ENRD Thematic Group Rural Proofing
2nd TG meeting - 19/05/2022

Group 1

What is your role at the NATIONAL level to address each of these actions?

Action 1
Clear statement of strong (and real) political will and commitment

announcement from rural side is a given - needs to come from a neutral space within government

Needs to come from neutral Space

to explain what rural proofing is to public adminstrations who know nothing about this. - communication, learning...knowledge/awareness

mobilising rural communities and getting them involved at all levels

Narrative - use of data - what would convince who don't think rural why they need to think rural - what is in it for them - tl rural opportunity -selling the value added of rural to outside rural and la in a different way

keep up demand from national stakeholders - presenting results, telling stories of where rural proofing is not done

Nations will do things when there is something in it for them - civic society can push for change and ensure nations introduce rural proofing - generally in response to a problem?

Practical reasons for this not being a priority for national politicians - need to find allies in the political sphere who agree the importance of testing opportunities/validities of rural proofing - maybe more suitable for regional level.

Drivers

EU useful tool for MS to support collaboration between jurisdictions

EU ROLE

Role for EU to influence MS - a more robust rural approach to TIA/Rural Proofing

need to acknowledge differences between regions - signal from politicians and from EU that this is a priority.

enforcement of failure - quite complicated - so connected to politics between departments - rural proofing must be very early on in process - no easy way to address this - enforcement needs to be done early before there are consequences. mandatory approach has legal implications.

Action 2
Establish a positive, shared vision of rural areas

If other agences see rural in a different way then political buy in less important

Action 1 may be unnecessary

example - rural by zip codes - agencies asked to demonstrate where monies had been spent - use of data incentivised work to address the imbalance in public expenditure

In order to get a national shared and positive vision the national level needs to take lead and do their homework in terms of rural proofing in order for the rural perspective to seep down to other organisational levels.

In Sweden, about 20 important authorities annually report to government on how they contribute to the implementation of the national rural policy.

Being dispassionate - do we really need action 2?

Drop action 2 - any image we give a certain area as a precondition might prevent action - do really need a positive narrative? need to be dispassionate? [check]

Demonstrate by example - peer exchanges

Peer Exchange - Use of examples

Use of good examples - e.g. integration of European Economic Recovery Plan within the RDPs

mobilising rural communities and getting them involved at all levels

Action 3
Establish clear and coordinated roles and responsibilities

Pace

Speed is of the essence - having someone with the knowledge to share the information is needed to facilitate what ever action is required.

Be Closer to key decision makers before pen hits the paper.

Use knowledge embedded within the individual - how do you see this working in rural?

enforcement of failure - quite complicated - so connected to politics between departments - rural proofing must be very early on in process - no easy way to address this - enforcement needs to be done early before there are consequences. mandatory approach has legal implications.

Consequences

People

these things only really work if there is a shared culture across government with co-ordination across policy areas

Need relevant key expertise (not just generalists) in a Unit with contacts in each department

In order to get a national shared and positive vision the national level needs to take lead and do their homework in terms of rural proofing in order for the rural perspective to seep down to other organisational levels.

In Sweden, about 20 important authorities annually report to government on how they contribute to the implementation of the national rural policy.

Issues with Cross Policy, cross sectoral working, e.g. changes of CSPs for example - including discussions with other Ministeries that were not perceived as core to the priorities of the rural Ministery - tensions.

Need clear roles, with broader and deeper collaboration clear coordina

Which kind of policies should be proofed? - not doubt that rural focused policies need to be proofed alongside education, healthcare - need to know impacts of government decisions, quantum of spend in rural areas - who needs to know? How does that inform rural proofing at the different levels - how do they co-ordinate this?

What is your role at the NATIONAL level to address each of these actions?

Action 4
Develop a clear template and guidance and robust accompanying evidence

1) Clarify **responsibilities/competences/remit** to develop guidelines and templates

What are the actual **coordination mechanisms** for which guidance is needed

robustness and completeness of data require a major work, skills and expertise, not an easy task

Providing for **general data** leaving room to further tailor the mechanisms to the local needs/priorities

What data set we should rely on? EU level data (Eurostat) **are there any gaps? Challenge: combine different sources of data.**

2) Data should underpin the template & guidelines

The actual data to be used depend very much on the **different policies involved and all relevant issues to be evaluated** (e.g. Granular (?) and Rustik)

2) Flexibility and variability of the mechanisms at the different level, tailored to priorities

Action 5
Establish clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

again: first step is to **identify the correct data set and 'baseline'** for any monitoring & evaluation effort

in some countries the **SDG** are being used as reference to assess progresses/development

Parliament is creating a **"Rural Barometer"** as part of preparatory process before 5th ERP Gathering in September, 2022

Relying on **LEADER** as a key tool for local development, and as an umbrella for different strategic policies and tools

2) A **common digital system at the national level** is important in the context of monitoring & evaluation mechanisms.

3) Dedicated team within the government to coordinate the monitoring & evaluation activities

1) M&E work requires **joint work of the different levels** of governance, national level can provide a framework

Action 6
Longer-term work in support of rural proofing

1) Transitional supporting steps to facilitate the adoption of rural proofing in countries with no experience,

Pilots, national network, a public body to promote it and its added value, showing its advantages

3) Rural proofing is **strongly connected to the different types of rural areas** & their diversity, therefore very linked to the definition of rural areas - there can be different approaches

2) Being careful not to overload the current existing structures, ensuring complementarity with other activities, not adding further burdens