



European conference

**Let's work together:
Territorial cooperation for
the provision of public goods
in the context of the reformed CAP**

**20 – 21 December 2013
La Bergerie, Villarceaux, France**

**Programme
Workshops
December 21**

1. Building capacities:

Moderator: Arie van den Brand

Presenters: Paul Terwan and Teunis Jacob Slob (tbc)

Rapporteur: Fatos Fico (tbc)

Background:

Although the impulse for cooperation seems to be a universal characteristic of human beings, it is not self-evident that it will happen and that cooperation will be successful. In general at least three pre-conditions need to be manifest before cooperation will ensue:

- A common external threat (e.g. war, new competitors, new rules and regulations)
- A clearly defined common goal (e.g. defeat the common enemy, beat the competition, change the rules).
- The self-interest realisation that on balance cooperation will bring more benefits than non-cooperation.

For cooperation to last and to be successful it is however not enough that merely these conditions are met. At different stages of the cooperation process (conception - start – growth – maturation – institutionalisation - termination) a wide range of capacities among the stakeholders involved in the cooperation and within the cooperative organisational structure itself (either a formal or informal structure) are necessary concerning:

- organisational and financial operation;
- legal matters;
- motivation, communication, negotiation, conflict management and leadership skills (internal and external);
- knowledge building and information sharing infrastructure;
- etc..

Territorial cooperation for the provision of public goods can be defined as a specific form of cooperation in which independent entrepreneurs (farmers) in a specific and well defined area individually and voluntarily agree to contribute to achieve common objectives in the context of the fact that the achievement of these objectives are not their primary business goal.

Some key issues and questions:

- What are the critical factors to successfully set up and run a form of territorial cooperation for the provision of public goods?
- What kind of capacities and skills are needed for the different stages of the territorial cooperation process (conception – set up – growth – maturation – termination)
- What kind of (public) support is needed to help develop these capacities and skills?
- Which kinds of legal and organisational structure would fit best with this type of cooperation?
- Are strategic partnerships with other stakeholders and civil society organisations useful? If so, how can cooperation with these stakeholders be established in a productive way?
- What kind of conflicts and challenges can be expected when setting up and running a form of territorial cooperation, both within the cooperation and with other stakeholders (public and private)? In what way should these conflicts and challenges be best addressed?

2. Contracts, delivery and accountability:

Moderator: Franco Sotte

Presenters: Jan Gerrit Deelen and Mathilde Leygnac (tbc)

Rapporteur: Emilio Chiodo

Background:

The implicit assumption underlying territorial cooperation is that it will be a more effective and ultimately also a more efficient approach for the management and delivery of public goods than a system based on arrangements between public bodies and individual farmers and other land owners.

A territorial cooperation organisation will develop a collective territorial offer based on the wishes and demands of policy on the one hand and on the possibilities and willingness of the farmers and other land owners on the other.

This will result in an agreement (contract) between the territorial cooperation organisation and the public body (or bodies) concerned and between the territorial cooperation organisation and its members.

In these contracts usually the following topics will be addressed:

- the types of public goods;
- the aims, objectives and indicators for these public goods;
- the implementation ;
- the remuneration;
- procedures concerning monitoring, reporting, payments, conflicts and sanctions.

Some key issues and questions:

- how can a collective territorial offer be developed? What are the main elements? Do these offers only concern agri-environmental measures or also the collective management of Ecological Focus Areas?
- What requirements and prerequisites are posed by the public body or bodies involved concerning the territorial offer and agreement/contract?
- How can subsequently contracts be established between the territorial cooperation organisation and its members?
- How can indicators for delivery be established and subsequently be monitored both at individual farm level and at territorial level (control of the controllers) and by whom?
- How can an effective and efficient administrative system be developed to manage the implementation of the territorial offer/contract?
- How can an effective sanctioning system be developed and be put into place, both concerning individual members as well as the territorial cooperation organisation?
- What to do with farmers and other land owners in the area concerned, who do not wish to participate?
- Which discrepancies can be identified between the CAP regulations, their national implementation and grass roots day-to-day practice?
- Should accountability be limited to only formal reports to the public bodies concerned or is there also a need for social accountability towards civil society?

3. Innovation and knowledge transfer:

Moderator: Samuel Ferèt

Presenters: Gilles Allaire and Frank Stubbe

Rapporteur: Zdenek Linhart

Background:

Territorial cooperation for the provision of public goods in the context of the CAP reform can be regarded as an important policy innovation as until now agreements were made on an individual basis. In its purest form it can be regarded as a form of private (self) governance to achieve public goals. It is also probable that the implementation of this new concept will lead to a series of innovations at grass roots level.

Already in some Member States we can witness a growing number and variety of experiments, projects and other experiences. These practices (good and less good) and innovations that result from these practices could be used by other groups of farmers in other Member States and territories to evaluate how they should start, manage, improve and advance their cooperation in the various stages of the process and to improve and advance the management and delivery of public goods. Furthermore, the implementation of territorial cooperation for the provision of public goods will undoubtedly result in a series of questions for which further research will prove to be necessary.

Some key issues and questions:

These questions could concern among others:

- What types of public goods management are effective?
- How can the management of public goods be balanced with the economic operation of a productive farm?
- Connected to the previous question: what effects could market developments for agricultural commodities have for the willingness and effectiveness of the management of public goods?
- How to deal with the management of certain types of public goods that stretch over a wider area or even cross border (e.g. migrating birds)?
- What effects could climate change have on the management of the public goods that have been contractualised?

Answers to these and other questions could result in a better functioning and delivery by the farmers and their territorial cooperation organisation, but can also be used to formulate recommendations to adjust and improve policy.

Connected to these questions are institutional concerns:

- How can an effective platform and infrastructure for the exchange of experiences and research information be established by and for the grass roots initiatives?
- How can bottom up questions be articulated into research programmes at both national and European level?
- How can grass roots initiatives such as territorial cooperation organisations come to a fruitful collaboration with relevant research institutes?
- Are there possibilities to make use of European programmes such as the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and Horizon2020 to get support for research questions coming from territorial cooperation initiatives?