



**European Rural Networks'  
Assembly**

**LEADER Sub-group**

**Promoting Innovation in  
LEADER**

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# Innovation, renewing LEADER?

- Innovation remains integral to LEADER in an evolving context
- From the method in LEADER 1 to CLLD
- Distinctive: meeting local needs, initiate and respond to change, developing new solutions, using local know how and resources
- Different from but complementary to EIP and OGs  
Agricultural focus
- A product or result , part of LEADER's added value



# The Added Value

‘LEADER is intended to be an innovative approach’ -  
‘LAGs can add value by doing something different to  
other programmes’ (ECA)

But:

- ‘LAGs could provide little evidence of innovation’ and ‘financed projects that were little different’.
- ‘Strategies contain few specific commitments to innovation’ (ECA)
- ‘not clearly defined’ leads to plusses and minuses (Focus Group 2)
- Double whammy of Mainstreaming and Crisis
- ‘a description of the innovative features of the strategy’ (CPR Art 33c)
- Being part of the method, ‘the blend’ is still the difference – but don’t be complacent!



# Making it Happen

- Innovation: a dynamic process, not passive
- Entrepreneurial approach, enable, cultivate, capitalise

## How and What:

- Demands a planned approach, design the potential in, links to animation
- At PA, RDP, LDS and project level
- Transferable, LAG to LAG, scale up e.g. in RDP, EIP link, fund to fund, mainstream etc.
- E.G.s: SCOs, Umbrella, Crowd Funding, innovation groups (Scot Borders), mobilisation (Rothienorman), scaling up (Wales), networking of projects and many, many more
- If you keep doing the same things over and over again - don't be surprised if you get the same results

