

# SEAGULL

WP4, Rural Development

Meeting 16 June 2003, Gdansk

## **LEADER method, experiences from FEU project in Warmia-Mazury**

Introduction of Danish FEU project "Regional development and Structural Funds in Poland"

- Three regions: Lubuskie, Podlaskie and Warminsko-Mazurskie
- Four components:
  - o Regional development, focusing on IROP, project pipeline, implementation systems and monitoring
  - o Rural development, focusing on non-farm priorities and LEADER
  - o Human Resource development, focusing on ESF and project pipeline
  - o SME development, focusing on ERDF, SME development strategies, partnership building and project pipeline
- Main recipient in W-M: Marshals' Office
- Duration period: March 2002 to October 2003
- Rural development, main partner: Department for Rural Development, Marshals' Office
- One activity is to prepare Local Action Plans in three selected powiats: Braniewo, Gizycko and Olsztyn, based on the LEADER method
- In the Working Group for the component all three selected powiats are represented

28 – 29 November and 5 December 2002:

Visits in each of the three selected powiats, to inform mayors and key persons about the activity, recommending them to identify and appoint members of Local Action Groups.

17 January 2003:

Seminar about EAGGF, EU's CAP, Rural Development policy and programmes, LEADER initiative and update information about Polands and W-M's preparations of Rural Development programme(s). All three selected powiats were represented with about 20 representatives.

14 February 2003:

Workshop on the role and function of a Local Action Group, based on the European LEADER Observatory basic materials, and combined with experiences from Bornholm.

Special focus on:

- The area based approach
- The bottom up and participatory approach
- The horizontal partnership
- Expectations of the LAG in function
- Case study: LAG Bornholm
- Group discussions: Who should be represented in the LAG, how to structure the LAG and considerations/expectations to the functioning of a LAG.

17 – 19 February 2003:

One-day visits to each of the three selected powiats, in order to assess the situation, particular problems, opportunities, level of activity currently undertaken, level of cooperation between various institutions and current plans in place and their relevance to the situation.

20 February 2003:

Workshop on Elaboration of and implementing a Local Action Plan, focusing on the 4 characteristic elements in the LEADER method, the innovative nature of rural development actions, the priority themes for LEADER+, thematic focus, the link between actions, networking and transnational cooperation, and a decentralised management and financial procedures.

Case study on Local Action Plan of Bornholm, and group discussion, where participants from each powiat together listed up 3-5 priorities, main partners to be involved and detailed examples on actions in each area.

12 – 14 March 2003:

Work session 1 in each powiat, focusing on statutes and socio-economic description

2 – 4 April 2003:

Work session 2, focusing on follow up and SWOT

7 – 9 May 2003:

Work session 3, focusing on follow up, objective, strategy and priorities

4 – 6 June 2003:

Work session 4, focusing on follow up, project development and set up of the Local Action Plan

17 July 2003:

Final conference, where each of the powiats will present the Local Action Plan and the developed projects.

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Experiences:

- 1) Essential to assure that key politicians and key officials are well informed about the idea and process. Especially that the training will enable them to prepare for the Structural Funds, and that the LAG structure and approach will optimize their benefit on Structural Funds
- 2) Essential with knowledge about the Structural Fund programmes under preparation in the candidate states, as the LEADER initiative will not be implemented 2004-2006. In stead the European Commission has recommended to prepare for the LEADER through the other programmes
- 3) Important to provide information about how a LAG status can fit in the national context. In Poland it is so far not possible to form a legal basis for a NGO including both public authorities and private bodies
- 4) Case studies and concrete examples are very important to include in the training and coaching.

/NCA