

RURal FUTure Networks RUFUS -

Experiences with Proposal Submission in the Context of the 7th EU Research Framework Programme

Prof. Dr. Christina von Haaren, Leibniz University of Hanover
PD Dr. Sylvia Herrmann, Leibniz University of Hanover

- **Experience**
- (Project Description)
- **Project Preparation**
- **Expenses**
- **Success Factors**
- **Recommendations**

Preceding Experience

Institute of Environmental Planning, Leibniz University of Hanover

- New research assistant with long experience in research (EU, BMBF, DFG)
- Various co-operations with project partners in former projects
- Numerous projects in recent years dealing with submitted topic
- Experiences in inter- und transdisciplinary projects

EU Office, Leibniz University of Hanover

help with

- Placement of a project idea in call
- Proposal wording and submission

Experience with handling of EU projects

2006: 870 intensive consultations

34 new projects

7 new co-ordinators; 23 proposals supported

Project Description RUFUS (Rural Future Networks)

Work Program area: 'Regional, territorial and social cohesion'

Topic: 'The impact of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms on Europe's rural economies'

Project Partners:

Partner name	Country	Partner name	Country
Leibniz University Hannover (Planning) co-ordinator	Germany	Wageningen University (Modelling)	Netherlands
INRA-SAD Mirecourt (Agriculture)	France	Sprintconsult <i>SME</i> (Transfer)	Germany
University of East Anglia (Visualisation)	UK	Tech. Universiteit Delft (Reg.Planning)	Netherlands
LUND University (Sociology)	Sweden		

In co-operation with (scientific panel)

Name	Institution
Prof. Dr Jerzy Banski (Geography rural areas)	Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw, Poland
Prof Dr. Ana Firmino (organic agriculture)	Universidade Nova de Lisboa , Portugal
Prof Eva Konkoly Gyuró, associate professor (Biology)	University of West Hungary, Hungary
Dr Catherine Macombe (Sociology)	CEMAGREF, France
Prof Dr. Paolo Barbéri (Agriculture)	Scuola Sant'Ana, Italy

+ Scientific Advisory Board of internationally reputed key scientists

Project Description RUFUS

RUFUS will provide with a better theoretical and practical answer

to the questions of

- how CAP measures interact with other forms of public intervention in rural development
- how policy regimes can be combined to ensure a more sustainable development.

RUFUS aims to

- investigate how future RD policy can be targeted at the endogenous potential of rural regions
- derive alternative multiple functions
- include non land-use social and economic activities and opportunities

Project Description RUFUS

Interdisciplinary Methodology

- qualitative analysis of the social dimension and endogenous potentials
- analysis of rural change
- economic, demographic and ecological variables
- establish a transdisciplinary conceptual framework on policy integration and rural multi-functionality
- create a rural typology incorporating social aspects and endogenous potentials
- Scenarios of 'rural futures' will be generated and visualised
- quantitative findings will be 'tested' against the reality of stakeholder experiences (case studies)

Project Preparation

1. since 2005: subject-oriented discussion with the designated project partners (on conferences, in courses etc.)
2. since spring 2006: participation in the discussion of the EU Commission (discussion with NKS)
3. 11/2006: first strategic meeting in Hanover
scoping of the project and topic, general approach
4. 12/2006: final work programme available, 22nd Dec. 2006 per email
5. 01/2007: first preparatory works for the application /
Information Conference FP7 in Bonn
6. Until 4/2007: writing proposal; meeting in Hanover: discussion of
proposal
7. 05/2007: proposal submission (10th May 2007)

Project elaboration

- 15.01. Decision for topic and specific research questions
- 30.01. Co-ordinator: Outline WPs, Decision about WP-Leaders
- 28.02. Partner: WP Descriptions, State of Art
Coord.: Work Program (Overview)
- 15.03. Partner: PM, Cost calculations (time consuming!)
Co-ord.: Timetable and Graphics, Revision/Homogenisation of text (time consuming)
Finances, Forms, Management of Consortium (2 weeks)
- 15.04. Final Agreement: WPs, WP Leader, PM, Partners, State of Art
Outline: Concept, What is innovative?
- 20.04. Impact
- 30.04. Management/Dissemination
- 05.05. External Review of Proposal (EU office LUH)
- 08./09.04. Revision and update of proposal
- 10.05. Submission

Expenses for preparation

- Meetings: travel expenses, organisation and preparation
- Personnel costs: 2,5 researchers for 3 month
- Miscellaneous costs: telephone, postal charges, office equipment
- Financial support by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony: 5000,- Euro for personnel (1 month)

For Social Sciences and Humanities special funding by Federal Ministry of science is available (up to 10 000€)

Sucess Factors

Proposal

1. Pay attention to work programme: each sentence is relevant
2. Strictly follow requirements (budget limits, number of pages etc.)!!
3. pay attention to details which may appear secondary (e.g. Advisory Board, small expenditure, 0.5 points; gender)
4. early draw on the assistance of local contact persons (EU Office LUH, National Kontakt Office NKS with Fed. Ministry of Research)
5. IMPACT!
6. efforts with expenses, each partner has ist own cost model (e.g. for labour costs)
7. Concise wording: "will do" instead of "should be"; formulations should underline that the group is convinced of the application

(Modified after Obermann & Froebrich 2007)

Success Factors

Co-operation

- co-ordinator: active & consensus-oriented, patient, but insistent
- 1 (main) contact person per partner; knowing the partners beforehand
- clear chronological declaration of documents and versions, e.g. Projektx_2007-02-04_1245_mo.doc

Time management

- finding the topic: do preparatory works and develop an idea
- proposal: as soon as work programme is available
- consider sufficient time slots in the schedule **before** the dead-line

(Modified after Obermann & Froebrich 2007)

Success Factors

Assistive Technology

- Graphics: Powerpoint
- Gantt-chart: Excel or Graphic
- Document: Word
- EPSS: good handling; as soon as possible subscribe and download

Evaluation

1. Scientific and/or technological **excellence** **33%**
2. Quality and efficiency of the implementation and **management** of the project **33%**
3. Potential **impact** through the development, dissemination and use of project results **33%**
4. **Luck** **1%**

(Modified after Obermann & Froebrich 2007)

Thanks for your attention!!

