



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 77

Peer to Peer Mentoring for facilitators of innovation groups and Living Labs

Peer to peer (P2P) mentoring is a form of dialogue between a person who has a certain professional question and peers who are willing to listen and assist in deepening the question and sharing their expertise to explore solutions. In Agrilink P2P Mentoring has been used during collective sessions of facilitators of the 6 Living Labs. One person brings a dilemma related to the development or situation in the Living Lab. Peers of other Labs listen and assist in the reflection on thinking and acting, resulting in better insights on the topic and ideas for new interventions. Examples of questions raised during these P2P-sessions were: How to motivate farmers to share data? How to stimulate a certain stakeholder group after the informal leader of the Lab stood down? The P2P Mentoring sessions in Agrilink were done in 30 minutes in small groups of 4-6 persons. The five steps and timings set out below were followed to create an effective process: 1) Introduction of the dilemma by the problem owner (5 minutes); 2) Exploration of the dilemma by open questions by peers: why, how, when. This is about fact finding. In this stage the peers postpone to voice their own ideas and do not give advice (10 minutes); 3) Possible reformulation of the dilemma and write reformulated dilemma on paper; 4) Peers analyse the central problem. Each formulates one advice (what would I do in this situation) (5 minutes); 5) The problem owner evaluates the results: is there an improved insight into the problem and an useful advice? Facilitators working with a variety of (farmer) groups and innovation partnerships are able to share their expertise effectively with P2P mentoring. Short sessions result in much better understanding of the problem and refreshing solutions.

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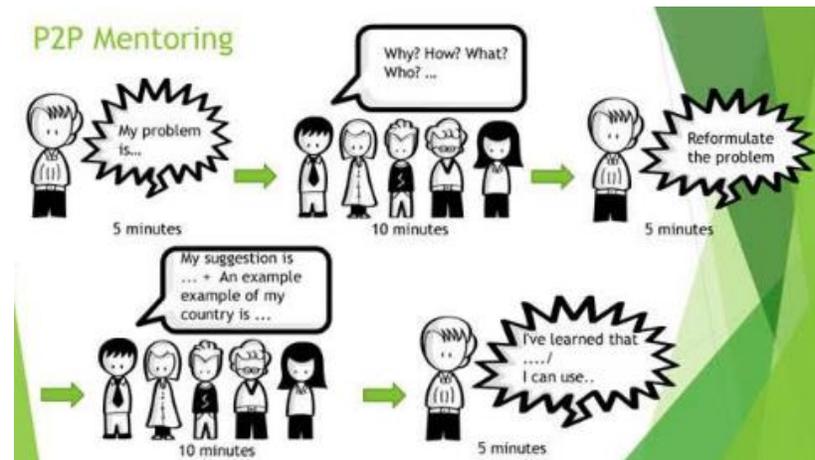
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KEY WORDS:

#Peer2Peer, #mentoring,
#dialogue, #facilitation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The approach could also be used during Cross Visits. In AgriLink researchers and advisors of several EU countries visited a [Living Lab in Pamplona](#) and discussed serious issues with an agricultural cooperation in small groups. An example of such an issue was: how to deal with a negative public opinion despite all the cooperative's efforts in the field of sustainability. By going through the 5 steps in the P2P mentoring process (see figure), the problem of co-operation became more focussed and valuable reflections and examples were received from different countries.



ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 727577.

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