

Supporting LEADER principles in Austria



Christa Rockenbauer-Peirl
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism
Directorate-General V - Tourism and Regional Policy, Division 6
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Evaluation of current situation

- ENRD LAG Survey 2017:
 - essential or important: bottom up 95%; Innovative approaches 78%
 - Able to implement fully or mostly: bottom up 86%; Innovative approaches 78%
 - Discrepancy between real time spent and the wish for time supporting innovation at LAG level
- LEADER case study: Social innovation – implicit to LEADER approach
 - Is one of the most appropriate and successful approaches in bringing about social innovation

Spreading Innovation

- Cooperation LEADER and ESF:
 - thematic calls for LAGs
 - LEADER brings regional topics, networks and social innovation
 - ESF brings their networks, experience and of course funds.
 - win-win situation for ESF and LEADER
- Changes in LEADER and interventions in CSP using some principles:
 - Local Agenda 21 processes implemented with LEADER - participation (bottom up)
 - Rural Innovation systems: multi actor approach, similar EIP but outside of AGRI sector
 - Reactivation of village centers: participation in Village/City development concepts

Regional development – capacity building

- Design of a course for LAG- and other regional Managements:
 - extra-occupational
 - related to practice
 - Improvement of skills according to needs of regions
 - Holistic understanding of regional management: to bring people together
 - Foster innovation, bottom up approach and cooperation

Participative development of contents

- **Steering group:**
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (MA EAFRD; coordination of ERDF), Regions, LAG, NRN, Environment Agency Austria, University College for Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy, AT Climate & Energy fund
 - Cooperation/coordination with University of Vienna
- **Needs: Workshops and Interviews** with target group (regional managers):
 - First outcomes: technical and professional expertise (project management..) and how to interact with people
- **Time line:** Draft curriculum end of 2022, Call in the CSP intervention middle of 2023, start in autumn 2023

Christa Rockenbauer-Peirl
Federal Ministry of Agriculture,
Regions and Tourism

Christa.Rockenbauer@bmlrt.gv.at

