

GENERAL INNOVATION FRAMEWORK AND THE INNOVATION EXPECTATIONS OF RURAL ACTORS

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The screening for the general framework for innovation begins with the official national statistical data needed for highlighting the place and the role of the innovation throughout the Romanian economy. As observed the innovation only the covers for a share in the total Research Development and Innovation area. The goal of the screening is to identify the place and if possible the share of agriculture and related sectors within RDI. The statistic methodology does not cover for the agricultural enterprises, operations or farms since the followed sectors do not approach the bioeconomy or the life sciences and even less the agriculture itself. The general frame depicts the dynamic and changes with regard to innovation and overall research and development without identifying the possible reasons for these changes since the source is a collection of data and not a comprehensive analysis. The place and the role of the agricultural universities' research and innovation is pinpointed via the number of projects as implementation tools and eventually results without any trace of impact or monitoring results. The potential expectations of the relevant rural actors are directly collected as primary data by questionnaires filled in and returned during specific sessions of animation and information as part of the specific LEADER methodology of developing the future Local Development Strategies. The choice of moment and approach has its rationale in the need of collecting the opinions of a well-informed relevant public. The scale of the approach is also highly relevant since leader territories are supposed to connect similar and comparable needs within the frame of the common development goals set. The paper introduces only one primary data set from a LEADER territory in order to avoid redundancy. The relevance is further supported by the previous experience of the rural local actors active within the framework of the previous problem in the period 2007-2013. The experience is articulated with the realism of project-based approaches within the specific framework of public support instruments such as the National Rural Development Program. They expressed options of the respondents are interpreted against the specificities of their

territory and the specific problems and needs to be addressed within the new Local Development Strategy. A final articulation is attempted between the results in Research Development and Innovation at national level and the specific expectations of the local rural actors extrapolating the specific public support instruments and programme scale more specifically the public funding for the Operational Groups. The findings highlight the realism of the local actors' expectations closely linked with the vocation for development of the territory, the priorities and the strategic goals at a micro-region scale. The concluding remarks recommend an innovation framework particularly for agriculture and related sectors with territorial and sectoral iterations rather than a single set of innovation priorities ranked at national level and dispersed regionally.