



Europejski Fundusz Rolny na rzecz
Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich



Europejski Fundusz Rolny na Rzecz rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich, Europa inwestująca w obszary wiejskie

Debate 29th April 2014

17.00 - 20.00 Debate and workshops: how to use the experience from the period 2007-2013 to prepare and implement a better local strategy for 2014-2020. The biggest challenges

Debate took place in Prószków. The participants were members of 3 LAGs: 2 from Estonia (Ida-Harju Koostöökoda oraz Lääne-Harju Koostöökogu) and 1 from Poland (LAG Partnership of Niemodlin Woods)

The debate started with presentation of all 3 LAGs, including the main differences in implementing LEADER and in works of LAGs themselves.

After the presentation participants were divided into mixed polish-estonian groups to work on the issues connected with the future of Local Action Groups in the period 2014-2020.

The groups were working in a way called the world cafe method.

Here are the results written by participants on the papers on the working tables

1. How to effectively encourage area residents to engage in consultations of Local Development Strategy and to demonstrate that their involvement in the preparation of the document decide whether LDS will respond to their needs?

Answers :

- start with spreading infos from family members, then neighbourhood, village and more and more (the wave effect)*
- use IT for example Facebook working table,*
- try, try, try!*
- study trips :)*
- meetings with people who were succesfull in LEADER*
- showing photos, films, short series in TV (real story)*
- show leaders and talk about their success,*
- send emails with infomations about LEADER, with posters,*
- use local newspaper*
- show best examples*
- succes key: keep it simple and „stupid”*

2. Time is money.

How to ensure the participation of the business sector in the preparation and implementation of the Local Development Strategy. What solutions are needed to make business take the time to consult and prepare the documentation for the projects.

Answers :

- they will ask questions what is the point of being LAG member, business is pragmatic*
- give business a possibility to cooperate*
- ask what they expect, what they know and what they need*
- offer learning programmes for business*
- round tables/ exchange of expirience*
- LAG consulting business plans, and helping with documentation*
- one of the problems: they have to pre-paid their procepts (how to solve this?)*
- LAG is not for giving money but for cooperation, for sharing the knowlegde, for helping with*



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entering the market.

- Local Development Strategy measures according to business needs.

3. The court and the trial but the justice must be on our side

How to ensure the representativeness of all sectors in the decision-making body, and maintain the independence and impartiality in selecting projects for funding ?

Answers:

- There has to be a rule that the decision making body has to be elected from all sectors and municipalities. They have to prove their competence somehow (some sort of certain criteria)

- Board members have to have the knowledge and capacity to choose the most competent members for the decision making body. The board takes the responsibility for the work of decision making body.

- In the decision making body there have to be representatives from local level and from outside (to maintain objectivity)

- Making sure there is no conflict of interest (signing document that declares that). For example they can't be authors of any project

- the board is responsible for criteria of evaluation and choosing decision making body members

4. The pitcher goes so often to the well, that it is broken at last

Working with people is sometimes a thankless and exhausting job to do. How to motivate LAGs employees for continued engagement in contacts with the inhabitants of the area ? How to keep their enthusiasm and positive energy at a constant level ?

Answers:

- salary

- working environment (atmosphere, computers, equipment, car!, mobil phones)

- flexible time of work and working place

- trainings, possibilities of changing experience

- possibility to move further in career

- appreciation from the board members, acclaims from members

- active participation of members in what the employees do,

- working groups with board members, study trips, teamwork with board,

- LAG (as a membership organization) belonging to the group, members have to participate in achieving results, leading the life of an active citizen

5. We, the Local Action Group

What can we do to make sure that the members of the board represent the structure and needs of all LAGs members? What role do you see for the LAGs board?

Answers:

The board :

- have the knowledge of region,

- proper statute for electing members of the decision-making body (business level, education, experience)

- balance between sectors,

- elected for at least 5-7 years (projects take ap. 7 years in Estonia)

The board is responsible for:



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- money
- people (structure, employees)
- plans/activities
- legislation
- realization of aims from the statute
- supervising projects
- representing LAG outside
- international cooperation
- representing all sectors (local government, NGO, business)
- budget
- directions of development, mission,
- Two opinions: the board should be paid for work/the board should work for free
- The board members should have the duties divided among them – each member responsible for certain part of LAGs activity
- The board members should report their work to general assembly(each for the part that he/she is responsible for)

6.

Money makes wonders

How to strengthen the role and independence of the Local Action Group ? What can we do to make LAG last without the EU support ?

Answers

- some people wrote that they know about the danger of not receiving the EU support but they don't talk about it. They will worry when it comes.

- is it important to make the decision if LAG wants to do anything else besides LEADER

If no – then LAG is closed after EU money is over

If yes:

- 3 sectors will continue as members finding solutions how much can each sector contribute,

- LAG will represent organizations in the area (united marketing)

- municipality support, LAG can be development organization, providing development related services to the municipalities.

- benefit as „bigger picture” view of the area development activities more coordinated between municipalities,

- companies who have received support from LAG will pay 1% of their profit to the LAG,

- LAG can develop different series of local products and sell them. Services are related too and in the interest of the LAG area.

- special training programs for start-up and NGOs, micro business

-LAG between sellers and buyers (LAG knows the area and the people and can help to build links between them)



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