

Title: Collaboration - nice work if you can get it - the enablers and barriers to collaborative working practices.

Rural communities across Europe strive to work together to introduce place-based practices in an effort to shape their local development and economies. In this current climate there has never been a greater urgency for organisations and people to work together for reasons pertaining to finance, resources and basic common sense. However, despite the popularity of the notion of working across boundaries how much do we know about the realities of inter-organisation collaborative arrangements in practice?

This workshop will aim to go behind the façade of collaboration and help to develop an understanding of inter-organisational practice. It will draw on a study that allowed an overt observation of practice, and highlight the factors that constrain and empower the actor's ability to collaborate and questions how might institutional context determine individual collaborative behaviour. The workshop will conclude with recommendations for improved collaborative practices to enhance local development.

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