LEADER Thematic Lab 'Designing LEADER for resilience and sustainability' Session 1 / Group 1



Key elements of local

social, economic and environmental resilience



ensuring safety and protection for the community (esp. elderly) volunteer associations (e.g. sport groups,...)

meaningfull and efficient community connection

LAGs should act as animators while the ownership of the initiatives should be in the hands of the community



offer smallscale support for small business providing a local umbrella to ensure coordination and synergies of different development initiatives

private-public cooperation (e.g. cooperation with banks to support access to credits)



raise awareness about climate change the importance of supporting local supply chains that allows to retain the economic value of the production locally while also contributing to reduce pollution (less transport)

digitalisation, online work

innovation, open to new solutions

How to implement LEADER in the transition period / for post-COVID recovery to achieve resilience in these aspects?

support local tourism and local food production in FI supporting multilocalisation (tackling rural depopulation): e.g. in Finland urban people work from cottages because of COVID cooperation for creating financial instruments in BE through Leader to facilitate access to credits for rural entrepreneurs

establish regional plafonds with top down objectives in DE

use the transition period to pilot and test innovative approaches for the future CAP (e.g. pilot project on Smart Villages in Poland)

innovation example from IE of projects trying to come up with new solutions

support small business through a network of advisors supporting new services related to multi-localisation, adjusting to the emerging needs of the population during the covid-crisis and beyond

e.g. in Finland old empty school buindings serve as service centres in the countryside support small companies

give LAGs the time and chance to improve their strategies allocate extra budget to the LAGs e.g. extra 2 years for RDP

simplification not only for the beneficiaries and also for MAs, but also for LAGs!

maximise the collaboration between LAGs

LAGs to act as an approval body, umbrella format delegation of powers to LAGs (e.g Germany)

Link to/ integrate
LDS with existing
regional
development
policies

push MA's to design SCOs to better fit the local needs

remove the admin burden for LAGs e.g. admin check

LAGs to be more open to their own projects

How to design LEADER under the CAP Strategic Plans to <u>enable</u> local development strategies that optimise these aspects of resilience?

It is important to keep an eye on Green Deal policies and how they are translated to national plans when planning the recovery interventions. There is the danger of a mismatch between the new CAP and the Green Deal ambition which may lead to further conflict for farmers

identify the drivers of change in the area and the key actions to make it happen

flexibility during the 7 years as needs and priorities can change

find a compromise between sound strategic planning and flexibility strategies tailored to the local needs: ownership in the ends of the community simplification, remove burdens and bureaucracy

sustainability

remember the 7 Leaderapproaches: bottom-up approach, networking etc. Therefore, there can not be too many restrictions etc.

keep an eye on wider funding opportunities Avoid micro detail when writing LDS to keep them sufficiently flexible to address local needs

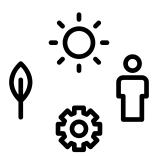
In the current experience LDSs can be amended at anytime, but the process can be quite heavy (especially considered the number of existing LAGs) and time consuming (e.g. CZ and IE)

LEADER Thematic Lab 'Designing LEADER for resilience and sustainability' Session 2 / Group 1



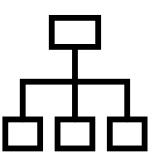
Key elements of local

LAG capacities, organisational, and delivery system features for designing resilience?



LAGs have the knowledge and the resources capacity building activities

networking



financial stability and reliability of local partners and LAGs (instead of changing every few years)

more structured partnership

bottom up approach local networking capacity

synergies with different funding sources

balance between stability and possibilities for new comers & new ideas



trust between authorities, LAGs and other actors

supporting a common understanding of the regulations and rules

knowledge of the rural actors -LEADER can harness this

Synergies
between EIP
Operational
Groups and
LAGs in future?

How to maximise LEADER/LDS contribution to resilience in the transition period (by making these capacities and features work)?

digital solutions in rural areas as a response to the covid crisis

networking and cooperation mechanisms to ensure a smooth transition and strengthen partnerships collection of examples for LAGs to inspire each other

focus on innovation

LAGs to be involved more in the next programming period

further guidelines on the EU policies

NL + DE: LAGs are not included in the Covid funding, because of concerns they would not be able to use resources fast enough

build new collaboration opportunities

redesign the partnerships

ensuring links to the Green Deal strategies and other policy priorities



How to consider these - capacities and features - when designing LEADER (for resilience) for the **future CAP Strategic Plans?**

use the transition period to the fullest so to avoid gaps

SWOT analysis of the LAGs, needs & gaps

simplification of the admin burden

flexibility during the 7 years

fulfill the 1st phase criteria building trust

digitalisation

possibility to amend/revise the strategies for the transition period

possibility to add new things/address emerging needs

have a networking plan in place and already start liaising with other actors

NSUs to help networking and capacity building

use **SCOs**

This 2 year Transitional Period is guite complex, LAGs have to finish out the administration of current RDPs, they have additional project funding to animate for and allocate in 2020 and they have to start planning for the next LEADER LDSs.



be more specific: LAGs focusing on specific topics most relevant to resilience (agri-environmental-climate interventions?)