



# FOCUS GROUP 4

## Better Local Development Strategies (LDS)



# Mandate of the Focus Group



## Objectives

- to advise the MS (the current and next programming period);
- to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the LEADER approach.

## Operational objectives

- to identify the minimal requirements in the design of the Local Development Strategies (LDSs);
- to collect tools and good practices used at LAG level ensuring an efficient implementation of the LDSs.



# Making a start

- Start early
- Take responsibility, avoid delays
- Allow enough time – development and submission
- Involve people
- Continuity; supporting and resourcing development
- Take advantage of mentoring
- Plan a staged approach



# Guidance

- Coordinate Within the Package
- Guide the LDS Method
- Improve Standards Through Training
- Effective Knowledge Transfer



# Development support



- Most commonly available:
  - Consultancy,
  - LAG staff resources
  - MA Technical Assistance
- LAGs have different needs;
- LAG, MA and partner involvement is critical and an important resource e.g. training and mentoring;
- Little differentiation in support for old and new LAGs



# Training

- Very variable but 80% provided, 58% received
- Content varied – the best training used practical / iterative approaches
- In some cases involved experienced LAGs in mentoring
- Knowledge transfer within programmes less good than it could/should be



## Strategy preparation

- Specify More Clearly
- Improve Innovation
- Strengthen the Intervention Logic
- Plan Monitoring and Evaluation
- Prioritise Training in the Strategy





# Strategy submission

- **Single or multiple rounds**
  - Multiple rounds: rejected applications; lack of familiarity with LEADER approach; large number of LAGs
- **Single or multiple stages** - Expression of Interest with pre-selection, some other form of pre-selection
- Assess and feedback
  - strategic priorities
  - delivery capability
  - methodology





# Budgets and priorities

- **73%** - development of the strategy was driven **largely or totally** by the development priorities of the area rather than by financial considerations as a bid for LAG funding;
- **58%** - an indicative budget figure was provided.



# Strategy selection

- Selection is normally by a committee (members with different backgrounds)
- ➔ Approach not consistent, therefore guidance would be useful.
- Community validation important;
  - Transparency of process thought to be adequate;
  - Feedback on the submissions was valued;
  - Feedback can contribute to improvement (good multi-level governance practice).

