

# 1st LEADER Thematic Group meeting

## Introduction to the Thematic Group

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10 March 2022

# This presentation

- Objectives and rationale of the Thematic Group
- Some findings from the Expression of Interest
- In focus today
- Key considerations and questions

# Summary

**Title:** "Making the seven LEADER principles work in practice for all LAGs under the CAP Strategic Plans"

**Main objective:** By working together, contribute to the better understanding of the seven LEADER principles for all stakeholders in the delivery chain and develop recommendations for the full implementation of each LEADER principle by all LAGs

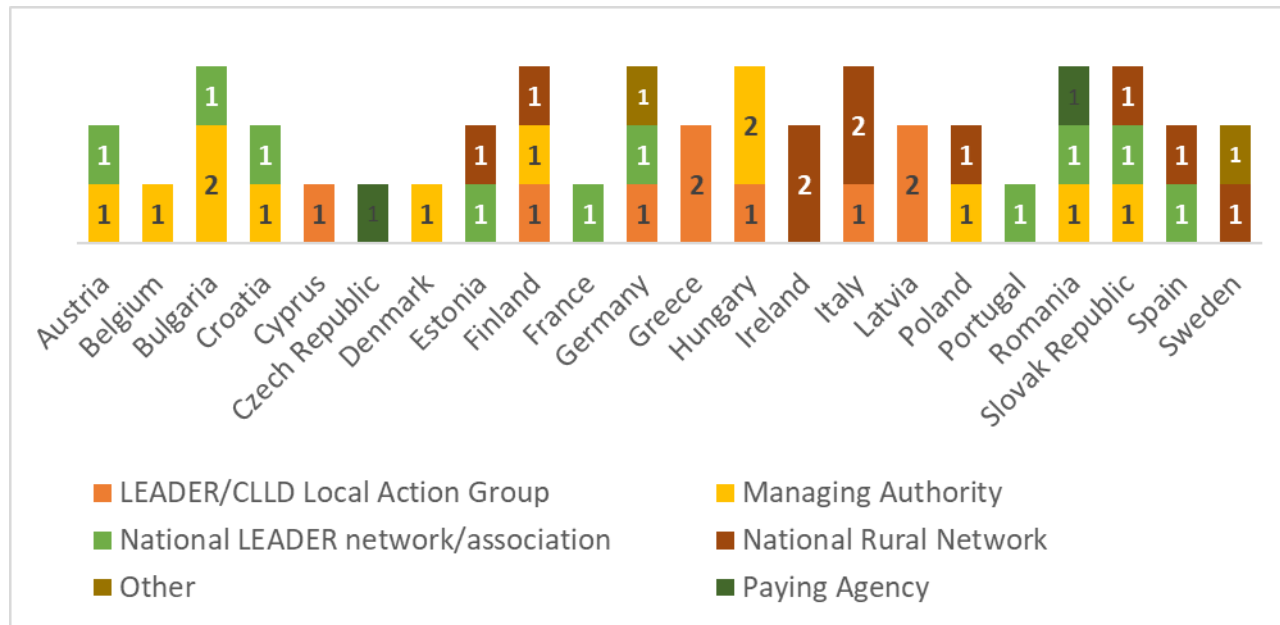
**Key planned output:** summary on the practical application of the seven LEADER principles (with examples, specific aspects of practical applications, blocking factors, solutions / tools, methods, good practices ) for **all LAGs**

# Rationale

## Why the seven LEADER principles? Why for all LAGs?

- the basis of LEADER added value
- Implementation of principles – ,mixed' experiences (Member States, LAGs)
- ,refresh' the method for ,old' LAGs
- Improve understanding for ,new' LAGs
- new legal basis, development themes, stakeholders in LEADER
- Improve understanding of linkages to actual local development

# Membership



- 22 MS
- 45 members (9 LAG, 12 national/regional LEADER association, 10 NRN, 2 PA, 2 ,Other')

# Importance of the principles



\* In terms of need to improve - based on responses in the expression of interest

# Blocking factors



## Other factors include

- Limited capacities, capacity-building
- Thematic challenges
- Challenges linked to the local territory
- Coordination in the delivery chain
- Reporting and controls requirements

# Some solutions

Pilot project for evaluating the implementation of LEADER principles (PT)

Pilot processes to improve MA-LAG cooperation (FI)

Administrative simplification, new procedure for LAGs( CZ)

Thematic workshops (AT)

Impact oriented monitoring tool (AT)

.new approval procedure and capacity-building seminars (BE)

CLLD directorate (ESF, ERDF, EAFRD) for multi-funded CLLD

National Smart Villages programme (EE)

Online discussion platform for LAGs (ES)

Participatory ,LEADER laboratory' (IT)

Joint steering committee (LAGs-MA, DE-Lower Saxony)



# In focus today

**Subregional  
territories**

**Innovation**

**Bottom-up  
approach (led  
by local action  
groups)**

# Key considerations

LAG size (too small, too large)?

Understanding ‚local‘ innovation

Real partnerships, „healthy“ LAGs

Project selection and ‚verification‘

Cohesion of the territory

Criteria for innovation (?)

Openness, involvement of all

Balancing bottom-up and top-down

# Useful resources

- ✓ [Background paper for this Thematic Group](#)
- ✓ [EU Rural Review 29 – on LEADER achievements](#)
- ✓ [46 case studies on LEADER implementation](#)
- ✓ [LEADER Cooperation page](#)
- ✓ [LEADER Innovation page](#)
- ✓ [LEADER LAG implementation survey 2017](#) (EU-level and MS-level results reports)
- ✓ [A selection of LEADER evaluation publications from the ENRD Website](#)
- ✓ [LEADER Toolkit – Working on the LEADER delivery system](#)
- ✓ [LEADER Toolkit – Implementing LAGs and local strategies](#)
- ✓ [LEADER Toolkit – Improving communication across the CLLD delivery chain](#)