

European Rural Networks' Assembly

LEADER Sub-group

LEADER – support activities and lessons learnt

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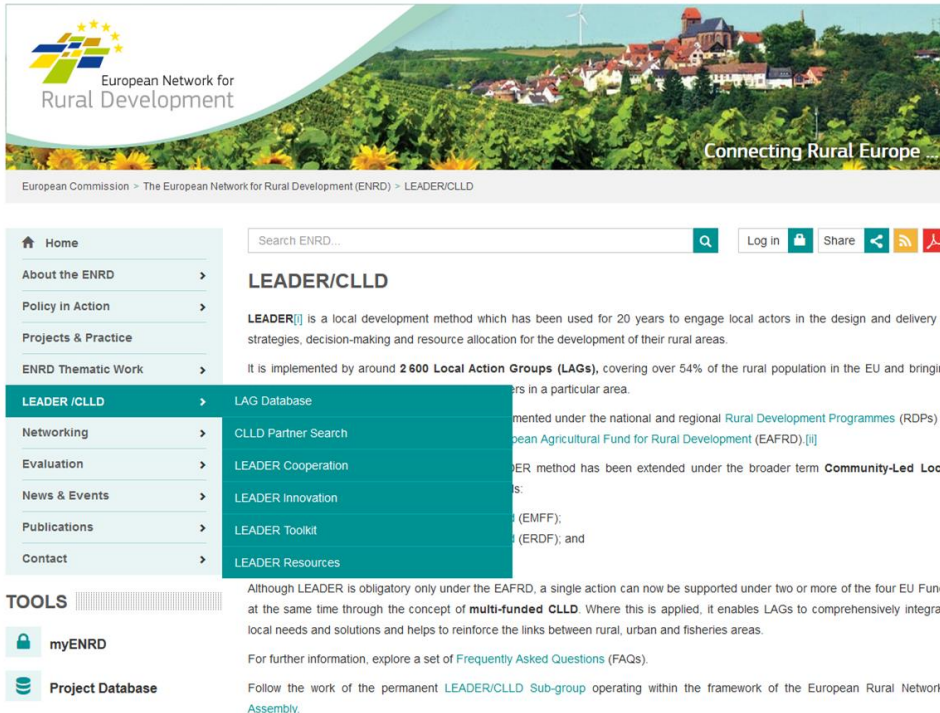
#LeaderCLLD

Brussels – 4 February 2020

Contents outline

- ENRD CP support to LEADER
- State of play – transnational cooperation
- Information sources
- Lessons learnt / recommendations
- Recurring themes

ENRD support to LEADER



The screenshot shows the ENRD website interface. At the top, there is a banner with the ENRD logo and the text 'Connecting Rural Europe'. Below the banner, a navigation menu on the left lists various sections: Home, About the ENRD, Policy in Action, Projects & Practice, ENRD Thematic Work, LEADER /CLLD (highlighted), Networking, Evaluation, News & Events, Publications, and Contact. The main content area is titled 'LEADER/CLLD' and contains introductory text about LEADER as a local development method. A search bar and social media icons are visible at the top of the content area. Below the main text, there is a 'TOOLS' section with links to 'myENRD' and 'Project Database'.

- Analytical, methodological, and thematic work
- LAG Database & CLLD Partner Search
- Capacity building activities
- LEADER resources
- Networking and knowledge exchange at EU and MSs level
- Collection of good practices
- Events

LEADER Resources – continuous updates

European Commission > The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) > LEADER/CLLD > LEADER Resources

Home

About the ENRD >

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Networking >

Evaluation >

News & Events >

Publications >

Contact >

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Publications >



External
Publications >



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Recommendation >



Upcoming
Events >



Past
Events >



Legislation >



Good
Practices >



LEADER
toolkit >



Historical
Resources >

TOOLS



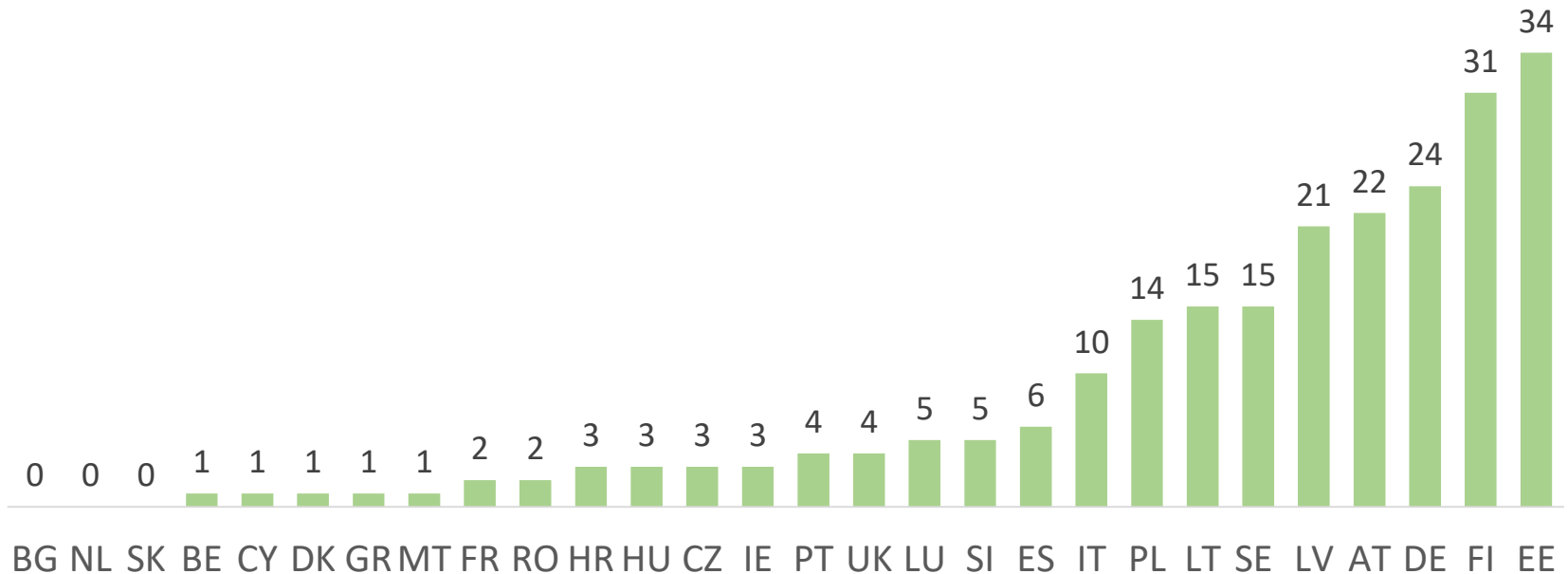
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Information sources

- 156 good practice and project examples from 24 EU Member States
- 12 Practical examples of LEADER innovation in the local action group and the LEADER delivery chain
- 31 LEADER case studies
- 16 guidance documents (incl. SCOs, TNC, LDS, innovation in LEADER)
- Studies and analysis, PWG dissemination tool (LEADER innovation)
- Transnational Cooperation fact sheets (34 fact sheets from 18 EU MSs)
- Transnational Cooperation 'Landscape' (61 RDPs)
- Updated DG AGRI guidance (TNC), ENRD Guidance (TNC)
- 3098 LAGs featured in LAG Database

State of play – transnational cooperation

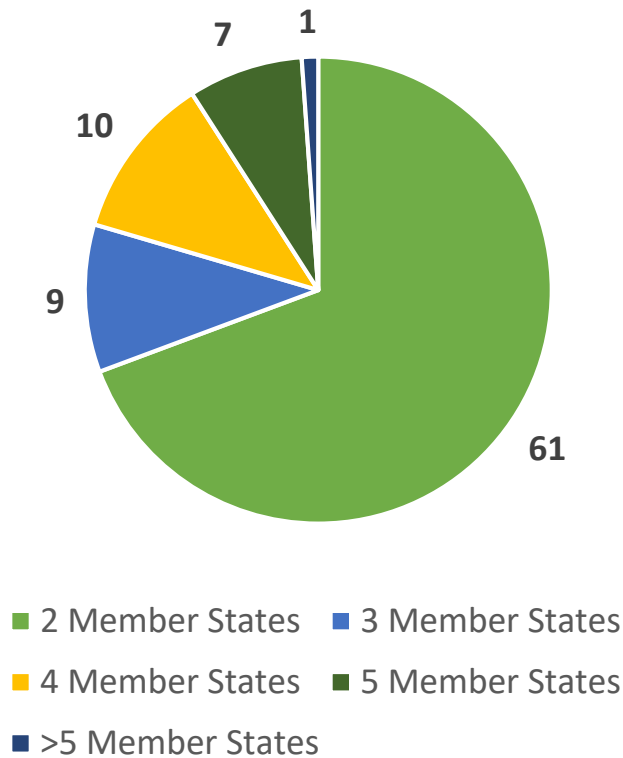
Number of transnational cooperation projects approved by
Member States (projects with at least 2 partners)



Based on data as of December 2019

State of play – transnational cooperation

No of EU Member States in
transnational cooperation projects



Top-3 partner Member States
(no. of projects)

Member States with >10 projects notified (total no. of projects)	1	2	3
IT (10)	FI (5)	LV (4)	AT (4)
PL (14)	LT (4)	FI (3)	EE (3)
LT (15)	LV (8)	EE (5)	PL (4)
SE (15)	FI (7)	DE (5)	AT (4)
LV (21)	EE (12)	FI (10)	LT (8)
AT (22)	DE (19)	IT (4)	SE (4)
DE (24)	AT (19)	SE (5)	LU (3)
FI (31)	EE (18)	LV (10)	SE (7)
EE (34)	FI (18)	LV (12)	LT (5)

Based on data as of December 2019

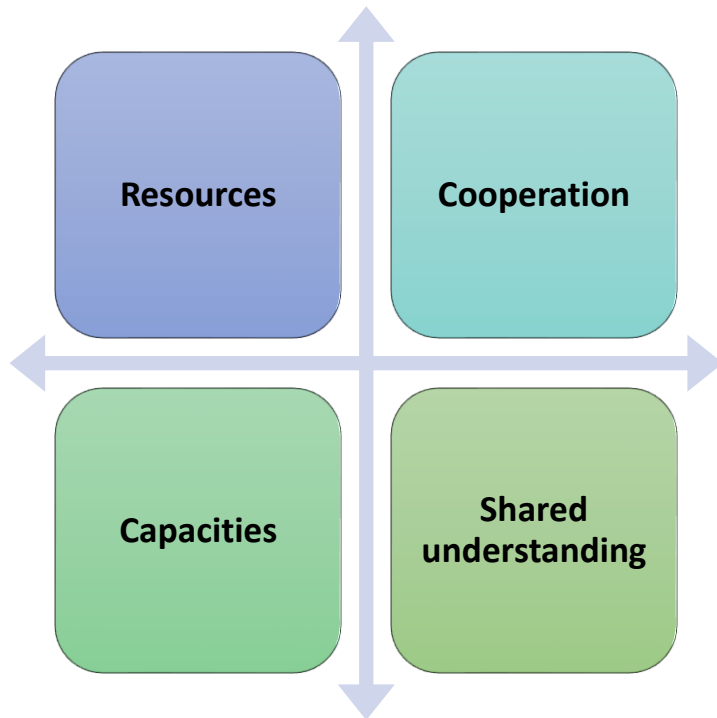
Lesson learnt – LAG Survey

- 38 questions / 710 respondent LAGs from 23 EU Member States
- **‘bottom-up approach’ – the highest ‘valued’ LEADER principle**
- Challenging to implement cooperation projects and innovation
- Bureaucracy and administrative requirements perceived as constraining factors
- **National / regional delivery frameworks can limit LAGs’ freedom to pursue operational priorities** (including ‘project development’, animation, innovation)
- **To improve:**
 - **Application processes** (simplify and reduce time taken to select / approve projects)
 - **Systems of controls** (make more proportionate)
 - Understanding of controls requirements
 - **Coordination and cooperation in the delivery chain**
 - Quality management

Lesson learnt - cooperation

- Common understanding of joint actions and common costs
- **TNC integrated into the Local Development Strategy**
- **TNC projects selected by Local Action Groups**
- Information sharing between Member States
- **Generic and common templates**
- Allow local partners to get involved in cooperation
- Coordinated submission of project proposals by partners
- Coordinated approval by MS authorities
- **Reduce information gaps and diversity of MS TNC rules**

Lesson learnt – innovation



- Improve **common understanding** of innovation in LEADER
- **From ‘top-down and controls’ to ‘bottom up and partnership’**
- Improve clarity of regulations and rules
- **Use control and audit findings in capacity building for LAGs and RDP authorities**
- Set up joint quality management systems
- Ensure **sufficient resources and capacities for LEADER innovation at the local level**
- Create positive ‘feedback loops’ in controls based on understanding errors and improving systems

Lesson learnt – simplification

- **Reduce ‘gold-plating’**
- **Enhance the application** of simplified cost options (SCOs)
- Strengthen communication **and common understanding of SCOs** between LAGs, MAs, PAs, and audit
- Distinguish clearly between mistakes and fraud
- **Increase the scope of LAG animation**
- Controls should be reasonable and proportionate
- **Problem-solving attitude** at all levels
- Consider setting up national CLLD support units/working groups

Lesson learnt – thematic labs

LEADER and Smart Villages

- **LAGs as ‘innovation brokers’**
- **Strong mandate for LAGs to engage in a social innovation process**
- Appropriate financial support
- A simple financial framework
- Use of SCOs
- **Collective projects by LAGs and social innovation**
- LAGs enabled to draw in **external expertise**

LEADER and Climate Action

- **Awareness-raising** and engaging with local communities and decision-makers
- **Key role of LEADER ‘animators’ recognised in CAP Plans**
- ‘Ring-fencing’ specific budget for climate action within the LDS
- Flexible CAP framework – LAGs working across all objectives
- **LAG-led projects and LAG projects to support animation**
- LAGs enabled to draw in **external expertise**

Recurring themes - LEADER implementation

- Involve LAGs in designing an enabling delivery system
- Strengthened NRN role in coaching, peer to peer, support to LEADER networking
- Clear designation of responsibilities in the delivery chain and common understanding of roles
- Enable LAGs to operate as 'one stop' local development platforms
- Simplification, proportional controls, reduction of administrative burden
- Focus on local objectives and development impact
- Evidence of impact and the use of additional indicators
- Strategic animation
- LAG freedom to design and adapt the LDS and 'own' projects

Upcoming events, activities

Events

- LEADER Thematic Lab on Youth and Depopulation (20/02/2020)
- LEADER Seminar ‘Designing LEADER for the future’ (10/03/2020)
- LEADER Thematic Lab on widening stakeholder engagement (May-June 2020, to be confirmed)

Documents, audiovisual and guidance

- TNC summary – state of play
- EU Rural Review 29 – LEADER achievements
- LEADER videos
- ‘Working with Smart Villages’ – orientations for LEADER local action groups

Thank you for your attention!

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Twitter: @enrd_CP

Youtube: EURural

LEADER/CLLD: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld_en

