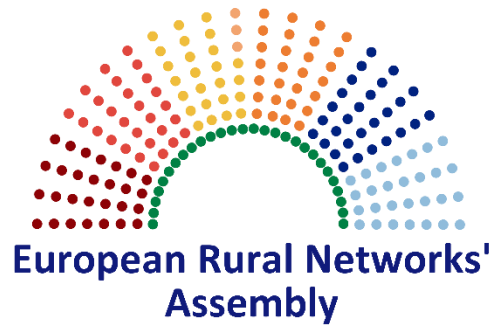


eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



Permanent Subgroup on LEADER and Community-Led Local Development

4th Meeting
21 February 2017

Table of Contents

Morning session	3
Introduction.....	3
The State of Play.....	3
Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (1)	4
Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (2)	6
Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (3)	8
Afternoon working session.....	9
Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (4)	9
Linking LEADER/CLLD to thematic work of Rural Networks.....	10
European Solidarity Corps	12
Closing Comments and Next Steps.....	12

Introduction	
<p>9.30 – 9.40</p> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <p>Agenda</p>	<p><i>Note: Presentations can be directly downloaded by clicking on the link provided</i></p> <p>Mr Mario Milouchev, (Director DG AGRI) opened the 4th LEADER Sub Group meeting by introducing himself and Unit E2 who are newly responsible for the ENRD Contact Point. An addition to the agenda of a presentation on the European Solidarity Corp was introduced.</p> <p>He observed that now in the 4th year of RDP implementation there are almost 2,000 LAGs, 200 of which will be multi-funded, cooperation has started and one TNC project is up and running. The priority is now on supporting LAGs to develop their areas and deliver their objectives. The selection of LAGs has been lagging behind in some MS or regions and urgent action is needed to finalise the selection process.</p> <p>He highlighted important recent LEADER related developments– the Cork Declaration, the CLLD conference in Sweden, the ELARD Tartu Declaration and the work on modernisation and simplification of the CAP. Emphasis was placed on the need to focus on current implementation, innovation in rural areas and the importance of the role of the LEADER sub group. He urged participants not just to limit their involvement to this annual meeting, but to actively get involved in ENRD LEADER activities throughout the year, including the Cooperation Practitioner Led Working Group (PWG).</p> <p>Paul Soto (ENRD CP Team Leader) introduced the agenda for the day.</p>
The State of Play	
<p>9.40 – 10.15</p> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <p>State of play with CLLD implementation</p> <p>Christine Falter DG AGRI</p> <p>LEADER Landscape</p> <p>John Grieve ENRD CP</p>	<p>Christine Falter (DG AGRI F1) gave a presentation the State of play of CLLD implementation. This was followed by John Grieve (ENRD CP) who gave a perspective on the ‘LEADER Landscape’</p> <p>The presentations were followed by a question and answer session.</p> <p>A representative from SK asked whether there were any other EU countries where LAGs have not been selected yet?</p> <p>The Commission replied that LAGs have not yet been selected under 13 EU RDPs and that they are in dialogue with the MS authorities to accelerate the process. The Regulation specifies two deadlines - the first round of LAG selection has to be finished within two years of the approval of the Partnership Agreement, based on the latest signature date the very final deadline would be June-July this year. The second round of selection has to be completed by the end of 2017.</p> <p>A Polish LAG suggested that the LAGs currently selected could be shown on a map – even if there might be changes later – to enable LAGs to see what is happening on the ‘ground’. This could also be important for planning Transnational Cooperation projects.</p> <p>A question was raised concerning who is responsible for the collection of data relating to urban LAGs. It was confirmed that each DG is responsible for collecting its own data, that the collection of LAG data is ongoing and that the data is presented in the ENRD LAG database (reference to presentation in the</p>

afternoon). The LAG database is based on a common specification for all ESI Funds to enable sharing of common information.

A representative from PREPARE asked how the LEADER Sub-Group will be involved in the discussion on simplification of rules for LEADER as part of the planned OMNIBUS regulation. There was a proposal for an ENRD seminar on this topic. The Commission explained that the OMNIBUS regulation has been discussed with the Council and the European Parliament. It was noted that the OMNIBUS regulation includes both the Common Provisions Regulation and the EAFRD Regulation among others.

Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (1)

10.15 – 11.00

Presentations

[Cork 2 and LEADER CLLD](#)

Paul Soto ENRD CP

The speakers shared the main results and feedback from the recent events on LEADER/CLLD, such as the Cork 2.0 Conference, the December 2016 joint DGs CLLD seminar and the ELARD Tartu Declaration.

Cork 2: Paul Soto highlighted that LEADER can play a role in all 10 points of the Declaration, from helping to build a rural identity, develop integrated strategies, to facilitating local production networks and local value chains. LEADER can also support the environmental agenda and strengthen social innovation.

LEADER was discussed in one of the workshops that focused on rural viability and vitality.

Drivers, obstacles and solutions were analysed:

- Drivers: the central point is that after 25 years LEADER has created a 'capital' of links with businesses, civil society, organisation and this still has unused potential;
- Obstacles: lack of trust, autonomy, not enough resources to support animation;
- Possible solutions: reinforcing integration among different initiatives, reinforce rural integration and capacity building.

A number of Cork 2.0 participants were invited to share their thoughts and experience:

Goran Soster (Slovenian NRN)

- The implementation of LEADER still offers an opportunity to unlock the potential of rural areas, especially through the bottom-up approach and in very under-populated areas;
- The Cork Declaration, apart from point 8, does not stress the importance of the bottom up approach sufficiently;
- Cork 2 reinforced the need for cooperation and building trust to advance bottom up initiatives.

Luis Chaves (Minha Terra Network, PT)

- Rural proofing, a concept key in the Cork Declaration, is crucial to making EU funds more efficient;
- There is a need to rebuild stakeholders trust regarding the EU;
- Simplification is possible only via a more coherent system in EU policies and priorities;

<p>Achieving results the CLLD way</p> <p>John Grieve ENRD CP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU consultation on the CAP is not sufficient to shape the EU agenda from a democratic and bottom up perspective (it is perceived by some to reflect powerful lobbying interests). Examples such as the Tartu Declaration are more in line with a citizens/bottom up approach; • Territorial development must be a key priority in the next generation of EU rural development policies. <p><i>Gerard Peltre (R.E.D.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cork Declaration was presented as an expression of the participants' points of view but is still waiting for feedback from the Commission, the EC should give a clear sign of support for the Declaration; • Rural proofing under Cork 2.0 is an opportunity and the "Rural Agenda" can be a starting point to work toward more rurally appropriate policies which have been tested in this way. <p>Joint DG CLLD Seminar: John Grieve (ENRD CP) presented the outcomes of this seminar organised in Båstad (Sweden) in December 2016. This event explored how to enable the CLLD method to deliver results, by overcoming challenges and sharing possible solutions among 130 participants from LAGs, MAs, the DGs and other stakeholders from across the four funds.</p> <p>The main seminar outcomes highlighted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes CLLD different is the bottom up approach, the place-based approach, grassroots policies and implementation; • There is a need to move from delivery based on hierarchy to a more cooperation based approach; • A good communication plan is fundamental to making the method work; • There is a need to reinforce bottom up: local governance should be the key factor; • Allow innovation to develop by accepting permissible failure, allow exploration; • Harmonise the delivery system, simple steps to make the process smoother and flexible. <p>LEADER/CLLD sub-group members who also participated in the seminar were invited to share their perspectives:</p> <p><i>Jan Florian, Czech LAG Network</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seminar reinforced the vital need for simplicity (in the delivery of CLLD) – especially for LAGs; • Cooperation is needed to ensure LEADER implementation is as simple as it should/can be; • Support the implementation of 'risky' projects to develop innovation; • LAG managers and LAGs should work to develop local solutions. <p><i>Ana Pires da Silva, PT NRN</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is essential that representatives of MAs of different funds, PAs and LAGs sit at the same discussion tables to build a common
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>LEADER / CLLD Declaration for 2020+</p> <p>Kristiina Tammets ELARD</p>	<p>understanding of the method and better coordination towards a really integrated approach;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making at local level should be given more flexibility from the national legislation level to empower communities; • Assessing the added value of the LEADER/CLLD method should use a common evaluation method. The PT NRN is organising capacity building for LAGs on evaluation methodology in 2017-2018. <p><i>Dave Raftis, Westmeath LAG IE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappointed to hear from MS at Båstad how many complexities still exist between LAGs and MAs. Reducing complexity at the application level as well as at the implementation level is central. <p>Tartu Declaration: Kristina Tammets (ELARD) presented the main points of the Tartu Declaration, prepared during a conference in October 2016 involving contributions from around 140 delegates from 25 MS.</p> <p>One of the main points raised is the issue of trust: there is an urgent need to re-establish and/or build trust among the LAG actors. LEADER should be made 'simpler', a real people-to-people methodology. LAGs should have the flexibility to design their "own" measures and CLLD funding streams should ideally be coordinated under one managing authority in the MS.</p> <p>A question and answer session followed during which it was suggested that the ENRD and the LEADER / CLLD sub-group take on a role of creating, facilitating and monitoring the development of a multi-annual 'LEADER road map' setting out the forthcoming milestones and priorities for LEADER CLLD implementation. The rural networks look at different important LEADER / CLLD topics each year; it would be beneficial to share a joint longer term perspective in addition to this. The FI NRN already has a LEADER 2030 initiative.</p> <p>DG AGRI noted that the focus of the RNs should be on the 'here and now' of delivering under the current 2014-2020 programming period; this could then also inform discussions about the future.</p>
<p>Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (2)</p>	
<p>11.30 – 12.15</p> <p>Working Groups</p>	<p>This session involved participants working in small groups focusing on how to put the implementation improvement recommendations from these events into practice. They were also asked to consider how to develop the role of the LEADER Sub Group in this. Below is a summary of the main issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification is a key issue– but it is important to move beyond talking about it and put it into practice e.g. re lump sums, simplified costs, umbrella projects; • Self-awareness and understanding of what is happening and what is being achieved should be strengthened at the local level; • It is imperative to build trust and understanding between all stakeholders including local people. Involve multiple delivery stakeholders (MA, PA, LAGs and auditors) in discussions on LEADER so all can learn from each other;

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate between MS and regions to develop solutions within the constraints of the regulations e.g. once the Omnibus Regulation is published;• Take steps to increase exchange and communication at all levels and create a communication plan for CLLD;• There should be clearer mandatory rules set by the Commission with less room for interpretation – possibly a more clearly defined common set of minimum criteria for CLLD in all funds;• Some participants wanted to keep the true principles of LEADER; while others want a new model of LEADER implementation in the next period;• LAGs and implementing authorities should use all tools available to LEADER e.g. animation, networking, training, multi fund and Simplified Cost Options particularly to allow more flexibility and ‘risk taking’;• Parallel discussions should take place on the future of LEADER and the actions which should be taken now. |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (3)	
<p>12.15 – 13.00</p> <p><i>Presentation:</i></p> <p>The LEADER Cooperation PWG</p> <p>Peter Toth ENRD CP</p>	<p>A presentation on the process and products of the LEADER Cooperation Practitioner-Led Working Group (PWG) was delivered by Peter Toth, ENRD CP together with members of the PWG group, Kristine Hindriks EE Managing Authority, Stefan Niedermoser AT Local Action Group and Juha-Matti Markkola from the FI National Rural Network.</p> <p>Discussions took place between small groups of participants each of which involved a member of the Cooperation PWG to establish:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What could be the most relevant topic for the next phase of work for this PWG? and 2. What types of topic is this practitioner led working group approach best suited to? <p>A summary of these discussions is provided below.</p> <p>1. Suggestions for Next Phase of the LEADER Cooperation PWG work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary fact sheet of PWG conclusions should be circulated to all MS in an accessible format; • Investigate the best options for dissemination – try to promote the idea of cooperation more widely e.g. promotional films, user friendly booklet on cooperation and sharing of practical examples; • Consider harmonised rules for TNC at EU level, the same rules for the countries and funds, encourage MA involvement to consider practical implementation issues; • Contribute to common guidelines and application forms (template) for TNC; • Guidelines for LAGs for TNC project selection process; • Comparison of approaches with regard to whether LAGs or MAs select projects; • Finalise the current strands, ensuring that the recommendations are practical and explicit; • Prepare ambitious guidelines for future TNC for 2020+ with participation with all LEADER actors. <p>2. Topics Best Suited to PWG Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible costs for projects; • How to animate LEADER; • Innovation - how to support this effectively through CLLD; • Selection of projects at LAG level; • How LEADER can engage with stakeholders in delivery system; • Training and mentoring of LAG staff, peer exchanges; • The use of simplified cost options and other forms of simplification; • Looking ahead, the LAG as a hub or platform; • Developing and implementing quality management in LAGs.

Afternoon working session

Improving LEADER/CLLD Implementation (4)	
<p>14.30-15.00</p> <p><i>Presentation:</i></p> <p>Guidelines Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD +</p> <p>Hannes Wimmer ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk</p>	<p>Hannes Wimmer (ENRD - Evaluation Helpdesk) presented the draft guidelines on the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD in RDPs 2014-2020. The main topics covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLLD – a new policy instrument in 2014 – 2020; • The legal requirements; • The concept and focus of evaluation of LEADER/CLLD; • Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD at RDP level; • Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD at LAG level. <p>The Evaluation Helpdesk and its Thematic Working Group have developed the guidelines for evaluation at the RDP and LAG level. They clarified why it is important to monitor and evaluate LEADER/CLLD. Several reasons were highlighted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Justification of what taxpayer’s money is being spent on and how this contributes to national and EU objectives; 2. Measure the Added value of LEADER/CLLD; 3. Learn what works to pursue evidence based policy making. <p>General guidance on how to assess LEADER/CLLD in the first enhanced AIR has already been provided in 2016. The AIR submitted in June 2017 is a key moment for MAs as they will report primary and secondary contributions for the first time.</p> <p>During discussion of the proposals it was noted that future LEADER budgets may be based on results reinforcing the need to capture what is delivered and to demonstrate and monitor impact achieved.</p> <p>Sub group members raised concerns that the guidance might need to be ‘translated’ to make it more accessible to the lay person.</p> <p>Questions were raised as to why, if it is a common LEADER/CLLD method that is being implemented are common indicators not being provided too? The ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk explained that common indicators are only those agreed between the Commission and Member States. Moreover, the different content of local development strategies means it is not possible to provide common indicators. However, it would be useful to develop common indicators for assessing the impact of the LEADER/ CLLD method. An approach on how to assess LEADER/CLLD is suggested in the non-binding guidelines.</p> <p>A Spanish colleague asked when the SFC template for the enhanced AIR would be available given that it is due for completion by 30 June 2017. It was noted that this was under development.</p> <p>It was observed that if a local development strategy has been approved, then it should already be in line with higher-level EU priorities. Evaluation of LDS at the local level should therefore focus on the achievement of local level objectives and the extent to which the local needs have been addressed. The contribution of LEADER to EU level priorities should be evaluated at the programme level.</p>

	<p>Christine Falter raised an information point on Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 regarding the simplification proposals on control rules for the CAP. The following proposals are being discussed in the Rural Development Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of umbrella projects. The problem has always been that the 'reasonableness of costs' needs to be checked at application stage, which is not possible for umbrella projects as costs are not known at this stage. The proposal is that the 'reasonableness of costs' would instead be checked at the point of the payment claim. 2. Very small projects up to €5000. The proposal is that the 'reasonableness of costs' can be established by a draft budget agreed ex ante by the MA. For LEADER, this would mean that a project draft budget, serving as a basis for approving the reasonableness of costs, could be agreed between the LAG and the project promoter and verified by the MA during the final eligibility check. <p>As an info point, it was stressed that co-operation fact sheets are being developed by the ENRD CP and all sub group members were asked for help to get these completed.</p>
Linking LEADER/CLLD to thematic work of Rural Networks	
<p>15.00-15.45</p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <p>ENRD CP State of play LEADER CLLD activities</p> <p>John Grieve & Peter Toth ENRD CP</p> <p>Update Helpdesk activities 2016 - 2017</p> <p>Hannes Wimmer ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk</p> <p>EIP Agri Annual Work Programme 2017</p> <p>Pacome Eyenga EIP Service Point</p>	<p>Updates of the networks' activities were presented.</p> <p>John Grieve and Peter Toth provided feedback the ENRD Contact Point's main LEADER activities. These included Cooperation Factsheets; the LEADER Cooperation PWG; the LAG Database; LEADER/CLLD 'landscape'; LEADER Cooperation Offers; events and the future focus of activities.</p> <p>Hannes Wimmer provided information on the Evaluation Helpdesk's work in 2016 and planned for 2017 along the theme of 'Improving the evaluation of the EU RD policy'. In 2017, the Evaluation Helpdesk will finalise technical guidelines on the "Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD", the "Evaluation of Innovation", and launch a Thematic Working Group on the "Assessment of RDP impacts in 2019". Good Practice Workshops are planned on the "Evaluation of National Rural Networks" and on the "Assessment of the AIR in 2017".</p> <p>Pacome Eyenga provided an update on the EIP Service Point's priorities for 2017. These include: spreading and exchanging information and good practices related to Operational Groups and methods to foster innovation. Thematic networking of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups and bridging them to H2020 thematic networks and multi-actor projects will also be a strong focus. Other areas of work include climate change and digitisation in agriculture. EIP-AGRI plan to extend and consolidate their network and cooperate with Rural Networks to support EU Rural Networks Governance.</p>

	<p>An interactive discussion facilitated by John Grieve and David Lamb (ENRD CP) developed the following proposals and ideas from sub group members for specific activities to contribute to strengthening the role of LAGs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking can be both formal and informal, RNs should work with ELARD more and know who local LAG representatives are in each MS; • Explore how the Evaluation Helpdesk can better connect with LAGs and improve their knowledge of the possible support; • Deliver at least one workshop per year in each MS, jointly organised by local NRN and ENRD, to increase ENRD's foot print on the ground; • Launch an ENRD initiative to consider the 'future of LEADER', involve selected LAGs and external experts, use innovative methods; • Consider an ENRD working group on LEADER's Legal Framework post 2020 to ensure simplification and simplified costs proposals are taken on board and that LAG knowledge is used; • Improve the LEADER method by using the experience of LAGs to identify and be open to innovation. Use ENRD CP and Evaluation Helpdesk perspectives and expertise as appropriate; • Make better connections between LAGs and Operational Groups (OG) of EIP. Explore the possibility of meetings between LAGs and OGs to discuss this; • Annual LAG networking meetings should be conducted in each MS; • Conduct networking meetings between MAs from different MS to encourage exchange between them on working with LAGs; • Carefully plan LAG training on evaluation to strengthen their understanding of this complex topic. LAG numbers are large and NRN evaluation capacity is limited. Effective ways to communicate with LAGs should be proposed; • LEADER is at different stages of maturity in different MS, for some the enhanced AIR due in June may be too early to assess any effects.
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

European Solidarity Corps	
<p>15.45 – 16.00</p> <p><i>Presentation</i></p> <p>European Solidarity Corps</p> <p>Maria Gafo DG AGRI</p>	<p>Maria Gafo, (Deputy Head of Unit AGRI – E4) briefly presented the European Solidarity Corps and its relevance to LEADER. Several activities under this initiative are related to rural areas and agriculture. Under shared management national and regional authorities can use CAP resources to engage Solidarity Corps participants. A number of LEADER projects might benefit from it.</p>
Closing Comments and Next Steps	
<p>16.00 – 16.30</p>	<p>Participants were invited to share information regarding their own activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Takacs (DG REGIO) announced that a third joint DGs CLLD seminar will be organised by DG REGIO together with DG EMPLOYMENT in early autumn 2017, this will include discussing the opportunity presented to extend the CLLD approach to cohesion policy. <p>Neda Skakelja (DG AGRI - E2) concluded the session highlighting the following main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sub group and its role are of great importance as demonstrated by the numerous ideas and suggestions developed on the day; • This reinforces the need for increased involvement by the group’s membership throughout the year; • Cork 2.0: The Commissioner had reiterated that the input here is being carefully considered, taken seriously and will feed into future actions; • As regards simplification, there are very practical needs to be addressed. Some of these are already in the pipeline through the Omnibus regulation. Furthermore, the inclusion of some elements in the Omnibus is the result of efforts and work of the PWG; • With regard to the future participants were invited to respond to the public consultations on the future of CAP; • More work needs to be done on quality management, capacity building and development of communication plan and effective tools; these topics are of high priority to LAGs across the EU; • Delivering and demonstrating the achievements in LEADER today are key to showing how truly important LEADER is in rural communities; • It is important that all stakeholders play their role and that LAGs are better involved in the work of the NRNs, given the large number of LAGs now active; • The importance of innovation as one of the forward drivers was highlighted and the importance of the ENRD Extending Innovation seminar on 22nd February was stressed. <p>In conclusion, Paul Soto added the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to revitalise the CLLD method in two strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Simplification agenda: implementing more effective delivery systems to allow the core principles of LEADER to get across;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Strategic agenda: supporting LEADERS role in responding to the potentials and the new challenges that rural areas are facing. The active participation of this subgroup is critical to support delivery in these two areas.• The PWG approach works, the group should continue to work on cooperation. A similar approach can be applied more widely to other themes and can include complementary activities.• It is vital that this PWG approach should be demand led, responding to real needs e.g. on how to extend the method in a more effective way.• It is fundamental to keep LAGs involved: this indicates a need to combine all methods and to involve different stakeholders.• The CP should identify workshops and key events in each country to which it can contribute and build on, supporting annual meetings of LAGs, exchanges between MAs and linking LAGs and operational groups.
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------