



## EU approach to local development: LEADER and CLLD



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### First things first: 7 features of LEADER

- ✓ **Bottom up approach** – a local community defines the path
- ✓ **Area based** – it is on a defined local territory
- ✓ **Local partnership** – inclusive public-private group (Local Action Group (LAG))
- ✓ **A local strategy first** – for real impact
- ✓ **Networking** – LAGs learn from one another
- ✓ **Innovation at the local level** – doing new things or differently
- ✓ **Cooperation** – joint projects between Groups



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- Why do it at all?**  
**Added value of LEADER approach**
- **Improved social capital in the local area** - networks and trust between people – encourages cooperation, collective goods, risk taking and innovation
  - **Improved local governance** – institutions and process for articulation of interests, rights and needs and mediation of conflict or difference in cooperative manner
  - **Better quality of projects** as compared with centralised delivery (eg. more sustainable projects, jobs, better use of local resources, better links between projects, innovation, mobilisation of more local actors, value for money etc)



- **Obligatory:** LEADER local development **in each rural development programme** for each member state (at least 5% funding)
- **Voluntary** –multi-fund: using regional development, social funds and fishery funding (Community Led Local Development – CLLD)



## Some numbers on LEADER local development in the EU (2014-2022)

- 6.4% of EU rural development funding (8.3 billion EUR)
- 2,787 Local Action Groups active in the EU
- About 144,000 projects implemented so far (and growing)





## Looking a bit closer...

- Different models of LEADER implementation across Member States
- Mix of social, economic and environmental objectives
- LEADER projects – a wealth of areas:  
Small, community based, local products, short value chain, small tourism infrastructure, support to local businesses, local culture, environment, sport and cultural activities, services, social inclusion, education
- Issues – intangible contributions, links with other support available; quality of implementation of LEADER principles; administrative complexity



**Impact of LEADER** on sustainable development (2014-20): mostly on economic dimension so far (less on social and environmental); intangible contributions and local empowerment

[https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/lsg9\\_leader-evaluation\\_ccri\\_0.pdf](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/lsg9_leader-evaluation_ccri_0.pdf)

**Future of LEADER:** policy 2023-27 - continuation, emphasis on quality of 7 features of LEADER method and its added value, simplification (especially standard costs), LEADER getting smarter and younger; encouragement to take up digital and green transitions as in the EU Long Term Vision for Rural Areas

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/new-cap-2023-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/new-cap-2023-27_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas_en)

## More information?

### European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)

[https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld_en)



Publication : Pathways to LEADER  
[https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/enrd\\_publications/pathways-to-leader.pdf](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/enrd_publications/pathways-to-leader.pdf)

For countries outside the EU

