Using cooperation to support Smart Villages

Mark Redman, December 2018

#SmartVillages

REMINDER: The proposed text of Article 71……

Article 71
Cooperation

1. Member States may grant support for cooperation under the conditions set out in this Article and as further specified in their CAP Strategic Plans to prepare and to implement Operational Group projects of the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability as referred to in Article 114 and LEADER, referred to as community-led local development in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) [CPR], and to promote quality schemes, producer organisations or producer groups or other forms of cooperation.

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REMINDER: The preamble……

(45)   Support should enable the establishment and implementation of cooperation between at least two entities in view of achieving CAP objectives. Support can entail all aspects of such cooperation, such as the setting up of quality schemes; collective environmental and climate action; the promotion of short supply chain and local markets; pilot projects; Operational Group projects within the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability local development projects, Smart Villages, buyers' clubs and machinery rings; farm partnerships; forest management plans; networks and clusters; social farming; community supported agriculture; actions within the scope of LEADER; and the setting up of producer groups and producer organisations, as well as other forms of cooperation deemed necessary to achieve the specific objectives of the CAP.

Article 35 of 1305/2013 -> Measure 16

Why M16?
- The need for scale
- The need to do things differently – notably interactive innovation (EIP-AGRI)
- To fill a gap (LEADER + PG/Quality)

The concept?
- PROJECT DRIVEN, but not only!
- Very useful to **re-visit the original principles** of M16 as presented by DG AGRI in 2013

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Five key things your parents may have told you when going on a date

1. Don't buy dinner for someone who has just eaten

2. "A little less conversation, a little more action please" (Elvis)

3. Go with what you know, but be ready for surprises

4. Don't break any laws

5. Be creative about paying the bill

Don't buy dinner for someone who has just eaten

New grouping, new project ✓

Existing grouping, new project ✓
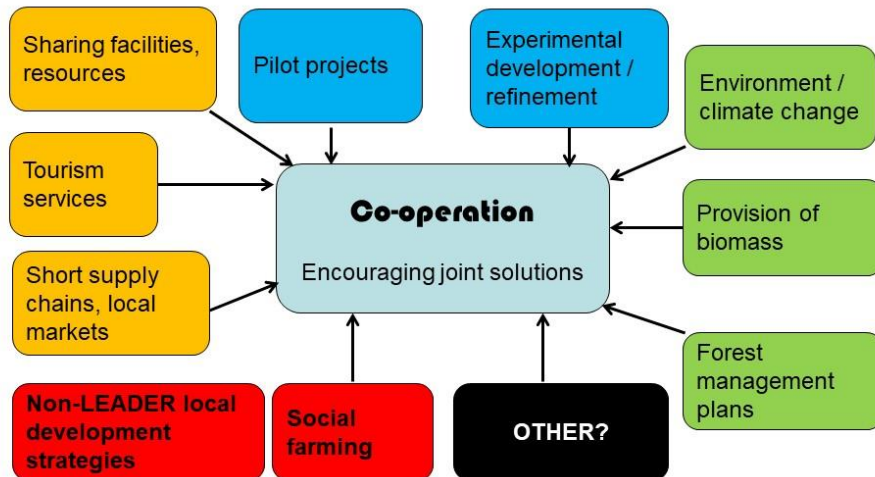
Existing grouping, existing project ✗

"A little less conversation, a little more action"

If desired, possible to fund **only setting-up** of cluster, network etc. (i.e. not fund project itself)… provided that:

Cluster / network / operational group etc. **demonstrably has an active project** which will contribute to RD priorities

I.e. No funding for pure "lunch clubs" or "talk shops"

Go with what you know, but be ready for surprises

Sharing facilities, resources

Pilot projects

Experimental development / refinement

Environment / climate change

Tourism services

Co-operation
Encouraging joint solutions

Provision of biomass

Short supply chains, local markets

Non-LEADER local development strategies

Social farming
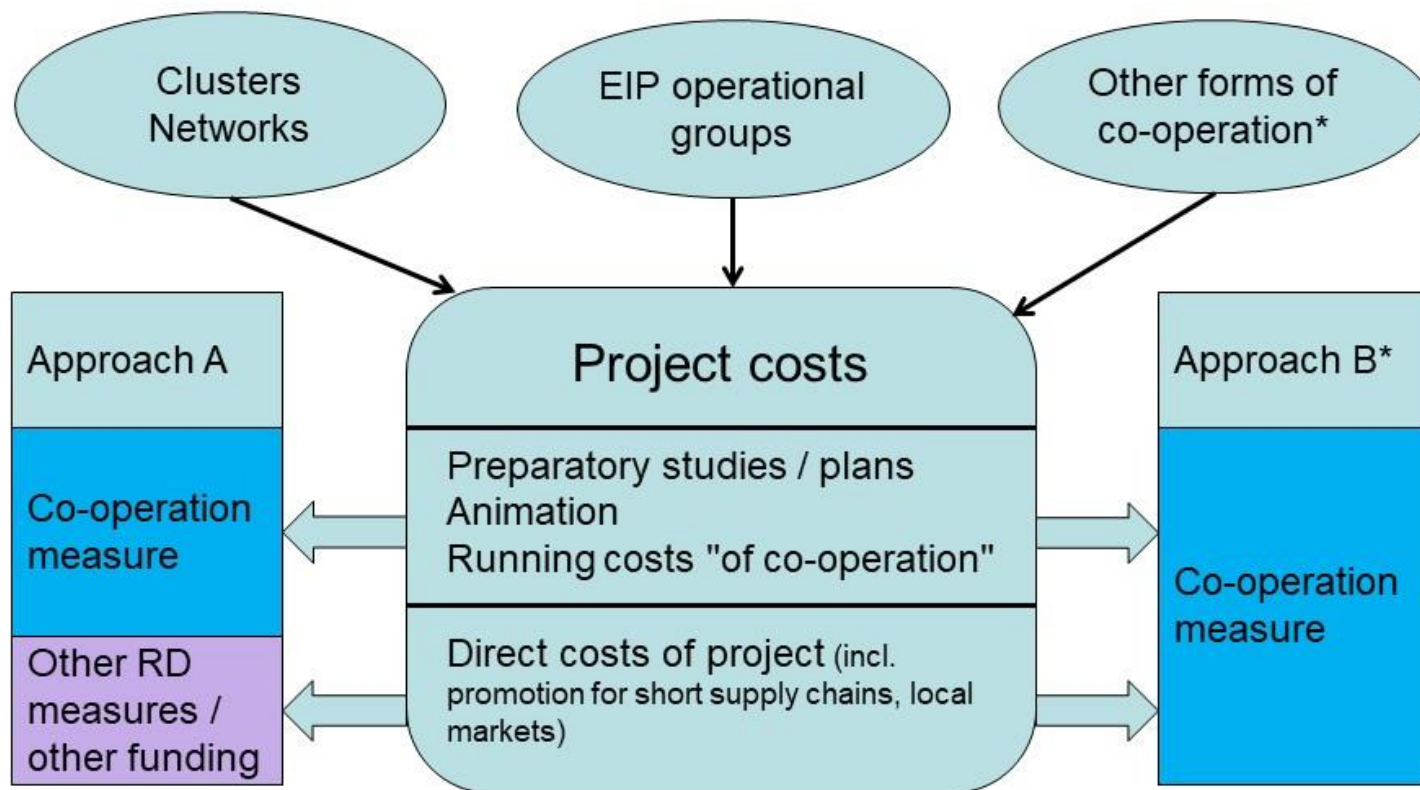
OTHER?

Forest management plans
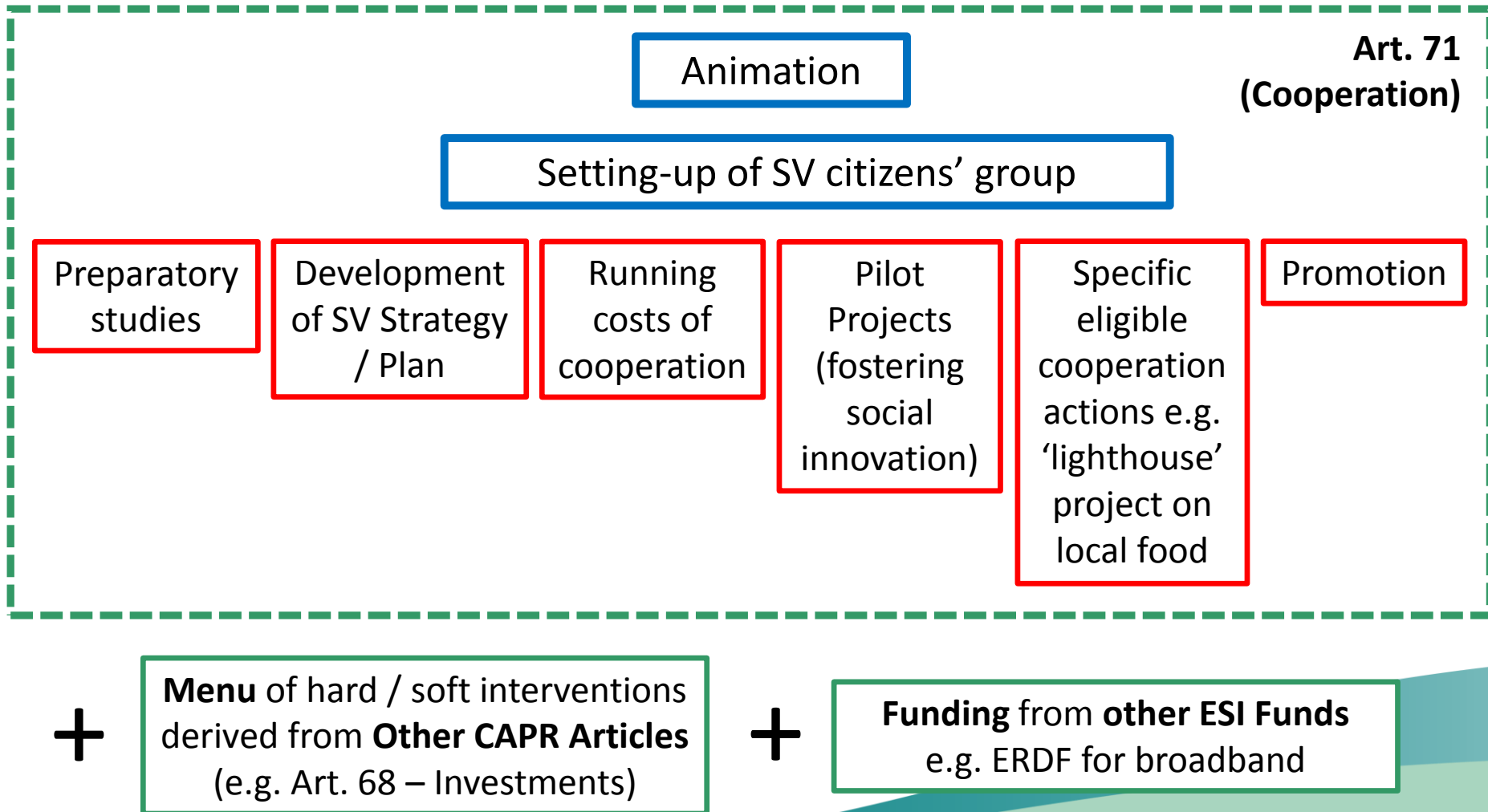
Don't break any laws

- State aid rules apply when output of project falls outside Annex I to the Treaty

- State aid rules are sometimes more restrictive

- Key sets of rules / guidelines to watch:

  - Guidelines on state aid in the agriculture and forestry sector and in rural areas

  - General Block Exemption Regulation

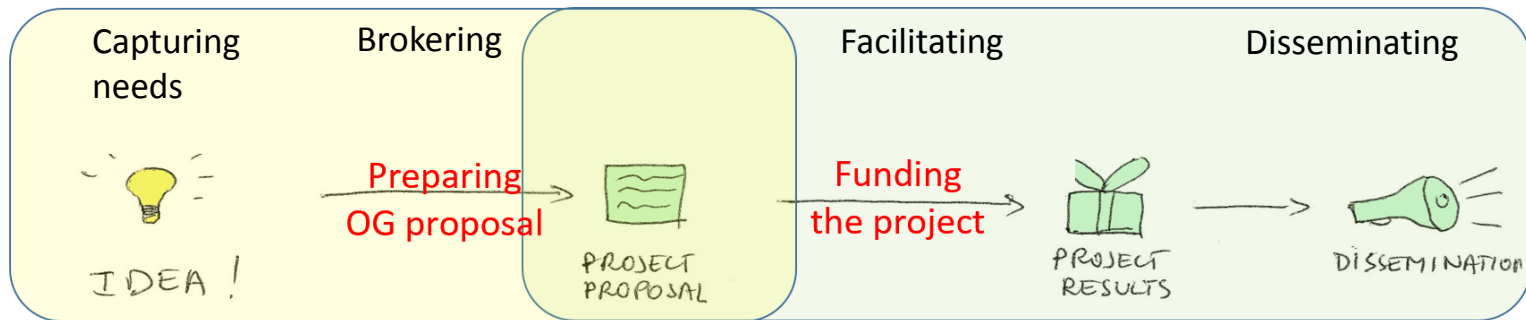 - Guidelines on state aid for research, development & innovation

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Be creative about paying the bill

In principle, significant flexibility to support Smart Villages

Art. 71 (Cooperation)

Animation

Setting-up of SV citizens' group

| Preparatory studies | Development of SV Strategy / Plan | Running costs of cooperation | Pilot Projects (fostering social innovation) | Specific eligible cooperation actions e.g. 'lighthouse' project on local food | Promotion |

+ **Menu** of hard / soft interventions derived from **Other CAPR Articles** (e.g. Art. 68 – Investments)

+ **Funding** from **other ESI Funds** e.g. ERDF for broadband

Importance of the Smart Village 'animateur' / facilitator / adviser

Directly analagous to the role of an 'innovation support service' with EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

- Help capture the needs of the community
- Facilitate the establishment of the SV citizens' group
- Support development of the SV Strategy / Plan
- Support on-going management / governance of the SV process
- Disseminate / help embed newly generated practices (e.g. forms of social innovation)
- Etc.

Use Article 71 (Cooperation) when one or more of the following **needs** exists:

- Need for a **concrete project** (not just talking)

- Need to **animate** the community and **set-up** a citizens' group

- Need to **develop** an SV Strategy / Plan, including any preparatory studies, consultation processes etc.

- Need to **support the on-going costs** of community-based cooperation

- Need for **piloting** innovative actions

- Need for funding of **specific cooperative** actions e.g. developing short supply chains / local markets; community-based climate action; small business clusters, etc.

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