



# Assessing the added value of LEADER/CLLD: insight into the guidelines

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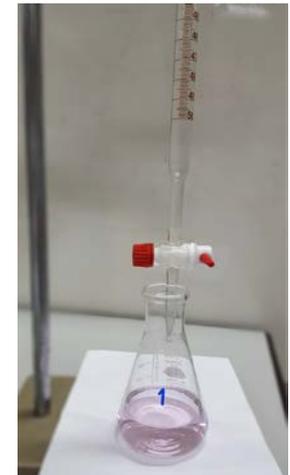
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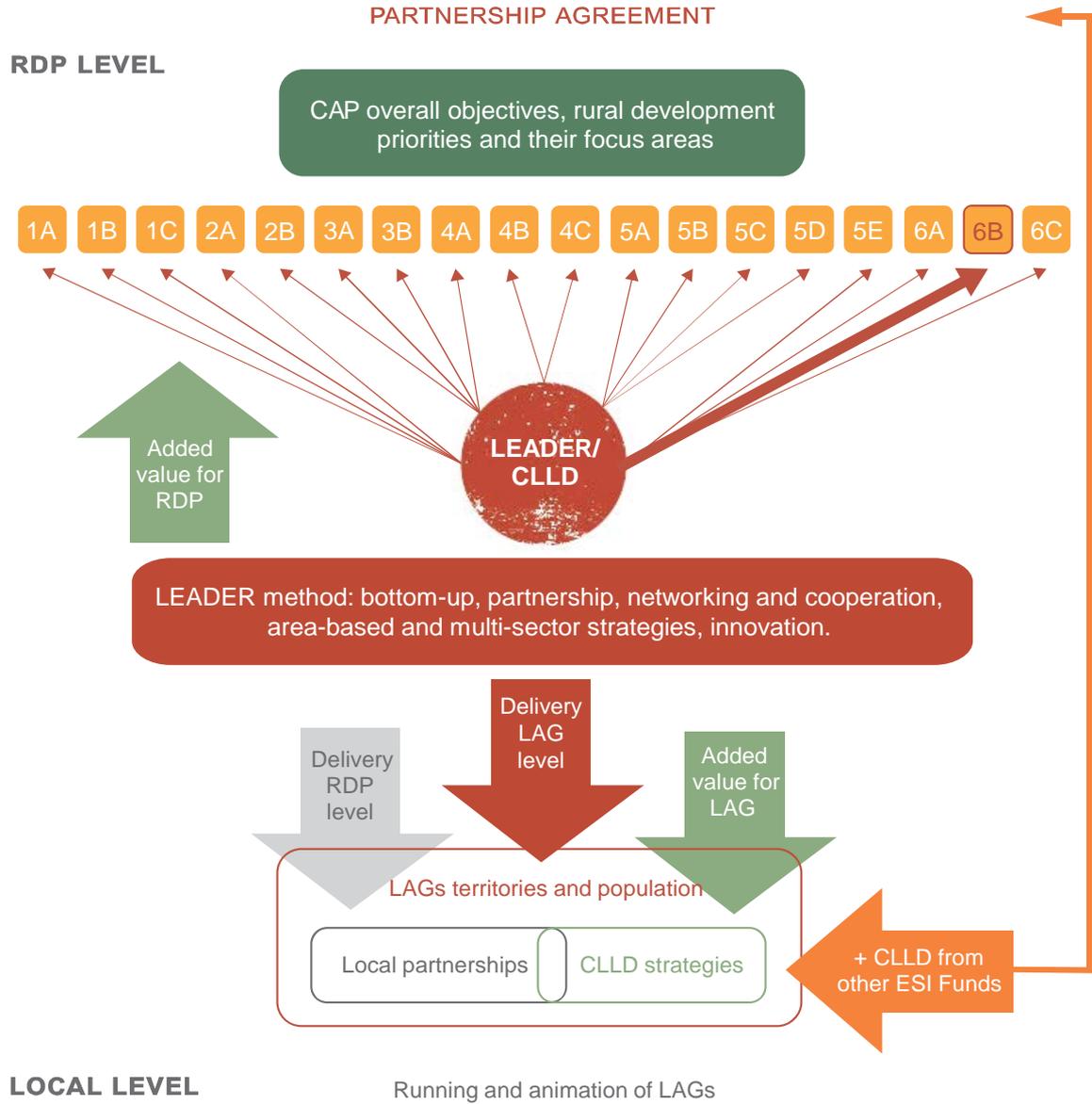
# The challenge

- By default the evaluator's task is to assess the observed changes induced by an intervention (government decision, development programme or measure etc.) against the counterfactual: the changes which would have occurred anyway (in the absence of such intervention).
- The decentralised approach of LEADER/CLLD requires investing into the institutional and operational foundations in order to make the LEADER approach function, resulting in higher transaction cost per project funded.
- The higher investment has to be justified by additional added value generated among target populations and in the society at large.
- This is what the added value of LEADER/CLLD is all about.
- The evaluator of Measure 19 has to find ways to “titrate” this added value.





# Concept of LEADER/CLLD evaluation



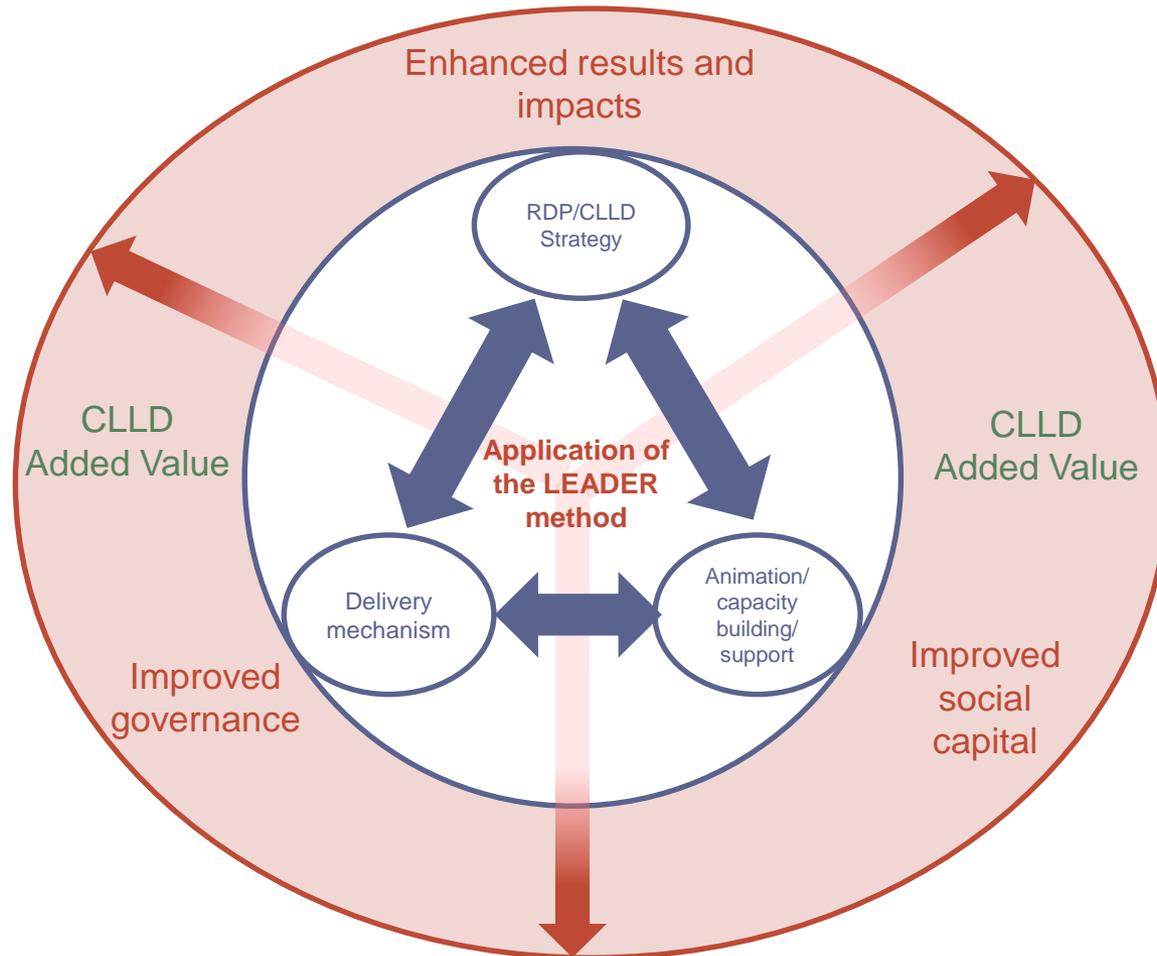


# The concept (theory of change)

- In order to search for the added value where it actually could be found, we need an idea of the purpose behind the LEADER/CLLD approach, in our terms a theory of change.
- It has been over the last 26 years that the current theory of change has evolved and it will certainly keep evolving. But there is a considerable treasure of experiences and learning which have helped understand what we and our forerunners have done and keep doing while applying the LEADER/CLLD approach.
- Concepts of multilevel and local governance, social capital etc. which have been created and thoroughly discussed over the last decades help us in this endeavor.
- The LEADER/CLLD Guidelines stipulate that the LEADER added value manifests itself (and should be assessed) in three dimensions: (i) Social capital, (ii) Governance and (iii) Enhanced results and impacts.



# The concept in a nutshell





# The assessment of improved governance....



- ...mainly focuses on the delivery mechanism which is ensured by the institutional arrangements (structures and processes) within and across levels.

•....should elucidate to which extent and in which ways the institutional arrangements helped bring forth a more need-oriented, transparent and targeted development support, as well as better policy coordination.





# The assessment of improved social capital...



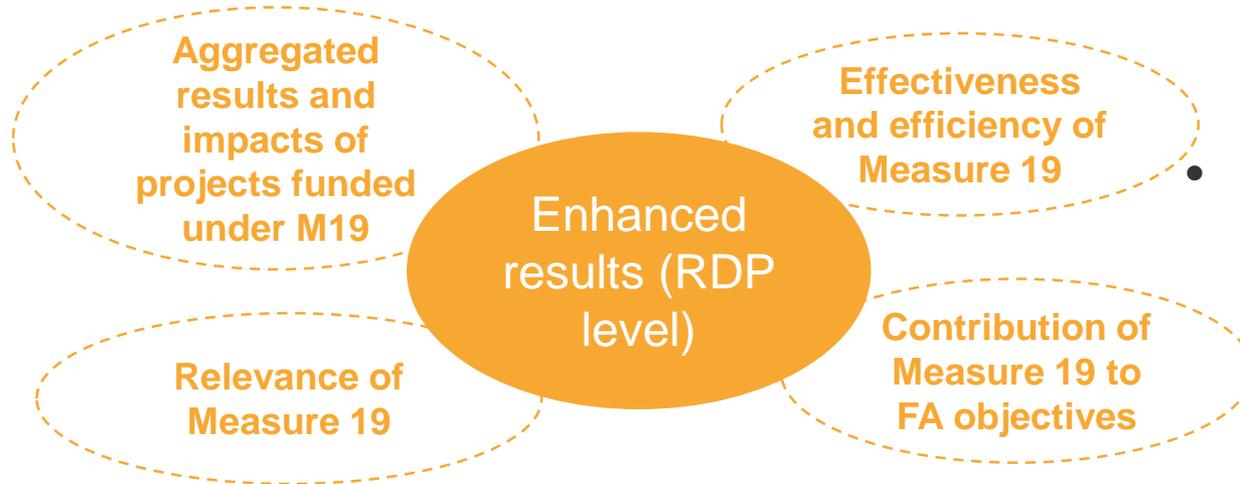
- ....should elucidate to which extent and in which ways the enacted animation, information, dialogue and learning processes helped empower institutional stakeholders as well as local people, and how they may have contributed to the vibrancy, cohesiveness and adaptive capacities of the rural society.

- ...mainly focuses on the capacity building and animation provisions and actions.



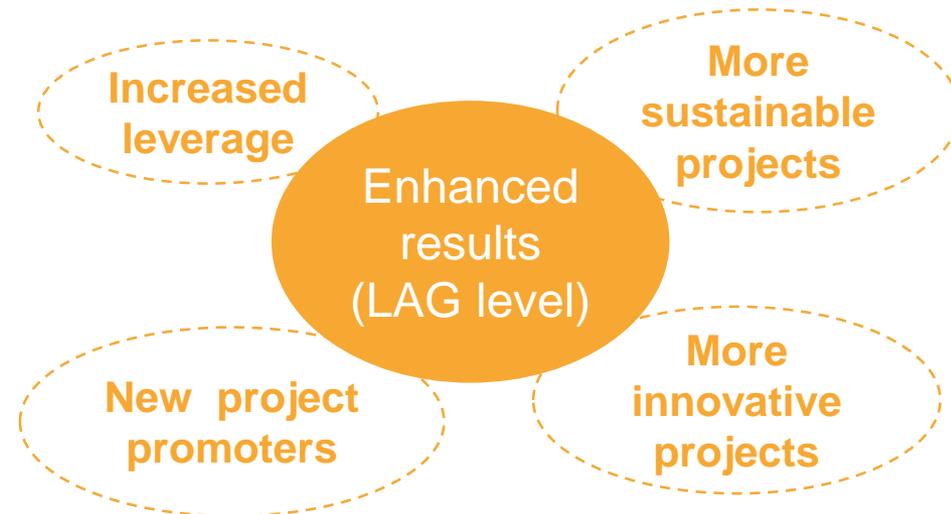


# The assessment of enhanced results and impacts...



• ...mainly focuses on the realised local development strategies.

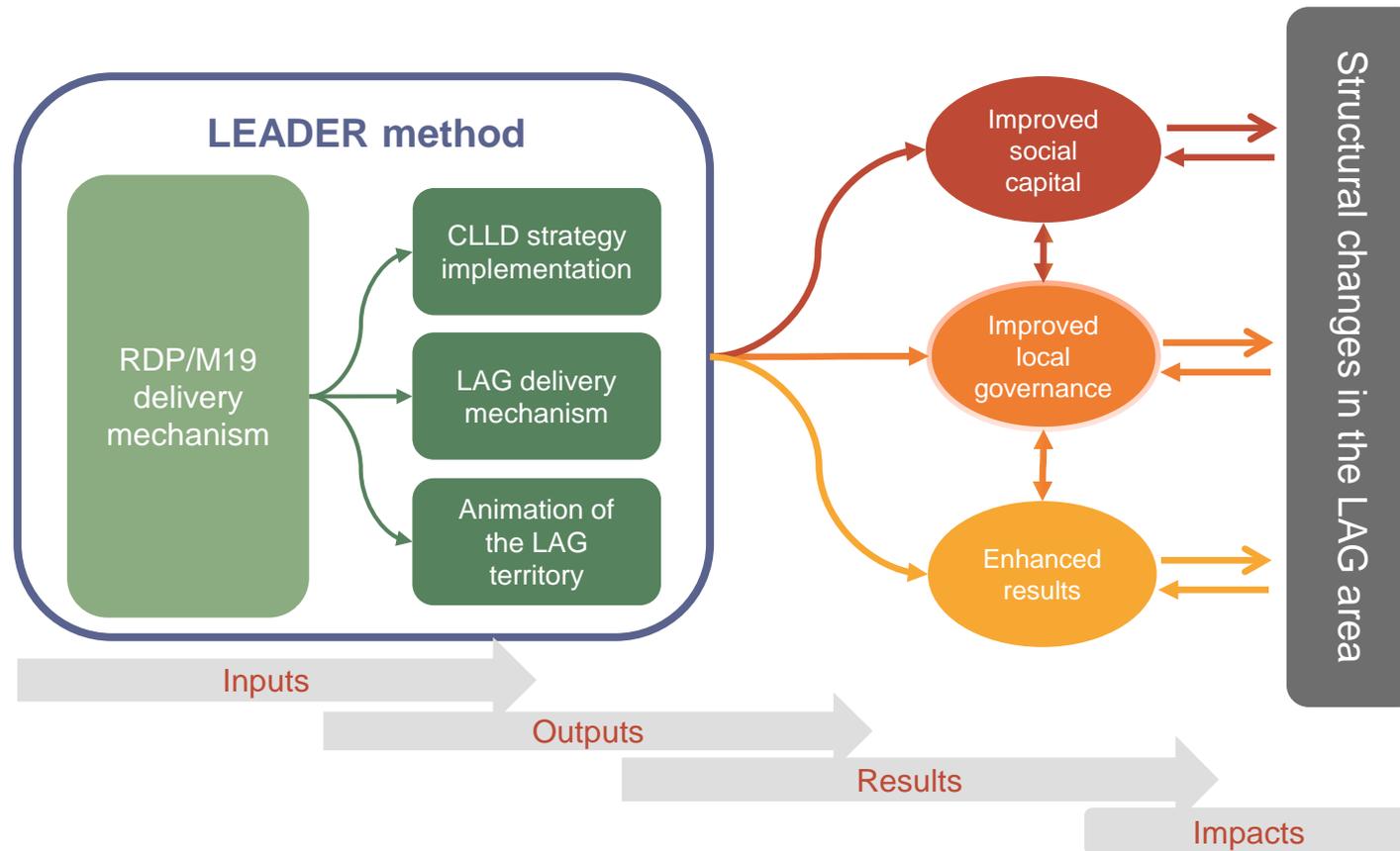
•....should elucidate to which extent and in which ways the projects funded in accordance with the Local Development Strategies produced additional effects and impacts as compared to projects funded without applying the LEADER/CLLD method.





The two levels (RDP/LAG) and the three dimensions are cross-linked

## ..... cLLD added value





## The assessment of LEADER/CLLD added value...

- ...specifically when it comes to assessing enhanced results and impacts....
- ... is in many cases not feasible on the basis of real counterfactuals....
- ...which means that hypothetical counterfactuals could be constructed through abductive\* reasoning and conversational methods of truth finding.

*\*Abductive reasoning allows inferring A as an explanation of B  
(Charles Sanders Peirce)*



# Thank you for your attention!

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