



LEADER/CLLD implementation in the EU

Conference "10 years LEADER/CLLD in Bulgaria"
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Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

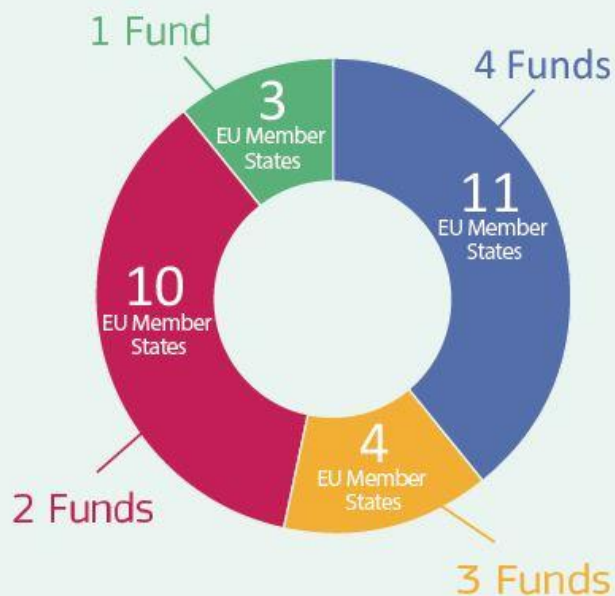
- *LEADER proved to be a successful method for involving local partners in shaping the development of their area, so the method was extended beyond rural areas*
- *From 2014 support under LEADER-type of actions is available under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund → this wider application is called CLLD*
- ***Applying the LEADER approach is mandatory only under EAFRD***

Advantages of CLLD

- *Since 2014 a single Local Development Strategy (LDS) can be supported by several EU Funds*
 - *Broader strategies, more funds available*
- *LAGs (rural, fisheries and urban) can fully explore the potential of the CLLD approach to integrate local needs and solutions*
 - *Flexible response to needs, mobilise all local potential*
- *LEADER-type support can be better coordinated with local development support from other EU funds and reinforce the links between rural and urban areas.*

General perspective on CLLD

ESI Funds involved in CLLD
(multi-funded or single-funded LAGs)



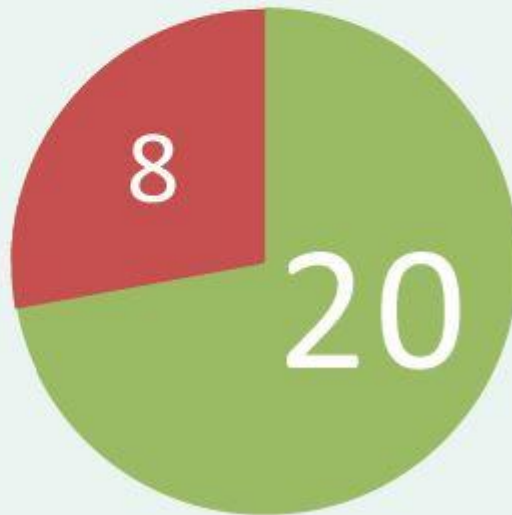
Category	Member State
EAFRD, ERDF, ESF & EMFF	BG, DE, ES, FR, GR, IT, PL, PT, RO, SE, UK
EAFRD, ERDF & ESF	CZ, HU
EAFRD, ERDF & EMFF	SI
EAFRD, ESF & EMFF	LT
EAFRD & EMFF	CY, DK, EE, FI, HR, IE, LV
EAFRD & ERDF	AT, NL, SK
Only EAFRD	BE, LU, MT

Multi-funded strategies across Europe

■ multi-funding allowed
■ not allowed

AT, BG, CZ, DE,
DK, ES, FI, FR,
GR, HU, IT, LT,
LV, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, UK

BE, CY,
EE, HR,
IE, LU,
MT, NL



Source: Partnership Agreements and MS information.

- *Mixed uptake of multifunded CLLD (EAFRD perspective): 2 DE regions, 3 IT, 2 UK, 3 FR (2 with ITIs); 0 ES; 0 FI (cooperation bw. Funds); HU ERDF/ESF; RO ERDF/ESF*
- *All 4 Funds used in Sweden (8 LAGs) and PL Kujawsko-Pomorskie (1 LAG)*
- ***ERDF/ESF/EAFRD (193 LAGs):***
Bulgaria, Czech Rep., DE Sachsen-Anhalt, PL Kujawsko-Pomorskie, PL Podlaskie, PT Centro, Sweden
- *CLLD in 108 RDPs, 32 ERDF OP, 25 ESF OPs (5 ERDF/ESF OPs)*
- *No of LAGs selected: LEADER monofund: >1989; EMFF monofund: 174; multi-funded (any funds): >277*

CLLD in figures

Total CLLD budget per fund (EU contribution Million €)



Total CLLD across ESI funds **9 119 M€**

Shares of CLLD budget per fund



*Data collection, control/enforcement and IWP measures aside.

Some features of LEADER programming

- **9 RDPs** – rural areas, coastal areas and small towns are all eligible for support
- **21 RDPs** – apply the lead-fund option, 18 of these use EAFRD
- **Various types of coordination between EAFRD and other funds** include common IT systems, demarcation, LAG coordination, special committees or other common structures
- **Coherence between the LDS, M16, M7 and other ESIF** is mostly ensured through special eligibility rules (35 RDPs) and at the level of the LAG (27 RDPs)

Some implementation challenges (related to programming & implementation)

- Coordination
 - *Role of funds; streamlined implementation systems (calls, procedures, IT, support to beneficiaries); streamlined rules; difficult to coordinate especially if no leading ministry or no political consensus on the purpose and set up of CLLD*
- Capacity building
 - *Necessary for new LAGs but dealing with several funds could be difficult also for experienced LAGs if not enough coordination*
 - *Necessary for all actors in the delivery chain, incl. MAs and PAs, to understand the substance of the approach and prepare procedures following to get the best out of it*

Some implementation challenges

(related to programming & implementation)

- *Unwillingness to delegate using CLLD under the ERDF and ESF*
 - *Modest uptake under ERDF and ESF (in 18 MSs, 1.8 billion for the two funds)*
- *Late start of programme implementation – late selection of (F)LAGs*
 - *Final date for selection is December 2017*
- *Relatively closed partnerships*
 - *Trap of a closed club for experienced LAGs*

Some implementation challenges (related to audit findings)

- Assessment of the reasonableness of costs
 - *RoC assessed at payment claim stage*
 - *No record from the assessment*
 - *3 offers not requested; too high thresholds*
- Selection criteria
 - *Inappropriate definitions;*
 - *Lack of ranking and scoring system due to a "First in, first out" application process*
 - *Applications submitted to a general vote rather than to a specific project-based vote*

Some implementation challenges (related to audit findings)

- *Insufficient supervision over the checks carried out by the LAGs*
- OSCs
 - *Payments made before the receipt of the OSC final report;*
 - *No specific guidelines on the approach for sampling*
- *Audit trail for administrative and OSCs*

Overall Context of Discussions on the Future of the



The future of LEADER/CLLD

- *Communication on the future of CAP to be issued by the end of the year*
- *Already some indications from the Cork 2.0 Declaration from 2016 and the Public consultation earlier this year*
- *Policy should be more beneficiary-oriented, more simple*
- *LEADER is recognised as a tool, its use should continue*
- *There is scope for improvement at all levels (EU, national, programme and local)*

Cork 2.0 Action Plan

- *Shift from compliance to result-orientation to be explored (one of the key conclusions from Cork 2.0)*
 - *Not obvious how this could work for LEADER/CLLD*
- *ENRD work on LEADER implementation, identifying lessons on what works and what needs to be improved*
- *Conference on CLLD organised by 4 ESIF DGs (Budapest, November 2017)*
- *Simplification: changing Regulations for wider application of SCO's and umbrella projects*

How to ensure a more efficient use of CLLD?

- Support **capacity-building** at all implementation levels
 - Raise awareness of specificities of CLLD for all players involved in CLLD: MAs, PAs, Audit Authorities, LAGs/ project promoters
- Clear **division of responsibilities**, avoid duplication
- Reduce **administrative burden** for all
 - Simplify procedures for public co-financing
 - Simplified procedures for small projects
 - Simplified cost options (small projects, running costs, etc.)
 - Speed of overall approval process and payments
 - Encourage advance payments (to LAGs and beneficiaries)
- Keep **additional rules** to necessary minimum
 - Avoid restrictions of eligibility which limits the capacity of the LAGs to respond to local needs and support innovation
- **Evaluate efficiency** of delivery systems



Thank you for your attention!