

ENRD Thematic Group on Rural Revitalisation

Framework of Rural Proofing Actions

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What we have done so far...

- [Background paper](#) 'Analytical overview of rural proofing approaches and lessons learned' for the 1st Thematic Group [Meeting](#)
- [Synthesis](#) of 1st TG meeting's outcomes
- [Draft TG working document](#) 'Framework of Rural Proofing Actions'



ENRD Thematic Group Rural Proofing

-ingredients for success-

This board summarises key success factors discussed during the 1st Thematic Group meeting (27/01/2022).

For further details, please visit the ENRD website:

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/long-term-rural-vision/TG-rural-proofing_en_en



Common understanding & Preparation		Narrative & Communication	Political will & Commitment	Coordination	Efficient processes in place		Participatory approach	Collaboration & Networking	Knowledge support & Training
Making sure there is a clear definition and common understanding of 'rural' and 'rural proofing'	Undertaking social research on different 'ruralities' within one country	Making policy-makers aware of the value of rural proofing	Securing strong political will to adopt rural proofing	Designating lead coordination body in charge of rural proofing (e.g. internal within government, external)	Clarifying obligations of all actors involved	Developing proper and independent monitoring & evaluation methodology	Engaging local communities and rural stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up	Using networks	Ensuring relevant, updated and objective data from different administrative levels (national, regional, local)
Learning from existing materials, tools, methodologies (e.g. Territorial Impact Assessment)	Allowing enough time to learn the method	Using positive language focused on rural opportunities instead of challenges	Making sure there is commitment at all administrative levels - national, regional, local	Defining roles and responsibilities (e.g. lead coordinator, coordinators within departments, regional/local contacts etc.)	Defining enforcement mechanism to avoid inconsistent adherence to rural proofing requirements	Preparing clear and comprehensive guidelines / checklists	Consulting rural citizens and considering their input (e.g. local level networks, grassroots and village movements etc.)	Using the power of best practices	Providing training and capacity building for the policy-making bodies involved
Considering mandatory commitment to rural proof (eventually backed up by legislation)	Developing EU-level toolkit to overcome differences in interpretations across countries	Explaining and raising awareness about rural proofing, its objectives and benefits	Putting rural proofing high on the policy agenda	Setting up multi-disciplinary working group involving different governmental departments	Prioritising key policy issues and setting clear targets	Integrating rural proofing into both existing and newly established programmes	Involving wider group of organisations (e.g. statistic agency, academic researchers, civil society, parliamentary committees and groups etc.)	Looking for synergies between state and civil society collaboration	
			Safeguarding continuity of the commitment	Ensuring both horizontal (cross-governmental) and vertical (all governance level-national, regional, local) coordination	Addressing differences within rural areas (e.g. islands, mountains etc.)	Ensuring trained human resources and financial coverage		Interlinking national administrators at the EU level	



Framework of actions

- **Working document**
- **Five essential short-term actions and long term work**
- **Support for policy-makers and all stakeholders involved in designing or implementing rural proofing mechanism in their particular context**



Action 1 - Clear statement of strong (and real) political will and commitment



Action 2 - Establish a positive, shared vision of rural areas



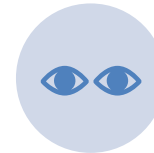
Action 3 - Establish clear and coordinated roles and responsibilities



Action 4 - Develop a clear template and guidance and robust accompanying evidence



Action 5 - Establish clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms



Action 6 - Longer-term work in support of rural proofing



Action 1

Clear statement of strong (and real) political will and commitment

- high-level announcement
- high-level commitment should be re-stated regularly, safeguarded continuity
- mandatory nature
- enforcement measures- consistent adherence to rural proofing requirements, sanctions
- initial flexibility - adequate time to 'learn' how to rural proof

Establish a positive, shared vision of rural areas

- highlighting importance of rural proofing
- using positive language
- common understanding of the rural opportunities and challenges

Action 3

Establish clear and coordinated roles and responsibilities

- understanding of specific roles and responsibilities at different levels (national, regional, local)
- lead coordination body and proper resources
- cross-governmental approach (e.g. regular vertical/horizontal working groups)
- collecting evidence to inform rural proofing
- importance of scrutiny role
- feeding views from 'on-the-ground' - engaging citizens, communities and networks

Action 4

Develop a clear template and guidance and robust accompanying evidence

- template for policy-makers to follow
- accompanying guidance
- clear and transparent decision on the scale of RP - requirement for all policies, strategies, funding streams, etc. vs. prioritising key policy/legislative issues
 - initial light-touch screening
- availability of a robust rural evidence base
- complementarity to already existing assessments

Action 5

Establish clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

- proper measurement of the impacts and successes
- annual collation of detailed evidence
- reports presented to the decision-making bodies
- annual ongoing monitoring of rural proofing activity
- independent evaluation
- ongoing learning on how to improve the process

Longer-term work in support of rural proofing

- parallel collective learning from other forms of ‘proofing’
- ongoing dialogue between national and regional/local levels
- balance between robust rural proofing and the need for dedicated rural-specific policies
- learning and capacity-building of policy-makers

Your remarks & feedback on the framework?

Thank you for your attention

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