



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS

LEADER TNC Estonia

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Facts about Estonia

- Area - 45 339 km²
- Population – 1, 3 million inhabitants
- 33 % of population is living in rural areas.
- More than 4000 villages
- Highest mountain 318 m above the sea level
- More than 1400 lakes
- More than 2000 islands of different sizes
- 2004 Estonia became the member of EU



Preparation for LEADER measure

South-Eastern Partnership Program 2000-2003

2000-2003 in framework of The Baltic Rural Partnerships Program for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (BRPP),

three partnerships were established in South-Eastern Estonia counties – Põlva, Valga and Võru. The Partnerships were functioning on the same principles as Local Action Groups.

Results:

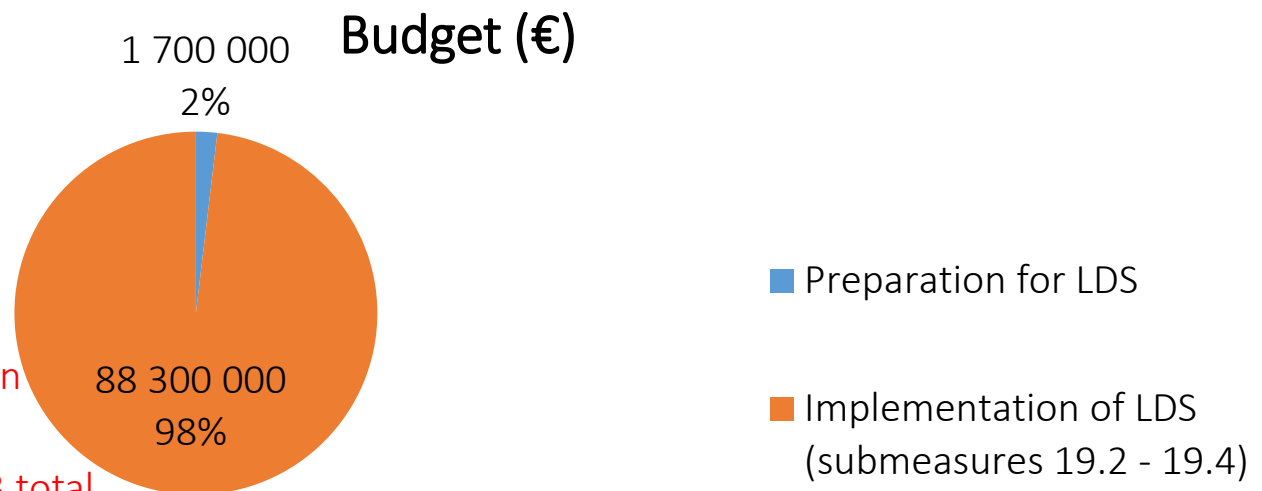
many very successful projects and activities were brought into life;

the concept of 'co-operation', involving all the relevant sectors for local development was born.



LEADER 2014-2020

Act 1305/2013 article	35 and 44
Measure number in RDP	19
Budget	90 million euros
Submeasures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19.1 – Support for preparation of Local Development Strategy (<i>LDS</i>)• 19.2 – Support for implementation of Local Development Strategy• 19.3 – Preparation and implementing of local action groups cooperation (LAG)• 19.4 – Support for running costs and animation costs



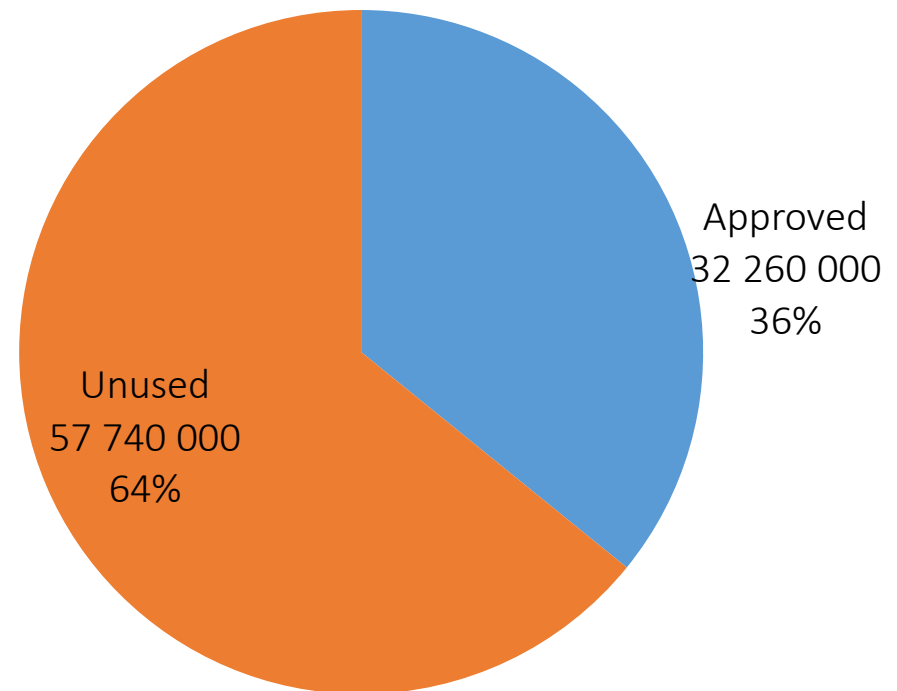
Support for running and animation costs shall not exceed 20% of submeasures (19.1, 19.2 and 19.3 total budget)

IMPLEMENTATION

- First call for applications for 19.1 took place in 2014 (to compile Local Development Strategy)
- The second call for applications was in November 2015 (eligibility of LAG and local development strategy)
- After the approval of Local Development Strategies calls for the LEADER projects has been announced by LAGs

36% of budget is in use (by
September 2017)

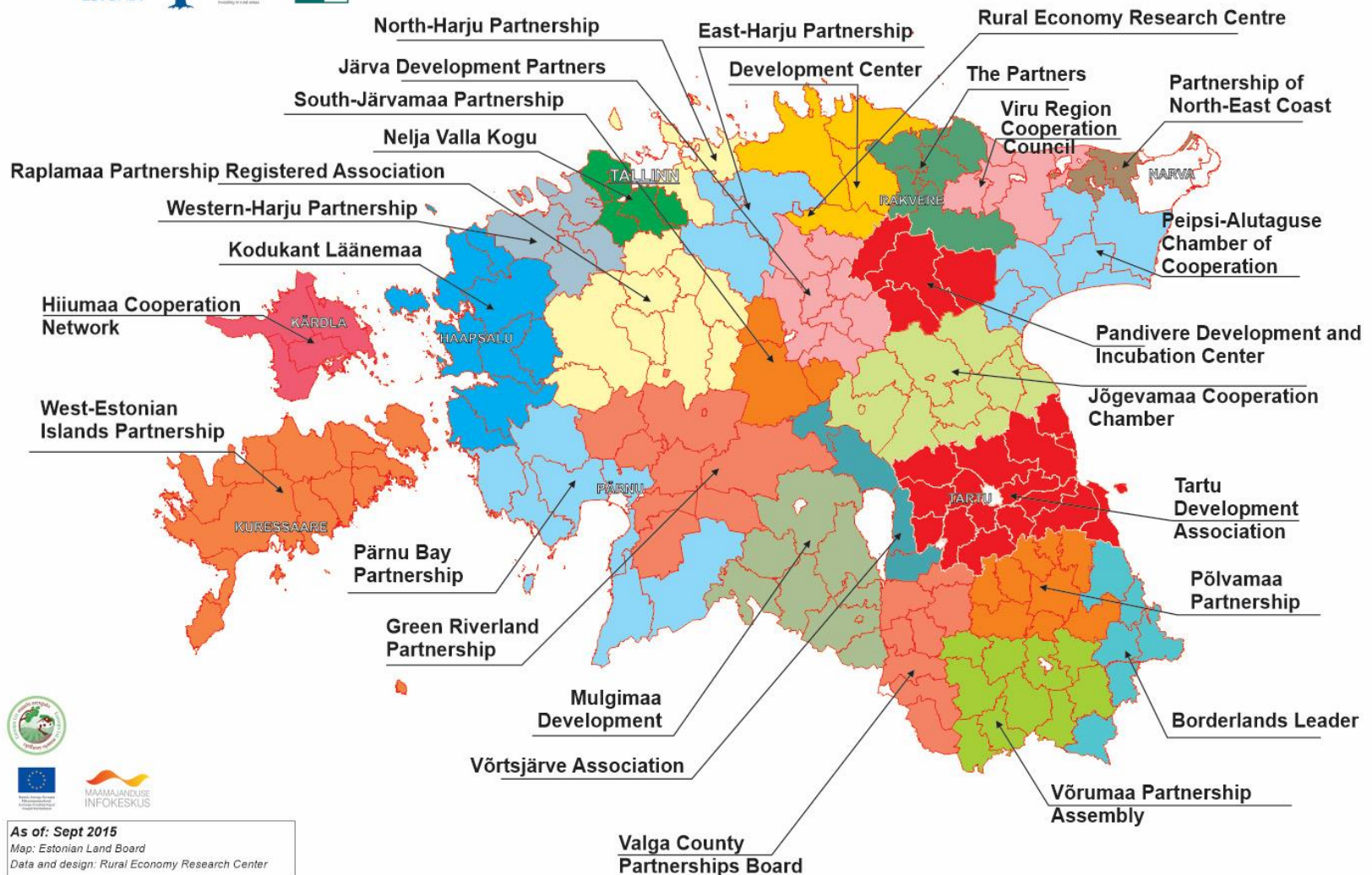
The status of implementation



MAP of LAG-s



LEADER ACTION GROUPS IN ESTONIA



Aim of LEADER measure for years 2014-2020.

...is **balanced development in rural areas** by using LEADER principles.

Specific objectives are:

- To improve the competitiveness of the entrepreneurs
- To promote social inclusion
- To better use area specific possibilities
- To find innovative solutions on local context
- To improve local governance through involving different actors.

Since when and how often TNC is open for applications?

- LAGs will specify their project ideas in their LDS
- The cooperation projects will firstly pass the General Assembly of the LAG
- The Paying Agency verifies the eligibility of the applications
- At least 2 LAG-s must participate
- LEADER/CLLD LAGs in European Union
- public-private partnerships that implement a local development strategy that aims at development of rural areas (within or outside the EU)

Eligible costs and activities

Co-operation projects are treated like other projects (19.2) (support may be given to make investments for example). This means that there are no specific restrictions on the eligible costs in the co-operation projects.

Eligible is the cost of the applicant.

Common principle is that LAG claims for support to his own eligible costs, also when the LAG pays the costs for hosting the partner (f. Ex. local transport for the co-operation partner at place).

If partners will have common cost such as common web-side, brochures then that is also eligible.

Different from ordinary projects (19.2)

- LAGs must submit **co-operation agreement** with the application,
- it is stated in the regulation that the LAG may not submit application for co-operation until last payment has been made for preparatory technical support in case if LAG uses **preparatory technical support**.

Deadlines

- Last co-operation project must be submitted not later than 31. December 2020.
- Duration of the project is maximum 3 years after PA have approved the project.

Approval of the co-operation project

- PA will approve the project within 60 days after the submission of the project to PA.
- Approval of a co-operation project does not depend on the fact that all the partners in other countries have approved the project. If not all the partners would not get the approval then LAG must change the project and partnership agreement.

Preparatory technical support

- **Duration – maximum 2 years**
- LAG demonstrates it is envisaging the implementation of a concrete project.
- Letter of Intent /agreement with the application, might be an e-mail: partners; objectives; activities and Plan for implementation

Number of TNC projects

- 2007-2013 - 28 TNC projects
- 2014-2020 - 8 TNC projects have started their activities where 11 LEADER groups in Estonia participate
- **Partners** from 6 countries: Finland, Latvia, Slovenia, Portugal, Czech Republic, Spain.
- **Topics** of the projects:
 - Culture (cooperation between music schools and small orchestras)
 - Sustainable tourism in National Parks /Nature reserves
 - Aquaculture, water tourism, nature protection
 - Rural entrepreneurship
 - Youth entrepreneurship
 - Youth inclusion in community life





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Thank you for your attention!

Ministry of Rural Affairs

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