



European Economic and Social Committee

CLLD

Roman Haken, EESC, member

Rapporteur opinion

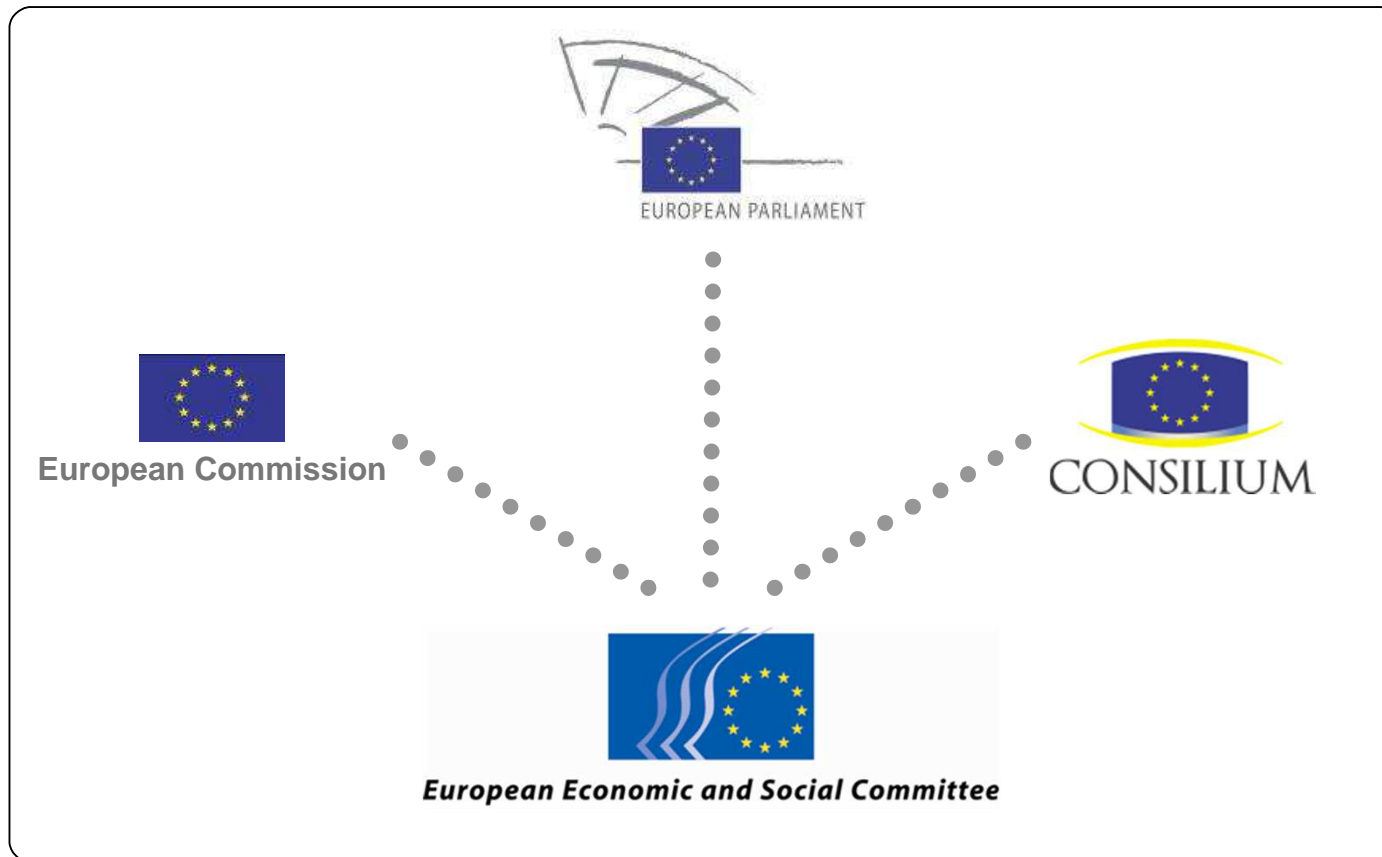
ECO/366



European Economic and Social Committee

LEADER and CLLD

- Brussels, 21 September 2011
- **OPINION**
of the
European Economic and Social Committee
on
LEADER as a tool for local development
- (own-initiative opinion)
- Rapporteur: **Roman Haken**



Institutional position of the EESC



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Community Led Local Development (CLLD) as a tool of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 for local, rural, urban and peri-urban development

- Exploratory opinion **ECO/366**
- **Procedure**
- **Council referral:**
- 2 April 2014 – letter from Theodoros N. Sotiropoulos, Ambassador, Chairman of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives



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ECO/366

- Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion
 - **Study Group**
 - **President:**
 - Mr Vértés (HU-I)
 - **Rapporteur:**
 - Mr Haken (CZ-III)
 - **Members:**
 - Mr Barros Vale (PT-I), Mr Burns (UK-I), Mr Cedrone (IT-II), Mr Dandea (RO-II), Mr Dimitrov (BG-II), Mr Jones (UK-III), **Ms Pavic Rogosic (HR-III)**, Ms Päärendson (EE-I), Mr Rebolj (SI-II)
Mr Vardakastanis (EL-III)



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The EESC is disappointed by the finding that public authorities are often not overly enthusiastic about CLLD, despite its efficacy. It is absolutely essential to engage in a strategy informing and giving expert advice to all those involved, specifically targeting public authorities and geared at encouraging the use of this opportunity to develop and advance local development strategies. The importance of "ownership of results" in groups of this kind is key to the stability of development strategies over the long term and to meeting the Europe 2020 strategy goals. The instrument's success very much depends on political backing at all levels (EU, national, regional and local).



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New tool – new words for the local development

The EESC thinks that CLLD, being something new in regional policy, is not well enough known at local level, at national level in some Member States and in the platforms that could underpin the approach. To help implementation of the new CLLD instrument in European policies, a detailed evaluation and analysis needs to be drafted of how a particular Member State has approached it, including recommendations for effective implementation. This will also give rise a study with examples of best practice as well as accounts of failures to be avoided in future. The EESC is keen to take part in drafting such a study together with the relevant departments of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and the Committee of the Regions. This study could serve as a launchpad to set up CLLD intergroups as interinstitutional platforms.



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New tool – new words for the local development

The EESC suggests that different terms be used to designate different ways in which the CLLD programme is used, as in the case of rural local action groups and fisheries local action groups. Urban LAGS, for example, would be called Urban Partnerships and CLLD in the urban area would be called CLLD-U. This way it would be clearer what kind of area was involved and easier to distinguish between financing streams and where they were targeted. At the same time we suggest following the example of the successful LEADER programme and consider a new name form CLLD – an attractive acronym that would be a rallying cry for all those involved. The name is an intrinsic part of a propaganda campaign and the term CLLD can still remain in smaller print, as it were, as the name of the method.



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New tool – new words for the local development

Where the method has not yet been adopted, a mid-term evaluation should be used to launch it in the ambit of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) for the period 2014–2020.



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New tool – new words for the local development

Community Led Local Development is intended to help the public develop their municipalities in a meaningful and sustainable way. Through CLLD they can take part directly in improving the quality of life in their communities: this is about real inclusive growth with visible outcomes at local level. Clearly, the introduction of CLLD requires funding for capacity-building if all the partners are really to function as such – and not merely as observers – and be actively involved in horizontal partnerships in the spirit of multilevel governance. Coaching and mentoring (i.e., education and training) from more experienced players also has to be facilitated. The present proposal also has to analyse and explain the reasons why LEADER method works and is a success and justify why the CLLD method should be extended to all ESIF programmes to make cohesion policy a success.



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Thank you for your attention!

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