

Програма  
за развитие на  
селските райони  
(2007-2013)  
Министерство на  
земеделieto и  
храните



Европейски  
земеделски фонд  
за развитие  
на селските райони:  
„Европа инвестира  
в селските райони“



# Implementation of LEADER in Bulgaria

*Varna,*

*9-12 June 2014*

## General information about LEADER in Bulgaria

### **Managing Authority – Ministry of Agriculture and Food/Rural Development Directorate**

Main responsibilities: Developing the legal framework related to the implementation of measures under Axis 4 LEADER of the RDP; approval of the Local Development Strategies and Local Action Groups; control and monitoring of implementation of Axis 4.

### **Paying Agency – State Fund Agriculture**

Main responsibilities: Approval and authorization of all payments under Axis 4 of RDP.

### **Local Action Groups**

Main responsibilities: Development and implementation of Local Development Strategies; pre-selection of the projects for funding from the LDS; implementation of the promotional activities, publicity, support beneficiaries, etc.

## General information about LEADER in Bulgaria

**Total budget allocated for LADER approach in Bulgaria – 77 mln. €**

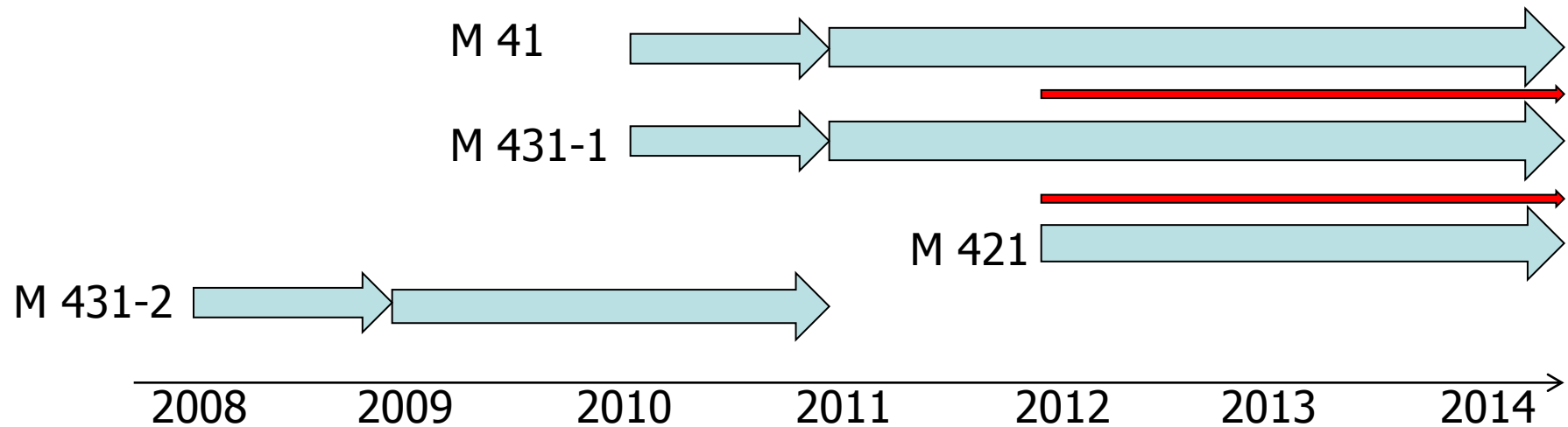
Budget breakdown by measures:

M 41 Implementation of the local development strategies – 54 mln. €

M 421 Inter-territorial and trans-national cooperation – 5 mln. €

M 431 Running costs, acquisition of skills and animation – 18 mln. €

## Timeline of implementation of LEADER in Bulgaria



## Preparatory support 2007 - 2013

### Why?

- New approach unknown for the communities in the rural areas
- Absence of information and skills of potential beneficiaries concerning LEADER implementation
- Absence of administrative capacity at local level for implementation of LEADER
- Absence of resources to support LEADER start-up (stuff, offices, equipment, etc.)

### Results?

- ✓ Increased awareness in 60 % of the local communities in the rural areas about the possibilities, which the LEADER approach provides;
- ✓ Trained 11 446 people;
- ✓ 90 potential LAGs offices equipped and staff trained.

## Preparatory support 2007 - 2013

### Interest in implementation of Sub-measure 431-2:

Number of applications received: **136**

Number of Municipalities in the Rural Areas included in the potential LAGs submitted the applications: **181** (78% of the Municipalities in the Rural Areas)

Number of Municipalities in the Rural Areas included in the approved potential LAGs: **157** (68% of the Municipalities in the Rural Areas)

Number of Municipalities in the Rural Areas successfully implemented their projects: **137** (60% of the Municipalities in the Rural Areas)

**Total covered area: > 64 000 sq. km.**

**Total covered population > 2.2 mln people**

## Implementation of Measure 41 and Sub-Measure 431-1

To calls for applications for financing under measure 41 "Implementation of the Strategies for local development" and sub- measure 431-1 " Administration of the LAG, acquirement of skills and receiving social activity"

First – January – August 2010

- 55 applications were received, 50 out of them were submitted by beneficiaries under Sub-Measure 431-2.
- 16 LAGS were approved with a total budget of 31,5 mln. €.
- 14 LAGs were beneficiaries of Sub-Measure 431-2.

Second – October – November 2011

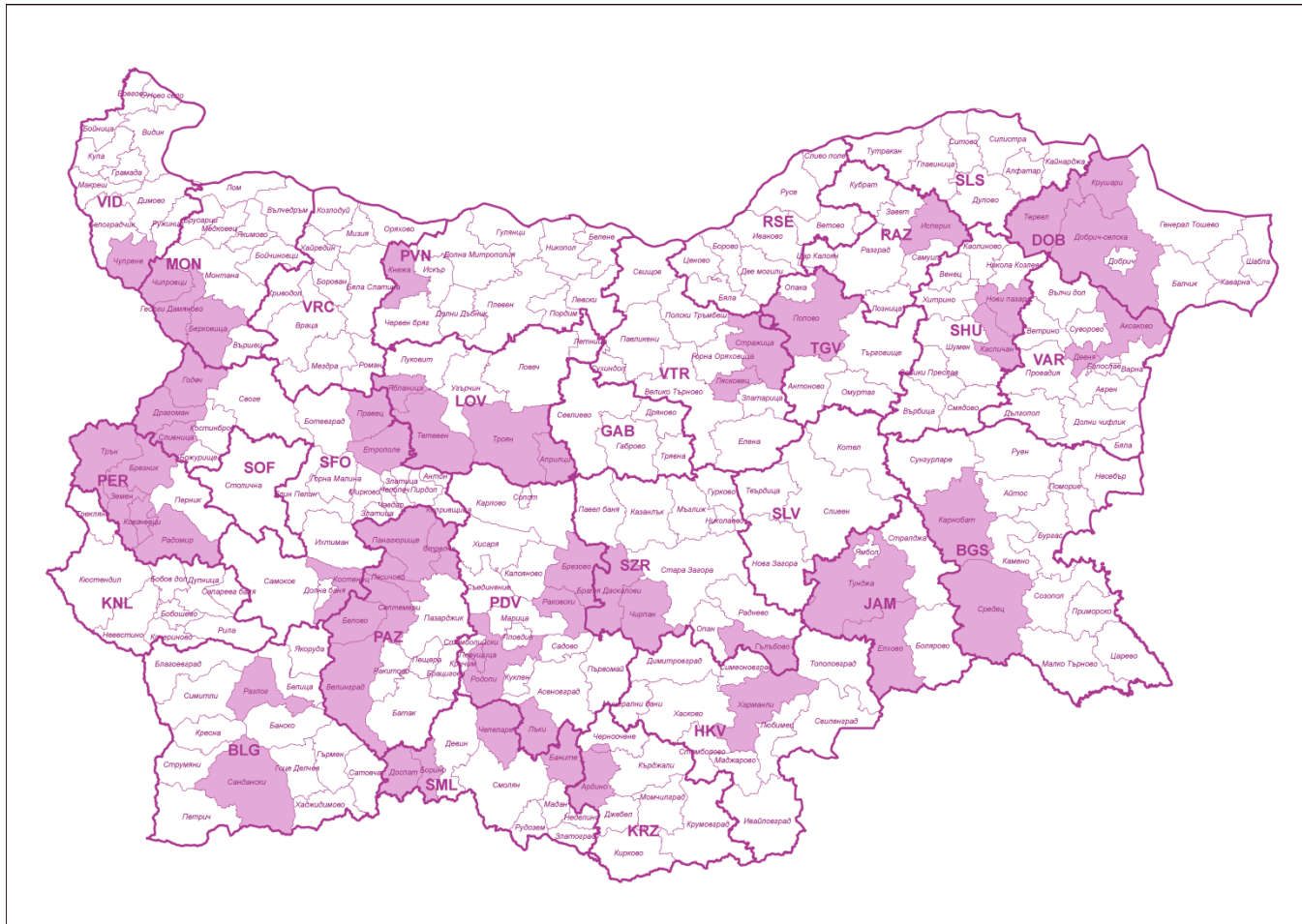
- 71 applications were received, 68 out of them were submitted by beneficiaries under Sub-Measure 431-2.
- 19 LAGs were approved with a total budget of 34,2mln. €.
- All the 19 approved LAGs have been beneficiaries under Sub-Measure 431-2.

## Implementation of Measure 41 and Sub-Measure 431-1

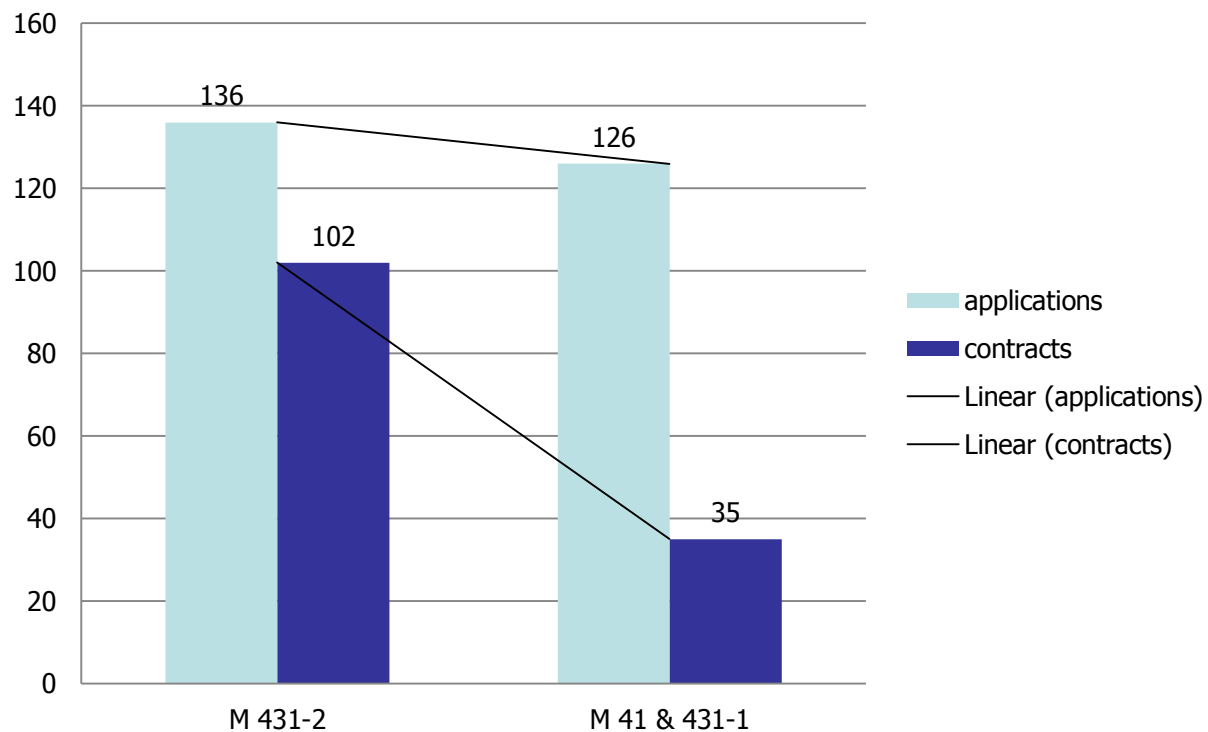
1. Total approved LAG – 35;
2. Total amount of the contracted and absorbed budget - 70 mln. € (98 % from the budgets of the measures 41 and 431);
3. Total covered area by the LEADER approach – 25 800 square km. – 23% of the country and 29% of the rural areas;
4. Total population covered by LEADER approach – over 800 000 people;
5. Total number of municipalities in rural areas – 57.



# Implementation of Measure 41 and Sub-Measure 431-1



## Bottleneck effect



## Bottleneck effect

### Reasons?

- ✓ Limited budget
- ✓ LAGs mainly are formed by one (18 LAGs) and 2 (12 LAGs) municipalities

### Negative effects:

- ✓ Weak sustainability of the results achieved under preparatory measure
- ✓ Less covered area and population
- ✓ Disappointment of communities without financing of LDS

## Measure 421 “Interterritorial and transnational cooperation”

Three calls for proposals: 34 applications were received estimated at 2,5 mln. €

Approved: 22

Contracted: 12 (5 contracts to be signed)

Crucial points:

- Very useful tool for development of the local communities
- Registered high level of interest by LAGs
- Difficulties in implementation due to different administrative procedures in the different countries
- Complicated administrative procedures at national level
- The interest decreased as LAGs experienced the administrative troubles
- Some of the approved applications were canceled by the beneficiaries

## Conclusions by stages of implementation

### At the beginning:

- difficulties with persuasion of the local people in LEADER positive effect;
- lack of administrative capacity in local communities to implement LEADER.

### During the implementation:

- Successful implementation of LEADER depends on the smooth interaction between all organizations included: Managing Authority, Paying Agency, Local Action Groups, Local people. Any fluctuation in the cooperation between the stakeholders has negative effect on the overall implementation.
- Too complicated administrative procedures are inconsistent with the LEADER spirit.

### Conclusion:

- LEADER aroused great interest amongst the local communities and they recognized it as an instrument for development of their territories.

## Community-Led Local Development 2014 - 2020

How to get better than 2007 – 2013 and to avoid negative effects?

Separate measure 19 of the RDP

Four Sub-Measures:

19.1 Support for preparatory activities

19.2 Implementation of operations under CLLD LDS

19.3 Support for transnational and interterritorial co-operation activities

19.4 Running costs and animation

# Preparatory support

## WHY?

- ✓ Preparatory support is essential for the actual implementation of LEADER in a streamlined and optimized manner (bottlenecks, weak points, risks, etc. could be detected at early stage and overcome)
- ✓ Preparatory support activities encourage and motivate local communities
- ✓ Preparatory support allows all communities (even those not familiar with LEADER) to benefit from LEADER

## WHAT IS NEW?

- ✓ Duration 6 – 12 months
- ✓ Minimum project amount – EUR 10 000
- ✓ Maximum project amount – EUR 40 000

## Implementation of operations under LDS

- ✓ Increased budget – 129 mln. € (50 mln. € more)
- ✓ Encouraging LAGs to be formed by more than one municipality
  - ✓ < 15 000 inhabitants – up to 1 mln. €
  - ✓ > 15 000 inhabitants – up to 2 mln. €
- ✓ Simplification of the administrative procedures
- ✓ Shortening the periods of selection of LAGs
- ✓ Providing opportunity LAGs to benefit from different funds: EAFRD, ESF, EFRR, EMFF
- ✓ Providing maximum time for implementation of LDS



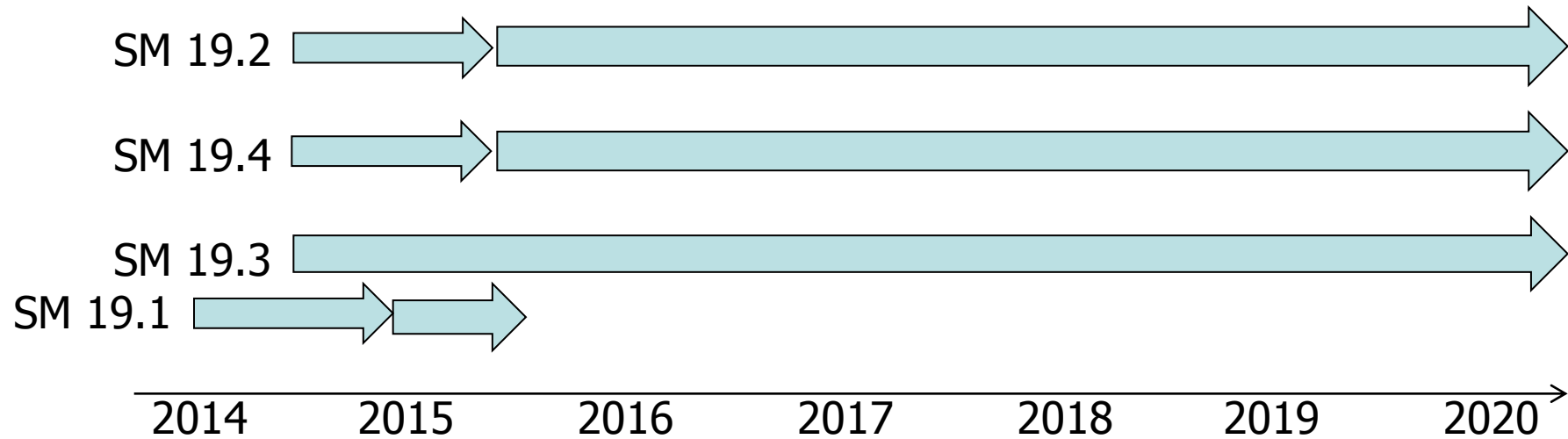
## Transnational and inter-territorial co-operation activities

- ✓ Increased budget – 7,5 mln. € (2,5 mln. € more)
- ✓ Ensuring of sustainability of the results achieved in 2007 – 2013 period
- ✓ Simplification of the administrative procedures
- ✓ Supporting innovative projects with high added value to the local communities

## Running costs and promoting the CLLD LDS

- Increased share of the running costs – up to 25% of the LDS
- Advance payment – up to 50%
- Providing more flexibility and independency for LAGs to operate
- Cost effective control

## Timetable of implementation of CLLD in Bulgaria



# GOALS

- ✓ Wider coverage of the communities in the rural areas – at least double than for the period 2007 – 2013
- ✓ Higher number of approved LAGs - 60
- ✓ Achieving greater impact of CLLD implementation for the rural areas

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (2007–2013)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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