

ERP WORKSHOP REPORT – Workshop 5.1

<p>Workshop Name Communities as Developers</p>
<p>Names of Leader and Reporter Vanessa Halhead Ryan Howard</p>
<p>Method The participants were asked to work in 3 groups, and to present examples (previously requested) of how local projects had been either enabled or disabled by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance and capacities of local structures 2. Resources (financial, human, assets) 3. Community champions and volunteers 4. Rural development agencies <p>From these to identify policy recommendations and additions to the ERP Manifesto</p>
<p>Main issues and lessons identified</p> <p>Enablers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate local champions for projects - Structures are important (eg. coop) – choice of models - Villages know and trust each other - Transparent mechanisms - Public awareness of benefits of LAG approach – examples from elsewhere - Traditional strong NGOs (also strengthen LAGs) - Government funding to local level – more money = more local people - Central government support - Trust for community capacity - Local ownership and leadership - Small scale innovative ideas <p>Barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authorities not using or valuing local people or LAGs in implementing projects - Lack of resources at local level – need for fund-raising - Reliance on donors - Lack of support for technical solutions (eg. broadband)
<p>Ideas and case-study examples relating to the theme</p> <p>Esbeek (Netherlands)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem: closure of only café. Solution: community coop, residents bought shares and leased café 2. Problem: ageing community. Solution: built 40 homes 3. Problem: no school. Solution: bought church and turned it into a school <p>Poland</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance: capacity of local structures in Poland weakened by lack of involvement and respect from local authorities

Armenia:

2. Development strategy for community by local active group
- Social project, LEADER approach
 - Developed capacity and support of all groups
 - Small budget with big impact
 - Local ownership and leadership

Scotland:

Communities developing broadband solution – small/ innovative

Policy proposals:

- The right to challenge for communities to take over public services
- Assets of community value – right to buy
- Public sector mindset change from bureaucrat to entrepreneur
- Support for rural diversification not only agriculture
- Delegate more to local authorities
- Involve population in policy making
- Innovation competitions/ prizes

- Money direct to NGOs to make them more independent
- Less financial risk/ less rules
- Be brave! Allow communities to take risks but support them with technical capacity
- Support non-member countries with the same values

- Enable local society to deliver community services
- Be aware of and appreciate the intellectual capital in rural areas

Additional messages for the ERP 2019 Manifesto

Manifesto point no:

3 support for

5 intellectual capacity in rural areas

28 & 29 strengthen for non-accession countries

Community investment leading to sense of ownership

Community investment funds, mechanisms and training for local empowerment

Flexible and less bureaucratic

The Manifesto should be about what **and how** to do things