



# Expectations and reality of the LEADER delivery in Poland: the challenges ahead



Brussels, 11th of October, 2012

# History 2004-2006

- First edition- LEADER type measure as a separate measure of Sectoral Operational Programme (SOP) 2004-2006 designed only to create LAGs and support some basic LAG activities under LDS

**149 LAGs established – 40% of eligible area covered**

**Population -7 million inhabitants**

**Total budget - 13,2 MEUR, 180 000 EUR per LDS**

- Currently second edition – first „real” LEADER  
**336 LAGs – over 90% of eligible area covered**

**Population - 18 milion inhabitants**

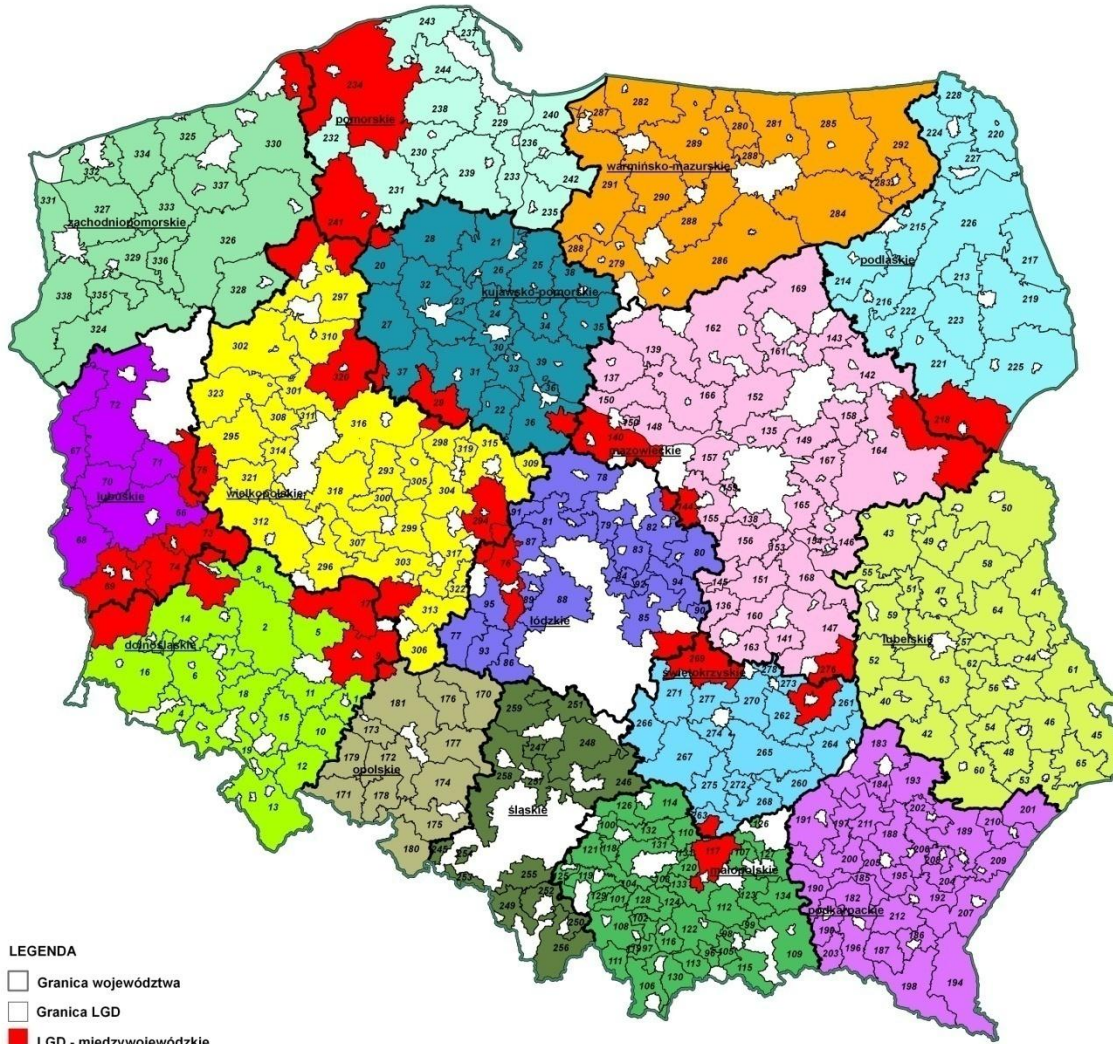
**Total budget - 781,5 MEUR**

**Average size – 40 000 – 50 000 inhabitants**

**Budget – average: 1,5 MEUR per LDS, maximum: 5.5 MEUR)**



# LAGs in Poland



# Results achieved so far

- 15 000 project so far implemented (double no of applications)
- 2700 innovative projects (according to LAG definition)
- 50% of fund already contracted
- 1-8 employees per LAG
- 16 million participants of LAG information events
- 126 000 local leaders trained by LAG
- 29 000 potential applicants benefited from LAG advisory services and 7 000 applied for aid (central monitoring started at the end of 2010)



# Challenges concerning wide geographical coverage

## ■ LDS quality and its diversity

- approach to selection process
- tourism development as LDS main objective (about 85%)

## ■ Critical mass and identity of the area

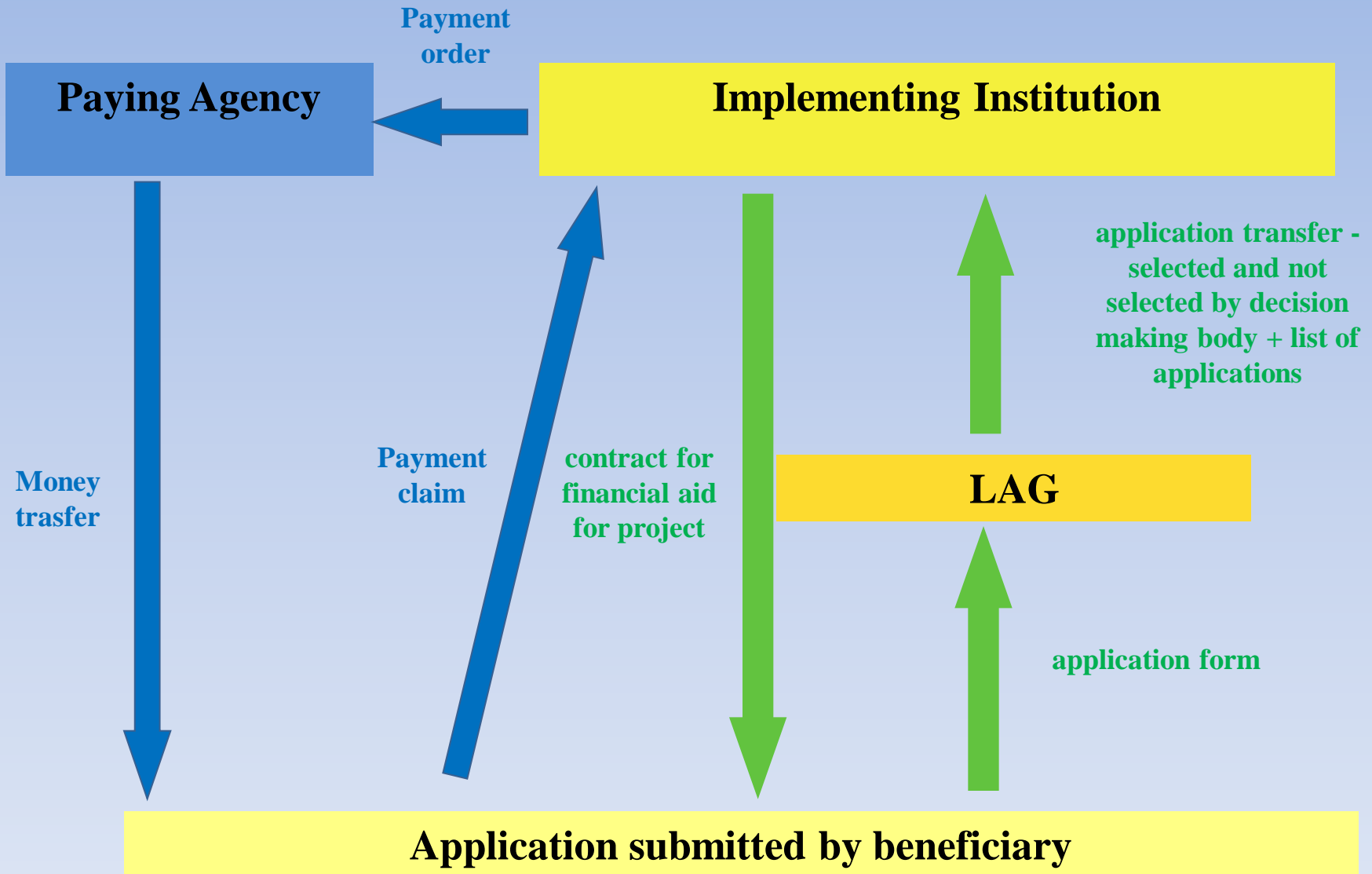
- optimal size and budget

## ■ Logistics and coordination

- One programme and one MA versus 336 LAGs



# Polish implementation model



# Assessment of current delivery approach

- Implementation system – the same for all RDP measures with LAG as additional institution
- Task division – not clear
- Small scale projects – simple idea with complicated implementation (administrative bottlenecks, financial rules)
- Financial system – reimbursement rule, bank guarantees, bank loans, LAG liquidity
- Role of LAG – limited capacity and expertise to be leader in the area



# Role of institutions – first ideas for the future

- LAG - animator, manager (formal checks and selection according to LDS), project promotor, grant distributor (umbrella projects - microgranting)
- Paying Agency – payment tasks
- Implementing institution – main partner for LAG
  - Participates in LAG selection
  - Implements cooperation measure
  - Deals with running and animation costs
  - Approves umbrella projects
  - Verifies payment claims

Still discussion on the division of tasks between LAG and implementing body in the process of application verifications (eligibility checks, signing contracts, control performance) – the question of costs and capacity building





# Planning process for 2014-2020

- **Focus group on LEADER approach** consisting of representatives of LAGs from 16 regions (since January 2010)
- **External evaluation of LAGs – ideas for future**
  - Size of LAG (optimal between 50 000 and 120 000 but more important is coherence)
  - Role of local authorities (the smaller LAG the bigger influence)
  - No parallel implementation (via and outside LAG)
  - Flexible approach to selection of LDS themes by LAGs
  - LDS budget – not based only on per capita calculation
- **Draft sample LDS to collect idea on scope of support, role of LAG, multifund approach**
- **Working group on rural development in multifund context**



# Thanks for your attention



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