

# Planned improvements in LEADER planning and implementation in Austria

lessons learned, new challenges

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## Lesson learned

# High quality LDS

- Emphasis on **SWOT-analysis** as foundation for LDS
- **Focus** on few themes/topics
- Specified **aims** and measurable **indicators** for each theme/topic
- Description of **all decision taking processes** (including avoiding conflict of interests)
- Clear and non-discriminating **project selection criteria**
- LDS becomes **more binding** for any decision regarding the LAG (projects implemented, budget allocation, etc.)
- Possibility to **adapt LDS**
- Compulsory **monitoring** tool on LDS level and project level
- Seminars provided on SWOT-analysis and monitoring



## Lesson learned

# Enhanced integrated approach

- Make efforts to integrate **people from all societies and backgrounds** in LAG work
- **Compulsory quota** for female members in the project selection board
- **Bonus system** in LDS selection (e.g. composition of LAG, action plan)
- Seminars provided on horizontal topics (e.g. gender mainstreaming)



## New challenge

# Improved LDS selection

- **2-step** selection process (feedback round)
- **budget allocation per LAG** including review process (achievement of targets)
- **LDS selection board** with several managing authorities (CLLD)
- **Selection criteria**
  - eligibility criteria
  - quality criteria (benchmark has to be reached)



## Lesson learned

# More LAG autonomy

- Budget per LAG
- LAG proposes aid intensity for projects
- Strong link to LDS

## New challenge

# More LAG responsibility

- Finance management
- Strong link to LDS
- Compulsory monitoring on LDS and project level



## Lesson learned

# Professional LAG management

- Clearer description of **tasks**
- More **responsibility** (finance management, LDS targets, etc.)
- Minimum of **1,5 persons** (60h) directly employed by LAG
- **No double-job holders** as LAG managers (exceptions only in agreement with LAG)
- More focus on **animation** (potential project applicants )



## New challenge

# Possibilities for simplification

### ▪ Small projects

- lump sums up to 5.700 EUR per project
- only available for non-profit organisations/NGOs
- only up to 10% of LAG budget

### ▪ LAG management

- lump sum for office expenses (rent, ICT, etc.)
- calculation will be based on experience





## New challenge

# Advanced territorial cooperation

### ▪ Formal cooperation

- ERDF and EAFRD select all LDS together (on programme level)
- Implementation of CLLD regions (on regional level)

### ▪ Non-formal cooperation

- rural development network (incl. EIP-network)





# Thank you for your attendance!

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