



SELEP – EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Essex Rural Partnership (ERP)

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A reminder...

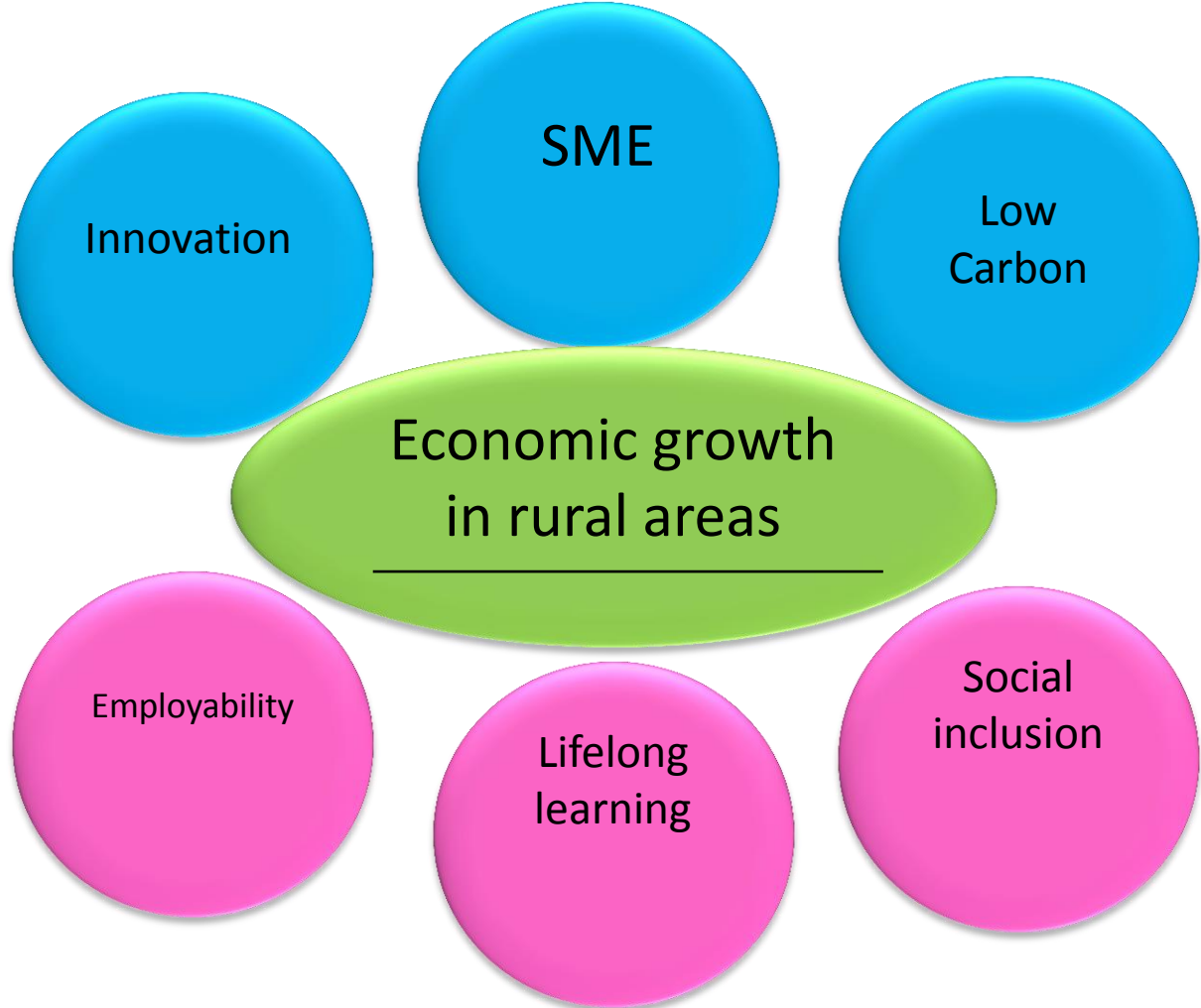


Today

- Update on the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Inform regarding the work of the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Committee
- Outline the work of the SELEP Rural Advisory Group
- Report on the launch of the SELEP Strategy and the rural chapter of the ESIF
- Progress with rural chapter of the ESIF
- Note the ongoing work and close co-operation with Leader LAGs



ERDF, ESF and EAFRD = £179.5million



Some Highlights

- We launched the SELEP Rural Strategy in Essex on the 21 May now we are being asked by other LEPs how to do it!
- We are one of only 5 LEPs nationwide to have a March Call for applications
- Focus of ESF is apprenticeships but also social inclusion working with the Big Lottery
- Importance of the Growth Hubs and £26 million ERDF committed to access to finance schemes for SMEs
- 9 Leader LAGs have been approved across the SELEP area
- Importance of cooperation and synergy with the EAFRD programme as these funding streams develop

*It's **All** about Jobs and Growth!*

European Agricultural Fund For Rural Development

Some key facts

- DEFRA staff to help develop the projects: Helen Dallas and Milena Hinkova designated relationship managers for SELEP
- First port of call email your idea to:
gpenquiries@rpa.gsi.gov.uk
- EAFRD for larger strategic projects
- Some EAFRD could be used for areas not covered by Leader – lower project size potentially possible
- Aim to commit/spend around £2.5 million per year



What is EAFRD for?



- Building knowledge and skills in rural areas
- Funding and developing micro, small and medium-sized rural businesses
- Funding small scale renewable investments in rural areas
- Funding superfast broadband investments in rural areas
- Supporting tourism in rural areas.



EAFRD First Call for Applications



- Support for micro and small rural businesses in rural areas
- £1million funding envelope
- Intervention rate of 40% grant 60% match funding
- Private sector match
- Capital grant of around £148,000 (current exchange rate)

Defra calling for very specific descriptions of what we would like to fund in line with chapter 6 of the ESIF strategy



Update on the first Call for Applications



- 18 project applications
- Total value £5.8 million and grant size £1.8 million
- We do not have Defra's recommendations yet!
- ESIF Committee will give a view regarding Strategic fit based on Chapter 6 of the ESIF and the SELEP Rural Strategy



What next?

- 2nd Call for applications in October 2015 – focus likely to be food
- 3rd Call in January 2016- focus likely to be tourism
- Future Calls on Renewable energy and then skills
- All to be discussed at the ESIF Committee meeting on the 23 July 2015



Advisory Group

- Defra is the Managing Authority and is responsible for the funding
- The SELEP ESIF Committee reports directly to the National Growth Board which is the Monitoring Committee
- Important role as the ESIF Committee gives the LEP's opinion regarding the strategic fit of eligible projects
- Representation set in the draft TOR approved by the EC and Defra
- Rural interests are represented by the NFU
- The NFU representative will be advised by the SELEP Rural Advisory Group which the chance for local influence



In summary

- Defra planning to bring Leader groups together with SELEP staff to discuss how the funding streams fit together
- High levels of interest in the Rural Funding underpinned by the SELEP Rural Strategy and the ESIF chapter 6
- Synergies across the 3 funding streams plus Leader spend
- Good communications and cooperation essential
- Defra designated contacts
- LEP extra support

Many opportunities and the funding is about to flow!

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