

Rural Development responses to economic change

Framing a possible NRN Thematic Initiative



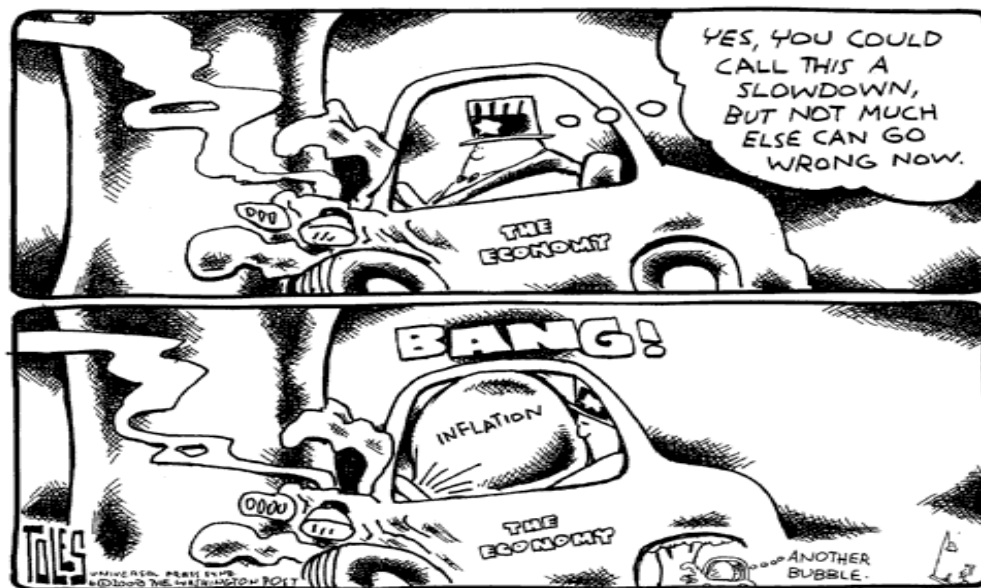
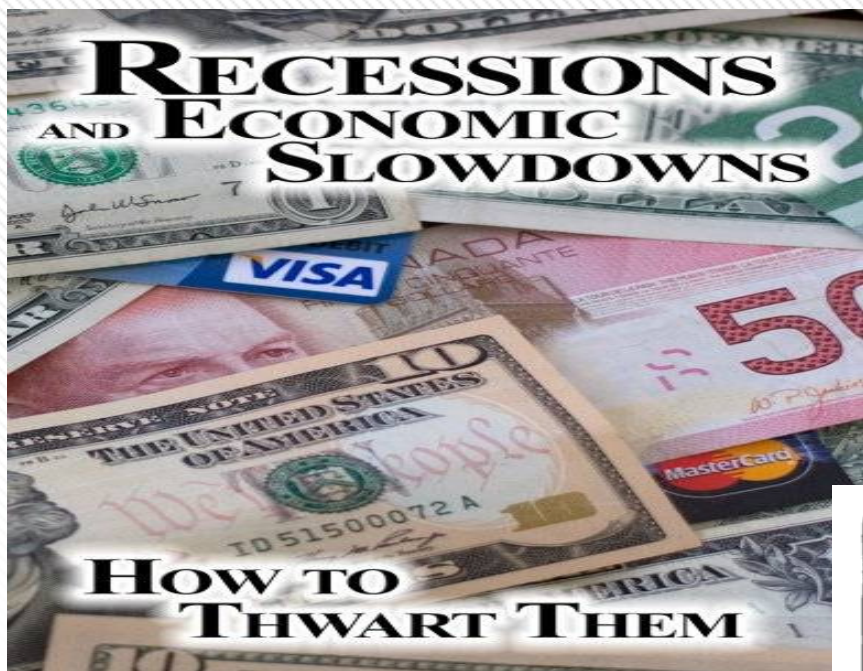
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7th NRN meeting, 10 December 2009, Brussels



Economic slowdown is global



6-17-08



But the response is
regional & local



How has the crisis affected rural economies?



Framing a possible NRN /ENRD response

An NRN Rural Economic Dynamism
(RED)

Thematic Initiative



Why?

- One of the most dominant themes identified by all NRN's in previous screening exercises
- The most dominant theme of most current LEADER and LAG forums (based on some CP country visits and other NRN documents)
- Clear evidence that all rural stakeholders need support and guidance in building a response and that no clear road maps currently exist

Wider objectives

(to which the RED initiative could contribute)

- **To contribute to broader analysis of the impact of the economic change (from a rural perspective)**
- **To develop recommendations for improvement to RD policy design and RDP implementation**

Sub-objectives:

- ☐ Identifying the main barriers to the emergence of a sustainable and diversified rural economy
- ☐ Understanding how current and future RDPs can better address these challenges
- ☐ Understanding how RD policies can better facilitate the emergence of a new and more robust rural economy

Wider objectives (to which the RED initiative could contribute)

- **To introduce greater flexibility to Rural Support Programmes & Delivery Mechanisms to better respond to economic changes**

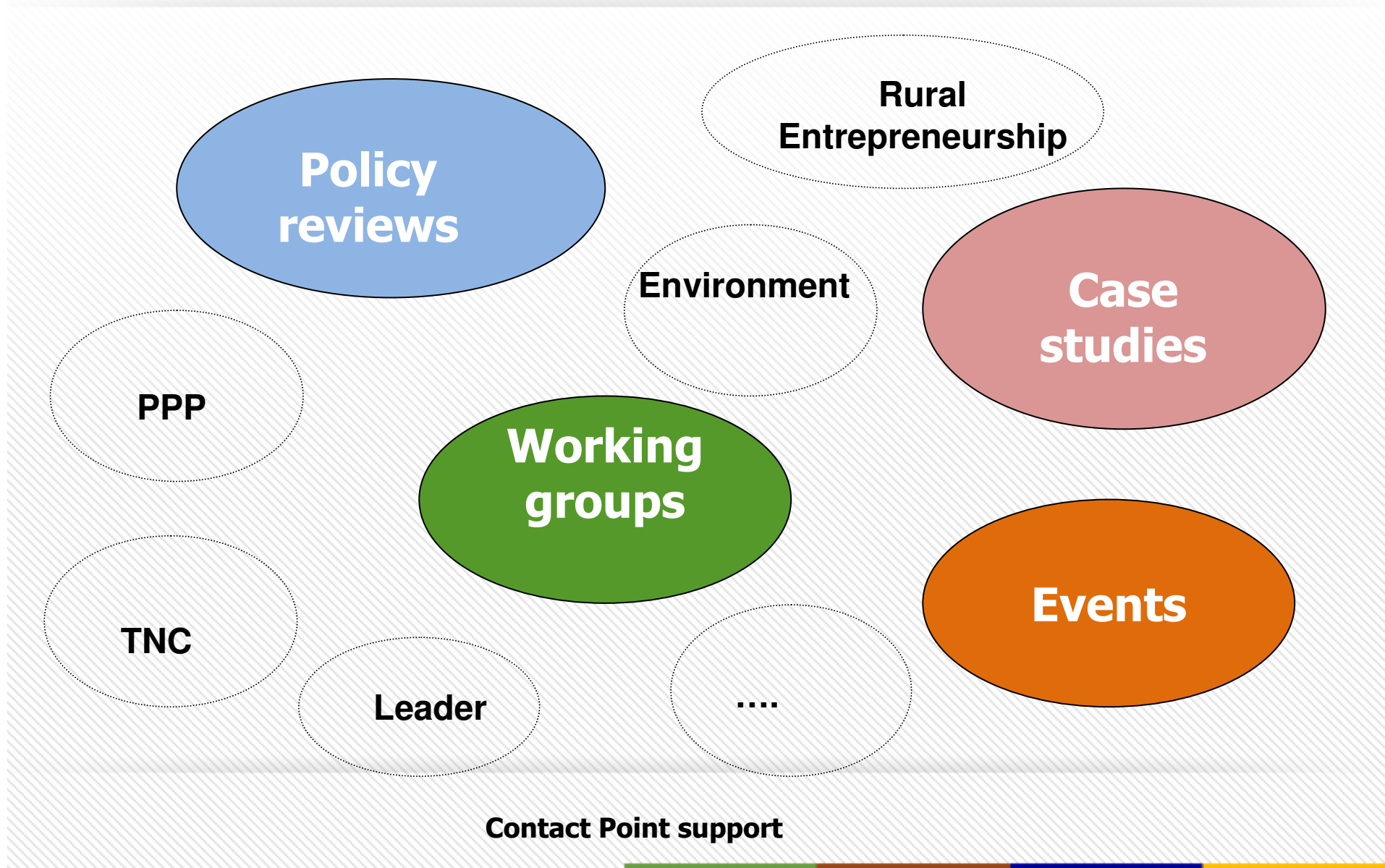
Sub-objectives: Building effective partnerships with the private sector; Enhancing LEADER role in RD programmes; Promoting more TNC initiatives etc.

Possible specific objective of the RED Initiative

To identify and promote viable strategies and actions
to respond to economic change in rural areas

- To think beyond the provision of short term relief, by preparing rural areas for a more sustainable recovery path;
- To promote and enhance diversified rural economic base;
- Identify main areas of opportunity to create 'new economy' environment and climate friendly opportunities;
- Increase leverage of public investment by working more effectively in partnership with the private sector

Working framework



- *Policy analysis results and recommendations* based on RDP screening and other relevant analysis
- *Case studies and relevant examples* of implementation of rural economy-related RDP measures (rural entrepreneurship, environmentally oriented activities, etc) and disseminated between networks
- *Key success factors/processes* in implementing alternative/diversified ways of valuable activities e.g. TNC, Leader approach, PPP, etc.
- *Events* to promote new initiatives and disseminate findings (linked to the above)

Next steps?

- Identify core group of NRNs wishing to participate
- Develop framework including specific objectives & results
- Develop initial work plan and resource plan
- Link and build on existing initiatives, wherever possible (Dutch, Belgian, Irish and others)
- Possible follow-up initiative during the Austrian LINC (LEADER Inspired Network Community) event on 15th-17th March 2010

