

LEADER: Building bridges for the future

Main STREAMS for the Open Discussions

Introduction to Day 2 Open Discussions

On day 2 of the LEADER 2013 event we will divide into three parallel groups – we call them STREAMS – for Open Discussions on three themes that are relevant

to improving the design, development and delivery of LEADER during the next programme period (2014-2020) – key themes which you have told us you want to explore!

These main STREAMS are:

STREAM 1

How can we **DESIGN** a Programme which captures the added value of LEADER?

STREAM 2

How can we **DEVELOP** effective Local Development Strategies and Local Action Groups?

STREAM 3

How can we **DELIVER** the LEADER approach more simply and efficiently?

In order to help you choose the theme which is most relevant to you, we have prepared these short background notes which explain for each discussion theme:

- The focus of the theme
- Reasons that you should consider when choosing the theme according to your specific interests as a Local Action Group, Managing Authority or Paying Agency
- Possible outputs from discussions within the theme

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STREAM 1

How can we **DESIGN** a Programme which captures the added value of LEADER?

What is the focus of this theme?

Designing the national Programmes in such a way that they enable LAGs, Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies to work together to recognise, capture and deliver all elements of the Leader approach effectively.

What areas and topics of discussion might be relevant?

Within this stream discussion groups may choose to focus on exploring and defining the added value of the LEADER approach, what it can deliver more effectively than other traditional approaches and how this can be identified and measured. Examples of the tools or systems that could be or have been used within Rural Development Programmes to help capture this added value could help identify useful solutions.

Why would I choose this theme?

If you are from a **LAG** and want to explore the added value of LEADER, discuss key factors that contribute to realising this added value and the main obstacles that prevent it from being achieved, share your experience of what has worked well, help shape the design of the new Programme 2014-2020

If you are from a **Managing Authority** and want to discuss the strategic choices and challenges in rural areas that can be addressed more effectively with LEADER, highlight how the programme could respond

to capturing the added value, identify where there are opportunities to be more flexible or make changes, understand the obstacles to delivering the added value of LEADER and share your good practice experiences of working together.

If you are from a **Paying Agency** and want to discuss where Programme design can be improved within your role and the roles of the Managing Authorities and Local Action Groups, explore how you can contribute to enhancing the administrative capacity of LAGs and ensure the added value of the approach, explore RDP instruments to capture, prove and measure the added value.

What possible outputs can emanate from discussions within this theme?

- A process to measure the added value of the LEADER approach at programme level.
- Identification of tools which could be used within programme design to ensure that the added value of the LEADER approach is achieved.
- Sharing of successful evaluation techniques.
- Understanding of what added value could be sought through implementation of LEADER on a national level.
- Understand the benefits of the LEADER approach and further target national programming.

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STREAM 2

How can we **DEVELOP** effective Local Development Strategies and Local Action Groups?

What is the focus of this theme?

Developing a robust, well represented and effective public private partnership which can successfully implement a Local development strategy (LDS), and developing an LDS which represents and empowers a LAG - ensuring both are flexible enough to deliver in a changing rural context.

What areas and topics of discussion might be relevant?

Within this stream discussion might focus on what makes a good LAG and how LAG members can be animated to create a shared vision which engages them in developing their LDS. This process may then improve the quality of the LDS within a simplified framework of development and selection. There might be examples of smart ways to use the multi fund approach and secure the resources needed, and methods for developing self-evaluation and responding to external evaluations.

Why would I choose this theme?

If you are from a **LAG** and want to identify the requirements for creating a robust LDS, discuss methods for communicating and implementing your strategy, explore the financial tools available for multi-fund delivery, share solutions for improving LAG structures, governance and representation and animating stakeholders.

If you are from a **Managing Authority** and want to understand more about the LDS as a living document, discuss designing LDS frameworks which support LAGs to deliver the LEADER approach, identify opportunities to strengthen animation, explore the challenges of multi-fund delivery.

If you are from a **Paying Agency** and want to explore how a LDS develops and its role in project selection, highlight effective forms of communication to deliver the LDS, identify potential co-financing tools.

What possible outputs can emanate from discussions within this theme?

- Practical tools for developing an LDS.
- Techniques for building consensus in a LAG.
- Tools for ensuring effective and involvement and representation of LAG members.
- Examples of how the multi fund approach has been used successfully.
- Tips on securing resources.

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STREAM 3

How can we **DELIVER** the LEADER approach more simply and efficiently?

What is the focus of this theme?

Exploring opportunities for delivering the LEADER approach and the projects it funds more easily throughout their life cycles, without losing the required administrative rigour.

What areas and topics of discussion might be relevant?

Within this stream the discussions might explore how the framework and process for delivering a Local Development Strategy could be simplified including the project lifecycle, tailoring delivery systems to different types of projects and managing risk. Ideas for exchanging information and allocating tasks between Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies and Local Action Groups to identify clear responsibilities and avoiding duplication, and identification of effective management IT systems could provide useful solutions.

Why would I choose this theme?

If you are from a **LAG** and want to highlight the areas where administrative processes are challenging, discuss the balance between programme delivery and legislative requirements, explore opportunities for simplifying the paperwork.

If you are from a **Managing Authority** and want to share existing administrative challenges, identify areas of potential flexibility and change, managing risk to encourage innovation, discuss methods for selecting the best LDSs, explore opportunities for simplifying the LEADER approach at a national level.

If you are from a **Paying Agency** and want to present your challenges and ideas, highlight the financial regulations, explore areas of flexibility and change, discuss tools and solutions for simplifying administration, reducing payment delays and ensuring good communication with LAG management and beneficiaries.

What possible outputs can emanate from discussions within this theme?

- A system of improved communication between stakeholders
- Tools to support the use of innovation
- Opportunities identified to simplify administration throughout the project lifecycle
- Techniques for enabling LDS flexibility