



LEADER after 2020 and beyond: role of Local Action Groups - a view from Brussels (home office)

Iwona Lisztwan
European Commission
Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development



Legal context for LEADER post 2020

2021-22

(N+3)

**Current RDP
extended**

**Current LDS
extended or
modified**

**Preparation of
new strategies for
post 2023**

2023-25

(N+2)

**New
programme**

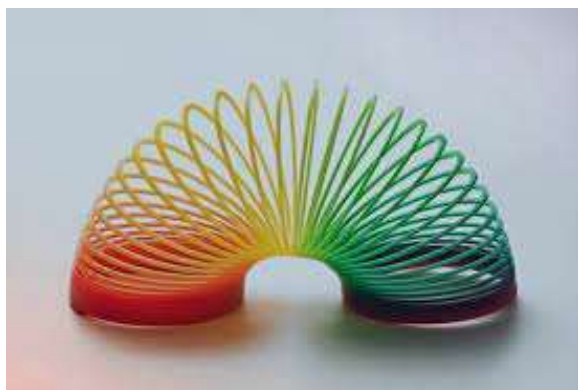
New strategies

**New call for
selection of
LAGs**

LEADER can contribute to all 9 new specific objectives of CAP post 2023



Philosophy of new CAP 2023-2027 (2)



Flexibility – the Member States have more scope for own decisions and they take more responsibility.

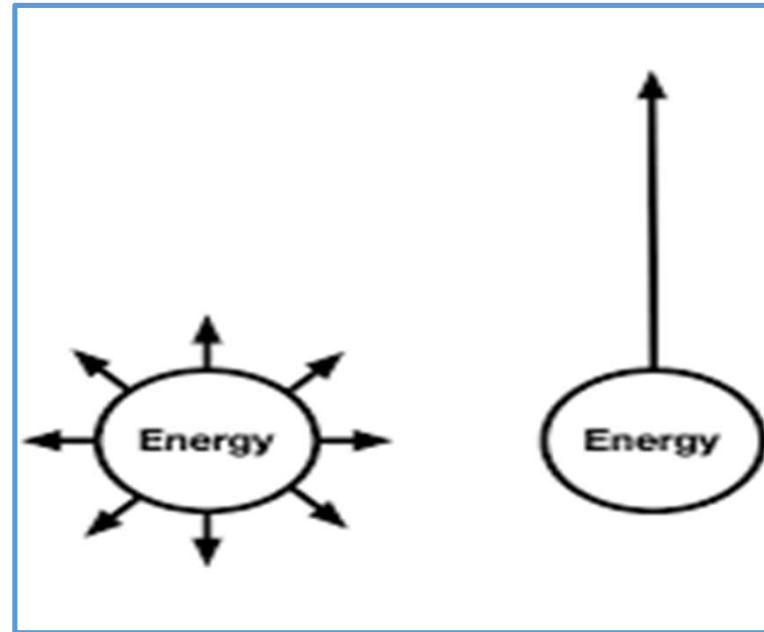


The results matter (indicators)

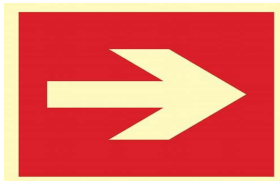


In the era of « almost unlimited options »...

“Essentialism is not about how to get more things done; it’s about how to get the right things done. It doesn’t mean just doing less for the sake of less either. It is about making the wisest possible investment of your time and energy in order to operate at our highest point of contribution by doing only what is essential.”

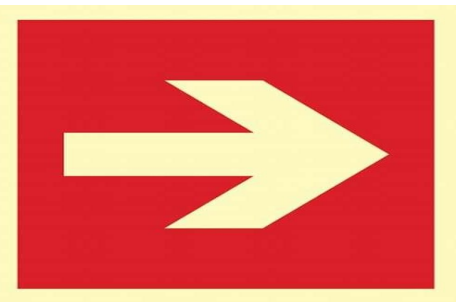


In the world of
« almost
unlimited
possibilities »



Direction:
added value of
LEADER
approach





**DIRECTION:
ADDED VALUE (1)
Role of Local Action Groups**

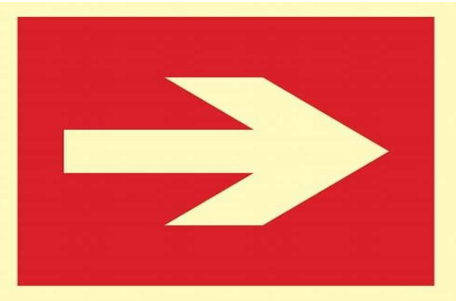


Increase of social capital in rural areas

Improvement of local governance

Better results and projects compared with the standard delivery mechanism

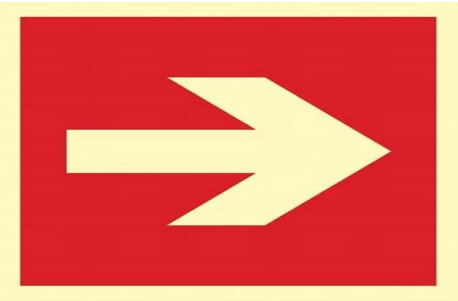
Context: EU Court of Auditors – European Commission – efficiency of EU expenditure



DIRECTION: ADDED VALUE OF LEADER (2) Role of Local Action Group



The social capital is understood a multidimensional concept, which includes features of social organisations such as networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. Social capital enables communities produce public and collective goods, encourages risks taking and innovations.

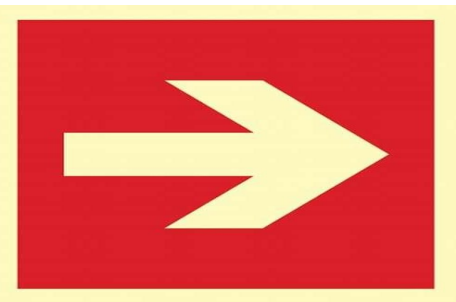


DIRECTION:
ADDED VALUE (3)

Role of Local Action Groups



Improved governance comprises the institutions, processes and mechanisms through which public, economic and civil society stakeholders articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences in order to manage public affairs at all levels in a collaborative manner.



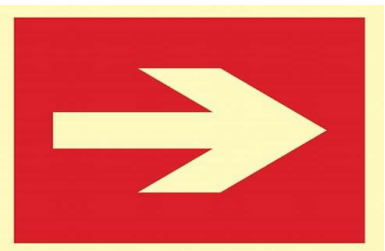
DIRECTION: LEADER ADDED VALUE (4) The role of Local Action Group



Better results / projects compared with intervention via standard delivery mechanism

Examples:

- Connections and synergies between projects on the same territory (eg. connecting « soft projects » and investment support, cooperation of a few projects for effects of scale)
- Synergies between projects from different sectors or between economic and environmental objectives;
- Innovations;
- Small projects meeting local needs, which would be difficult to be met via classical measures;
- Collective projects, projects with benefits for the whole community;
- Projects implemented by groups so far less active or excluded;
- Building the capacities of local community – animation eg specialist animation for particular for environment, climate change or digital economy.
- Value for money



DIRECTION: LEADER ADDED VALUE (4) Possible strategic orientation



Where territorial dimension matters ... (examples)

linkages with the EU strategies:

- Farm to Fork: local value chains, quality products, cooperation practices in the food chains, reducing food waste, healthy sustainable diets, etc.
- Biodiversity – restoration and protection of biodiversity (up to 30% of protected areas in Europe), increase of organics, planting trees, free flowing rivers, less pesticides – involvement of multiple actors
- Green Deal – renewable energy, green innovation (incl. recycling), bioeconomy, climate change friendly investments and practices (eg. energy efficient buildings), sustainable transport,

Smart villages – digital, social, multiple services, building resilience to crisis.



Still ... the roots are the most important – 7 principles of LEADER



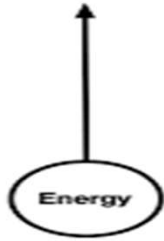
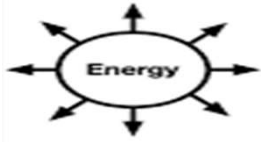
« Implementation of LEADER – self –assessment of Finnish LAGs (2017) «
(conducted by the European Network for Rural Development)

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/leader-resources_lag_survey_report_fi.pdf

Report: Finland (page 14) (note: small number of respondents)

Finnish LAGs are more positive about the extent to which they are able to implement various features of LEADER approach (as compared with the EU average in this survey) and see a need for taking up more innovation, cooperation projects and multi-sectoral approaches.

Finnish LAGs are strong in implementing partnership approach.



Key points for reflection for CAP Plans post 2023



Delivery model

Flexibility for the Member States

The delivery model to be conducive to LEADER method and its added value

Transparency

Administrative burden

Risks, innovations, controls

Simplified Costs Options

Animation: time for it

Communication of LAG

Any not productive tasks of LAGs to give up?

Which tasks are **essential** for LAG?

Local development strategies and projects

Quality first

Thematic approach?

Open or targeted?

Definition of territory: rural, urban linkages, functional

True vivid partnership through the process

Continuous innovation, networking, learning

Project selection criteria – quality of LAGs projects compared with classic measures

What is **essential** and creates added value?



Indicators



Obligatory for performance based framework

- Linked to payments;
- Two stage approach in CAP Plan:
 - First the Managing Authority sets a basic output and result indicator for Objective: Vibrant Rural Areas;
 - Bottom-up - the indicators/target are then updated and/or revised as a result of actually selected Local Development Strategies as linked with the CAP specific objectives

Optional:

- Indicators relating to the added value of LEADER approach?
(to be further developed)