

LEADER and multi-fund community led local development in rural Europe in 2023-27

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LEADER in 2023-27

Common agricultural policy

**5 billion
EUR**
from the EU

65%
EU rural
population
covered by
LEADER

120,000
local social
and economic
partners
engaged in
LEADER Local
Action Groups

**2,678 Local
development
strategies**
supported

Support to small
enterprises
Rural services and
small infrastructure
Job creation
Social inclusion
Short value chains
Environmental
improvements



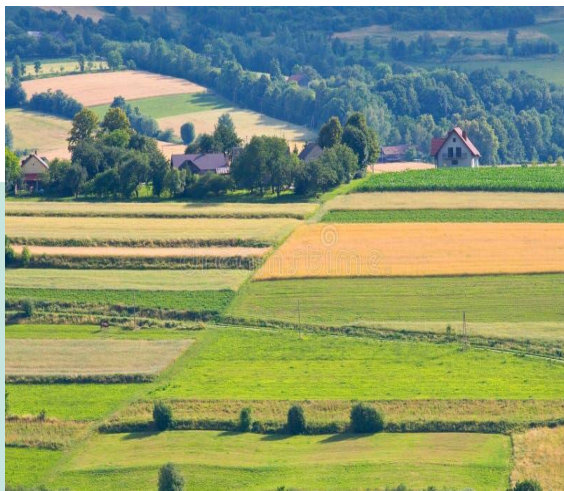
Use of multi-fund Community led local development/LEADER in 2023-27

- Multi-fund community led local development is used in: Czechia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, some regions in: Poland (10), France (1), Austria (1), Germany (1)
- Local Action Groups which use more than LEADER funding in their strategies: 834 (out of 2,700 total LEADER Local Action Groups)
- Funding: still mostly LEADER (+/- 75% of the total multi-fund budgets for community led local development in rural EU)

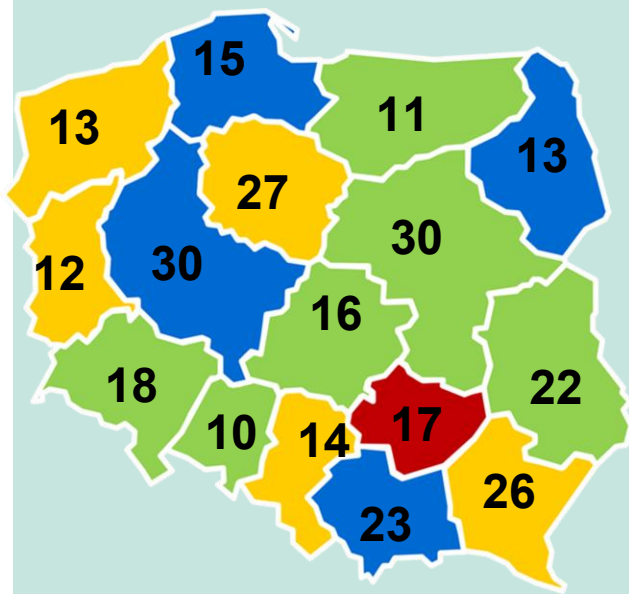
In brief: opportunities for multi-fund Community led local development could be used more widely...



Example: multi-fund Community led local development in Poland 2023-27



- Coordination: national committee for (multi-fund) CLLD – regions participate; a single law on CLLD; a single set of selection criteria for local strategies
- EU funding: LEADER: 753 million EUR; Regional Fund: 123 million EUR; Social Fund: 222 million EUR



Number of Local Development Strategies:

- Only LEADER
- LEADER and EU Social Fund
- LEADER, EU Social Fund and EU Regional Fund
- LEADER and EU Regional Fund

Example using EU Social Fund in rural strategy: Local Action Group Ziemia Gotyku – Kujawsko-Pomorskie region, Poland



Examples of projects and priorities from the European Social Fund:

Clubs for Seniors in villages: activities: healthy lifestyle, creativity, dietician, Nordic walking, psychology, crafts, florist, environment, cooking, culture (trips), dance, trips (theatre, swimming pool, local tourism)

Clubs for Youth in villages: activities: sport, science, arts/creativity, AI, local identity, psychology, local trips

Non-formal education for youth and adults

Dealing with gender stereotypes

Know-how: both clubs for seniors and youth according to standards developed nationally



Examples of using the EU Regional Fund

Centre for Social Acceptance and Activity, Paterek (LAG Partnership for Krajna and Paluki, Kujawsko-Pomorski Region, Poland)



Renovation of the building: EU Regional Fund

Activities for seniors, disabled people: European Social Fund

Advantage: mobilisation of significant funding, high quality architecture, substantial social impact

Integrated multi fund local development strategy: Example: LAG Sejny-Suwalki 2023-27 (Poland)



EU Regional Fund: energy storage-renewable energy, renovation and security of public spaces (villages, recreation areas, library, sport etc), - circa 2,8 million EUR

EU Social Fund: non-formal education for youth, active labour market measures, support to care services for elderly, social inclusion of seniors, support to disadvantage youth and children (incl infrastructure), social capital - circa 2.4 million EUR

LEADER: smart village concepts, support to business start-ups and non agricultural activities, support to agri-tourism, educational farms, social inclusion of seniors and youth, small infrastructure, tourism-culture trail of the area (both infrastructure and events) – 2.1 million EUR



Multi-fund community led local development

Advantages:

Integrated comprehensive local development strategies to cover areas beyond CAP: larger projects, social and employment aspects, human resources etc

Additional financial resources beyond Common Agricultural Policy (LEADER)

Access of Local Action Groups to new governance networks and competences in the multi-level governance (new networks, knowledge, standards, methods of working)

Issues

Differences in administrative procedures, IT systems, etc between the Funds increase costs, time, coordination fatigue, stress and risks

If small allocations, the costs of handling coordination, can be disproportionate (typically in the member states with smaller allocation for cohesion policy)

Thank you



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