

# FOCUS GROUP 4 of the LEADER Sub-Committee on Better Local Development Strategies (LDS)



## Mandate of the Focus Group

### Objectives

- to advise the MS (the current and next programming period);
- to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the LEADER approach.

### Operational objectives

- to identify the critical requirements in the design of the Local Development Strategies (LDSs);
- to collect tools and good practices used at LAG level ensuring an efficient implementation of the LDSs.

## Co-chairs of the Focus Group



**Petri Rinne**, President of the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD);

**Sanna Sihvola**, Finnish Managing Authority; and

**Ana Pires da Silva**, Portuguese National Rural Network (NRN).



## Organisation of the Work Plan

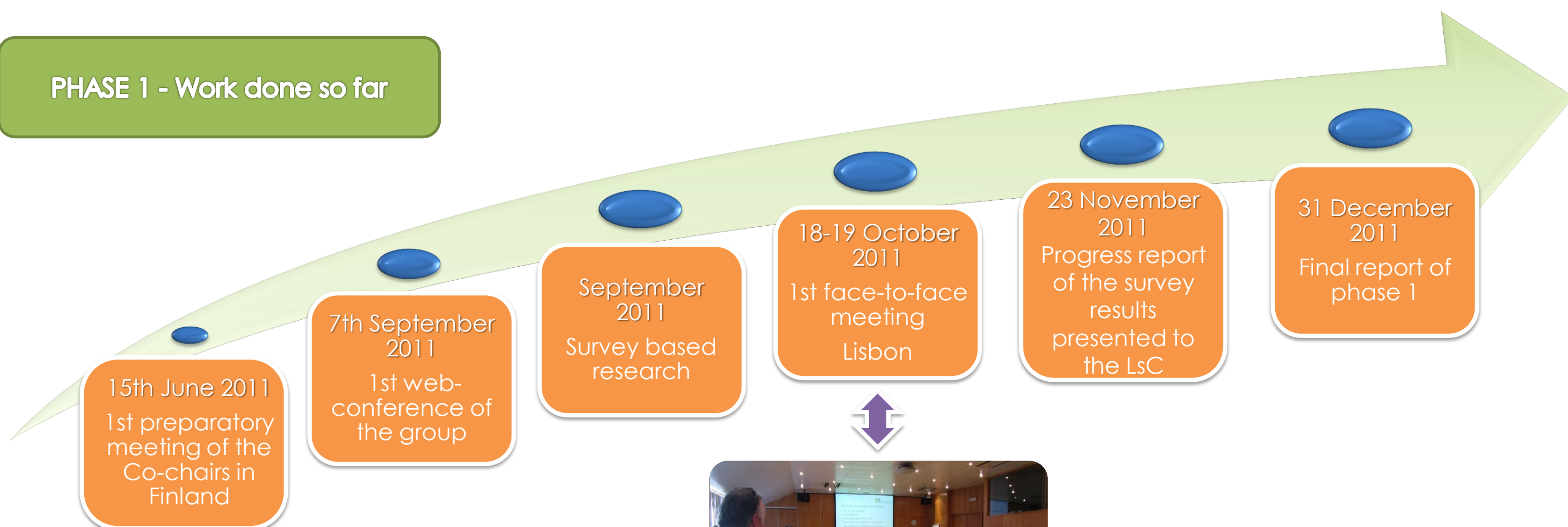
The work of the FG is planned in **2 Phases**:

**Phase 1:** July to December 2011 - "Elaboration of the Local Development Strategy"

**Phase 2:** January to June 2012 - "Implementation, and Monitoring & Evaluation of the strategies".

## PHASE 1

### PHASE 1 - Work done so far



### Phase 1 Findings of FG4

#### Making a start - Strategy preparation

- Ensure sufficient time to prepare a quality LDS
- Early start based on clear guidance and support
- Strategy submission: take responsibility and avoid delays, allow enough time
- Involve People
- Continuity, Supporting and Resourcing Development
- Take Advantage of Mentoring
- Plan a Staged Approach



#### Guidance

- **Guide the LDS Method:** Guidance, instruction for LAGs on strategy content and method is required
- **Improve Standards Through Training:** Knowledge transfer within programmes and within and between LAGs appears to be important





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## Phase 1 Findings of FG4

### LDS elements

#### Most essential elements of the LDS:

- Area covered
- Territorial SWOT analysis
- Clear evidence of the LEADER features
- Local engagement and process



### LDS elements

#### Improve/strengthen the following elements:

- Innovation
- Cooperation
- Intervention logic
- Plan Monitoring and Evaluation
- Prioritise Training in the Strategy
- Learning from others and from the past
- Strategic linkages (RDP priorities)

### LAG autonomy to define area and themes

#### Seek a Balance

- autonomy of LAGs to define their area
- autonomy of LAGs to choose their strategic themes

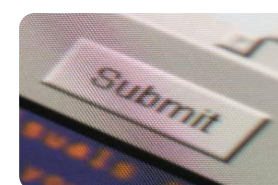


### Strategy selection

- Use objective quality criteria (eg. checklist)
- Providing quality feedback on LDS -multiple step (at least 2) or iterative approach
- Set evidence based budgets (Indicative budgets)
- Compete on quality

### Strategy submission

- Single or multiple rounds**  
Multiple rounds: resubmissions; lack of familiarity with LEADER approach; large number of LAGs
- Single or multiple stages**  
Expression of Interest (Eoi) with pre-selection or other form of pre-selection -strategic priorities



### Monitoring and evaluation

- Improving Performance - LAGs should actively monitor their performance against the delivery of the strategy
- Clearer direction - Guidance on self-evaluation



## PHASE 2

### Phase 2 - Work done so far

9 February 2012  
2nd web-conference of the group

February 2012  
Second survey based research

February - June 2012  
Collection of good practices

28-30 March 2012  
2nd FG4 meeting, Helsinki, Finland



### Phase 2 – Work to be done

27-28 April 2012  
LEADER event, Brussels, Belgium

31 May 2012  
LEADER Sub-Committee, Brussels, Belgium

1 June 2012  
Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) Workshop, Brussels, Belgium

End of June 2012  
Final report of the FG4

