LEADER/CLLD IS
PART of the SOLUTION



LEADER forum
Österreich

INITIAL SITUATION

EVERY CRISIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY

Nice sentence….

But what does it mean??

3 MAIN CHALLENGES FOR ALL OF US

*triple challenge** * „triple challenge“ in:
Liquid Modernity from Zygmunt Bauman (2000)

Challenges

- Ecological: climate & environment
- Economic: Cohesion and Recovery
- Social: inequality

time and level diagnosis

Global & local change

Uncertainty and local needs

Participation needs

LEADER: WHY PUSH NOW?

We can help in fighting challenges, because we

- *Have a prooved integrative and practice-oriented method which delivers common solutions*
- *Have a network in our region, in our country, in the EU*
- *Have money: Participation also through co-financing*
- *support and teach the process of self-organisation and strenghtens participation*
- *use existing regional resources and know-how*

Strong offers to administration and politics

LEADER CREATES AN ADDITIONAL VALUE

Why LEADER works…

We LEADER managers and networks are called upon to do impulse work, point out regional trends and take up development issues => we are needed now!

We are Local **ACTION** Groups and we are **MANAGERS**

That is our essential offer to our members and the population in our regions!

OUR THOUGHTS…

MORE OF THE SAME MAYBE WILL WORK FOR 1 MORE PERIOD, BUT IF WE DO NOT DEVELOP OURSELVES THE GAME IS OVER IN 2028…

WE CAN BE VERY PROUD OF WHAT LEADER HAS ACHIEVED, BUT SPENDING SOME EUROPEAN MONEY IS MUCH TOO LESS TO BE FAMOUS FOR…

DON´T WAIT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO RUN FOR LEADER OR CLLD… IT IS OUR CORE BUSINESS

LEADER 2021-2027

The 3 roles of a LAG

LAGs and LAG-managemens can be

- Role A: Funding Advisory Center (MUST)
- Role B: Network Unit (SHOULD)
- Role C: Social Innovation Business (COULD)
  - Innovation laboratory: theory-practice interface
  - Crisis Transformation Office
  - LAG as project applicant if strategically necessary
  - Use all kind of funds which are relevant

LEADER IS BASED ON PRINCIPLES,

But delivers specific functions

Democracy and educational policy function:

We take care of Governance & Democracy, Culture: Promoting Identity & Knowledge Transfer

Social capital and European political function:

Network of regions, European understanding at local level, transnational cooperation

Crisis and transformation management:

Innovation management and openness to overcome a crisis with local resources

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- Created a common understanding between all 77 LAGs to the 3 roles of a LAG and to the new functions
- Connected this new LEADER-story with political agendas and national strategies
- Offered our unique services to relevant players to implement their fields of interest in rural areas
- Made cooperation with other associations, administrations and NGOs who have an interest in supporting rural areas
- Wrote a LEADER manifesto, summarized the method, function and roles of LAGs in a broschure, wrote a petition,…
- Are co-creator of a national process “strengthening the regional level
- Provided a concrete option to the ministry of finance for absorbing some money from Recovery-fund and Next-Gen-fund through LEADER

WHAT HAVE WE REACHED SO FAR?

- 50% of the regions already see themselves in LAG-role C, only 18% are still in role A
- No gap between the transition period, commitment to LEADER and simplification from all levels (like exception from state aid, umbrella projects or draft budget option up to 100.000 as well as common digital platform)
- Topics like Smart Village and formerly own topics in the Rural Development Programme 14-20 are switched to LEADER
- Cooperation also with other ministries to have access to additional national and European fundings
- More money for LEADER in upcoming period
- Ministry of agriculture was reorganized and switched it name into Ministry of agriculture, regions and tourism
- Strong characters who are running for LEADER (formerly vize-chancellor, ministers, …)
- New system of indicators where the added value of LEADER (like networks, activation, …) is in the centre
- No thematic limitation for LEADER, it is the decision of the region

PERSPECTIVES 2021-2027

LEADER IS PARTICIPATORY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEADER COMBINES TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

LEADER PROMOTES TECHNOLOGY, TOLERANCE, TALENT

LEADER WORKS

Thank you!

Stefan Niedermoser

LEADER forum Österreich