



The Finnish LEADER model and reflections on the future

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Management of CLLD: Division of tasks between
authorities and local action groups

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Finland: the most rural country in the EU

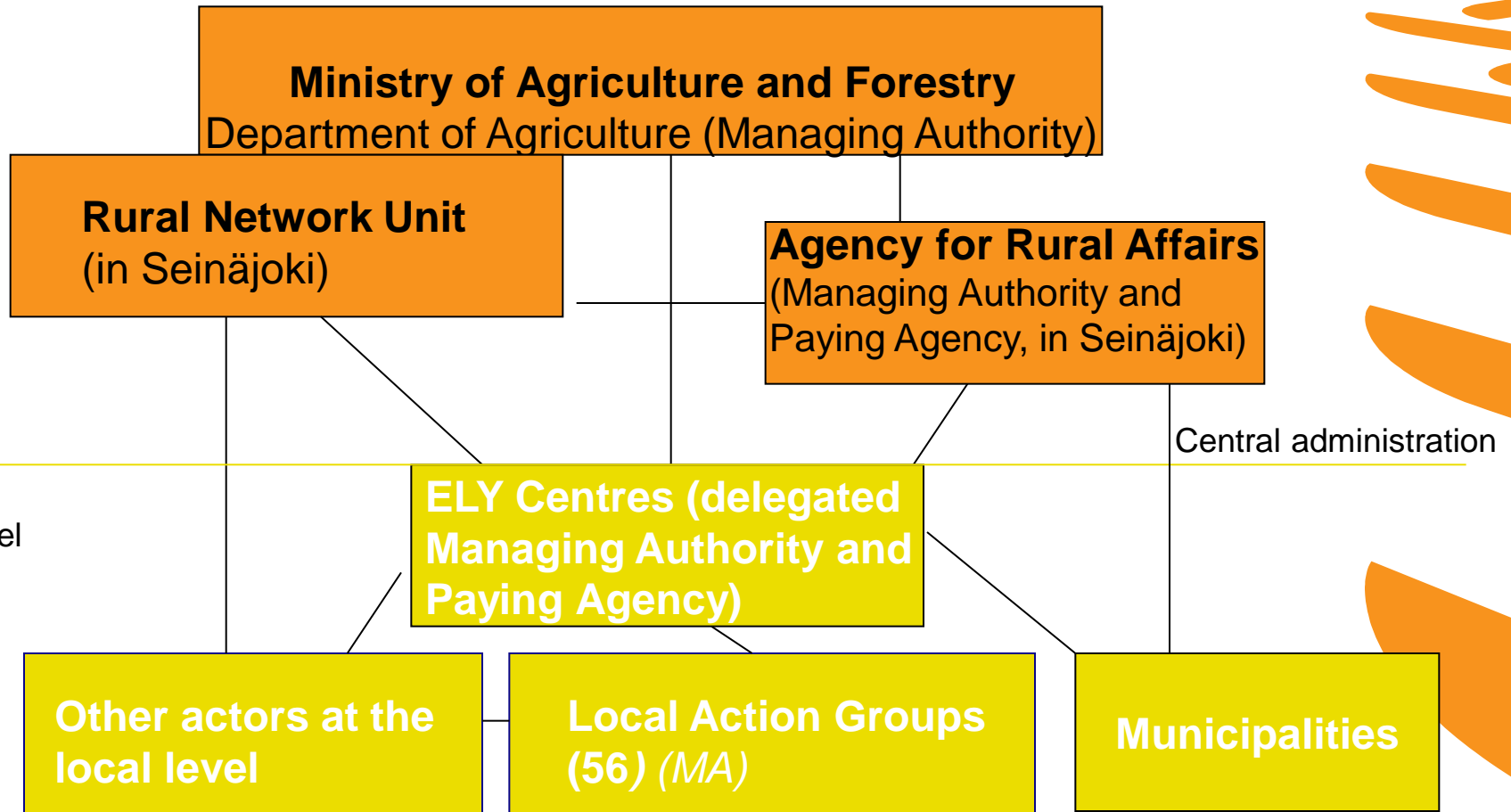


LEADER: The phases of mainstreaming

<u>Time</u>	<u>Forms</u>	<u>Area</u>
• 1996	22 LEADER II groups	1/3 of rural areas
• 1997	26 Pomo groups	1/3 of rural areas
• 2001	25 LEADER+ groups	almost 40% of rural areas
• 2001-2002	26 Alma or Objective 1 groups	almost 50% of rural areas
• 2001	7 Pomo+ groups	about 10% of rural areas
• 2002-2006	58 LAGs	almost all rural areas, only 6 rural municipalities outside
• 2007-2013	55+1 LAGs	All rural areas covered by LAGs. RDPs' for Mainland Finland Åland Islands

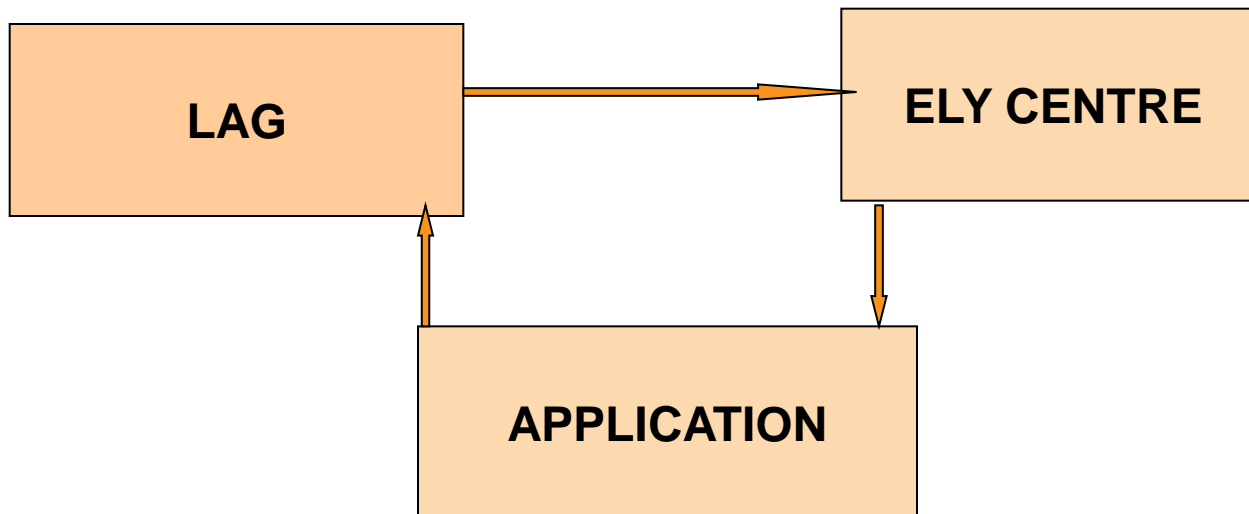
and

Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland 2007-2013, Actors



Decision making procedure in LEADER: a simple picture

- A double-layered decision making procedure: statement of approval from a LEADER group is needed for the decision making at the ELY Centre



A LAG's duty is to advise the applicant and check the application, while the ELY Centre conducts the legal verification

LEADER LAG in Finland, approximately

- 7 municipalities / LAG area
- 45 000 inhabitants / LAG area (14 500 - 95 000)
- 1.5-2 people working in the office of a LAG
- Public funding 2.5 - 6.8 m Euros / LAG,
Private funding 35% of the total funding

Finnish principles for LEADER/LAGs are

- Members in the board of the LAG:
 - 1/3 representatives of municipalities
 - 1/3 local associations and enterprises
 - 1/3 rural inhabitants
- National public funding: municipalities of the LAG area must cover 20% of total public financing
- All rural areas covered by LEADER methodology
- LEADER is used in all axes of RDP

Mainland Finland: results in 2007-2012

- 55 groups, 15 000 members in the associations
- 6 400 projects (55% development projects, 45% aid for enterprises)
- Funds committed 88.6 mill. Euros (79% of the financial framework, excl. axis 2)
- 400 new jobs (50% for women)
- 560 new enterprises
- 900 village plans
- 42 000 participants in information and activation meetings
- Social capital has increased
- LAGs have activated local inhabitants and they have found lots of new ideas

Problems in 2007-2012

- Lack of resources in the LAG offices
- Some rules do not fit to the world of development: fear of the 3% sanction causes feeling of doubt and mistrust
- Tasks between MA - PA - control: the decision is made three times!
- Enough national bureaucracy
- Double work between the regional authority and the LAG
- Indicators do not describe the LEADER method properly
- Again: the transition period

Possible solutions

- Simplification is really needed at every level
- The roles of MA, PA and controls should be clarified, especially between the decision making and payment
- Sound management of public funding is important, but at all levels we should do whatever we can to respect the features of the LEADER approach to really make the added value of the LEADER come true.

LEADER is an efficient method

- LEADER has been mainstreamed in rural areas - next steps?
- LEADER should go beyond rural development - it could also succeed in urban areas, social and employment actions, etc.
- LEADER should reach still new groups of people to maintain openness
- LEADER should focus on issues where it is the strongest

Possible multi-fund actions? ^{1/2}

Sub-group on local development of the working group on EU's structural and regional policy 2014+

- Prepares a proposal for a governance model, selection criteria, role and tasks, and selection committee of the local action groups and development strategies
- Examines the criteria for the allocation of funds to local development and their impacts
- Chairs: Ministry of Employment and the Economy and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,
 - participants from different ministries, regional authorities, ELARD

Possible multi-fund actions? 2/2

- The sub-group has proposed that in 2014-2020 local development should be introduced in all regions and all funds on the basis of local development strategies and action groups
- Political decision has not been made, so the outcome of the preparation of the multi-fund approach is not clear as yet

Timetable ^{1/2}

- It has been important to initiate the planning of the local development strategies at the local level before specific instructions:
 - to deepen cooperation between all actors
 - to analyse the region: SWOT ->targets, resources. Opportunities of the multi-fund approach?
 - operating area?

Timetable ^{2/2}

- Very first drafts of the local development strategies in the EAFRD by 15 of October 2012 -> just to get local impulses to the RDP 2014-2020
- Actual period for applying starts in January 2013?
- Multi-step LAG selection procedure will be used

More information on the Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland 2007-2013:

www.rural.fi

*Thank you for
your interest!*

