



The role of NRNs in the preparation of the Partnership Agreement and rural development programmes

Jean-Michel Courades

DG AGRI G3

Åre (Sweden)

17th NRN Meeting -15 March 2013

THE ROLE AND ADDED VALUE OF THE PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE

- **A key principle to deliver European priorities (Europe 2020 objectives, CSF priorities)**
 - **To take ownership of the EU priorities by enhancing the collective commitment and mobilisation of all actors**
- **A dialogue with stakeholders improving the design and implementation of RDPs**
 - **Designing and adapting an optimal delivery reducing the administrative burden to what is necessary.**
 - **Better territorial and thematic targeting**

Legislative package

Article 5 of the proposal for the Common Provisions Regulation

Obligation for the MS to organise a partnership for the Partnership Agreement and each programme respectively

Main categories of partners listed

Involvement of partners at all stages of the "policy cycle"

Adoption by the Commission of a European code of conduct on Partnership (delegated act)

At least once a year, for each CSF Fund, consultation of the organizations which represent the partners at Union level

Which partners to select?

Competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities

Economic and social partners

Bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination.

Elements of the code of conduct

(as proposed by the Staff Working document sent on 24 April 2012 to the Council and Parliament)

Introduction (context, purpose, added value)

Which partners to select?

How to involve the partners in the preparation of the programming documents?

How to involve the partners in the implementation phase?

How to involve the partners in the evaluation phase?

Assistance to partners

Continuous exchange of good practices



Examples of methods used for the stakeholders consultation on the PA

- on line discussion forum/on line comments
- thematic discussion groups followed by a synthesis prepared by a coordination group
- consultation document (questionnaire)
- national/regional workshops

Role of the NRN for the preparation of the partnership agreement

- **Consultation covers all ESI funds (incl urban stakeholders)**
- **NRN represent the rural voice (rural stakeholders)**
- **NRN can organise national/regional workshops**
- **NRN members can participate in thematic working groups**

Possible role of the NRN in the RDP preparation phase

- facilitate access to the website where adequate information is provided for the preparation of the programme**
- organise the channels through which partners may ask questions and provide their contributions**
- inform partners on the way in which their proposals have been taken into consideration;**
- disseminate the outcome of the consultation process**



RDP consultation on what?

- 1. General SWOT of the programme area covering:**
 - Competitiveness of agri-food sector, inc. innovation aspects
 - Environmental and climate situation/ territorial dimension
 - Socio-economic situation of rural areas
- 2. Detailed needs assessment by priority & focus area**
- 3. Strategic response:**
 - Which priorities/focus areas relevant, issues to be addressed
 - Target setting, planning of measures, outputs, financial resources

Challenges

Is the current composition of NRN relevant for the future EAFRD priorities?

Consultation is time consuming

Possible misunderstandings between draft versions and final program measures?



Thank you!

