



Rete Rurale
Nazionale
2007.2013



INTERACT pilot activity on Cooperation in Objectives 1 and 2

The Cooperation measure within LEADER approach in the Rural Development Programmes



Second event, Bergen June 14 2011

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Overview of the presentation

- 2007-2013 EU Rural Development Objectives
- The LEADER approach
- Cooperation as part of the Leader approach
- Procedure
- Networking



2007 – 2013 EU RURAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES



To increase the competitiveness of the agricultural and forest field, promoting its restructure



To value the environment and the natural space, by supporting the management of the territory.



To improve the quality of life in the rural zones and to promote the diversification of the economic activities.



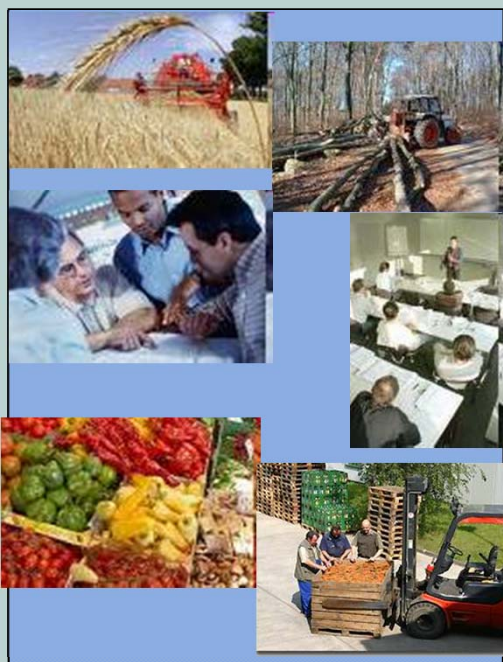
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MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE
ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI



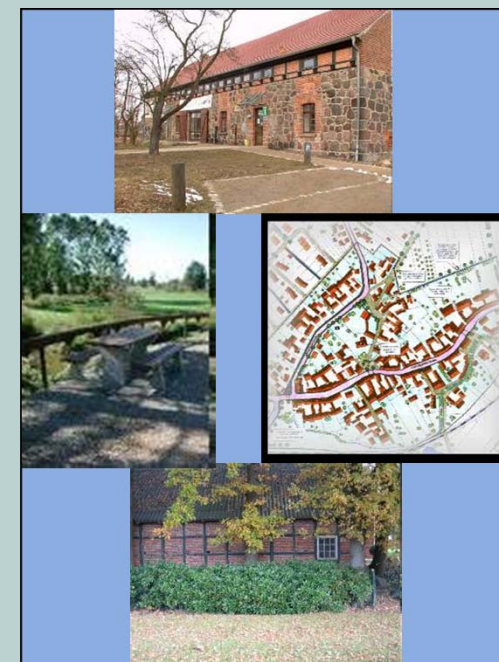
Axis I: *Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector*



Axis II: *Improving the environment and the countryside*



Axis III: *The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy*



Axis IV: LEADER approach (methodological axis):
Local development integrated strategies of the territory



AXIS IV: the LEADER approach



LEADER (Liaisons Entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale - Links Among Actions of Development of the Rural Economy) is an approach directed to promote the integrated, endogenous and sustainable development of the rural areas.

- It was introduced as a 'Community Initiative' financed under the EU Structural Funds. Since 2007, the Leader approach has been integrated ('mainstreamed') within overall EU rural development policy.
- Bottom up approach for the elaboration and the performance of Local Development Strategies (LDSs) and constructed to one or more priority topics aimed to well defined rural territories at sub-regional level, homogenous and that present critical mass in terms of human, financial and economic resources, to support the strategy of local development.



- The Local Action Groups (LAGs) are the subjects that promote, elaborate the LDSs and manage the financial contributions given by the European Commission. The constitution of a LAG is based on the private creation of partnership which must be the balanced and representative expression of the public and private operators and, of several social economic environmental of the territory.
- Management of cooperation projects at interterritorial and transnational level: it involves a LAG undertaking a joint project whit another Leader group or another group with a similar approach.
- Creation of networks among the local partnership includes the exchange of achievements, experiences and know-how between Leader groups, rural areas, administrations and organisations to help overcome the isolation faced by some rural regions.



Delivery system measures for the Leader axis (Art. 63 Regulation 1698/2005)

- Implementing local development strategies to achieve the objective of one or more of the 3 Axis (Measures 411, 412, 413).
- Interterritorial and transnational Cooperation (Measure 421).
- Running the local action group, acquisition of skills and animating the territory (Measure 431).



The Cooperation measure

- It is funded under Axis 4 (Leader) of the EAFRD (Art.65 of Regulation 1698/2005) through the national or regional rural development programmes from 2007-13.
- The cooperation measure is one of the three LEADER Axis measure.
- Cooperation encourages and supports a LAGs to undertake a joint action with another Leader group, or with a group taking a similar approach, in another region, Member State, or even a third country.
- Cooperation projects can be already integrated in the Local Development Strategy
- If not integrated in the Local Strategy, then decision mechanism as for other projects or Managing Authority creates a special procedure.





- **Interterritorial cooperation:** within a Member State, it concerns at least one area selected under Leader Axis.
- **Trans-national cooperation:**
 - ✓ **within the European Union:** it covers at least two rural areas from at least two Member States among which at least one LAG is selected under the Leader Axis.
 - ✓ it is possible to extend this cooperation to groups in **third countries** following a similar approach.

The partnership may also be open to other local public private partnerships according to Article 62 1.(b of the Regulation (EC) n°1698/2005 or other rural groups organised along the lines of Leader and recognised by the Member State.

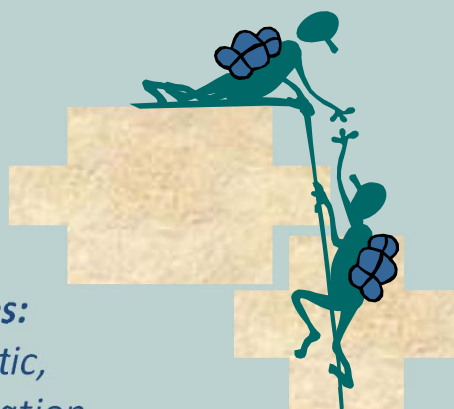
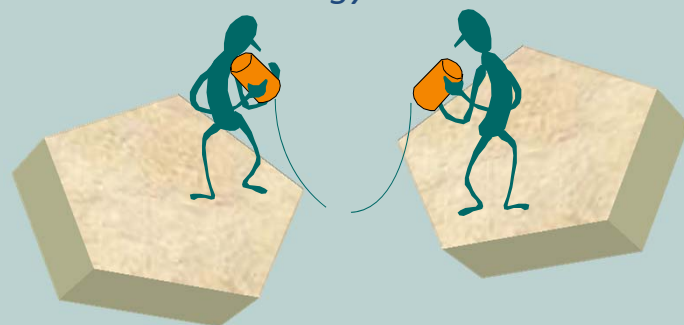
The expenditure involved relating to the Leader area becomes eligible (e.g. participation by the Leader local action group in partnership meetings, local application in its area of the joint project). In other words, expenditure "relating to" the Leader area does not mean necessarily "in the area". Expenditures in the area of the non-member country and not related to the Leader area are not eligible.



The objectives of the cooperation

To value the complementarities: geographic advantages, complementary know-hows, subdivision of the work among partners based on the respective specializations

*To value the analogies:
geographic characteristic,
cultural patrimony, innovation
technology*



*To search critical masses: to realize
economies of scale, to propose a combined
offer of products, to support the costs for
the introduction of a new technology*

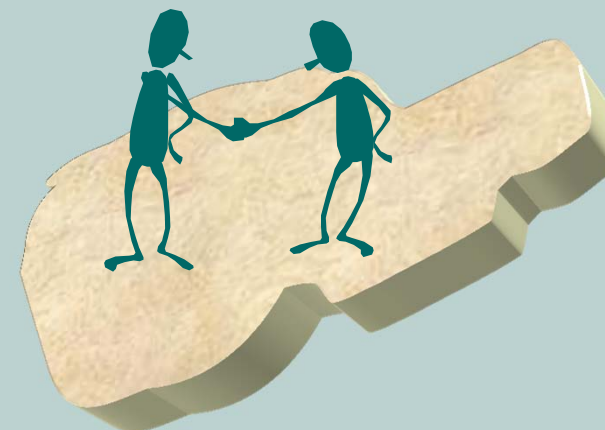
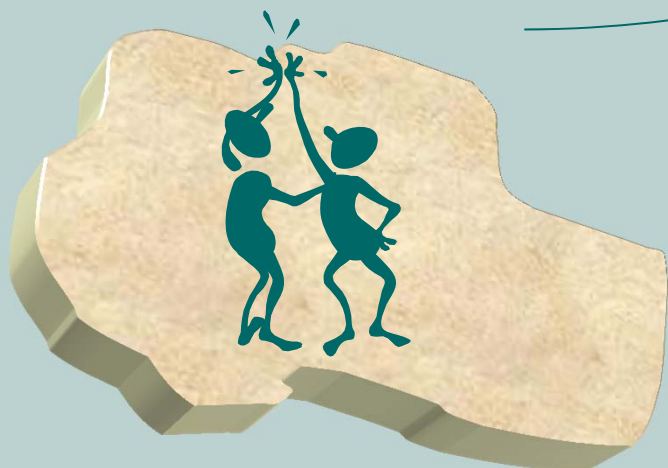




The effects

*Opening of the territories on the
external world and a cultural
enrichment*

*Birth of a culture clearly centralized
on the cooperation and the
partnership*



*Dissemination outside the Local Action Group toward
other operators of their territory (enterprises,
associations)*

*Learning based on the experience which will let
operators to avoid numerous difficulties within
their respective future plans.*



What it must consist of.....

Elaboration and implementation of a common action: there must be a concrete common project that aims to reach the critical mass necessary because it is feasible and regards the creation of duties, the transfer of experience in local development, information seminars that bring around the adoption of common methodology and common methods of work or the elaboration of an activity of joint and coordinated development.



Cooperation and Networking

On the practical level, cooperation gives rise to a lot of questions:

- ***how to find a partner;***
- ***how to share the work and responsibilities among partners.***

Member States must be prepared to allocate appropriate technical assistance resources for this purpose.



Networking

- is a means of transferring good practice, disseminating innovation and of building on the lessons learned from local rural development;
- is done between LAGs, rural areas, administrations and organisations involved in rural development (not only Leader beneficiaries!)



Cooperation and Networking



Widening the perspective ...

Networking helps:

- Finding suitable partners
- Strengthening individuals
- Rural actors and areas to participate actively in the future of Europe

Networking is giving space for...

...not being obliged to reinvent the
and again





European Network for Rural Development (EN RD)



Article 67 of Regulation 1698/2005 establishes a ***European Network for Rural Development*** for the networking of national networks, organisations and administrations active in the field of rural development.

Aims:

- To collect, analyse and disseminate information on RD measures;
- To consolidate good rural development practice
- To provide information on developments in rural areas;
- To organise meetings and seminars:



As part of the EU rural development policy for 2007-2013, each MS shall establish a national rural network, which groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development.

Their action plan shall contain at least:

- the identification and analysis of **good transferable practices** and the provision of information about them,
- **network management**,
- the organisation of **exchange of experience** and know-how,
- the preparation of **training programmes** for LAGs in the process of formation,
- and technical assistance for **inter-territorial and transnational cooperation**.

(1) Regulation 1698/2005 Article 68



- In the case of Inter-territorial cooperation, preparatory technical support will be backed up by the work of the *National Rural network* by promoting and facilitating cooperation between all the local action groups
- In the case of Transnational cooperation, preparatory technical support will be backed up by the work of the *European Rural Network* which promotes this type of cooperation.
- The work of the *National networks* in stimulating transnational cooperation will be also crucial.



Within their own responsibilities Managing authorities in the Member States should:

- clearly inform local action groups of the possibilities for cooperation funding on the basis of clear guidelines;
- ensure that application process is as simple and flexible as possible and, if applicable, shall select beneficiaries for preparatory technical support and cooperation projects.



National networks:

- organizes cooperation seminars for local action groups;
- establishes systems to gather examples of good practices;
- provides a partner search tool and publish at regular basis announcements for transnational partners;
- provides technical assistance to local action groups (individual advice);
- is in regular contact with other National networks.



At European level the Commission:

- provides a tool to support transnational cooperation partner search;
- organizes European Leader seminars promoting cooperation for local action groups;
- organizes an information exchange on transnational cooperation projects under approval process;
- provides guide(s) on transnational cooperation;
- establishes a framework for the collection and dissemination of good practices (in close collaboration with national networks).



Objectives of networking

- **forge links** between people, projects and rural areas;
- **exchange and transfer** experiences, skills and know-how (reduce isolation, create channels to facilitate the circulation of information, etc.);
- **stimulate cooperation between areas** by making available to local action groups the information they need to search for partners and technical support for preparing a cooperation action;
- **capitalise on the lessons learned from local rural development** (analysing innovative approaches, actions and practices, modelling the LEADER approach and disseminating its principal lessons).



Besides....

- Cooperation ventures must bring real added value to the areas concerned.
- They should allow the pooling of know-how and/or human and financial resources scattered throughout each of the areas.
- They should form part of the thematic guidelines (“unifying themes”) defined by the LAGs in their development plan.
- Such cooperation ventures must not remain at the stage of a simple exchange of experiences but must lead to developing a joint action, if possible promoted by a joint structure.
- Local cooperation and transnational cooperation are implemented under the responsibility of the LAG heading the project.



Eligible costs

Ministry has realized a directory of eligible costs for rural development interventions

For cooperation measure eligible costs are:

Project development expenses relating to

- the search for partners including travel, local transport, board and accommodation, mission allowance, study visits and associated activities;
- feasibility studies, research, specific consultancies and associated activities
- information communication, including interpreter and translation costs, awareness activities, information research on the territories and associated activities;
- the organisation of meetings including the hire of premises, equipment, catering, translation services and interpreters;
- general expenses relating to the organisation and coordination of planning and pre-development activities



Project implementation expenses relating to

- cooperation staff
- the coordination of partner meetings including travel costs, board and accommodation, local transport, hire of premises and equipment
- interpreter and translation costs;
- studies and researches, specific consultancies and associated activities
- implementation of information and communication;
- material costs in order to common action
- general costs (direct and indirect) relating to the organisation and implementation of planning activities including costs for administration and secretarial activities, monitoring, purchase of telephone and computer services, for utility bills, hire of premises etc
- expenses sustained by the LAG or by the lead partner for coordination activities, monitoring and evaluation of the project
- the constitution and current management of a potential common structure

For expenses related to the implementation of the operations that fall under the single measures of the PSR, see the admissible types of expenses indicated in the relevant table of measures.



Documentation requirement

Application form

The use of application form is useful for the implementation of Leader monitoring system

The main informations are:

- Lead partner and partners
- Description of cooperation project (overall and operational objective, activities, project indicators)
- Method and procedures of project implementation (modality of implementation)
- Management activities (work planning, modalities to accomplish management and organizational commitments)
 - Financial aspects (financial plan, annual financial planning,



Documentation requirement

Agreement form

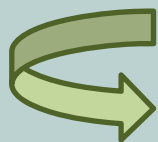
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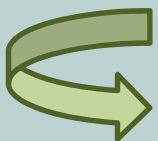
Main critical issues for the cooperation implementation



New MAs administrative and management organization
difficult to implement a new Leader “governance” between MAs – PAs - LAGs



Different timing in LDPs approval
different timing in start up cooperation measure
delays to the start up projects



Different administrative rules
coordination difficulties for LAGs



For further informations:

- Visit our website: www.reterurale.it
- Rete Nazionale per lo sviluppo rurale, *L'anomalia della PAC: eterogeneità e dinamiche del LEADER in Italia (2009)*
- Rete Rurale Nazionale 2007-2013, *Dossier La valutazione dell'approccio LEADER nei programmi di sviluppo rurale 2007-2013: un contributo metodologico (2010)*



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Thank you for your attention

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