



Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title *Debate on Local Development Strategies and Models of Governance in Alentejo Region*

Theme *Knowledge exchange*

NRN *Portugal* Coordinator *Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries of Alentejo (Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Territory Planning)*

Partners *Regional Directorate of Agriculture and fisheries of Alentejo; Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (GPP- Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Territory Planning) ; University of Évora; LAG Monte*

Period *21st September 2009 - 31st December 2012* Resources *80.440 euros*

Geo-location *Alentejo (Portugal)*

Beneficiaries *8 LAGs from Alentejo region (NUTS II) and others NRN members*

Background

LAGs from Alentejo Region have a huge experience regarding the LEADER approach. However, the deep changes that are occurring in rural areas oblige to a constant update and discussion of concepts, methods and techniques for rural/local development and governance models. The intention behind this activity was to develop an ongoing debate on local development strategies and models of governance, in order to identify good practices, deepen the conceptual framework, and to introduce new scientific knowledge that allows for enriching the LEADER approach.

Main activities

The debate has been developed in two phases, both culminating with seminars. The first phase (completed) was the participatory production (partnership meetings and workshops with LAGs staff) of a written document, which was then subject to a critical appraisal of the three invited experts. The open session of the seminar was held by the Prof. Terry Marsden from the University of Cardiff. The second phase (in progress) focuses on preparing five case studies, two in Portugal and one in each of the countries: Spain, France and Italy. The results will be presented during the second, final seminar. After the second seminar, a written document will be published and disseminated.

Main results/benefits

The debate allowed for a collective learning and an alignment of the various regional partners/members of the Rural Network on Good Practices of the LEADER approach and on the basic concepts of the rural/local development. The results of the activities should help to design and be practically applicable within the Local Development Strategies in the next programming period.





Contribution of the NSU

The NSU has been involved in the organising the debates, seminars and in dissemination of the results. The dissemination of the final report will be carried out at the national level.

Contribution of the partners

Partners were involved in all the activities, with some specificities depending on each partner's skills. The Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries (DRAP Alentejo) is the partnership manager and sets the framework of the debate on the political and regional strategies. The GPP provides the framework in national policy and strategy. The University of Évora elaborates scientific background. The LAG Monte is responsible for the connection between other LAGs and organising the final Seminar.

Success factors

- Active involvement of the different partners: public administration, university and LAG
- Availability of knowledge about concepts, methods and techniques of rural/local development
- Accurate dissemination of the results
- Adoption of the new knowledge, and participatory methods and techniques by partners

