



Summary of the workshop: “CLLD – How does it really work?”

at the European Week of Regions and Cities

12th of October at 11:15-13:00, Brussels

The workshop focused on the experiences until today with the implementation of CLLD through LAGs in rural areas. On paper, already almost three years passed of the funding period 2014-2020, which is marked by the introduction of multifunded CLLD to replace LEADER.

The examples chosen for this workshop were therefore those of Member States that tried to take advantage of this widened approach: Sweden, Portugal and the Czech Republic. In her presentation, Marion Eckardt from Sweden focused on the challenges of multi-funding on LAG level, reporting that they have already started to fund projects also through the ESF, after a slow start.

Luis Chaves from Portugal reported about the late start of CLLD in Portugal and the fact that it is at the moment still not known when exactly LAGs will be able to draw funding from the ERDF/ESF OPs - funding that is really needed due to the fact that the focus of EAFRD (LEADER) is in this period purely agricultural, a clear misuse of the multifunding idea.

Then Radim Sršeň from the Czech Republic gave an overview of the Czech multifunding model, characterized by the interaction of several OPs and dominated by the ERDF. Though the architecture looks complicated, Czech rural actors have good hopes that the implementation will soon start.

The president of ELARD Kristiina Tammets reported about some elements of a survey conducted with the ELARD members. The main needs related to CLLD implementation regarding the survey are:

1. To assure innovative and flexible implementation of local development strategies;
2. To enable enough time and resources for LAGs to implement animation activities;
3. To achieve good dialogue and strong cooperation between all LEADER actors (MA, PA, LAG), clear understanding of roles;
4. To arise capacity of MAs, PAs and LAGs, creating common understanding;
5. Additionally to SCO (Simplified Cost Option) there is a huge need to pay attention to simplification of procedures.

The discussion panel was constituted by Ruza Tomasic, MEP from Croatia, Paul Soto, Team Leader of the ENRD Contact Point as well as Christine Falter, Policy Officer at DG AGRI.



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Following questions were put to the panelists:

- What is the value and benefit of the CLLD? Do you think it is worth having this multi-funded CLLD?
- What are the biggest advantages and threats of multifunded local development?
- What kind of improvements there are needed to make?
- How to overcome the bureaucracy, what are the practices to be avoided?"

Ruza Tomasic, who had led a resolution of the EP based on her own-initiative report on the use of the new territorial tools in the ESIF, ITIs and CLLD, said that it was very important to motivate the local population to be more actively involved in the CLLD process.

Referring to the starting problems with multifunded CLLD, Paul Soto reminded that the Guidance of the EC for CLLD clearly said that any of the four Funds should be able to support actions that are eligible in all Funds, in order to overcome the sectorial thinking in each fund. True integration can only be reached with more flexibility.

Christine Falter then said that the European Commission is aware of the pitfalls and difficulties experienced so far and is making efforts to improve the situation in the discussion with Member States.

Pedro Brosei
Vice-president of ELARD





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