Improving the delivery of Rural Development Programmes

WORKSHOP A

How to improve the design of programmes?

Brussels – 9 December 2011

Connecting Rural Europe

Two short cases…

- **Consultation and preparation of NSP/RDP**

- Wide and articulated consultation process taking into account local issues (participatory process)

- Started early (2004)

- Definition of NSP/RDP overlapping

- Challenge: coordinate the big number of people involved and keeping momentum

European Network for
Rural Development

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Two short cases…

- **Effective policy design and coordination**

- Focused national strategic framework

- Strong coherence with EU and National priorities

- Flexible use of axes and measures driven by thematic priorities (national schemes)

Envisaged questions for discussion

How to achieve high quality of programmes and consultation process?

How to ensure the strategic approach is kept throughout delivery?

How to ensure vertical coherence and answer to bottom-up needs?

How to ensure coordination with other EU policies?

GET IT RIGHT FORM THE BEGINNING!

- **What is the role of the NSP**? Central issue in the future (PC)
- Strategy should deal with ensuring coordination between "tools" (i.e. policies) and amongst different priorities. **Are we ready?**

- Ensure coherence between national and regional (local) level strategies
- Strategy, at what level? **Members States do it differently!**
- **Get the right balance and be flexible**! Appropriate tools at EU level are needed.

Theory is not practice

- Ensure strategy is the reference for programming (and not vice versa).
- Ensure results of evaluation are taken into account (**rigorous Ex ante evaluation!**)
- **Be practical**, with an eye to future priorities (EU 2020 is a good starting point)

Effective consultation

- Tool to achieve coherent and consistent strategy
- **NRNs** (can) play an important role
- Keep in mind the future: wider interests to balance and more complex solutions (rural areas will be neglected). **Clear goals**!

Coordination

- Existing **national strategies** for rural development are a value added
- Coordination with the **CAP 1st Pillar** not to be neglected.

Improving the delivery of Rural Development Programmes

WORKSHOP B

How to make the implementation of programmes more effective and to enhance coordination between implementing bodies?

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Two short cases...

Catalonia Global Farming Contract
Includes RDP measures which have
Farmers as beneficiaries

Coordinated delivery ensures a direct link with
RDP objectives

Integrated food-chain projects in Italy

Support the reorganisation and integration of food chains with an emphasis on Cooperation

Workshop B - Implementation and coordination

Ensuring coordination through the delivery chain

- **Pre-requisite is a common understanding of the objectives between MA, PA, other implementing bodies**
- **Clear roles and lines of responsibilities of and between implementing bodies**
- **Use integrated teams for integrated approaches**
- **International exchange between MAs**
- **Coordinating body required?**

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Workshop B – Implementation and coordination

Role of the NRNs in enhancing exchanges and implementation

- **NRN should bring together more the different bodies involved in implementation (MAs and PAs)**
- **Exchange and implementation support at regional level**
- **More use of existing networks on-the-ground / by theme**
- **Perception of independence of NRN important AND need for constructive dialogue with MA**

Workshop B – Implementation and coordination

Eligibility conditions / selection criteria matching the strategy – and – administrative capacity

- **Selection criteria important to ensure objectives of RDPs are met – sufficient administrative capacity needs to be put in place**
- **Objectives and targets need to be defined in a way that facilitates the definition of 'intelligent' and coherent selection criteria**
- **Re LDS: Need to balance national and regional needs with LAG autonomy to set own priorities and criteria. Can be done but administrative capacity and capacity building needed**
- **Risk in too much use of outsourcing**
- **During implementation - more use of MC and on-going evaluation**

- **How to ensure that regional/local issues are taken into account in the Strategy?**

- **Do we need EU Guidelines on strategy definition?**

- **Clarification is needed about the PC**

- **Look more into Pillar 1 – Pillar 2 coordination**

- **Ensuring coherence through the delivery chain requires administrative capacity which is not always in place**

- **How to balance focus on achieving objectives while maintaining accountability?**