STREAM 2 Plenary Discussion Summary

How can we develop effective Local Development Strategies and Local Action Groups?

Summarized by

ENRD CP

I. Topics initiated Day 1 of the event and hosted by participants during Day 2:

1. Need based strategy development. Host: *Vasileios Papavasileiou, DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THESSALONIKI SA, Greece*

3. Involvement of youth. Host: *Anna Parizán, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary*

4. Involvement of farmers and foresters in LAGs. Host: *Neagu Oana, Copa-Cogeca*

5. Austerity and banking restrictions. Host: *Klelia Vasiliou, TROODOS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, Cyprus*

7. Developing LDS based on multi-funding

8. LEADER as a base for territorial development

9. LAG and FLAG cooperation in CLLD. Host: *Giuseppe Scordella, FLAG ADRIATICO SALENTINO, Italy*

10. Balanced and functional public-private partnerships. Host: *Petar Gjorgievski, Rural Development Network of RM, FYROM*

11. CLLD in cities and peri-urban areas. Host: *Eeva Kunluvainen, Helsingin kaupunginosayhdistykset Helka ry, Finland*

12. And 13. LAG governance under the CLLD vs. the classic LEADER approach & Passing from projects to cooperation strategies. Hosts: *(Renata Vondrakova, Association of Private Farming CZ, Czech Republic), (Christophe Arrondeau, LAG Pays Adour Landes Océanes, France), (Kim Smedslund, PREPARE, Slovenia)*

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II.   Outcomes from open discussion of Stream 2 - How can we develop effective Local Development Strategies and Local Action Groups?

Stream 2 focused on aspects and elements related to the development of Local Development Strategies and Local Action Groups responsible for the delivery of these plans.
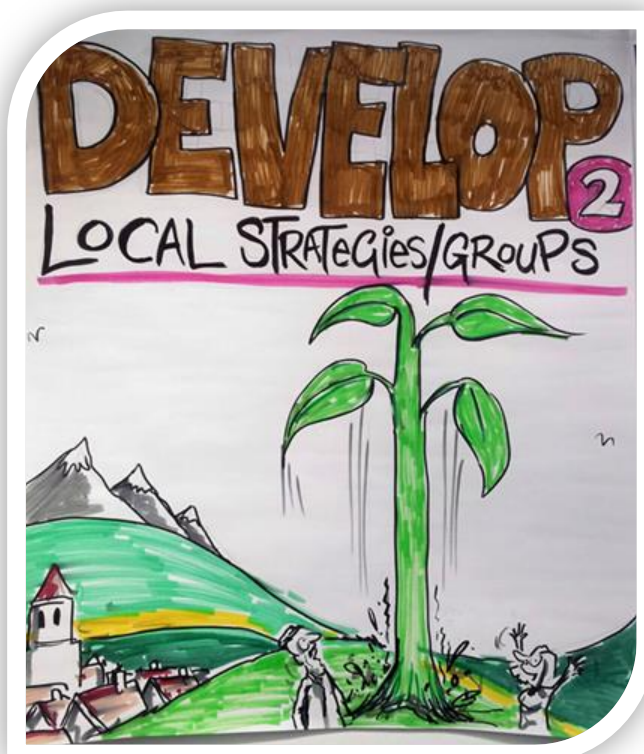
The topics for discussion were identified in Day 1 and participants formed discussion groups on Day 2 to tackle these issues by trying to identify challenges and potential soluations and actions that can help to address them.
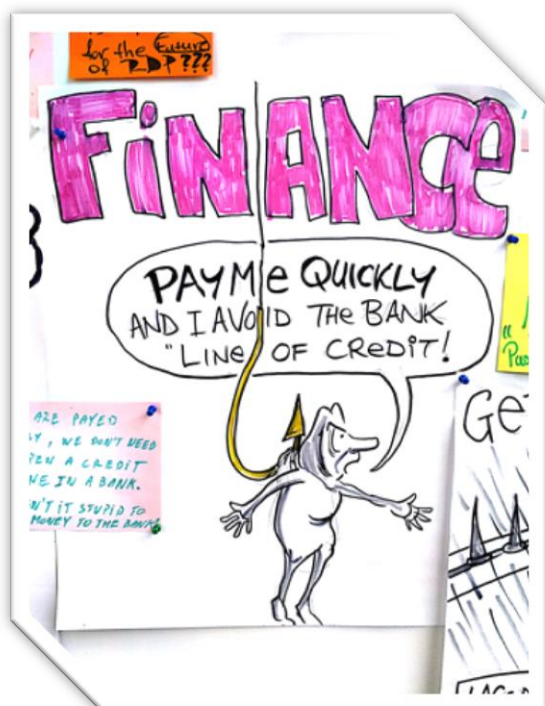

In all **13 topics** were proposed, two of which merged into one group given the complementarity of the topic in discussion.

What are the issues?

A summary of the main challenges and issues identified by the groups to develop effective Local Development Strategies and Local Action groups comprise of the following aspects:

- Austerity measures that pose a threat to the implementation of the Strategies;

- Lack of clear instructions on how funds can and should be used;

- New financial tools under the proposed EC Regulation cannot be used by already established LAGs;

- Need for wider communication to the territory;

- Challenge of information access;

- More clarity of where we are heading towards (clear priorities);

- Lack of cooperation between LAGs and FLAGs;

- Trying to bridge common interests within a Community;

- Governance of LAGs under CLLD can be restricted;

- The level of maturity and diversity of know-how within the key actors involved in planning.

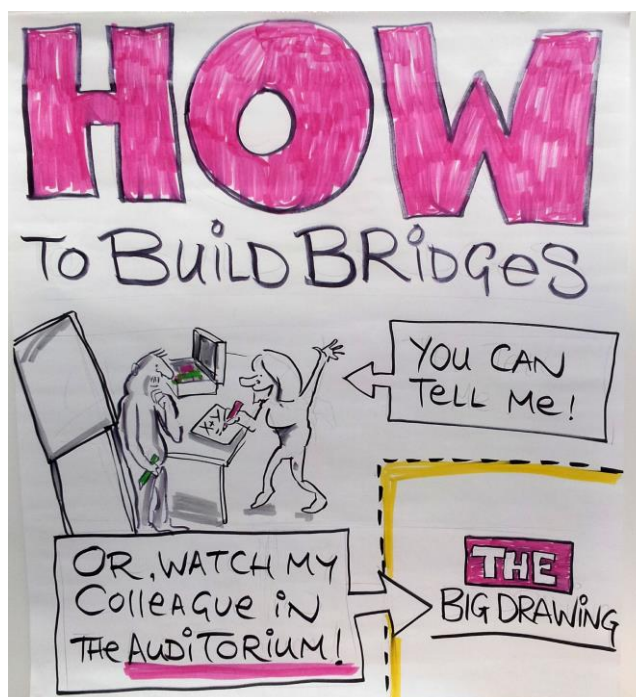**How to address these Challenges?**

In response to these challenges the participants suggested a number of potential solutions and follow up actions based on their personal experiences which can be adopted by other LAGs and responsible authorities to address common issues as follows:

- Invest and focus on the dissemination of good practises;

- Make use of Pilot Projects as a means to demonstrate what can work well;

- National Rural Networks should be used as a tool that can assist and

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support LAGs to build their vision;

- Involve Youths as early as possible and engage them through the use of interesting tools such as Umbrella Projects;

- Ensure you develop a programme that is flexible and dynamic to address and tackle changing socio-economic situations;

- Involve more local actors such as farmers and entrepreneurs to exchange and share their real life experiences and build a more solid local democracy;

- LAGs should be seen as the coordinators of interventions by all the other funds.

III.   MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Finally in conclusion to the topic discussions a short debate was held on what are the key conclusions from the stream discussions.

The emerging points can be clustered as follows:

Guidance and Information needs

I.   *It was mentioned during several instances that the key to develop more effective local development strategies lies in better knowledge and education in order to reach a better and possibly a common understanding between the key actors involved in this process;*

II. *CLLD and multi-funding was a hot topic and so was the need for more support by the European Commission, ENRD and other institutions to better understand how multi-funding can be used and the necessary structures and resources required for the delivery of these strategies;*

Communication and Cooperation

I.   *This aspect was articulated and flagged in the various topics but also by dofferent representatives including LAGs, Managing Authroities and Paying Agencies participating in Stream 2.*

II.   *The need to improve communication and cooperation amongst the key actors and between the different levels be it local, regional or national was deemed as one of the most important aspects to ensure an effective strategy and a well functioning LAG.*

III.   *In this regard Managing Authorities ansd Paying Agencies need to involve LAGs to make it work.*

More Cohesion

I.   *Participants stressed on the importance to look at more holistic approaches to ensure a much more effective strategy that can be delivered more efficiently. In this regard a territorial strategic approach is essential even if CLLD is not adopted. This also draws on the potential perspectives of more synergies between the rural and urban areas thus giving rise to wider regional approaches and possibilities.*

Inclusive Approach

I.   *Finally as a new programming period comes more closer the new rules should seek to ensure that every stakeholder and all socio-economic need is embraced and taken on board when developing and designing the new strategies. This applies also to the means by which Member States and primarily LAGs can benefit from planned financial tools.*

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IV.   Summaries of open discussions within Stream 2

The table includes available detailed summaries provided by the open discussion groups' hosts

#	Topic	Host	Summary
1	Need based strategy development	Vasileios Papavasileiou	PDF
3	Involvement of youth	Anna Parizán	PDF
8	LEADER as a base for territorial development	Group members	PDF
9	LAG and FLAG cooperation in CLLD	Giuseppe Scordella	PDF