

3rd ENRD Seminar on Stakeholder Involvement

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The role of networks in channeling stakeholder's involvement

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Contents: the role of networks in stakeholder's involvement

- Focus on current implementation phase
- A stronger mandate for SH participation and for networks to play a role in this task
- Different types of partners have different roles to play in the involvement task
- Possible roles for NRNs in formal partnerships (monitoring committees)

Focus on implementation phase

- Design phase is now ending
- however
 - consultation stakeholders are “inherited” by Monitoring Committees membership (MCs)
- Monitoring Committees are being established
 - Functioning rules and procedures drafted
 - Role of NRNs for improved SH involvement made explicit

A stronger mandate for SH participation

- Stakeholder involvement takes place within the partnership principle since the late 80s (not all SHs are members of the partnership),
- now reinforced by the regulations
 - In choice of policymaking priorities, measures, funding (contents of the policy)
 - In implementation procedures (delivery)
- Justified by EU multi-level governance system (closer linkages)

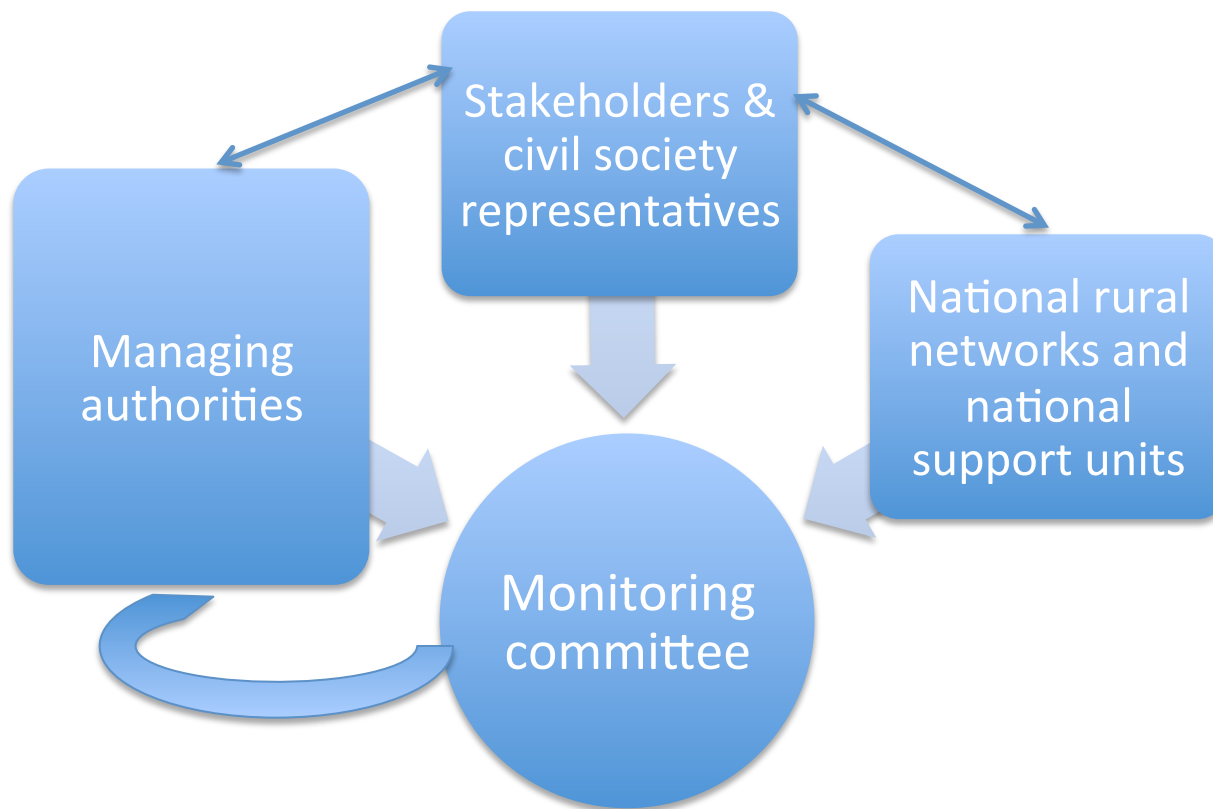
Regulatory framework

- A legally binding obligation for Member States (also at EU level) written in:
 - Common Strategic Framework, Common Provisions Regulation (ESI funds)
 - European Code of Conduct on Partnership (ESI f.)
 - Partnership Agreement (ESI funds)
 - Rural Development Regulation (EAFRD)
 - EU Implementing Decision on networks (EAFRD)
- All state that **rural networks should play a role in all phases of programming**

Division of labor between broad categories of partners

- The institutional partnership
 - EU, national, regional, competent levels: final decision-making, many delegated and intermediate bodies
- NRNs and NSUs
 - Improve stakeholder participation, formally (new) & informally (technique well-known, local, not all SHs)
- Rural stakeholders & civil society
 - Represent different rural interest groups, are context specific, private & public, wider than partnership

Structures relevant for formal SH involvement



What is different today?

- Obligatory character, feeding into MCs
- Strengthening of vertical partnership
- Specific principles and procedures to follow in
 - selecting & involving stakeholders, MC membership rules, calls for proposals conflicts, delivery issues
 - preparing progress reports and evaluations
 - Dissemination of good practices
 - Capacity building
 - assessing value added of partnership
- An explicit role for NRNs & NSUs

Possible roles of NRNs & NSUs in partnerships (1)

- Conditions
 - Depends on
 - Mandate by managing authority (MS)
 - rules and procedures of the monitoring committee
 - Has strengthened support of regulations (EU)
- It's about
 - Promoting and facilitating SH involvement
 - Formally and informally in implementation structures
 - Vertically and horizontally at national, regional, local level

Possible roles of NRNs & NSUs in partnerships (2)

- But how?
 - Overarching or delimited role?
 - Prevalence of ‘information model’ (top-down) or ‘needs model’ (bottom up)
 - Supporting all SHs or some of them (strong/weak)?
 - Only informally? (preliminary function to MC), or also formally (in MCs)?
 - Facilitator of exchanges? (breaking silo approach)
 - Capacity building?

Three examples of NRNs role in SH involvement

- UK-England ‘sounding board’ influencing coordination of SH
- Representing the weak: discussing the Roma people involvement in local approaches with institutional stakeholders
- Representing the strong and organized: how the PT NRN plans to work with farmer organizations



Thanks for your attention
Comments very welcomed

