The story of LEADER

*unfolding of LEADER from its beginning and some challenges for the future*

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BACK TO THE FUTURE

A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

28 YEARS WITH LEADER: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

6 CHALLENGES FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE
Guidelines for integral global grants for which the Member States are invited to submit proposals in the framework of a Community initiative for rural development set up hereinafter referred to as: LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l’Economie Rurale — Links between actions for the development of the ruraleconomy).
The path followed

- LEADER I (1992-1994) • 217 LAGs
- LEADER II (1995-2000) • 906 LAGs
- LEADER + (2000-2007) • 893 LAGs
- LEADER Axis (2007-2014) • 2304 LAGs
  - 300 FLAGs
- LEADER-CLLD (2014-2020) • 300 LAGS and ESF and ERDF LAGS
217 LAGs

A DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION
AREA-BASED
LOCALLY MANAGED
AROUND A NETWORK
LEADER II (1995-2000)
906 LAGs
The seven «features»

Methods of management and financing
Networking and cooperation

Area-based

Local Public Private Partnership
Bottom-up

Integrated and multi-sectoral

Innovation
CORK DECLARATION
A LIVING COUNTRYSIDE
Towards an integrated rural development policy
November, 1996

CLEAR TERRITORIAL APPROACH
MULTI-SECTORIAL
INTEGRATED
« LEADERIZE » THE « MAINSTREAM »
LEADER + (2000-2007)
893 LAGs
PILOT STRATEGY AROUND A STRONG THEME/SPECIFIC KNOW-HOW OR RESOURCES
LAGS implemented the Leader approach in ways that limited the potential for added value in terms of the “LEADER features”
“Local strategies should be at the heart of the Leader approach....

In practice, these strategies were almost irrelevant and served as little more than an application to the managing authority for funding...”
Current State of Play (more than 3000 local groups)

- The LEADER Method is generally acknowledged (CLLD)
- Acknowledgement of the importance of animation, technical assistance and cooperation, but not always enough time to do it
- Increasing role of networks (regional, national and EU level)
- Very important delays on implementation
- High level of complexity and administrative duties
“Our bottom-up approach is not only important to activate the rural population and allow them to start thinking about their own future. It also has a lot to do with the quality of democracy”
Franz Fischler, Cork 2.0 conference, sept 2016
CHALLENGE 1
THE LAG – think tank of the area

How to strengthen the role of the LAGs as an open place for debate to frame and supervise the strategies and reorient them towards new perspectives?

How to open participation to new partners that enable to enhance the visions and perspectives?

How to better represent the diversities of people, communities, activities, driving forces?
CHALLENGE 2
The demograpfical challenge

- The need to reverse the spiral of decline
  - of many rural areas
- Enabling and encouraging, young or less young, people to
  - remain in, return to, or move to rural areas.
- Contributing to the attractivity of rural areas
- Quality of public and private services, reinvented by social innovations.
  - Smart villages
CHALLENGE 3
Multiply the linkages

Maximise the networking effects

How to prioritize on PROJECTS with a collective dimension,

• that reinforces the linkages, relationships that have a multiplier effect among actors and sectors...

LEADER is NOT a one stop-shop!
How to foster and support new citizen initiatives

- Crowdfunding
- Sharing economy
- Transition to a green economy
- Social innovation to improve public and private services...etc.

What are the new “employment niches” where the local products and rural tourism have reached their maximum potential and limits?
CHALLENGE 5
Simplification

A very important work done by ENRD and the Commission with all the stakeholders

Importance of the quality of relations between managing authorities, networks and LAGs

Local management and funding

Simplification, more simplification, and TRANSPARENCY
CHALLENGE 5
“Local initiative reinvent Europe”

NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

Europe near its citizens

Europe by citizens

Europe for citizens
Thank you for your attention!

Yves Champetier