

# 2014-2020: State of LEADER/CLLD in rural-urban Hungary

*Pal Hajas Dr., President, LAG Cserhatalja, Kozard, Hungary  
Member of the European Rural Networks Assembly (Brussels)  
and the LEADER/CLLD Permanent Sub-Group  
(Part of this presentation reflects the views of the Hungarian  
LEADER Associations-LESZ)*

*International Conference: 10 years of LEADER in Bulgaria  
10-12 October 2017, Pravets, Bulgaria*



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# *LET'S START WITH a brief history of LEADER & CLLD in Hungary:*

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**LEADER & CLLD Conferenc, 22-25  
June 2015. Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
By Dr. Pal Hajas, Member of EU  
Rural Networks Assembly**

# ***Experimental LEADER, 2001-2004***

## **14 LEADER-type Communities formed**

- **Funded from National Ag. Funds,**
- **Communities led by selected municipalities,**
  - ✓ **Eco-social farms,**
  - ✓ **Youth communities**
  - ✓ **Train/Help roma population for food prod.**
  - ✓ **Helping families in remote areas: setting up village aid network**
- **Managed by: Ministry of Agriculture and RD**



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# ***LEADER+ in Hungary 2005-2007***

## **2005: 70 LAGs formed in LEADER+**

- Funded from Rural Dev. Funds,**
- LAGs: no legal entity status,**
- Managing body: selected local body (municipality, NGO or SME)**
- Managing Authority: Ministry of Agriculture and RD**



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# ***LEADER in Hungary 2007-2013***

## **Implementing:**

### **a) LEADER Axis (IV)**

### **b) RD axis (III) – 4 measures:**

- **Microentreprise dev.**
- **Tourism development**
- **Village development**
- **Preservation of rural heritage**



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# ***LEADER in Hungary 2007-2013***

## **Problems:**

- a) Rather cumbersome legal regulations**
- b) Highly buerocratic practice by the Paying Agency**



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# ***Expected plan 3 years ago: LEADER/CLLD in Hungary 2014-2020***

## **Promises in 2015-2016:**

- a) First calls for LEADER projects:  
end of 2015-early 2016.**
- b) CLLD groups to be formed in  
late 2015-early 2016.**



- # ***LEADER REALITY AFTER 3 YEARS:***
- ## ***103 LAGs approved, covering:***
- 3014 settlements;***
  - 3 885 165 inhabitants***
  - REAL IMPLEMENTATION IN DELAYS**
  - MANAGING AUTHORITY POSITION SHIFTED FROM MIN. OF AG. TO MINISTRY OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**
  - PAYING AGENCY CHANGED/REORGANIZED**

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# LAGs - The „mosts and leasts”

## The largest

- Population size:  
Felső-Bácska LAG (106 364 people)
- Number of settlements:  
Dél-Baranya LAG (88 settlements)

## The smallest

- Population:  
Csenger County LAG (13 802 people)
- Settlements:  
Szabadszállás Farmers LAG  
NAPKÖR LAG  
Kistelek és Környéke LAG (6-6 settlements)

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Source: Dr. D. Mezei, deputy state secretary, Managing Authority Hungary

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# ***CLLD Experiment in Hungary***

***Exclusive arrangements towards cities ONLY  
under Territorial OP***

***Original target: 30-40 cities***

***DG Regio limitation (ERDF, ESF)***

***Thematic limitation for cultural subjects***

***CLLD Managing Authority is separated from  
rural LAGs, located in the Ministry of  
National Economy***

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# Implementation of LEADER in HU

*Support for implementation of operations  
under the community-led „local development  
strategy” (LDS)*

**Budget: HUF 41,29 Billion/EUR133,35  
Million**

**103 LAGs/EUR 1,295 Million/LAG**

**Beneficiaries : non-profit organizations,  
local governments, SMEs (micro enterprise  
size)**

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Source: Dr. D. Mezei, deputy state  
secretary, Managing Authority Hungary

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# Implementation of LEADER in HU

*Main themes of LDSs and local projects:*

*Rural infrastructure, access to services*

*Agriculture, local food and production systems*

*Tourism development*

*Networks, cooperation, rural-urban linkages.*

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Source: Dr. D. Mezei, deputy state secretary, Managing Authority Hungary



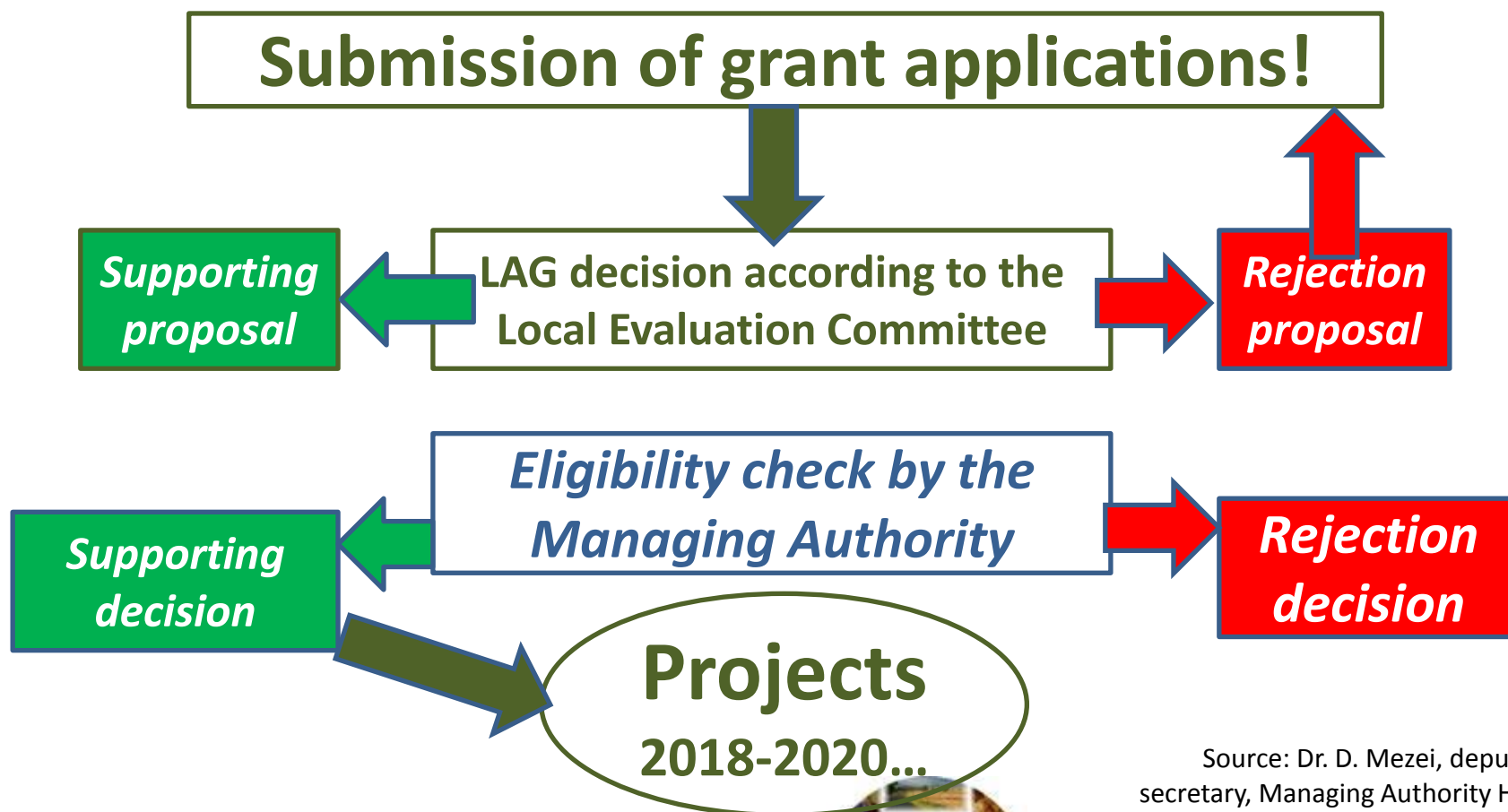
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# The HU-process of implementation

***Calls to go out until 31th of October, 2017***



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Source: Dr. D. Mezei, deputy state secretary, Managing Authority Hungary

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# Difficulties foreseen in implementation

## MA perspectives

### The paradox of LEADER approach

Autonomy of LEADER must be respected:  
MA could not interfere in the implementation of LDS, while:  
MA is responsible for everything at the end of the day...

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## LAG perspectives

MA seriously reduced rural LEADER funds

MA unprecedently delayed approval of

a) Running cost

b) Issuance of calls

c) TNC project calls



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# Solutions foreseen in implementation

## MA perspectives

### Possibilities for MA

Communication (NRN, conferences, workshops)

Coordination (regular training, guidelines)

Regulation of the implementation

## LAG perspectives

### Tasks for LAGs

Protect LEADER  
subsidiarity/autonomy

Conduct regular LAG  
information flow

Maintain partner  
contacts with MA+PA

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# Observations

*LAG Network is not really supported by the MA (ELARD membership cost not eligible...)  
ELARD membership and LAG representation gradually taken away from LAGs...*

*Now: Government delegates are in voting chair in ELARD instead of LAG people...*

*The reorganized NRN is distancing from rural stakeholders' problems...*

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# FUTURE?

## WHAT COULD WE EXPECT BEYOND 2020?

(BASED ON THE MESSAGE FROM DR. ISTVAN FINTA, PRESIDENT  
OF THE HUNGARIAN LAG NETWORK)

Preparation of the cohesion report is  
already underway at EU level, which  
serves as basis for post-2020 cohesion  
policy and regulation.

Base for successes of the past lies in key values  
of LEADER, >> key to success in future.

Source: Dr. I. Finta, President of the  
Hungarian LAG Network

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# FUTURE?

## *We MUST SAVE LEADER:*

- *emphasize LEADER values, distinctive features*
- *mediate towards decision-makers in order to incorporate them well into Community legislation.*

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# SAVE LEADER VALUES (1)

Network character, network operation

***Networking is a kind of co-operation at local, regional and national level, which can deliver a true territorial program, in addition to the much wider involvement of stakeholders, in point-and-field rather than isolated development. The LEADER method is the only one whose organizational structure is based on place-based approach.***

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Source: Dr. I. Finta, President of the  
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# SAVE LEADER VALUES (2)

## Complex approach

*A sector-based, fragmented development policy is unable to respond to local-territorial development needs that require complex interventions, simultaneously involving several sectors.*

*The vast majority of development needs require complex intervention and most notably LEADER / CLLD (LEADER) programme would be able to implement it.*

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# SAVE LEADER VALUES (3)

## Complex approach

*One of the biggest obstacles is a fund-based community development policy.*

*Justification of separate funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) has already been exceeded, or at least many arguments can be drawn up for a single Community fund based development than against it.*

*It is also probable that the bureaucracy in Brussels capable of creating fund-use discrepancies, hence it becomes the biggest counterbalancing of the pooling of funds and the creation of a single development fund (In Hungary a good example was to „prevent” CLLD from being widespread.)*

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# SAVE LEADER VALUES (4)

## Opportunity to mitigate territorial differences

*Sectoral OPs, at least in Hungary, have already proved their inability to contribute substantially to mitigating territorial differences.*

*Only the local-territorial, bottom-up (i.e. complex, approach-based) development can help the most disadvantaged areas.*

*This can be proved by the examination of regional processes at regional level. At present, the territorial basis for Community-level evaluation is the regional level, which can be proven unsuitable for presenting real territorial processes.*

*E.g. a large metropolis shows significant GDP, while the majority of regions and the countryside is lagging behind.*

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# SAVE LEADER VALUES (5)

*Collaboration between actors from different spheres*

***It is a traditional value and a distinctive feature to link the interests of public, civil and business spheres, and to show possible synergies. No sectoral program is able to do so.***

***LEADER does not separate but connects!***

***This particularity can play a major role in shaping relationship between urban and rural areas.***

***Shapes of LEADER organizational structure can greatly facilitate in improving urban-rural relations and increasing equal opportunities of access to public services when this method is widely used.***

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# SAVE LEADER VALUES (6)

Ensuring continuous presence

***LEADER method is the only one of which organizational structure is based on place-based approach.***

***One of the greatest values of LEADER development method is what cannot be included in any regulation. This value is the approach that is neither an official administration of an office apparatus, nor is it limited to the professional representation of a particular sector.***

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# SAVE LEADER VALUES (7)

*The successful LEADER program cannot be imagined without enthusiastic contributors*

*Their work is characterized by attentive helpfulness and tangible help.*

*These non-quantifiable, but decisive, emotional features ensure the recognition, legitimacy and appreciation of the LEADER development method. If, through well-founded reasons, it is possible to use this development method more widely, it can contribute to a more efficient use of Community resources and better achieve Community and national objectives.*

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**WELL, LET'S DO IT TOGETHER  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR  
EUROPEAN RURAL PEOPLE!**

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Contact: [hajas@cserhatalja.eu](mailto:hajas@cserhatalja.eu)  
(Fő ut 12, 3053 Kozárd, Hungary)**

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