



European Network for
Rural Development

Permanent Subgroup on LEADER and Community-Led Local Development

LAG Survey 2017 - highlights

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5th Meeting, 8 March 2018



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The LAG Survey 2017

- **LEADER implementation 'on the ground' - LAGs' viewpoint**
- Possible improvements for current and future periods
- Wide reaching, robust, LAG oriented information & analysis
- Informs DG AGRI, ENRD and stakeholders
- 710 LAGs responded from 27 Member States
- Focused on:
 - Basic Data
 - LEADER Principles
 - LEADER Operation
 - LEADER Improvements



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Basic data



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Basic Data – Make up of Responses

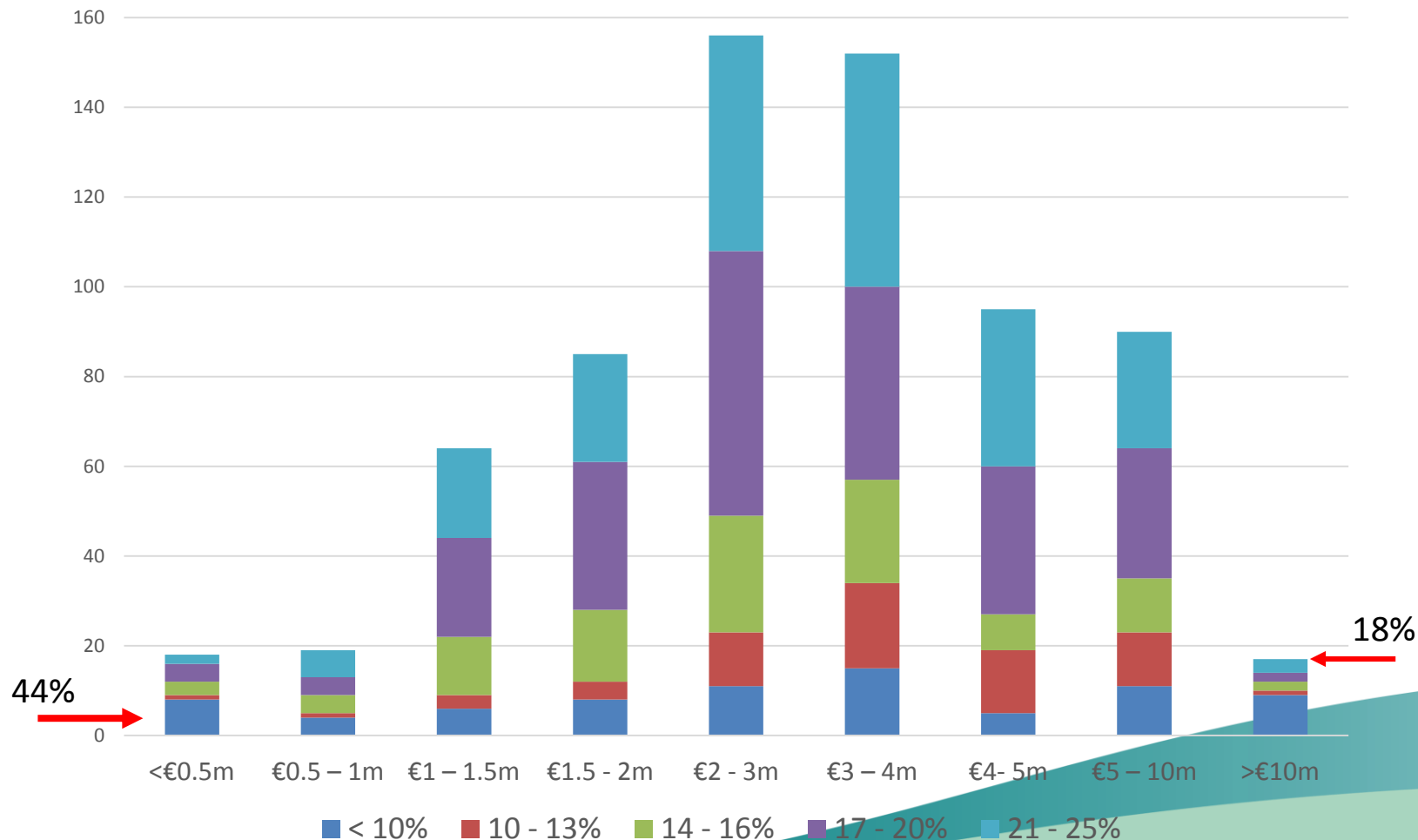
- Responses from 27 Member States
- 19 National and 70 Regional RDPs
- 72% responses came from LAG managers
- 22% were 'new' LAGs, 44% LEADER I – LEADER+
- 59% selected by end 2015, 10% in 2017
- 67% had launched calls by end of 2016
- 32% used two or more funds (60 EMFF, 109 ESF, 177 ERDF)



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Basic Data – Funding

Percentage of LAG budget spent on Animation and Administration by LAG Budget

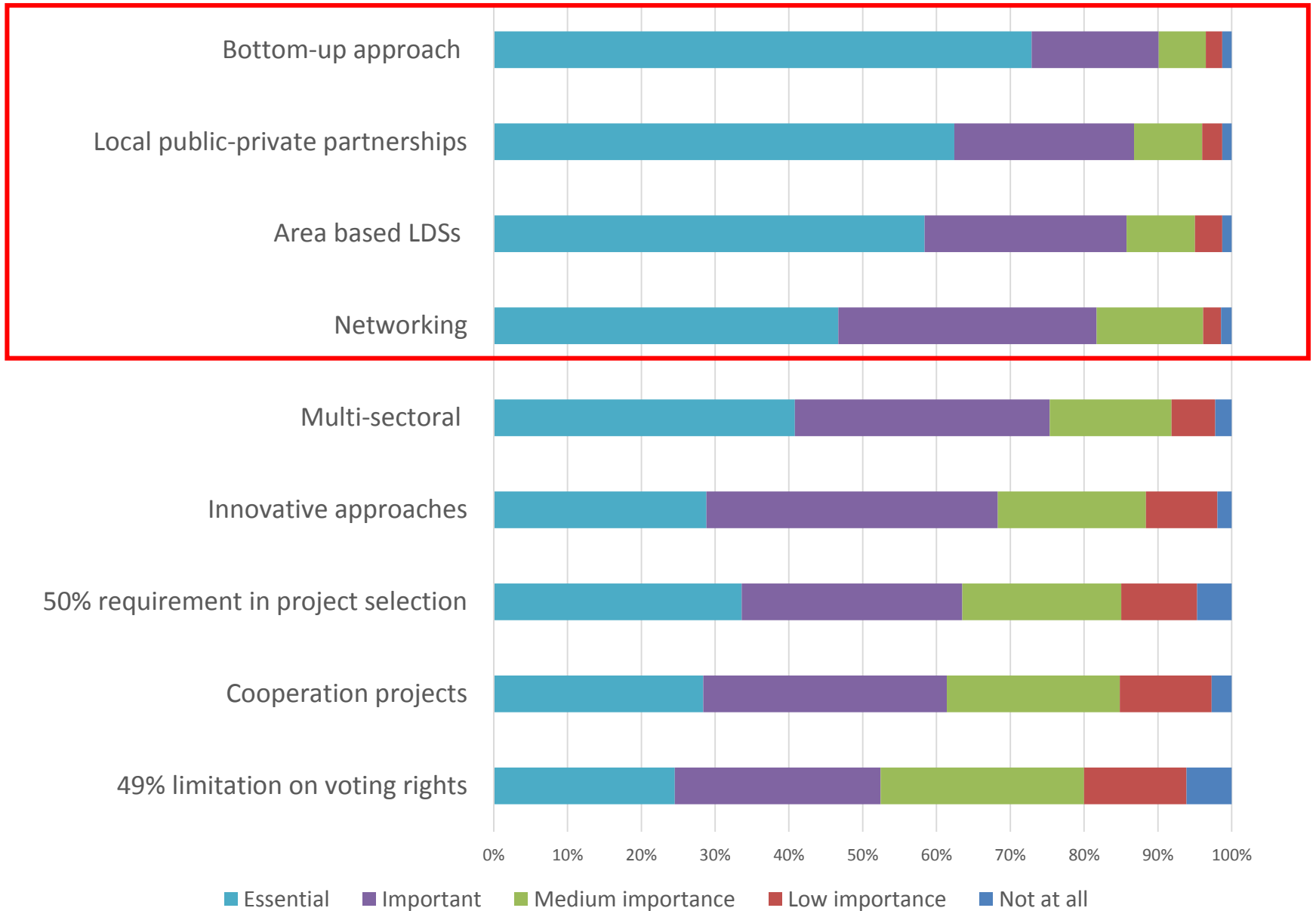


LEADER Principles



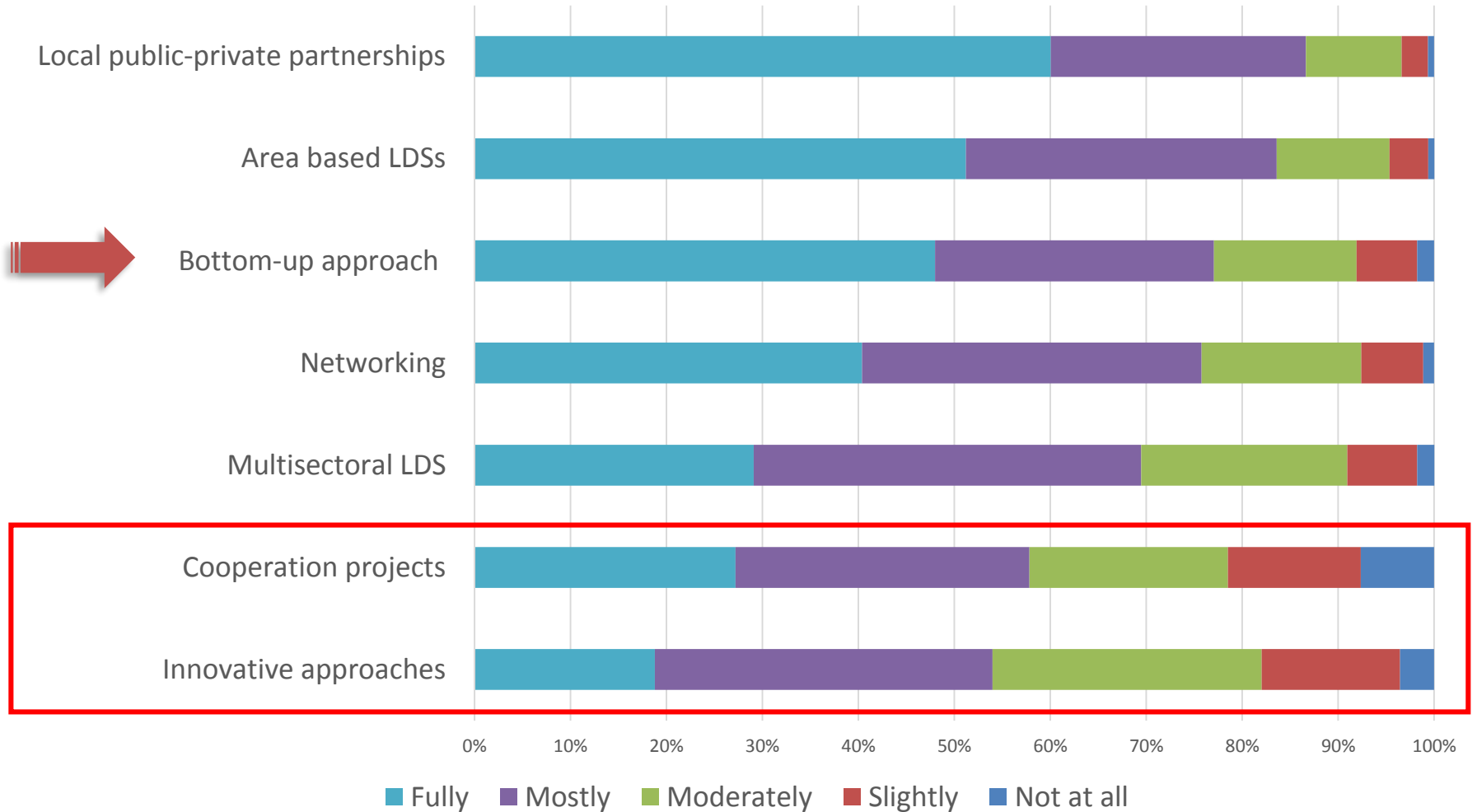
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LEADER Principles – Importance



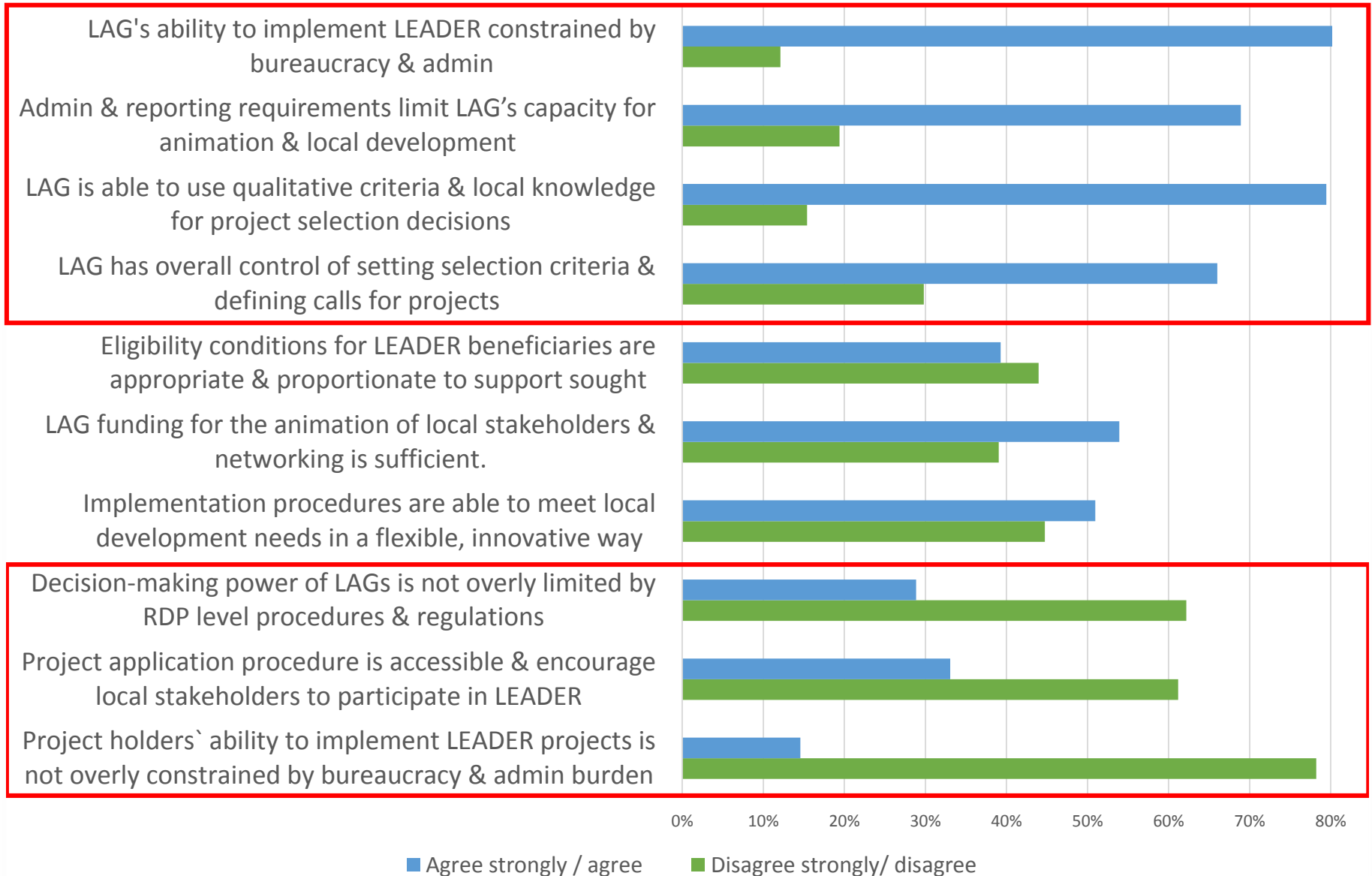
LEADER Principles – Practice

Extent to which LAGs are able to Implement the Elements of the LEADER Approach

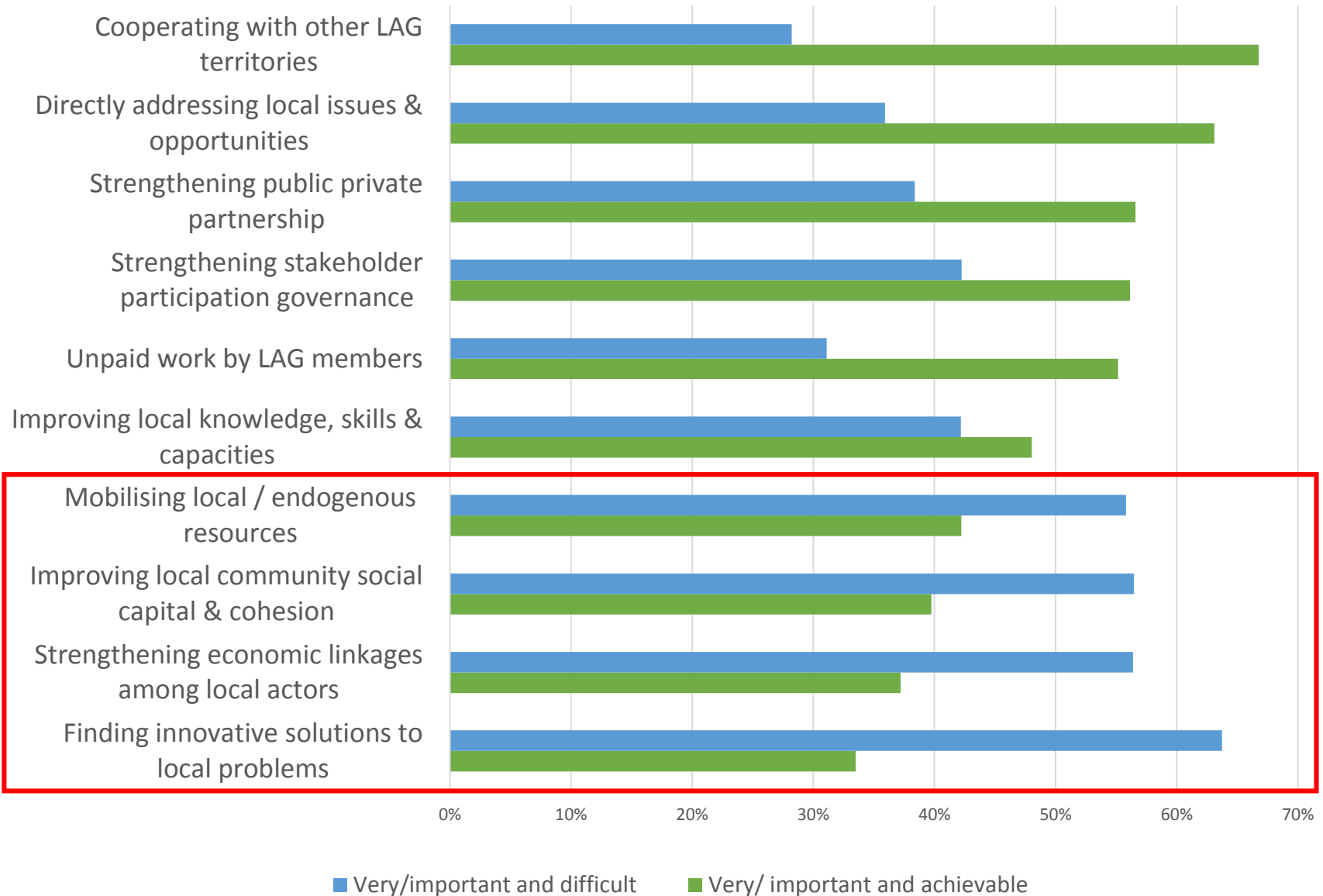


LEADER Principles – Practice

Aspects of LEADER Implementation as seen by Local Action Groups



LEADER Principles – Importance and Achievability

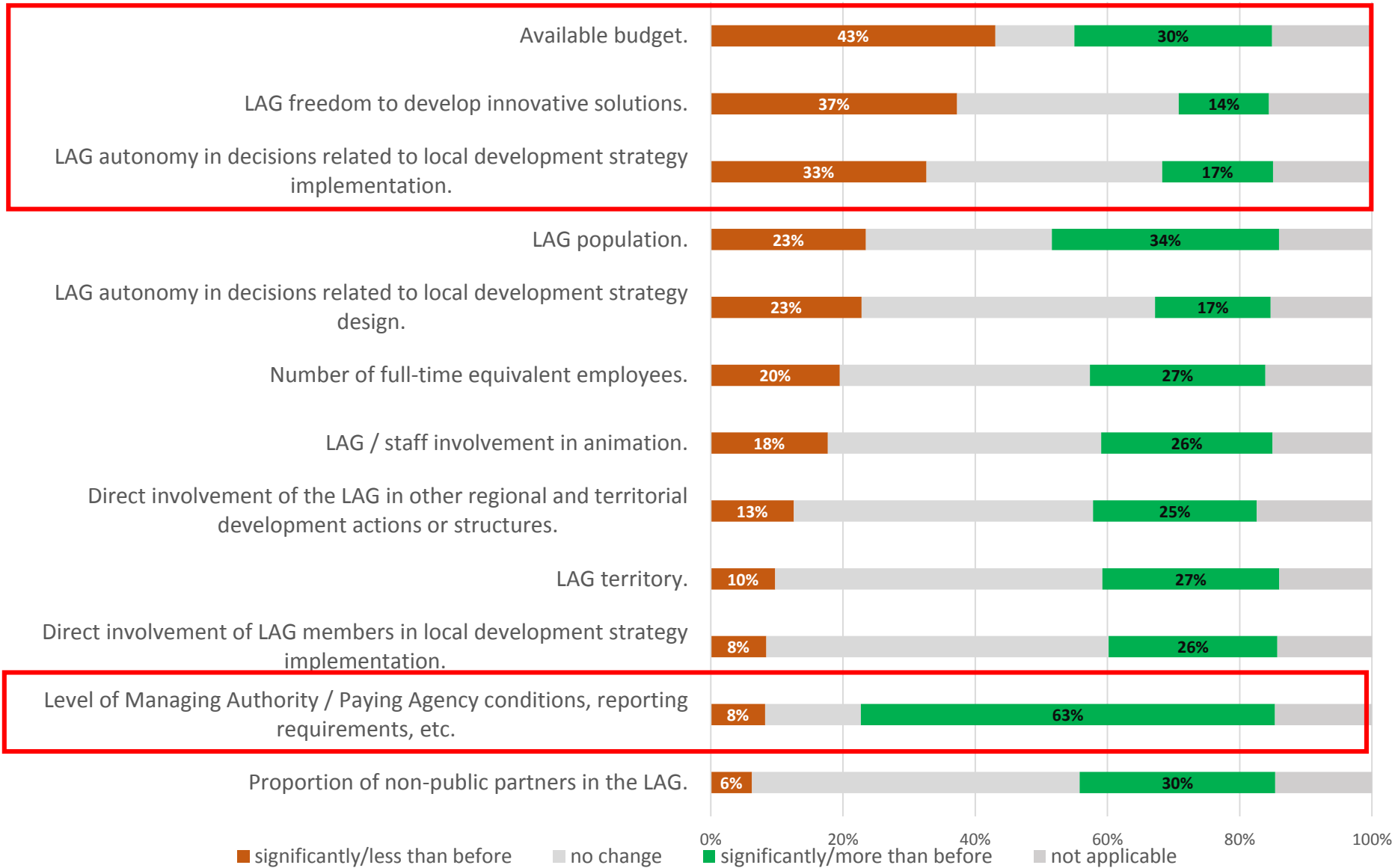


LEADER Operation



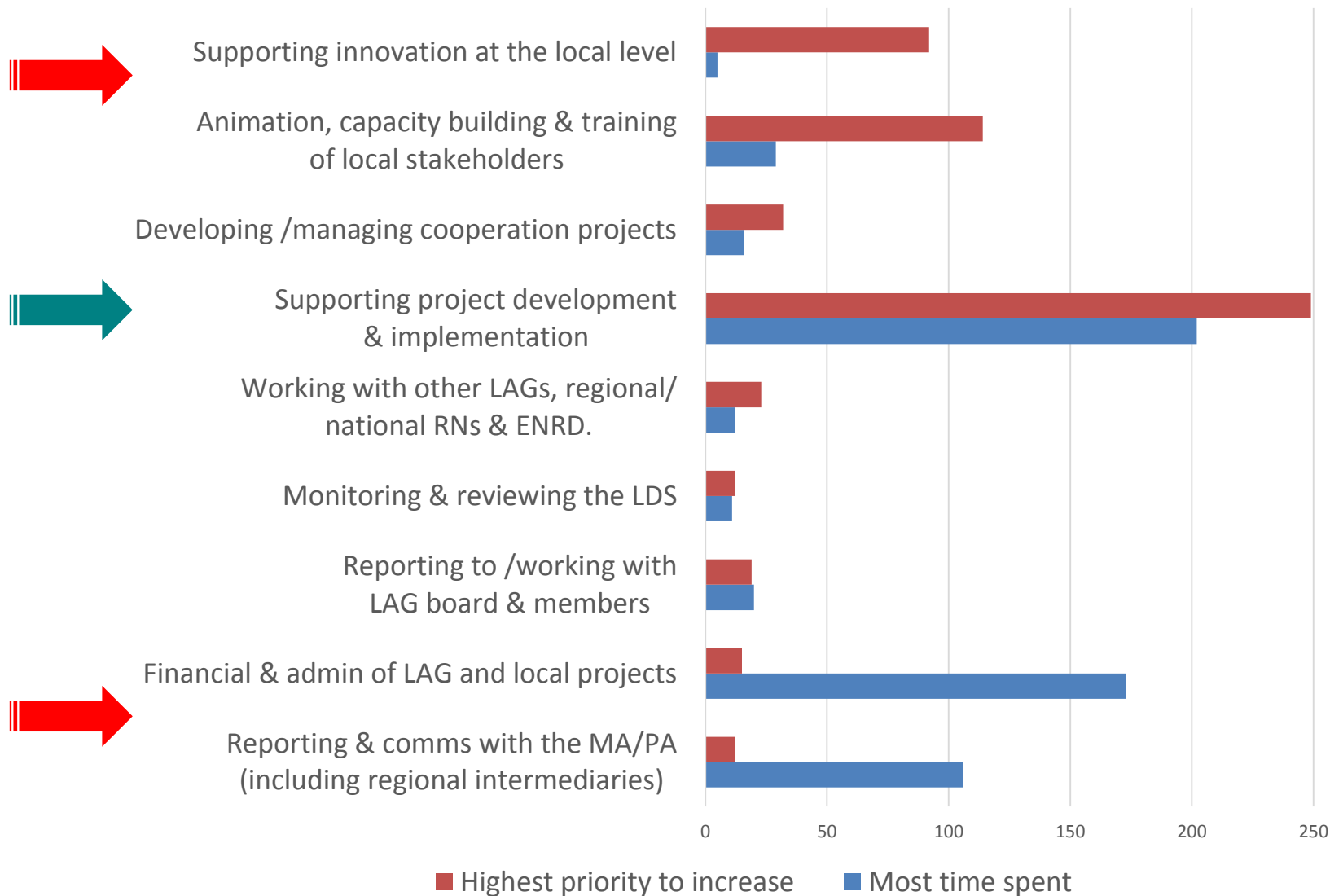
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LEADER Operation – Changes Since 2007-2013



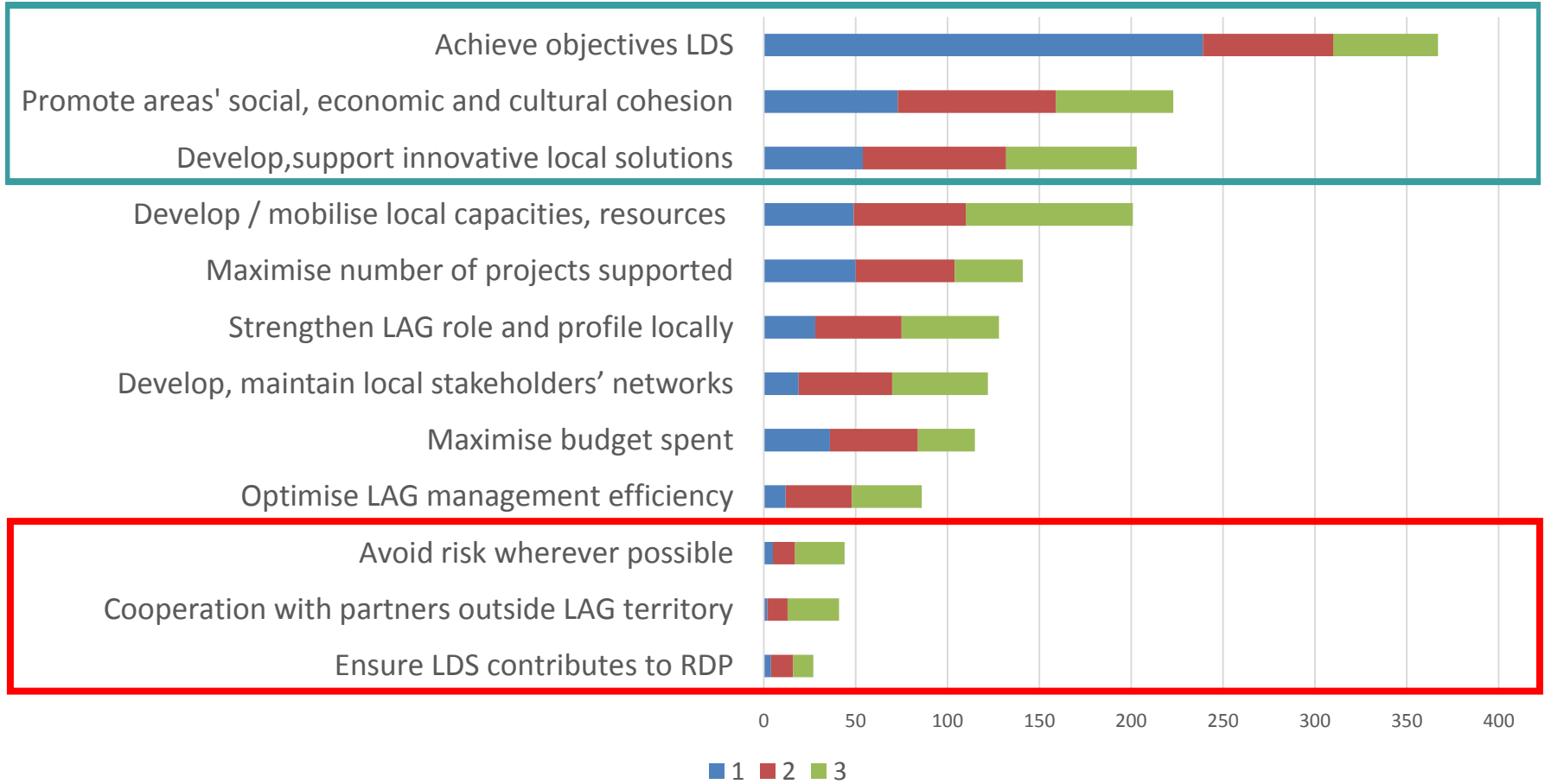
LEADER Operation ('day-to-day' and 'ideal')

Comparison of Day-to-Day Activities and Priorities for Increase



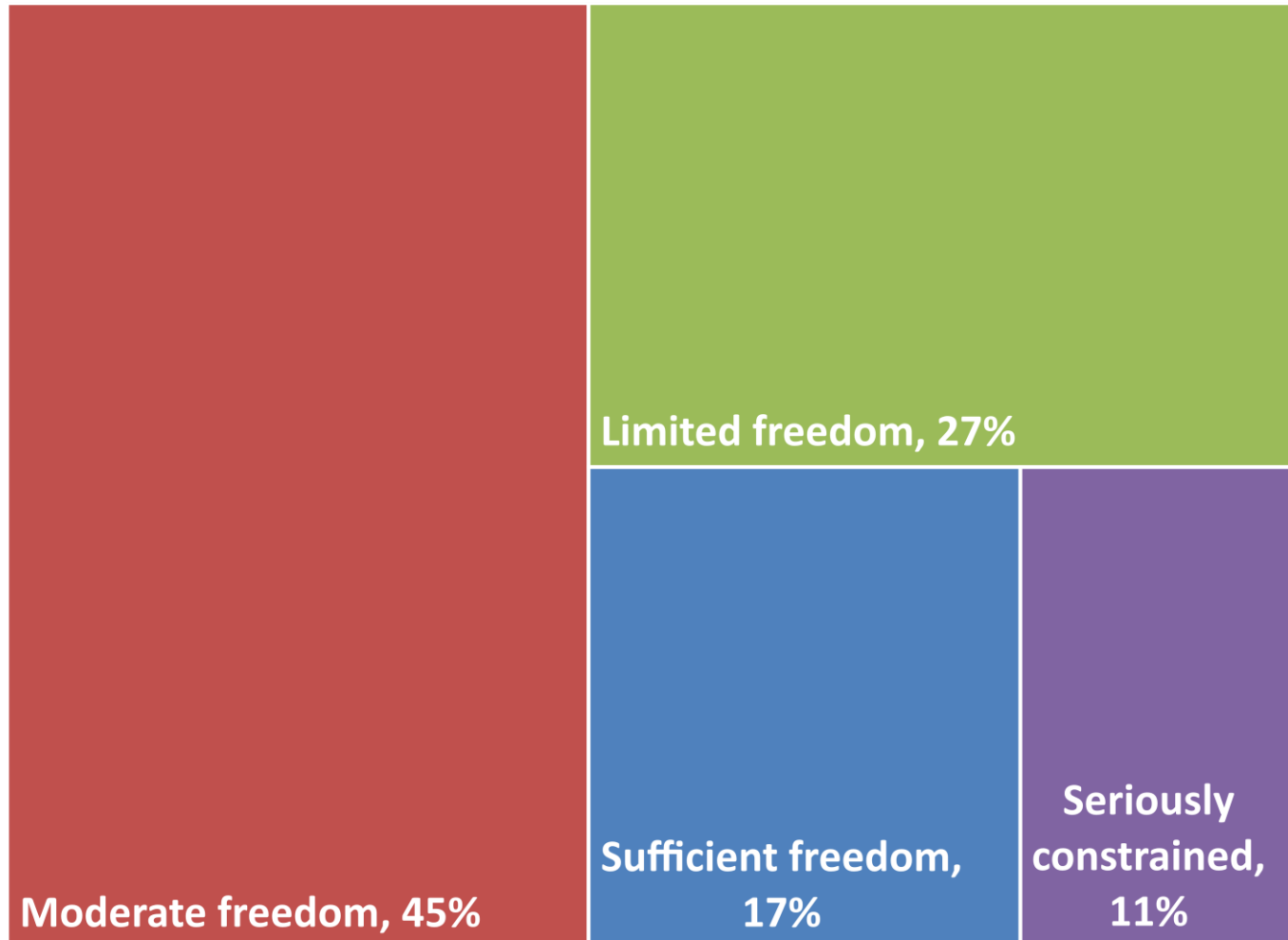
Importance of Operational Priorities to LAGs

Importance of Operational Priorities to LAGs



LAG freedom to pursue operational objectives within the current national/regional delivery framework

Based on 572 LAG responses



Communication by and with the LAG

The main way the LAG communicates with the wider public in the LAG territory

(% of LAG responses)

LAG website: 89%

LAG office: 71%

LAG staff working in local community / meetings, forums / social media: 60-65%

Partners and their activities: 53%

LAG participation in local events and fairs: 51%

Newsletter, other printed media: 45%

The main ways in which the LAG receives information from the Managing Authority

(% of LAG responses)

E-mail: 90%

Regular meetings and forums: 68%

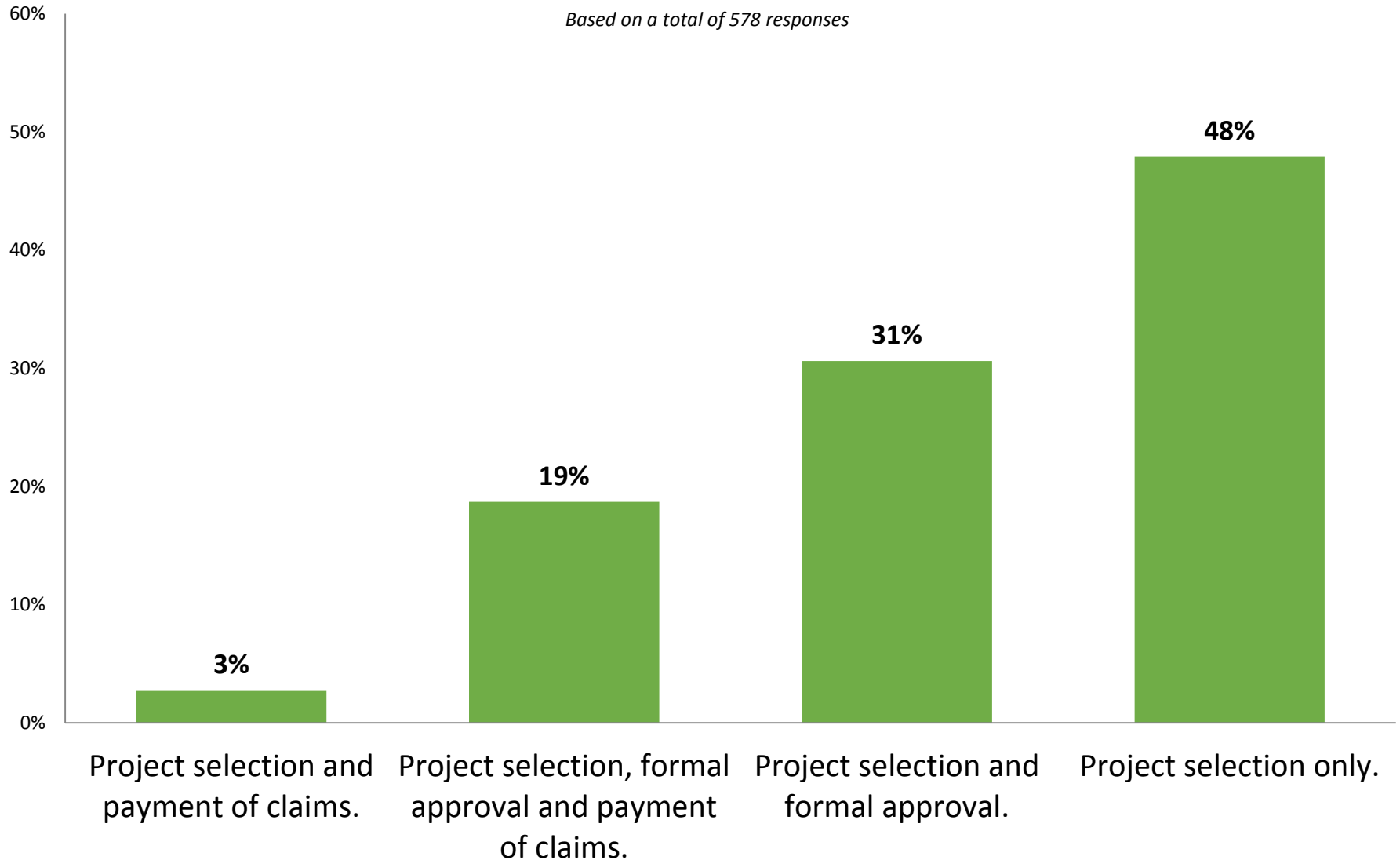
MA website: 34%

Through NRN: 31%

Printed publication and guidance: 22%

Social media: 5%

LAG tasks in relation to local projects



LEADER Improvements



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LEADER improvements What can we do now?

1. Simpler application forms / process (53%) ;
2. Simpler and more proportionate system of controls (for smaller projects) (53%);
3. Improving MA/IB turnaround time on approving selected projects (39%);
4. Simplification, harmonisation and flexibility to support LAGs in the practical use of multi-funding (35%); and
5. Better common knowledge and networking between LAGs, MA/PA & NRNs (34%).



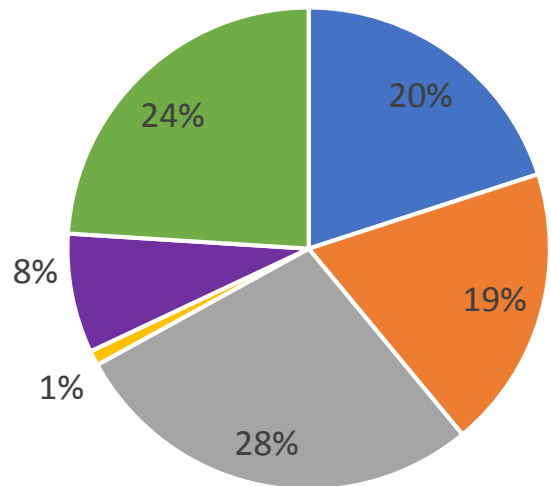
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LEADER Improvements Gaps and Support Needed, MS Level

- Ensuring better and mutual understanding of audit expectations (RDP Authorities & NRNs)
- Communicating and explaining relevant changes e.g. in regulations (RDP Authorities)
- Coordination and cooperation between LEADER actors at EU and national level (RDP Authorities & NRNs)
- Supporting costs of LAG participation in the work of the ENRD, e.g. events. (NRNs)
- Overall more gaps and support needed from RDP Authorities for very low budget LAGs, least by >€10m LAGs
- LEADER I LAGs and New 2014-2020 LAGs identifying the most gaps/ needs for support from RDP Authorities and NRNs
- Support from NRNs with Capacity Building and Self Assessment very important for New 2014-2020 LAGs

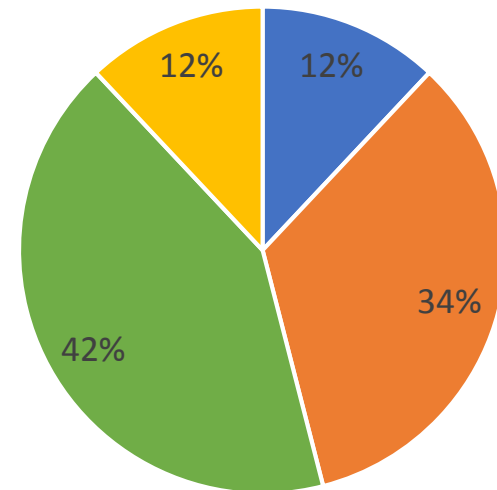
LEADER Improvements Independence, Responsibility and Achievement

Levels of Independence and Responsibility



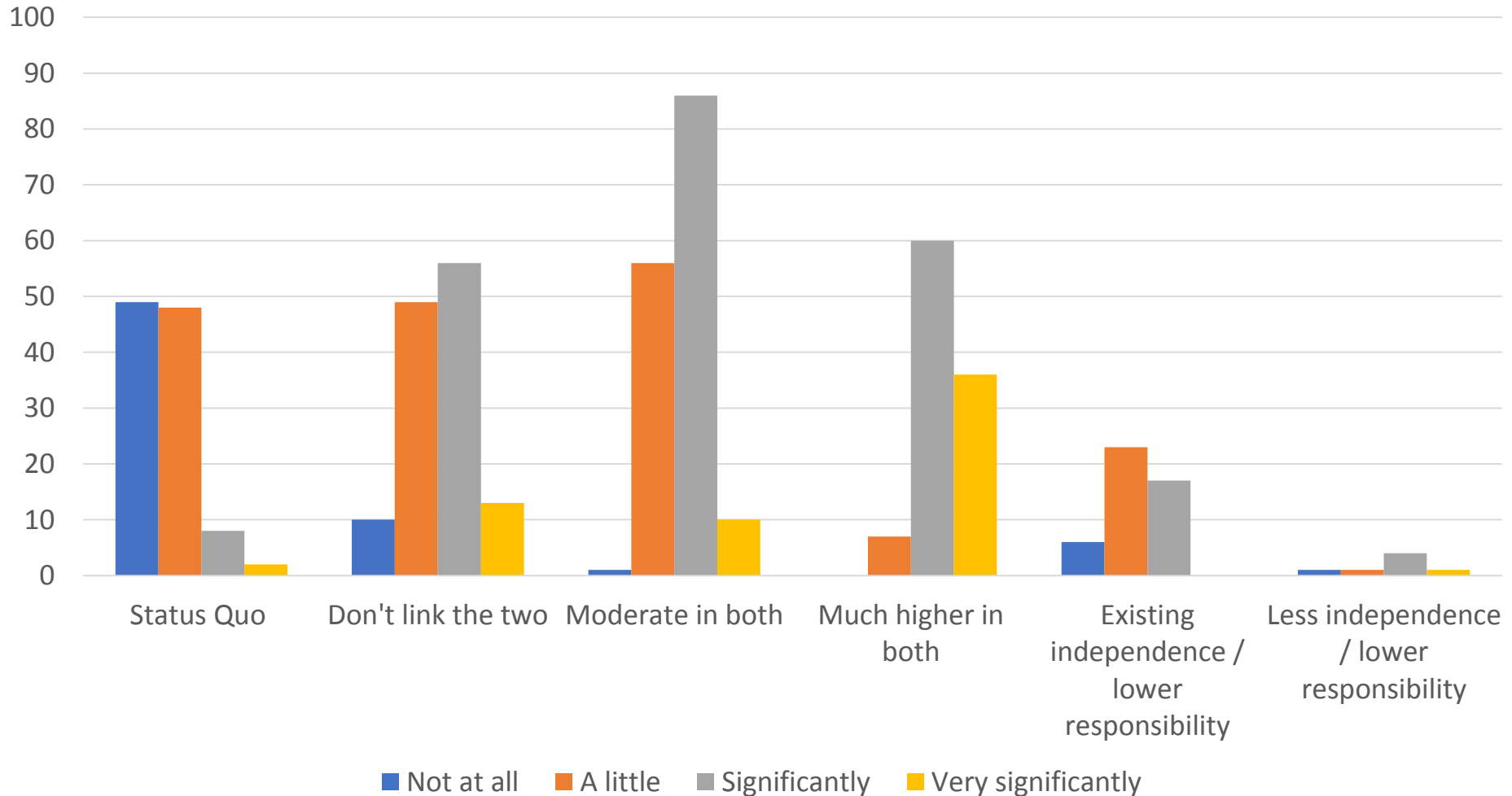
- Status Quo
- Much higher in both
- Moderate in both
- Less independence / lower responsibility
- Existing independence / lower responsibility
- Don't link the two

Would Greater Independence Improve Achievement?



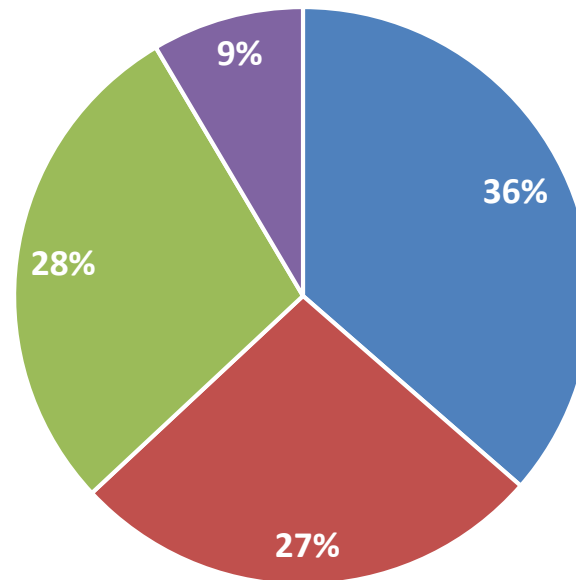
- Not at all
- A little
- Significantly
- Very Significantly

Perceived Effect of LAG Independence and Responsibility Changes on Improving LAG Achievement



LEADER Improvements

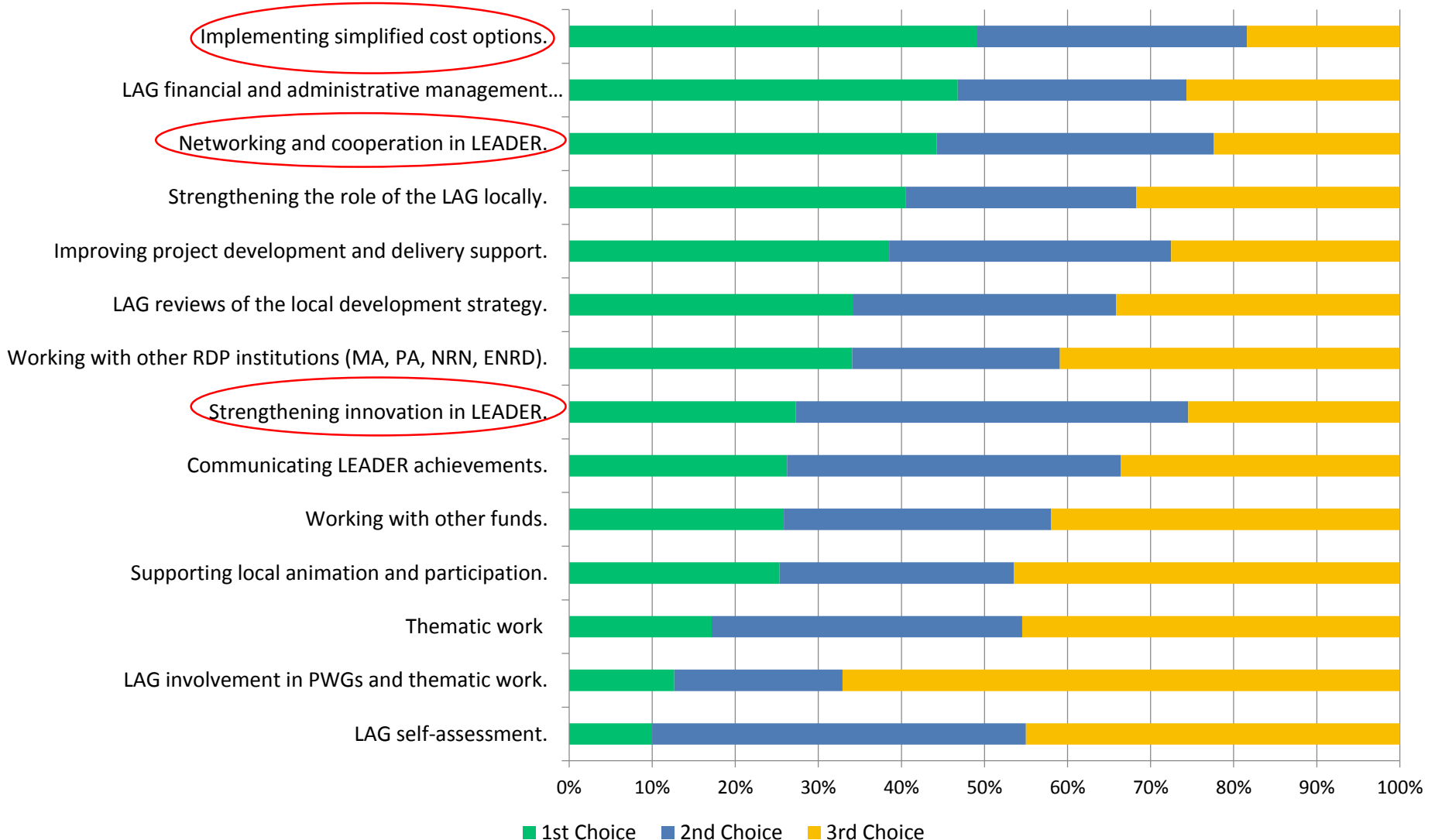
Would a Centralised Support Service (e.g. shared and managed by multiple LAGs) Improve LAGs' Level of Achievement?



■ Not at all ■ A little ■ Significantly ■ Very significantly

LEADER Improvements - ENRD Involvement

Priorities for support from ENRD to meet LAGs' implementation needs by %



LEADER Improvements

What would help you get more involved with ENRD?

❖ Top 3

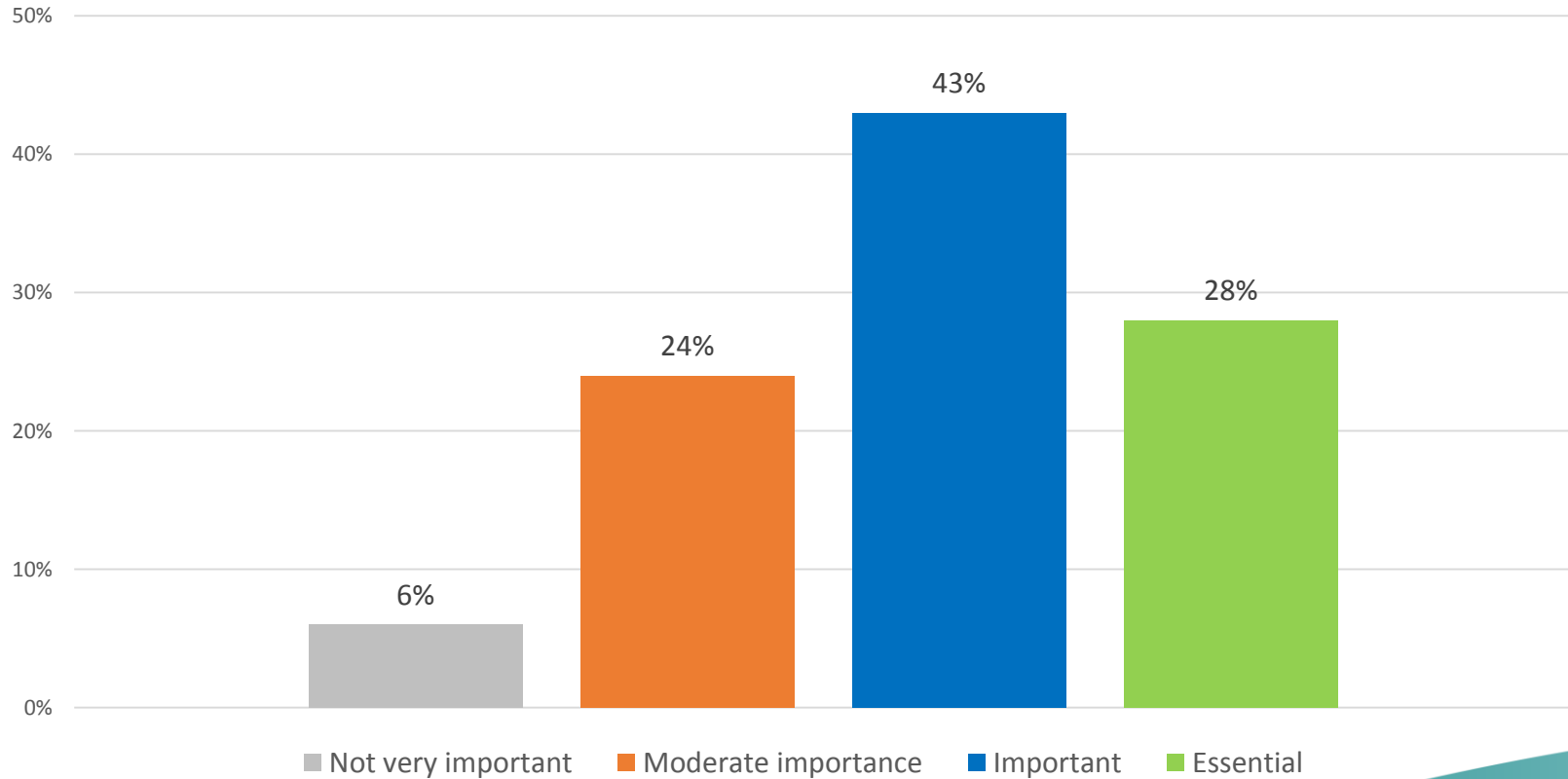
- ✓ 55% more available time
- ✓ 41% a higher LAG budget
- ✓ 36% more flexible administration rules for travel, participation in conferences etc.

❖ Bottom 3

- ✓ 29% less costly methods of communication
- ✓ 14% NRN support
- ✓ 14% more language versions

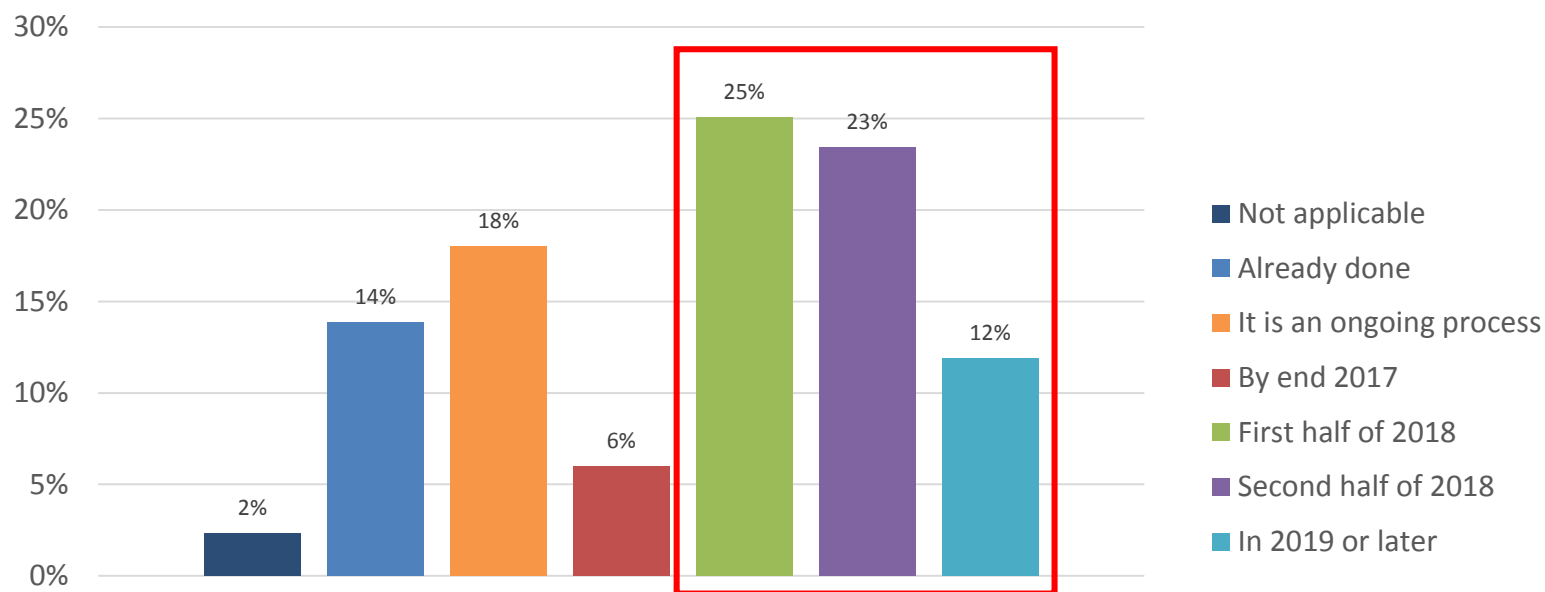
LEADER Improvements

Importance of Self Assessment of LDS to Improve LAGs' Operation



LEADER Improvements

Timeline - Launch of First Self-assessment



Thank you for your attention!

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