

Working Group Session – Territorial approaches (Wednesday 8 June 2011)

Group n.º 1

1. What should be done at what level?

EU Level

- Have a common definition for land abandonment
- Promote a standard farm typology
- Formulate recommendations for MS to incorporate integrated territorial strategies in their land-related policies
- Promote the use of integrated territorial strategies in LEADER Groups actions/projects

National Level

- Make an assessment of land abandonment in the country (definition, extent, impact, drivers)
- Incorporate integrated territorial strategies in RD Programme
- Improve agricultural income (via farm size, diversification, ...)
- Improve coordination between sectorial policies

Municipal / Local level

- Promote PPP (to improve knowledge, stakeholders involvement, ...)
- Improve services for rural population (education, health, ...)

All Levels

- Promote farmers prestige
- Promote local markets
- Promote cooperation between farmers

2. How can these different levels be developed that they form a coherent set of measures?

What are major barriers in interdisciplinary cooperation?

- Low level of knowledge
- Lack of show cases promotion
- Lack of money
- Political thinking (short term, elections oriented)
- Inertia for the introduction of innovation

How can policy making be harmonized better between sectors / levels?

- Improve policy makers education
- Promote a “cooperation culture” at political level
- Promote internship programs for technicians to work on the short term in another department / organization / Ministry
- Include orientations for such harmonization to become a “necessity” on policy making

3. Do countries need a ‘land abandonment’ or ‘land revitalization’ strategy?

- Yes, if land abandonment exists in such country

What would be the main structure?

- It could be incorporated as a “chapter” in the RD Programme
- Structure as (i) definition; (ii) assessment; (iii) drivers as guidelines to identify necessary instruments

What is the right form of cooperation to come to this?

- Organize working groups with representatives from different sectors / Ministries.

Group n.º 2

EU level

-Introduction of system – payments should go to **user, not to owner**

- **Specific program** on land abandonment, related to other **rural development programs**;

Or

-**Emphasize land abandonment reduction measures in other programs** as one of the most important;

- Financing of different land abandonment and farming revitalization means from EU (for National subsidies or program)

National level

1. Identify the needs of revitalization of farming.

Definition of farm, farmer, abandoned land (specific for each country);

Data on: Nr. of land plots, owners, farmers, average size of farm, etc.

Data on abandoned land (if already possible)

2. Develop a strategy of abandoned land reduction and farms revitalization (in connection with rural development measures)

Instruments:

1. Development of methods for abandoned land and risky areas (for decreasing level of farming) determination (specific for each country)
2. Introducing a program/measures for support of living in rural areas (infrastructure, young farmers, subsidies, etc.)
 3. Priority for subsidies in different areas (e.g. boundary, risky for land abandonment, crossborder programs, higher subsidies for farmers/young farmers to stay or to come to risky/unfavourable areas)
4. Land market facilitation (e.g. less transaction costs for certain land, information on available land plots, transparency...)
5. Land use stimulation by taxation/subsidies, etc.:
 - Land consolidation;
 - Young farmers program (reduced tax);
 - Old farmers retirement program;
 - Abandoned land taxation;
 - Etc.
6. Cooperation between different institutions/ministries and neighboring countries

Regional/Municipal/Local level

1. Defining abandoned land: area, location
(done by different experts with the background material from National level);
2. Defining areas with reduced farming;
3. Development of priorities for these risky areas
(some regions will be very risky, some – not at all, more consultancy of possible measures/subsidies for farmers in these areas);
4. Development local programs for risky areas according to local specification
(alternative use of land, recreation, afforestation, etc.)
5. Cooperation between regions/municipalities with similar problems within the country

Group n.º 3

1. What should be done at what level?

EU Level

(limited)

- Put on political agenda via policy document

National Level

(a lot of tasks)

- Collect data
- Analyse data / maps
- Make a strategy (details in Q3)

Regional Level

(limited)

- Need zoning plans
- Awareness campaign
- Monitoring ?

Local Level

(a lot of tasks)

- Interview farmers
- Define roles of LA or extension services
- Monitoring land mobility
- Transparency / website

2. How can these different levels be developed that they form a coherent set of measures?

- Of the four levels , the national and local ones are the most important
- Strategy development at national level based on local data / facts / requirements
- Make regulations and test them before application

3. Do countries need a ‘land abandonment’ or ‘land revitalization’ strategy?

- Yes but not isolated (part of general strategy)
- Structure of strategy:

- Mission / vision
- Goals / objectives
- Time horizon
- Formulate results / outcome

What

- Who are the stakeholders
- what are their roles and responsibilities
- who is the main actor (distinguish public & market tasks)

Who

- measures (in line with EU policy / regulations)

How

Type of measures: legislation, technical, financial

- Cost & financing of measures

To be noted (strategy):

- a repetitive process: plan – do – evaluate – revise (learn from mistakes!)
- public discussions