

A man with dark hair, wearing a light blue sleeveless shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a large haystack. He is holding a silver laptop on his lap and looking at the screen. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene suggests a connection between technology and rural life.

The delivery of rural development policies: Some reflections on problems and perspectives in EU countries

INEA conference: The territorial approach in
agriculture and rural policies

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Rural development policy 2007-2013: objectives and tools

LEADER axis (min. 5%): integrated, bottom up, innovative

Axis 1: Competitiveness (min. 10%):

- Farm modernisation
- Processing
- Infrastructure
- Natural disaster aid
- Training

Axis 2: Environment and land management (min.25%):

- LFAs
- Natura 2000/WFD
- Agri-environment
- Forestry measures

Axis 3: Diversification and quality of life (min.10%):

- Diversification
- Tourism
- Micro-enterprises
- Village renewal
- Basic services

EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

**EAFRD and National and Private
Co-financing**



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Rural Development Policy 2007-2013

Rural development policy works through:

- ✓ **shared financing** (EU, Member States, private)
- ✓ **strategic multi-annual planning** (current period: 2007-2013)
- ✓ **menus of optional measures** grouped by theme



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The strategic approach

1. **EU Strategic Guidelines** establish the Community Priorities for the period 2007-2013
2. **National Strategies** reflect EU-priorities according to the situation in the Member State concerned
3. Establishment of national or regional **programmes** on the basis of SWOT analysis
4. Programme measures **used** by interested parties (farmers and others); results monitored continuously



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Total indicative RD expenditure for EU-27 (2007-2013) following recent adjustments

EAFRD (EU budget): €96.2 billion*41.6%

National co-financing: €57.2 billion**24.7%

Private expenditure: €65.5 billion**28.3%

National 'top-ups': €12.4 billion** 5.4%

TOTAL: €231.3 billion100.0%

* This figure includes the additional amounts from Health Check and Recovery Package

** These figures are based on the revised programmes at March 2010.



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Strategic approach (1)

- Situation in 2007-2013
 - Establishment of National Strategic Plans for all 27 MS
 - Problems in certain regionalised MS
 - Insufficient targeting
 - Path dependency
- EU 2020 as policy framework for after 2013
 - Smart/sustainable and inclusive growth to be translated in RDP objectives and EU priorities
 - Quantified targets to be defined
 - Close relationship with ERDF, ESF, EFF



Strategic approach (2)

- Open questions:
 - Form and role of National Strategy; measure toolkit; targeting mechanism (e.g., eligibility criteria, regional differentiation, selection criteria); coordination mechanism
- For the future:
 - *Strengthen and adapt strategic approach to new requirements*
 - *Simplification of programming while ensuring added value and transparency/accountability*



Implementation of programmes

- Different arrangements in Member States
 - National rules (e.g. eligibility criteria, retention period for investment, selection process)
 - Administrative procedures (e.g. duration of projects' approval)
 - Coordination between responsible authorities
- For the future:
 - *Review of arrangements and need for exchange of experience – use of Network*



Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

- For the first time common indicators on EU-level MS indicate difficulties to set up the system: complaints about too many and complicated indicators;
- For the future:
 - *Need to review the system to concentrate and enhance certain elements*
 - *Increasing importance due to targeting requirements and value for money proof*



Coherence and complementarity – coordination with other policies

- 2007-2013: EAFRD separated from Structural Funds
 - Requirement to coordinate on EU-level: demarcation and complementarity, different rules
 - MS to set up coordination mechanisms
- For the future:
 - *Ensure synergies with other EU policies: harmonisation of methods and rules*
 - *Improve coordination in MS at different levels (national/regional/local)?*



Local development approaches

- Leader
 - is the most important instrument for integrated local development
 - Mainstreaming resulted partially in conflicts with basic principles of bottom-up and innovative character
- Public-private partnership approach
 - Results not yet clearly visible
- For the future:
 - *Review existing mechanisms and prepare for harmonised approach with other EU policy local development initiatives*



Management and control system

- In 2007-2013
 - One EU-system for all RD-Programmes
 - MS complain about high administrative burden and costs (small projects)
- For the future
 - *Possibilities for reducing burden by providing for flexibility and proportionality*
 - *Efficiency gains in Member States by avoiding unnecessary complexity of rules and procedures (e.g. application requirements, delays in project approval)*



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The CAP post-2013 debate: the timing



4 strategic questions on the future of the CAP:

1. Why do we need a European common agricultural policy?
2. What do citizens expect from agriculture?
3. Why reform the CAP?
4. What tools do we need for the CAP of tomorrow?

Thank you for your attention

CAP Health Check

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/healthcheck/index_en.htm

EU agriculture and CAP reform

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm

EU rural development policy 2007-2013

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm

Agricultural Policy Analysis and Perspectives

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/perspec/index_en.htm

EU rural development network

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>



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