

10 years LEADER approach in Bulgaria

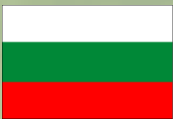
Association Bulgarian national LEADER network



Who we are?

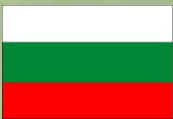
Bulgarian national LEADER network Association

- Established in 2012
- 41 members – LAGs from Bulgaria
- Main objectives:
 - Supporting the successful implementation of LDSs of LAGs in Bulgaria
 - Supporting the processes of formulation and implementation of the rural development policy at national, regional and local level
 - Achieving balanced and sustainable development and improving the quality of life
 - Exchange of good practices and successful international territorial cooperation



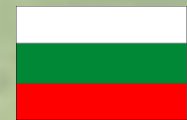
10th anniversary of LEADER in Bulgaria

- **Anniversaries are usually used for:**
 - Review and summarization of achievements, successes and problems of Bulgarian LAGs
 - Presenting the State of play at the moment in Bulgaria
 - Challenges and complications
 - Exploring opportunities for cooperation between LAGs in Europe
 - Planning the future



What was achieved?

- 35 LDSs successfully implemented 2007 – 2013
- Local communities have taken on the responsibility for deciding and designing their own living and working environment.
- Examples of supported local activities and good practices – during the visits on October, 12

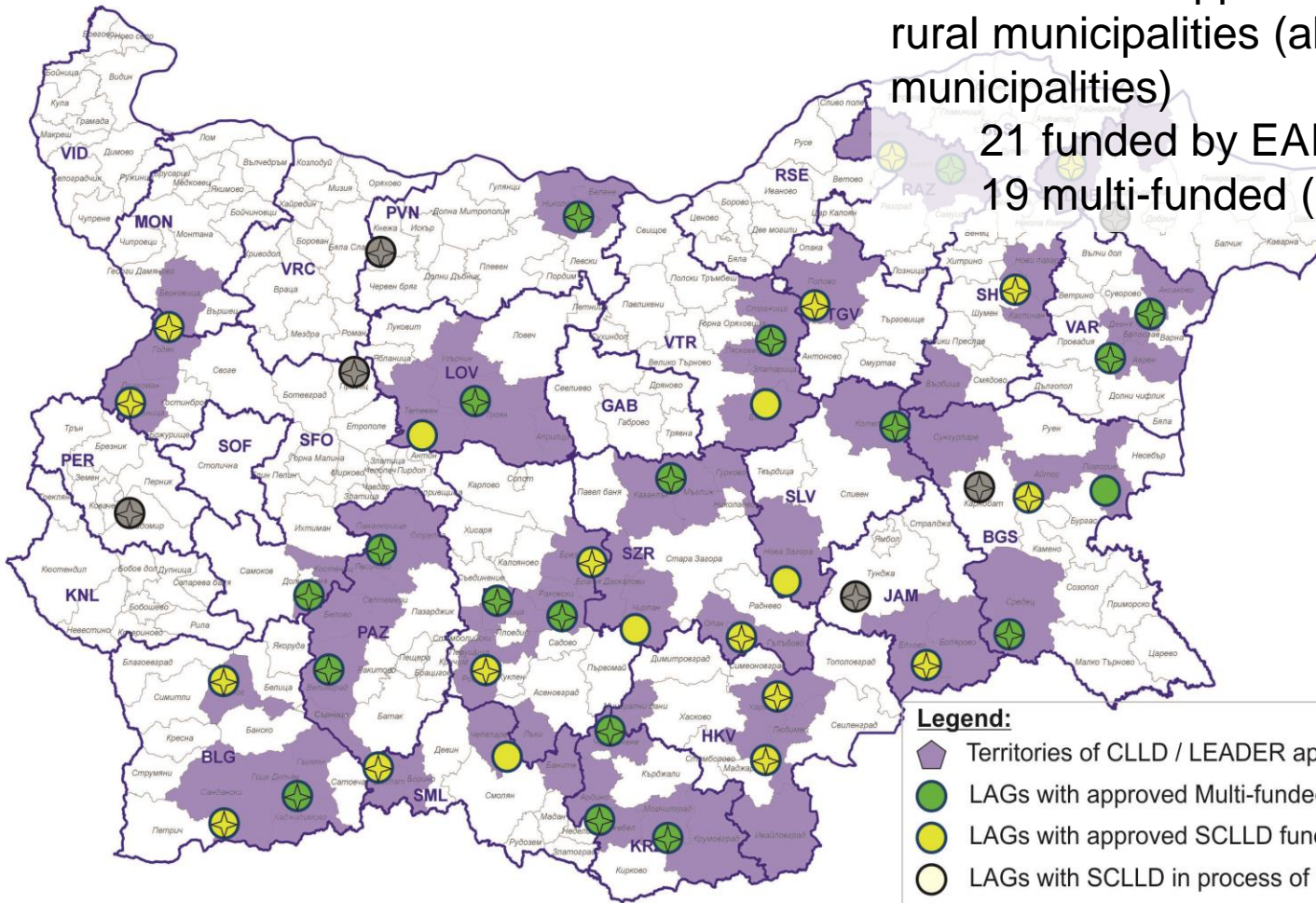


State of play at the moment in Bulgaria

40 LAGs with approved LDSs covering 74 rural municipalities (about 30 % of rural municipalities)

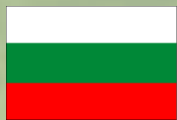
21 funded by EAFRD

19 multi-funded (EAFRD, ESF, EFRD)



Legend:

- Territories of CLLD / LEADER approach (2017, October)
- LAGs with approved Multi-funded Strategies for CLLD
- LAGs with approved SCLLD funded by EAFRD
- LAGs with SCLLD in process of evaluation
- LAGs members of the Association Bulgarian national LEADER network



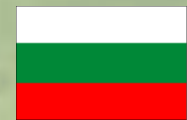
LEADER / CLLD approach in the present:

Positive development

- Increased funding for LEADER/ CLLD during the period 2014 – 2020
- Provided opportunity for multi-funded LDSs
- Introduction of IT tool for implementation of LDSs

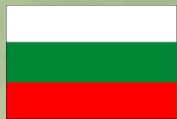
Challenges

- Over bureaucratized and over regulated system and rules and additional requirements at national level
- LAGs and the beneficiaries are focused on the compliance with all requirements and details of the costs rather than on sustainable results
- Problems with financing of the costs for animation and functioning of LAGs



Support for transnational cooperation between LAGs

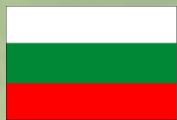
- Transnational cooperation – effective tool for rural development
- Bulgarian LEADER network supports successful international territorial cooperation through:
 - Participation of the Association in organisations and forums at European level
 - Searching for partners and establishing of partnerships with other LAGs and organisations
- Challenges:
 - Better synchronization of rules, calls and approval of TNC projects



Planning the future

- Need to improve the efficiency of LEADER/CLLD and need of changes in implementing the approach
- The implementation framework for LEADER/CLLD should support the implementation of the principles of the approach
- Sound financial management, discipline and control is needed.
- ***But* the over bureaucratized and over regulated system** need to be simplified to led the LAGs be focused on sustainable and long-term results for **integrated and effective development of rural areas.**
- The rules, guidelines, evaluation and IT systems have to be developed:
 - first – with the **wide participation** of LAGs and local communities
 - second – to be **ready before the beginning of implementation** of strategies.

⇒ **The Tartu Declaration: Renewing LEADER/CLLD for 2020+**



Hope to work together to grow together!

Thank you for your attention!

