but might be stuck in definitions are important – how is “added value” to be described and understood.

Marion refers to the presentation: Improved Governance and Social Capital and Enhanced results and impacts.

3. Most exiting examples or learnings in the group in relation to added value

Constant reminder that LEADER is not money only – it’s a method (more important)

LAGs (and MAs?) should be made aware of the meaning of the added value:

- Improved Governance
- Improved Social Capital
- Enhanced results and impacts.

The organisations in/behind the LAGs need to be strong to be able to pursue the added value – not just be an administrative office

