

# Successful Cooperation Activity –Key Characteristics



Cooperation projects have quite distinct characteristics. The table below highlights some factors for you to consider when developing a project proposal for either for inter-territorial or transnational cooperation projects.

Does your proposed project?	Considerations	Yes	No
<p><b>Involve on the ground activity in two or more LAG areas?</b></p>	<p>Are the LAGs in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotland or the UK (inter-territorial)</li> <li>• In Europe (transnational)</li> </ul> <p>Is the applicant one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single organisation already working in both areas and the project idea is a development of existing activity or new activity</li> <li>• A single organisation working with different groups in the LAG areas</li> <li>• Two or more groups in more than one LAG area coming together to develop a project</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Follow a territorial approach:</b></p>	<p>Cooperation projects should fit well with each LAG’s local development strategy. Projects should address challenges in LAG areas in order to ensure their relevance and added value.</p> <p>Is there a reason to cooperate and is this built into your LDS delivery plan?</p>		
<p><b>Have a strong and clear project idea:</b></p>	<p>The idea must contribute to the realisation of the objectives of the LAG’s local development strategies. A general topic (even if it will be adapted at a later stage with the partners) may fail to provide such a contribution.</p> <p>Is there a demonstrable bottom-up approach and community involvement in developing the project and engagement with groups in the LAG areas?</p>		

<b>Go beyond simple exchanges:</b>	Projects should include common concrete actions which create tangible results that aim to find answers to the challenges of rural areas (joint acquisition of technology, creation of common events or products, joint experimentation/piloting etc.)		
<b>Plan properly for human resources:</b>	Consider the development, coordination, implementation and management from the early stages of project development		
<b>Build a strong partnership with participating LAGs/organisations</b>	<p>The project outline should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• define the profile of your desired partner(s) to make the partner search easier;</li> <li>• negotiate and distribute roles and responsibilities between the partners while developing the project (and include these in the partnership agreement); and</li> <li>• maintain and manage the partnership during the implementation of the cooperation project</li> </ul>		
<b>Improve local delivery:</b>	Skills development, programme development, improved management and administration		
<b>Inspire innovation:</b>	New solutions, use of models of delivery from elsewhere, new approaches, new perspectives on rural issues		
<b>Support and strengthen rural networks:</b>	Develops partnerships and/or finds new markets for regions, products and services		
<b>Capitalise on economies of scale:</b>	Cost reduction for project implementation at LAG level		
<b>Help achieve critical mass:</b>	Allows a project to go ahead which would not be feasible at single LAG level or enhances a single LAG project through access to resources/expertise		

<b>Encourage capacity building:</b>	Enables training, knowledge transfer and shared expertise. Broadens awareness		
<b>Contribute to profile raising:</b>	Raises profile of territory, European networks		
<b>Encourage pride in place:</b>	Fosters pride in place through representation of an area, fosters a sense of citizenship within a region, nation or EU.		