



Funding and resources

LEADER case study CLLD Coordination Committee facilitating multi-fund approach in LEADER

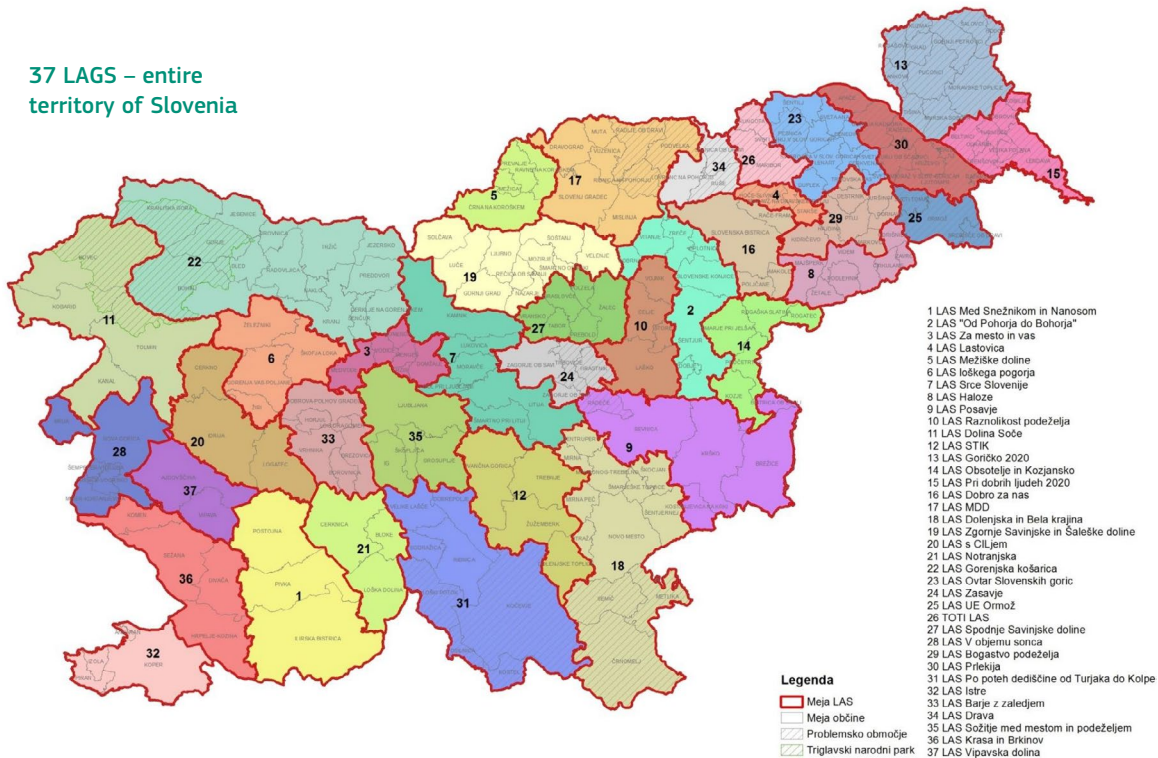
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In Slovenia, LEADER is implemented as part of a joint Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach that operates as a multi-funding system. It combines three different funding sources: EAFRD (€56.3 m), EMFF (€7.7 m), and ERDF (€37.5 m). It covers rural, fisheries, and small urban communities across the country (i.e. full territorial coverage apart from cities over 10 000 inhabitants).

The CLLD/LEADER approach seeks specifically to promote social inclusion, combating poverty and discrimination, while simultaneously addressing local development in a wider sense. The seven principles of LEADER (bottom-up, area-based, local partnership, integrated and multi-sectoral, networking, innovation, cooperation) are therefore respected.

LOCAL ACTION GROUPS 2014-2020

37 LAGS – entire
territory of Slovenia



A national CLLD Coordination Committee was created in 2015. With its headquarters at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, it brings together 23 members: three Managing Authorities (MAs) representing each of the three funds, the paying agency (EAFRD and EMFF) and the intermediary body (ERDF).

The roles of the CLLD Coordination Committee are the coordination of joint national regulation, the communication with the LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the approval of their Local Development Strategies (LDS), and amendments to them through a Selection Committee. Additional tasks include the coordination and exchange of data between its members, the organisation of meetings and events for LAGs. The provision of support through communication, capacity building and a Q/A LEADER Forum are among the other Committee's roles.

At the local level, each of the 37 LAGs has an approved LDS that encompasses EAFRD and ERDF funds while four of them also incorporate EMFF resources.

One of the key advantages of the multi-fund approach is that each LAG can achieve a truly multi-dimensional LDS that can address the complex local needs in a fully integrated manner. As such, multi-funding enables a more comprehensive implementation of the LEADER approach.

Particularly at the outset, the implementation of the multi-fund CLLD/LEADER approach demands attention to excellent coordination, commitment to harmonisation, patience in collaboration, and capacity building at all levels including MAs, Paying agency and LAGs. A good understanding and conviction of the effectiveness of the LEADER approach is also key.

Some of the more challenging aspects for the CLLD Coordination Committee were the integration of the three different funds and their individual rules – a common regulation was necessary to enable this process. Capacity building was important and required for all stakeholders. LAG Managers, who are mainly regional agencies, had to increase their skills to process first level calls, select projects and carry out different sets of administrative procedures with only a small staff.

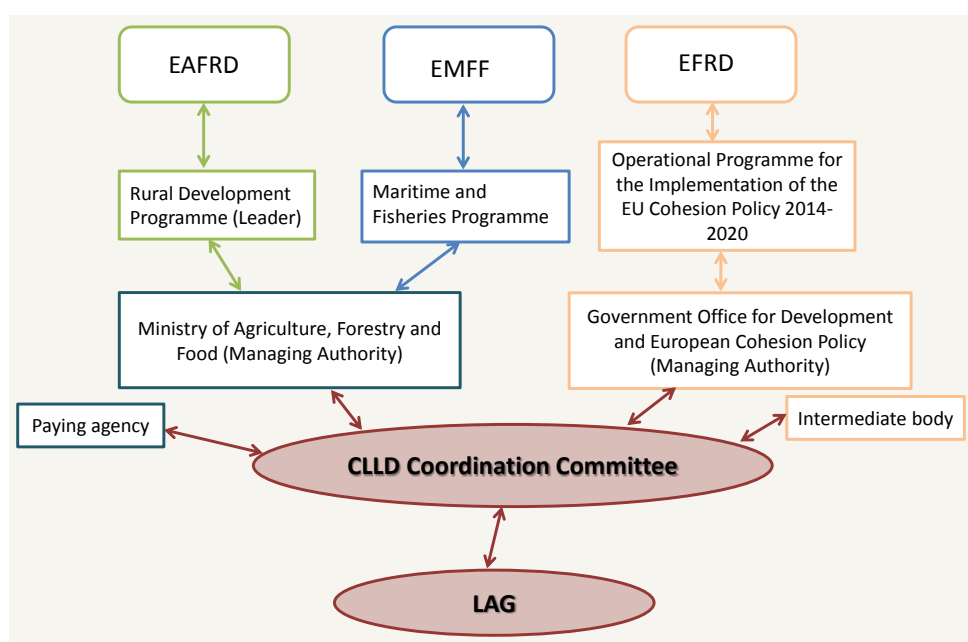
Maintaining good communication links between MAs, Paying Agency, LAGs and LAG partners (from public, social and economic sectors) and providing regular capacity building events proved essential in achieving a successful adjustment to the new multi-fund approach. For example, the CLLD Coordination Committee still organises several seminars and workshops for LAGs each year. Regular webinars, the Question and Answer Forum, and social media communications are further effective means of support. Regular monitoring of progress is crucial.

The successful implementation of the multi-fund CLLD approach was also assisted by the implementation of the Simplified Cost Options (SCOs). This includes lump sum payments for preparatory support for LAGs, 'draft budgets'⁽¹⁾ of €5 000 for small projects, standard unit costs (hourly rate) and a flat rate of 15 % for indirect costs for running cost and animation.

An intensive promotional campaign of the Slovenian LEADER/CLLD approach across national and European organisations supported the process.

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LEADER/CLLD 2014-2020



(1) https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/thefunds/fin_inst/pdf/simpl_cost_en.pdf