



European Leader Association
for Rural Development
Brussels, www.elard.eu

Portuguese
Presidency
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “COOPERATION – TOOL FOR THE PROMOTING OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT”

“Prospects for LEADER/CLLD from the ELARD Perspective”

ELARD

Neli Kadieva

President of Association Bulgarian National LEADER Network



Hotel Katarino, Razlog, Bulgaria

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ELARD – Member networks in 26 countries



Austria >	Bulgaria >	Croatia >
Czech Republic >	Denmark >	Estonia >
Finland >	France >	Germany >
Greece >	Hungary >	Ireland >
Italy >	Latvia >	Lithuania >
Moldova >	North Macedonia >	Netherlands >
Poland >	Portugal >	Romania >
Serbia >	Slovakia >	Slovenia >
Spain >	Sweden >	

International non-profit organization founded in 1999

Member networks in 26 countries representing more than 2500 LAGs

- To improve the quality of life in rural areas and to maintain their population through sustainable, integrated local development
- To spread the philosophy, principles and scope of the LEADER method grounded in the seven specific features



Main numbers of LEADER / CLLD

28 years implemented in European Union countries, some practices also outside EU;

> 3000 LAGs (Local Action Group) cover 80% of European territory;

30% of total European population (200 million) influenced by LAGs activities;

More than 1 million activities/projects implemented through local development strategies;

More than 40 billion € invested through local development strategies (public + private funding).



LEADER “evolution”

3 generations of LEADER as Community Initiative:

- a **pilot** program;
- allowed true **innovation**;
- to **experiment news ways** of bringing development to Europe's most deprived rural areas

Mainstreaming LEADER into RDPs (2007- 2013)

Design and implementation of **multifund CLLC**, stimulated by LEADER (2014 -2020)



Challenges for future LEADER/CLLD

The complexity of the problems identified by rural communities requires a **broad perspective of rural development**;

Which calls for **several areas of government** and different resources;

Multi-funded CLLD needs **stronger coordination** between the different Funds managing authorities;

Administrative burden and budgetary constraints undermine the capacity for **territorial animation**;

LAGs are partners in implementation of rural development policies. **Rebuilding mutual trust** is essential to the renewal of LEADER.



Vision for LEADER/CLLD > 2020

- ☺ contributing to integrated and sustainable development of rural, coastal and urban areas,
- ☺ helping reconnecting citizens to European policies and European mission.
- ☺ Local Development can be a game changer made of the sum of several small projects
- ☺ related to the individual character and developmental needs and expectations of each territory
- ☺ involve the local people in each to have ownership of their local development strategies and to share decision-making

ELARD proposal for LEADER/CLLD >2020

Reintegration of the **EAFRD** into the **Common Provision Regulation**

Risk that **non-agricultural rural development** will become a minor issue in the CAP;

Request to ensure at **least the same budget for LEADER** (5% is substantially less funding)

Strongly regrets that ERDF, ESF and EMFF do not foresee a minimum % for CLLD

LEADER should be mandatory in every region in Europe;

Simplification should materialise on all levels.

“common basket” of dedicated funding for CLLD from the different Funds; a common framework, with a “lead fund” and one Management Authority

pilot CLLD Support Unit at EU level to support networking, TNC and capacity building

Smart Villages approach into the LEADER methodology

LAGs are the right instrument to localize, implement, follow-up and review the **SDGs**

Allow a smooth **transition in LEADER/CLLD** between program periods



The role of LAGs in the preparation process for LEADER/CLLD >2020

Local level – close work with local communities and local and regional bodies

National level

- National LEADER associations / networks
- Participation in working groups for preparation of next programming period for different ESIF
- Lobbying and advocacy actions
- Work with other national partners to prepare and present a common position
- Responsible Ministries
- Parliament – members and commission for agriculture
- Sharing of good examples

EU level

- Meetings and work with MEP from respective country
- Lobbying through contacts with Committee of Regions, EP, EC





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