LAGs | NRNs | PA | MA

Innovative features in the local context

What does it mean to fully implement this?

- applied in LAG activity too (animation, participation, integration) — LAGs
- local definitions by the LAG — LAGs
- new solutions that benefit the area — LAGs
- animation 'drives' innovation — LAGs
- based on local context — LAGs
- 'renewal' - not only of the LAG area, but also how the LAG works — LAGs
- ideas from 'beyond the local' — LAGs
- local definition — LAGs
- (local) innovation is change (not only technological) based on knowledge (not only scientify) that generates value (locally, not only economic) — LAGs

Blocking factors

- current system 'punishes' failure — LAGs
- risk of failure - avoiding risk — LAGs
- lack of expertise for innovation support — LAGs
- no 'space' for LAG response outside of local strategies (crisis response) — LAGs
- most submitted projects are 'standard' — LAGs
- administrative burden — LAGs
- regulations do not 'boost' creativity = inlfexible — LAGs
- narrow definitions and procedures limit innovation — NRN/NSU
- focus on definitions limits experimentation — Managing Authority
- lack of expertise for innovation support — LAGs
- definitions do not match the reality - innovative projects not selected — Paying Agency
- fear of penalties — Paying Agency

Specific questions

- Can it be defined properly? — LAGs
- Why is it needed: — LAGs
- How to best support social innovation? — LAGs
- What is the local innovation culture? — LAGs
- Do all projects need to be innovative? — NRN/NSU
- Evaluating local innovation? — NRN/NSU
- Selection criteria for innovation?
- LAG capacities for innovation?

Solutions

- LAGs' own criteria for innovation — LAGs
- sharing risk = applicants own sources is of sufficient level (50%) — LAGs
- keep the definition broad — Managing Authority
- improved understanding of the impact of innovation by locals — LAGs
- projects need to be innovative at the local level — NRN/NSU
- leave the definition to the local / LAG level — Managing Authority
- more flexible procedures and rules — LAGs
- find the right criteria to encourage innovation — NRN/NSU
- application of simplified cost options — LAGs
- disseminate examples of local innovation more widely — NRN/NSU
- special budget for 'urgent' actions by LAGs — LAGs

Subregional areas

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What does it mean to fully implement this?

- critical mass (population, number of potential beneficiaries)
- knowing local stakeholders - involving them
- area shouzld not be fragmented
- crossing administrative boundaries
- functionality - minimum population size to implement strategy
- LAG involvement in defining the areas
- local projects covering - having an impact on the LAG area
- functionality - sufficient funding, human resources to run the LAG
- enable structure where different stakeholders can meet
- cohesion
- LAG capacity to reach and animate local actors
- size of the LAG area should allow fornetworking and cooperation
- cultural identity

Blocking factors

- LAG area too large to manage by LAG manager
- no coordination between subregional and regional levels
- if the LAG does not work for the whole of its area
- partnerships not decided locally
- no consideration for areas with less capacity to be active in development
- no consideration for other territorial development other than LEADER
- if the LAG is not 'accessible' for people
- LAG area covers not more than one municipality
- limited LAG capacity to animate the area
- 'top-down' push for larger and fewer LAGs - people more 'distanced' from LAG

Specific questions

- Are subregional areas defined by administrative borders?
- What does 'subregional' mean in different Member States?
- Who defines the area?
- How to define the subregional areas?
- Should the area be defined based on population?

Solutions

- common interest that brings different actors together
- local decision and ownership of the process of defining the area
- define areas with common identity, challenges, opportunities
- using external expertise to support discussion among local areas
- (Finland) pilot approach - cooperation agreement negotiated between LAGs and regional MAs (including LAG area)
- LAGs define their subregional areas
- (Denmark) several criteria for area definition (incl. employment rates, population, distance to cities, etc.)

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Bottom-up approach
(led by Local Action Groups)

What does it mean to fully implement this?

- understanding of local needs (LAGs)
- involving and supporting local actors (LAGs)
- diversity of beneficiaries (LAGs)
- sufficient LAG resources for broad local participation (LAGs)
- the LAG is accessible to locals (NRN/NSU)
- involvement of volunterrs (LAGs)
- 'building' and running local networks (LAGs)
- LAG Board not managing the LAG budget as 'their own' (LAGs)
- the LAG stimulates ideas - transforms them into projects (NRN/NSU)
- inclusive of all groups in the LAG area (Managing Authority)
- openness of the LAG to local stakeholders (Paying Agency)
- vertical coordination & cooperation

Specific questions

- How to maintain the bottom-up approach with administrative methods? (Paying Agency)
- Is this equal to CLLD? (LAGs)
- How to avoid conflict of interests? (Paying Agency)
- How to find balance between 'bottom-up' and '"top-down'? (LAGs)
- Why is 'bottom-up' not part of the legal framework? (LAGs)
- Who is involved? Who is missing? How do we involve them? (LAGs)

Blocking factors

- lack of understanding by Managing Authority (LAGs)
- difficult to work with multi-level regulations (LAGs)
- LAG 'ownership' of activities limited by higher levels in delivery chain (LAGs)
- 'newcomers' to LEADER do not understand this (LAGs)
- applicants can appeal LAG decisions (LAGs)
- no 'real' partnership (NRN/NSU)
- MA and LAG role not clearly defined (NRN/NSU)
- limited funding limits number of LAGs and possible actions (NRN/NSU)
- lack of understanding of this principle (NRN/NSU)
- insufficient level of animation (Managing Authority)
- no balance in the partnership - one partner dominates
- less active local groups not included (LAGs)
- public procurement rules can limit the use of local resources (LAGs)

Solutions

- more animation (LAGs)
- reaching out to less involved and new groups (LAGs)
- regular network analysis (LAGs)
- network analysis - training for LAGs (LAGs)
- involve volunteers to help even small LAGs function well (NRN/NSU)
- clearer guidelines on bottom-up approach (LAGs)
- stronger links between MA, PA and local level (LAGs)
- 'back to the roots' (of LEADER) (LAGs)
- more resources for animation (Managing Authority)
- flexibility in staff costs for LAGs (Managing Authority)
- exemptions from public procurement rules for some activities (LAGs)
- animation skills training for LAG staff (Managing Authority)
- digital meetings for broader involvement of locals (e.g. ones with mobility, transport issues) (Managing Authority)
- ownership / decision-making / accountability (e.g. for youth) (Managing Authority)