

Different aspects of innovation

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http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/thematic-initiatives/thematic-activities/en/focus-group-2_en.cfm

Examples of innovation in the project itself	
<i>Leader innovation in the field of natural and cultural heritage</i>	
Finding new uses for the local cultural heritage and resources	Creating a house of literature in a rural area: the German case of the Wipfeld House of Literature - This project aims to create a literary museum and forum using the reputation of Wipfeld's three most famous writers (Conrad Celtis, Eulogius Schneider and Engelbert Klüpfel). Its innovative character lies in the fact that it will lead to the establishment of a 'house of literature' and a reading room in a rural area, which is not commonly encountered
	Turning an old mill in a KidsKaffee: the Flemish case of the Kempen-Maasland LAG -The old mill house was refurbished and now proposes walking and cycling activities, catering facilities for children and an area where interactive exhibitions can be organized.
	Refurbishing former farm buildings in order to welcome artists: the SART project of the Dutch Zuid Twente LAG - The SART project consists of the development of (guest) studios for visual artists and designers and the organisation of thematic workshops, for various disciplines in former farm buildings on Tweekelose yards. This 'new' function for the farm's barns and sheds enables them enliven the area and gain direct revenues from them, thus creating a new economic activity in the area.
Communicating about the local environment	Traveling landscape - how to make the landscape of LAG Flevoland(NL) better known locally: This involves a traveling exposition about the landscape of the province of Flevoland. The exposition can be placed in buildings like schools, cultural meeting points, libraries, village buildings, nature information centres, elderly homes etc. The innovative aspects of the project lie in the new manner in which the information is presented and also in the fact that the exhibition travels to people (and not the other way around). Furthermore, the development of the project involves the population, in particular the young people in the area.
Promoting an environmental approach	A wide programme supported under Leader to promote renewable energies in Ireland (3 LAGs: Cavan-Monaghan LEADER, Louth LEADER, Meath LEADER) A project was carried out which aimed at raising awareness among the general public as to the potential of renewable energy. The central idea was to provide both technical support and to generate employment, through the development of renewable energy projects in the area.
	Communicating about energy savings in Flanders and in the Netherlands: The Dutch LAGs of Kop van Noord Holland and Texel, both participated in the ELREN cooperation project. This is a network for sustainable energy in Europe encouraging, which aims at facilitating regional and international projects on energy saving and renewable energy (solar, wind, biomass, renewable heat,

	<p>tidal energy, energy and waste heat utilisation, hydrogen and sustainable building). In Flanders, (the Vlaamse Ardennen LAG), 'energy trimmers' use a mobile information stand and some demonstration material to stimulate people in rural areas to make their houses more efficient in term of the use of energy.</p>
	<p>Combining agriculture and water protection - the 'Alternative water sources: the new gold?' project from the Flemish LAG Westhoek (Belgium): This project aims at stimulating awareness of the issue of water knowledge for farmers and people involved in horticulture. Taking into account the decreasing availability of deep ground water (in terms of quantity and quality) and the increasing demand for water in the area, the project aims to make farmers aware of just how valuable water is and increasing their knowledge of water sources, water treatment techniques, prevention of water floods, etc.</p>
<p><i>Leader innovation in the field of services to the population</i></p>	
<p>Transversal approach for services to population</p>	<p>Creating a centre of services in a scarcely populated zone - Balow, a village for Children, a village for everyone (German LAG South West Mecklenburg): The integrated approach of the LAG enabled the village of Balow (with 325 inhabitants) to have direct access to an important number of services including a primary school, a childcare centre, a culture and communication centre, activities, leisure and sports facilities, a shop, restaurant and community centre. A strong local partnership and five local NGOs, who have been strongly committed to the project for more than 10 years, have enabled the creation of a sustainable child-friendly community in a structurally weak area</p>
	<p>The "Care – What next?" booklet in the German Müritz region: After the "Hurray, we're a family now" booklet published under the previous programming period, the current project aims to provide information about the legal framework, where to get advice and how to contact existing networks when searching the most relevant care system for an older person requiring specific attention. The objective is to put all the information in one booklet which will give an overview of what exists and present the different possible options. No such guide existed before this project and no financing sources are currently available for such projects.</p>
<p><i>Leader innovation in the field of new products, services, activities and technologies</i></p>	
<p>Digiroute42 - a digital Flemish Ardennes route developed by the LAG: Vlaamse Ardennen: This project aims to develop an instrument that creates opportunities for proposing routes (which are recorded with a GPS) on a smartphone, thereby enriching their presentation with informative and interactive animations.</p>	
<p>The Spicy Meetjesland project - ethereal oil from the area of the LAG Meetjesland-Leie-Schelde: The project aims to promote the production and use of ethereal oils from the within the region itself and also in other Flemish regions. This is facilitated through a combination of educational, commercial and economical approaches.</p>	
<p>The creation of recording and music facilities in Poland: Setting up a recording studio and a record company which proposes music workshops in rural area is innovative in Poland for several reasons. Firstly, it is a completely new (and unusual) activity in this area. Secondly, the project offers an</p>	

<p>interesting combination of profitable and social activities (music therapy and a music school for local youth are foreseen).</p>	
<p><i>Leader innovation in the education and social sector</i></p>	
<p>Ever heard of trees? How to raise the interest of children for trees in the Flemish Midden-Kempen LAG area: This educational project introduces children at the third level of primary school to planting, cultivating and maintaining their own trees. This is done on the premises of a professional tree nursery located near the school.</p>	
<p>The LAG North West Overijssel "Green wish boat": Following an idea by a family with a disabled child and a nature conservation association, a boat is made accessible for bedridden people and their families, to privately navigate inside a nature reserve.</p>	
<p>The Malchow island residency (German, LAG "Mecklenburgische Seenplatte-Müritz"); enabling people suffering from dementia to live together with their life partner: An old textile factory is converted into a centre for old people and those suffering from dementia, where the marital partners may also be accommodated in order to maintain closeness to loved ones, contributing to the pathology being better dealt with by the family and easing relations between the family and the caring staff easier.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Examples of innovation in the new types of partnerships emerging thanks to the Leader method</p>	
<p>Public-private with an idea of a wider partnership involving local actors and stakeholders</p>	<p>Bringing together public, private and third sectors in Finland (LAG ETPÄHÄ RY) in order to develop services for elderly people in rural areas: In order to find and create new operational models and policies which provide services in rural areas (notably for elderly people), the different social and welfare stakeholders were brought together, and a survey was carried out on the different places where services could be organised (village houses, village schools, libraries, etc.). This project planted the seed for better public-private partnership (between the municipality and third sector) in the organising of welfare services in rural areas. New cooperation arose between rural associations (village movements, sport associations, etc.) and the public sector (municipalities) and forced municipalities and different administrations to work with each other in order to produce efficient and high quality services.</p>
	<p>Creating links between farmers and agro-food actors in the regional dairy farming sector of the Zuid Oost Drenthe LAG (The Netherlands): New cooperation links have been established between farmers and breeders to contribute to farmers being less dependent on EU support, becoming more specialised and better involved in regional development.</p>
	<p>The historical workshops in Torglow (Germany) - making the history of the region part of people's history: This action, comprised of two open-air museums, a historical shipyard which has so far rebuilt eight ships according to archaeological evidence; and an international youth meeting place has been made possible thanks to the frequent and high quality links which were developed between young workers, tourism organisations, active labour-market actors and cultural citizen representatives.</p>

Examples of innovation in financial and administrative engineering

The German case of the Wipfeld House of Literature: how to secure an action when municipal finances are limited? This previously mentioned project faced several difficulties, primarily centred on how to make an action financially sustainable when the municipal finances are limited. This limitation has been overcome as a result of the entire project development being financed in advance, by the local community. Furthermore, the project will depend exclusively on volunteer workers.

France - taking the voluntary work inside associations into account: Many local development projects are implemented by local NGOs (associations) which do not have any independent financial means. Consequently it is difficult for them to co-finance a project they wish to implement as it is usually compulsory for them to contribute to at least 20% of the budget. This resulted in a tendency of this type of beneficiary to be 'excluded' from crucial Leader funding. Taking this into account and, in parallel, the fact that much of the work done in these structures is voluntary work (thus not 'financially tangible', the MA is looking at possibilities of financially valorising the time spent by co-financers, thereby equating it with own co-financing for some specific types of projects (notably in the social care sectors).

The Malchow island residence project: a transversal approach which required the combining of three different EU-funding sources and six project approval decisions based on different regulations: The implementation of this previously mentioned project (apartment sharing, for people suffering from dementia to live together with their life partners) requires specific administrative skills. Indeed, three separate EU funds were called upon: ESF via the Ministry for Social Affairs, ERDF via the Ministry of Economy and EARDF via the Ministry of Agriculture. Furthermore, in order to complete the budget, national funding was obtained via the Ministry of Transport with several foundations and trusts intervening, each one applying its own procedures, calendar and decision making processes. This required a lot of innovation in terms of the management of the whole file in order to maintain the global coherence of the project, as well as keep a clear track of the different procedures and avoid double financing.