





European Rural Networks' Steering Group

LEADER/CLLD conference: "Strengthening Local Development through Cooperation" Milan, 25 September 2015

Stephen Jackson: Wales Rural Network

3rd Meeting Brussels - 20 October 2015







Representing UK National Rural Network:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland







The cooperation conference...



- ...was organised in Milan (Italy) in the context of the Expo Milano
- ...was preceded by an NRN meeting on LEADER/CLLD (24 September)
- ...brought together 176
 participants from 28 MS and 15
 countries outside the EU







Key objectives were:



- Peer learning on improving delivery and harmonising rules for cooperation projects
- Highlighting the applicability of local development methods in different rural areas
- Strengthening cooperation between local partnerships within and outside the EU







Activities included:



- Presentations of cooperation project examples (interterritorial, transnational, between EU Funds), including many examples of cooperation with Third Countries
- Analysis and discussion of the new EU framework for LEADER cooperation
- Exchange of practices on delivery of LEADER/CLLD cooperation projects (including cooperation with Third Countries and cooperation between different EU Funds) and ideas how NRNs can support such cooperation
- Developing recommendations and action points









Main outcomes:



- Raising the profile of transnational cooperation, including cooperation with Third Countries, as a powerful tool to achieve local development objectives and address new challenges (such as the impact of migrants and refugees)
- Recommendations and practical solutions to address implementation issues linked to cooperation under LEADER/CLLD (administrative complexity, different rules and procedures, the need for improved communication and trust), in the light of the new possibilities of EU legislation 2014-2020







Wales NSU Perspective:

- Timely event developing our cooperation offer at Wales and UK level
- Feedback on the UK/Ireland cluster
- Addressed live and sensitive issues e.g. refugees
- Energised 8 Action Points

And it was an opportunity to....







- Network
- Catch Up
- Benchmark our progress

Thanks

