Presentation Overview

- CLLD/Leader Programme and Cooperation
  - Why
  - How
  - Key Themes and Examples
  - Barriers and Overcoming Them
  - Cooperation Ideas – North and South
CLLD/LEADER and Cooperation

- **LEADER 1 Programme**: Networking methodology, but no formal cooperation initiatives, yet.....

- **A 1994 Survey**: 25% of LAG's involved in cooperation

- **1994 LEADER II Community Initiative**: Funded Cooperation projects accepted.

- **50% LAGs** involved in 252 Transnational Cooperation Projects.

- **LEADER +**: Cooperation extended - Partnership with areas from the same country or outside the EU.
CILD/LEADER and Cooperation

LEADER + EU 15
- 83% involved in Inter-territorial Cooperation
- 68.5% in Transnational Cooperation

LEADER 2006 - 2013
- January 2012: 209 TNC Programmes approved
- ENRD Report: 45% of TNC and 49% of inter-territorial projects still ongoing

ENRD Report
May 2014

The State-of-play of the Implementation of Rural Development Programme Measure 421 in the EU-27 (ENRD)
Transnational Cooperation Projects

Overall frequency of LAG involvement in TNC projects

- Hungary (170)
- Italy, (165)
- Finland (156)
- Czech Republic (124)
- France (113)
- Germany (110)
- Slovakia (97)
Transnational Cooperation Project Duration

The duration of TNC and inter-territorial projects ranges from:

- A few weeks to 75 and 81 months respectively.

- The average duration of projects is some 20 months in both cases.
Transnational Cooperation Project and Budgets

- 40% of projects = smaller-sized operation - total budget €20,000 and EUR €99,999.

- 33% medium-sized projects - €100,000 and €500,000.

- large-sized operations of more than €500,000 are less frequent (8%).

- Smallest sized projects of less than €20,000 (19%).
LAGs from three Member State have engaged frequently (i.e. more than 300 times) in inter-territorial cooperation:

- Austria (358), Czech Republic (330) and Germany (306). Poland (286) and Italy (213)

High inter-territorial cooperation also in Lithuania and Slovakia (69 in both cases).
Inter-territorial cooperation rarely lasts for longer than 60 months - consistent with TNC Projects.

Findings consistent with the results of the classification of TNC projects by budget range.
Projects by Theme

Project Beneficiaries
- Local Businesses (Tourism)
- LAGs
- NGO’s
- Farmers
- Local Populations
- Local Authorities
- Local Youth
- Foresters/Forestry Owners
- Hunters
Integrated Tourism and Culture Cooperation Projects

International Cultural Tourism

LAGs - Lithuania and Finland:
- Addressed negative effects of seasonal tourism.
- Lithuanians specialise in summer tourism, the Finnish are more experienced with winter sports.
- **Project**: to capitalize on their cultural heritage
- To jointly investigate the potential of such an enhanced offer to render their local tourism industry more viable.

CULTrips Europe

LAGs - Luxembourg and partners in Austria, Estonia, Finland and Italy.
- Recognises that socio-cultural exchange and dialogue have evolved as methods of a new niche tourism.
- Making local heritage accessible and establishing positive and interactive relationships between visitors and local residents.
Colmcille/Columba Challenge and Festival of the Sea

Inishowen, Argyll and The Islands

Objective: promote volunteer participation, skills training and reinvigorate the strong cultural connection between both communities.

Foundation for this project: a rowing race idea shared by two rowing clubs from Ireland and Scotland.

Result: an idea to further develop a rowing race, adding a festival dimension inspired by the already existing Celtic Challenge, a biennial race across the Irish Sea.

“Learned about networking, organising events, commitment and the importance of seeing a project through to its conclusion”

“This experience has increased our skills for dealing with future projects”

“Overall, this project added value to the shared experience of peripheral coastal communities and can be a catalyst for more cultural and heritage based tourism”.

Foyle Rowing Club Members
Culture and Community Development

The Village Links Project

Waterford LEADER Partnership and North East Region LAG

- **Project Focus:** Identification of up to six villages, in each region, and development
- Administration of a programme of exchange and support which would foster linkages and develop co-operation between the participating villages.

Positive Outcomes

- Capacity
- Knowledge
- Spin-offs
- Sharing
- Generation
- Idea
- Development
- Economic
- Tourism
Inter-territorial Projects

- Promotion
- Tourism
- Community Development
- New Environment/Land Use
- Agriculture
- Culture
- Demography - Social
- Products - Food

Project Beneficiaries
- Local Authorities
- NGO’s
- LAGs
- Local Businesses
- Local Populations
- Farmers
- Local Youth
Inter-territorial Project: Tourism......

Lough Derg Lakeland Communities

LAGs - Galway, Clare and Tipperary

- To revitalise the lakeshore communities in the Lough Derg region, the project focused on:
  - Identity-building,
  - Capacity-building
  - Destination marketing
  - Branding
  - Activity and investment

"The positive impact Clarisford Park is making on community life is evident not only in the increase in numbers participating in sport and recreational activity but also the number of new groups set up as a result of available resources. This momentum in community activity has built on the ‘Two Towns, One Community’ concept of cooperation in Killaloe, Co. Clare/ Ballina, Co. Tipperary”.

Former Irish Rugby Captain, Keith Wood
Located in **central Scotland**. It contains an **actively raised bog** habitat which is protected by EU laws.

In the past the local population had a **negative perception** of the bog and this hindered its conservation.

Actions were required to **reverse prevailing opinions** among local communities and to **convert the bog into a valued local asset**.

**Project Outcomes:**
- Improved accessibility of its peat bog via a **viewing tower**
- Use the bog as a rural development tool for **knowledge sharing** (environmental education) and **business development** (eco-tourism).
Inter-territorial Cooperation - Environmental

Reto Natura 2000: Tourism Network of Nature Observation Area
Cooperation: 30 Spanish LAGS
Project Aim:
- Capture the socio-economic benefits of conservation for local communities, entrepreneurs and tourists.
- Support local and global development plans in Natura 2000 areas.
- Utilising natural and cultural resources such as birds to develop rural areas.
- Project involved: environmental, tourist and public sector stakeholders.

Cheviot Futures:
Cooperation: Northumberland Uplands and Scottish Borders
Project Aim:
- Raise awareness of threats and opportunities of climate change.
- An Expert to work with farmers and landowners to aid the use of adaptive practices.
Cooperation: Food Business Development

Transnational Collaboration in Short Food Supply Chains

Multiple LAG Partnership

- Explore **best practice** examples of;
  - food production, marketing and distribution.
- Examine **transportation of food** regulations
- Pilot **trading relationships** between partners
- Explored issues between **agriculture and tourism**

**LAGs**
- Finland
- Hungary
- France
- Netherlands
- Spain
- Portugal
- Poland

Over 55 Food Producers Involved
Cooperation Project in a single area - Territory of Brkini and Kras in Slovenia

"Marketing Tourist Farms"

- **Key focus:** increase joint activities in the field of marketing of tourist services.
- Prepared **tourist farms** for **joint marketing initiatives**, raising awareness of tourist services.
- Beneficiaries were trained on;
  - Promoting tourism products,
  - Developing and using new marketing tools, such as a joint catalogue in different languages,
  - Websites,
  - Participation in fairs,
  - Advertisements in the media.
Barriers to Cooperation

Transnational/Inter-territorial Cooperation Barriers:

- Language issues
- Finances
- Culture differences
- Lack of cooperation experience/limited cooperation culture
- Capacity to find right partners
- Lack of follow-up to cooperation events
- Technical problems - form filling
Overcoming Barriers to Cooperation

Effective partnership building can occur when:

- **Personal relationships**: pre-existing contacts or face-to-face preparatory meetings for exchanging ideas and developing concepts.

- **Institutional and technical support**: awareness raising, training, study visits, preparatory technical assistance, promotional events and international staff exchanges.

- **Political commitment**: preparatory funding to support LAGs and encourage engagement in cooperation.

- **User-friendly Interactive Tools**: e.g. ENRD Cooperation Offers Database – also awareness raising via national coordinators).

- **Guidance material**: helps explain differences in rules and procedures.

- **Cooperation events, NRN and ENRD**: can assist in partner identification.

- **Thematic or geographic initiatives**: demonstration of good examples

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH." - Helen Keller
Barriers and Advantages of Cooperation

“Collaboration beyond established borders has been a way to get access to information and new ideas, to learn from other regions or countries, to stimulate and support innovation and to acquire skills and means to improve delivery. Although inter-regional and trans-national cooperation is not always easy, it can often be the most effective way of achieving results on innovation and capacity building.”

European Commission
Northern Ireland
Areas of Interest for Cooperation Projects

- Lough Neagh: Coastal greenways, lakes, historical and archaeological sites, health, tourism, natural history, archaeology, sou-terraines, motorcycle centres, Blackwater, Lomond
- Lough: Blueways development, Pilgrimage, Lock, Youth, Farm, Agri-food, Business, River, Lagan, Canal, Food, Angling, Craft, Cycle, Horse-riding, Tidal, and Biker tourism
- Coastal: Biker, Erosion, Motor, Motorbike, Archaeology
- North}: Pilgrimage, Christian, Development, Community-led, Rivers, Biker, Tourism

Keywords: Lough, Neagh, Coastal, Blueways, Pilgrimage, Christian, Community-led, Rivers, Biker, Tourism, Erosion, Motor, Motorbike, Archaeology.
Southern Ireland
Areas of Interest for Cooperation Projects
In Conclusion:

- Barriers do exist in developing Cooperation Projects: Transnational and Inter-territorial.

- But the advantages will outweigh the barriers!!

  - Capacity building,
  - Social Interaction
  - Idea development
  - Social integration
  - Innovation
  - Empowering communities
  - Creating opportunities
  - Celebrating diversity………. 