LEADER LAG Survey 2017

Working Paper

Findings at Member State level

Member State: Hungary

Table of Contents

Introduction

The ENRD Contact Point (ENRD CP) launched a survey of LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) in November 2017 to explore on the ground experiences of implementing LEADER from the LAG perspective. Drawing on the ENRD LAG database over 2,200 LAGs were contacted and 710 confidential responses were received from 27 EU Member States making this the largest and most comprehensive LEADER survey conducted. LAGs from 19 national and 70 regional Rural Development Programme (RDP) 'territories' responded. Germany, France, Spain, Czech Republic and Austria provided over 50% of the total responses.

The online survey included 38 questions in four sections and the questionnaire was provided in six languages. Each section addressed several key themes. The main chapters of this report follow the structure of the questionnaire and are as follows:

1. Basic LAG data.
2. LEADER principles.
3. LEADER operation.
4. LEADER improvements.

This working paper has been prepared by the ENRD Contact Point and its content does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission. The order of results presented for each question is consistent with the ranking from the EU level report to enable direct comparison Please note that this report **does not present a comparative analysis** but where clear and significant differences are evident between the Member State LAG responses and the overall survey sample these have been highlighted.

In this paper all references to LAGs relate specifically to those LAGs who responded to the survey.

Explanatory points

The questionnaire used a multiple choice format allowing respondents to choose the answers most appropriate to their LAG's circumstances. The text of some questions has been simplified in the charts that follow. The full text of each question and all possible answers are listed in the sections below.

The total number of responses for each question is recorded individually as response levels varied between questions throughout the survey.

Questions three, five and six of the original questionnaire are not relevant for this paper being primarily for survey management and have been omitted. Where necessary a limited level of data cleaning has been undertaken to ensure consistency and correct obvious errors.

Please note that there is a degree of variation in the number of responses by RDP and question. Where relevant this should be taken into account when considering or interpreting the wider implications of the findings for some questions. It is not possible to reflect regional RDP differences e.g. the date of RDP approval although this may explain some of the variations within regionalised Member State responses. For example, the date of RDP approval will influence the timing of LAG selection and approval and subsequent LAG actions.

Basic Implementation Data

Question 1

Please select your country

- Hungary (HU)
- 11 LAGs responded, representing 1.6% of total LAG responses
- 11% of HU LAGs responded to the survey

Total number of responses 11

Question 2

Please select your Rural Development Programme (RDP)

- HU has one national programme.

Total Number of Responses 11

Question 4

Respondents were asked to identify which position they held within the LAG.

- LAG Manager
- Other LAG staff -
- LAG Chair /President
- LAG Board Member

Total Number of Responses 11
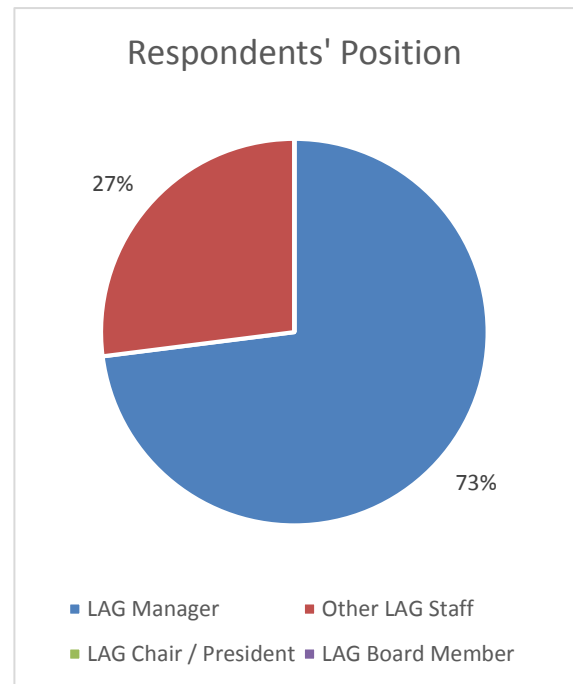
Question 7

In which period did your LAG first begin its operation? Please select the option that applies to you. (i.e. point from where there is a significant degree of continuity in membership or territory)

- Newly established LAG (2014-2020 Programming Period)
- the 2007-2013 Programming Period
- LEADER+
- LEADER II
- LEADER I

Total Number of Responses 11

- Hungarian responses included a much larger proportion of LAGs that had been set up in the 2007-2013 programme period compared with the EU sample; 64% became operational in the previous programme period in Hungary as opposed to 34% in the EU-wide sample.

- The proportion of 'New' LAGs is similar to the EU sample.

First Period LAG became Operational

18%   18%

64%

■ New LAG 2014-2020 ■ 2007-2013 LAG ■ LEADER+

■ LEADER II ■ LEADER I
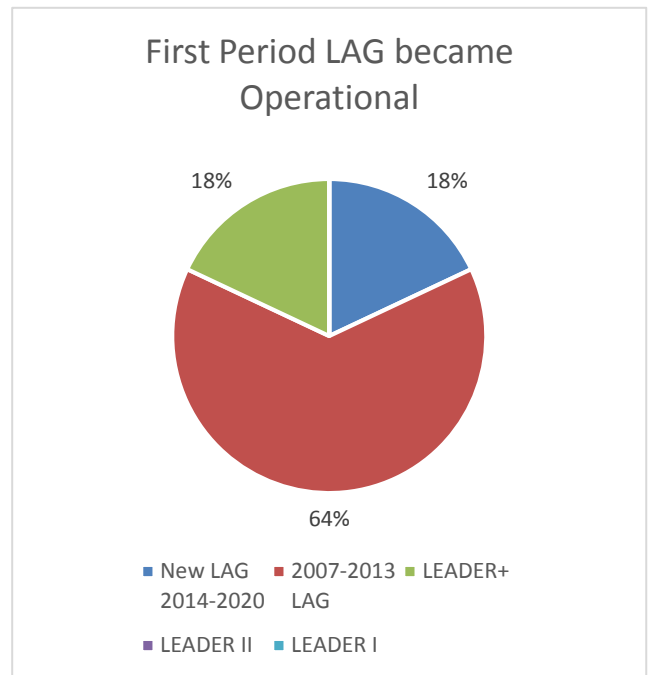
Question 8

When was your LAG formally selected in this (2014-2020) Programming Period?

- 2014
- First half of 2015 (Jan - June)
- Second half of 2015 (July – December)
- First half of 2016
- Second half of 2016
- First half of 2017
- Second half of 2017

Total Number of Responses 11

Time LAGs were Formally Selected in 2014-2020 Programme Period

Category	Percentage
2014	36%
First half of 2015	9%
Second half of 2015	18%
First half of 2016	9%
Second half of 2016	27%
First half of 2017	
Second half of 2017	
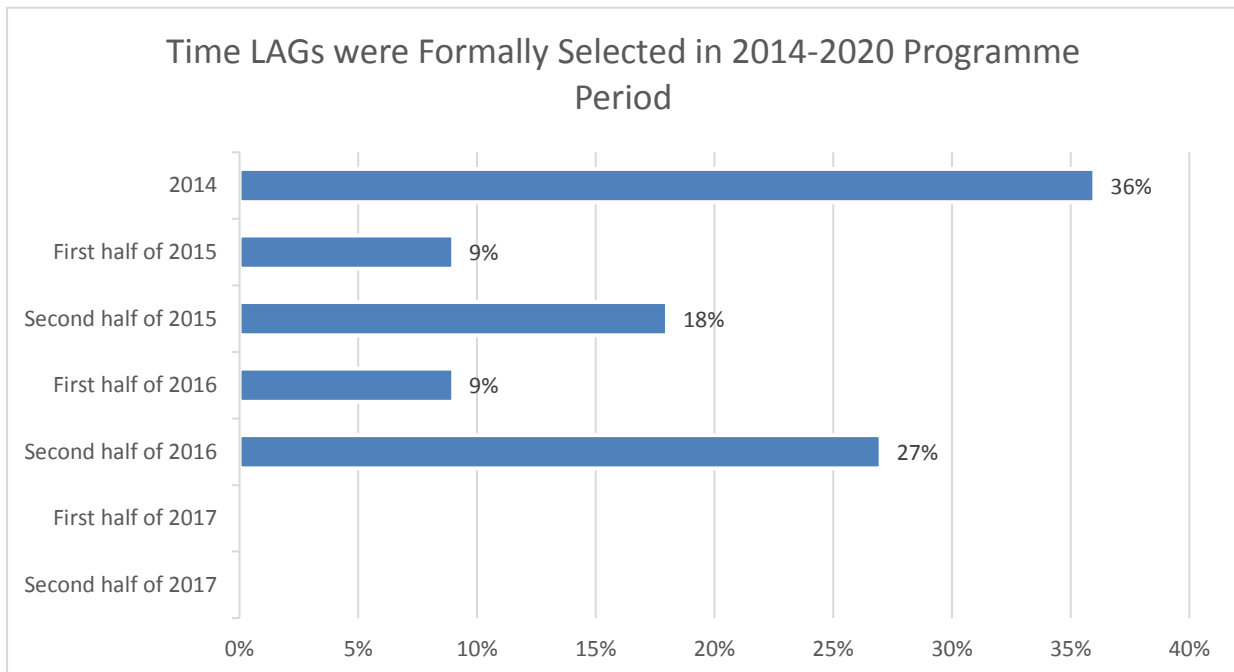
- 36% of Hungarian LAGs were formally selected in 2014, whereas across the EU sample this figure was just 9%. By the end of 2015 the proportion of LAGs selected in the EU and Hungarian samples was very similar. No Hungarian LAGs were formally selected in 2017.

Question 9

When did / will your LAG first launch a call for projects?

- First half of 2015
- Second half of 2015
- First half of 2016
- Second half of 2016
- First half of 2017
- Second half of 2017
- 2018

Total Number of Responses 11

Timing of LAGs Launch of First Call for Projects

Period	Percentage
First half of 2015	9%
Second half of 2015	9%
First half of 2016	
Second half of 2016	
First half of 2017	
Second half of 2017	
2018	18%
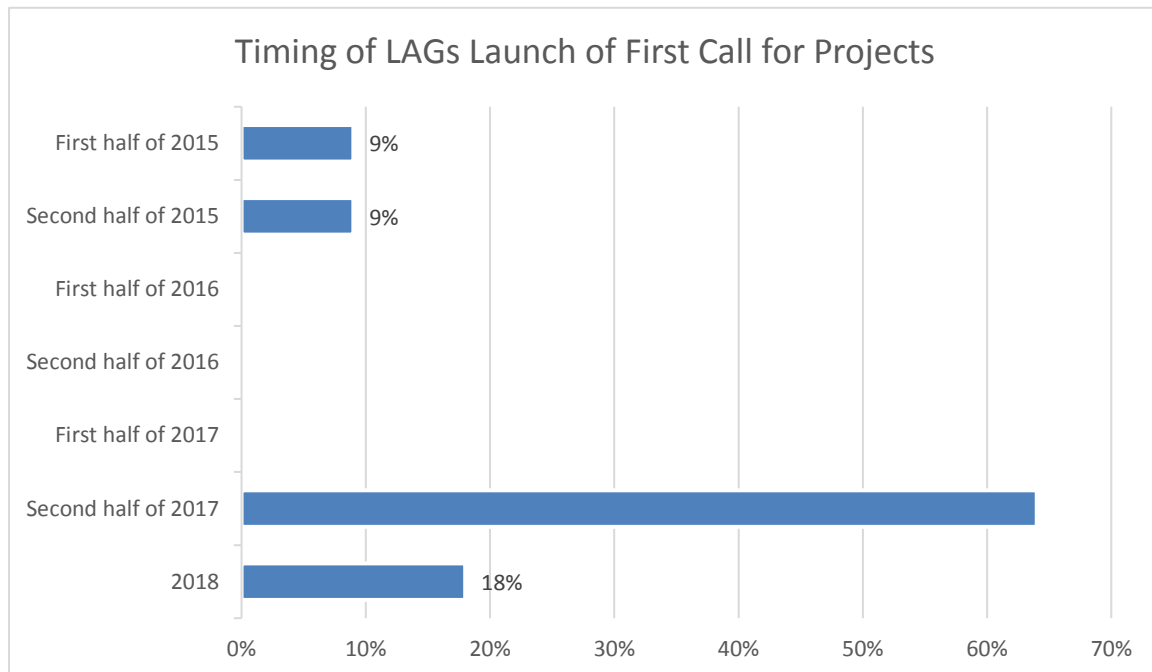
- When comparing the Hungarian and EU-wide samples the timing of LAGs' first call for projects is notably different. By the end of the first half of 2017 18% of Hungarian LAGs had launched their first call vs 78% of the wider sample.

- Therefore 82% of Hungarian LAGs launched their first call in either the second half of 2017 or 2018, whereas across the EU 22% of LAGs did so.

LAG Funding

Please select all the European Structural and Investment Funds that your LAG uses to finance your Local Development Strategy (in addition to EAFRD).

- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- None of the above (only EAFRD)

Total Number of Responses 11

LAG Use of ESI Funds in addition to EAFRD

9%

91%

- EMFF
- ESF
- ERDF
- only EAFRD
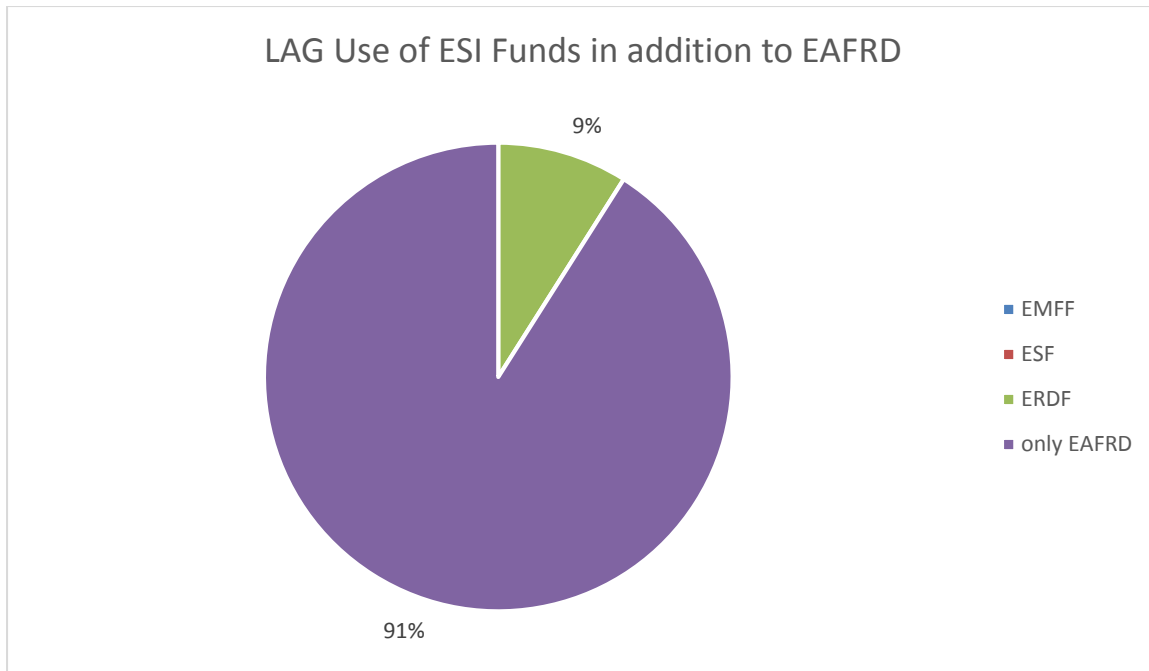
- The vast majority (91%) of Hungarian LAGs only used EAFRD to finance their LDS, across the EU this figure was lower (67%).

Question 11

What is your LAG budget (total public expenditure Euro, i.e. EAFRD plus all other EU and domestic public funds) for the 2014-2020 Programming Period? Please provide your best estimate if data are not available.

- < €500,000
- €500,001 – 1,000,000
- €1,000,001 – 1,500,000
- €1,500,001 – 2,000,000
- €2,000,001 – 3,000,000
- €3,000,001 – 4,000,000
- €4,000,001- 5,000,000
- €5,000,001 – 10,000,000
- >€10,000,000

Total Number of Responses 11

Range of Budgets from Responding LAGs

9%

18%

9%

27%

36%

Legend:
- >€10,000,000
- €5,000,001 - 10,000,000
- €4,000,001 - 5,000,000
- €3,000,001 - 4,000,000
- €2,000,001 - 3,000,000
- €1,500,001 - 2,000,000
- €1,000,001 - 1,500,000
- €500,001 - 1,000,000
- <€500,000
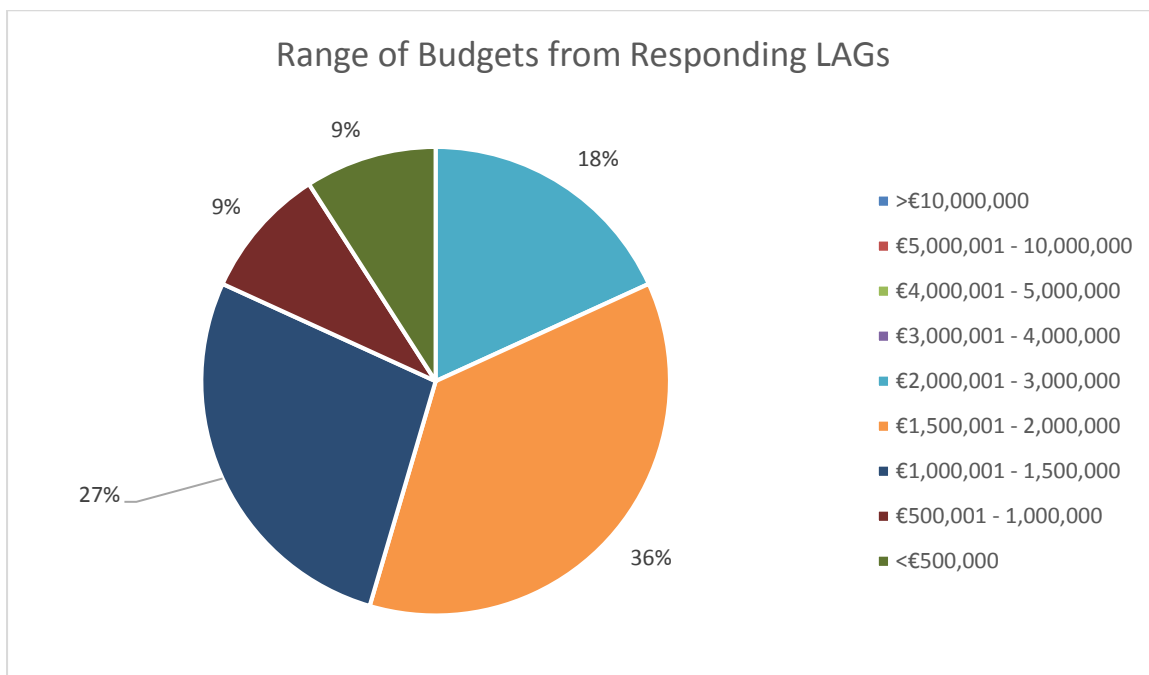
- All Hungarian LAGs reporting have a budget under €3 million whereas across the EU 49% of sample LAGs do so.

Question 12

What % of this total LAG budget is allocated to running costs and animation?

- < 10%
- 10 – 13%
- 14 – 16%
- 17 – 20%
- 21 -25%

Total Number of Responses 11

- None of the Hungarian LAGs reported a running cost and animation budget allocation of more than 20%, 31% of the EU sample had an allocation of 21-25% of their LAG budget.

- 55% of the Hungarian LAGs had 14-16% allocated compared to 15% with such a budget allocation across the EU.

% of LAG Budget Spent on Animation & Running Costs

18%

27%

55%

■ <10% ■ 10-13% ■ 14-16% ■ 17-20% ■ 21-25%
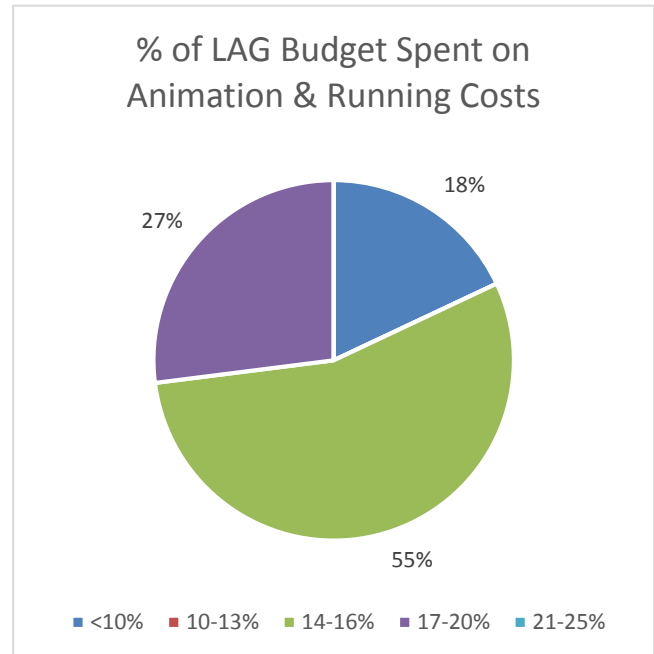
LEADER Principles

Question 13

How important are each of the following LEADER principles for your LAG in delivering real benefits on the ground? (Please rate each option from 1= not at all to 5 = essential).

- Area-based local development strategies intended for well-identified sub-regional rural territories.
- Local public-private partnerships (local action groups).
- Bottom-up approach with decision-making power for local action groups concerning the elaboration and implementation of local development strategies.
- The 49% limitation on voting rights of any single interest group.
- The 50% requirement for non-public sector votes in project selection.
- Multi-sectoral design and implementation of the strategy based on interaction between actors and projects of different sectors of the local economy.
- Implementation of innovative approaches.
- Implementation of cooperation projects.
- Networking of local partnerships.

Total Number of Responses 10

Relative Importance of LEADER Principles

Principle	Essential	Important	Medium importance	Low importance	Not at all
Bottom-up approach	70%	10%	10%	10%	
Local public private partnerships	60%	40%			
Area based LDSs	70%	20%	10%		
Networking	30%	60%	10%		
Multi-sectoral	40%	30%	30%		
Innovative approaches	40%	40%	20%		
50% requirement in project selection	60%	10%		30%	
Cooperation projects	40%	40%	20%		
49% limitation on voting rights	60%	20%	20%		
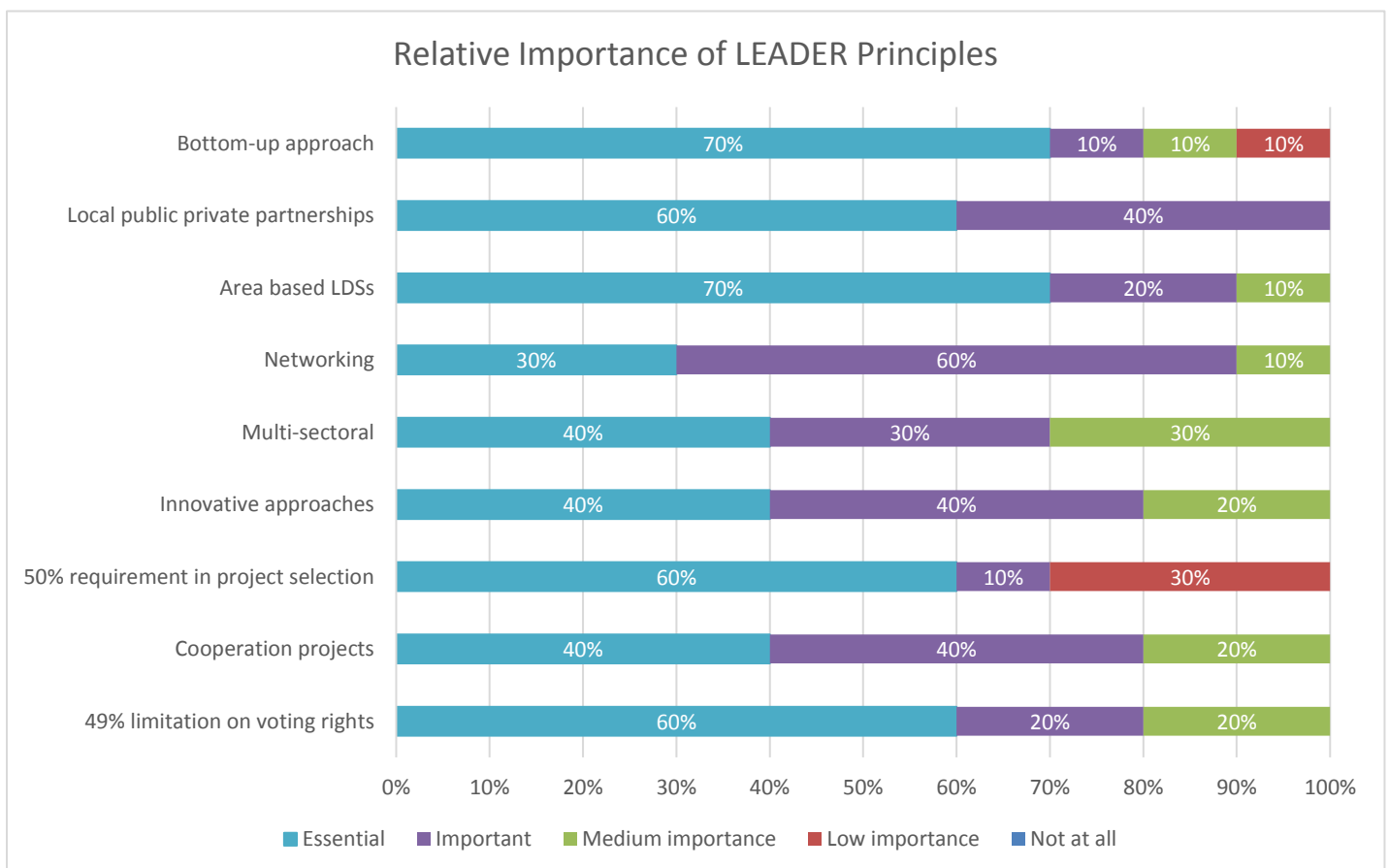
- Hungarian LAGs reporting generally scored these principles as essential or important more frequently than the EU LAG sample, most particularly for 'Cooperation projects' (80% vs 61%) and the '49% limitation on voting rights' (80% vs 43%).

- The two LEADER principles regarded as essential most often amongst the Hungarian LAGs were the bottom-up approach and area-based LDS (both regarded as essential by 70% of LAGs). The same two LEADER principles were also frequently regarded as essential amongst the EU LAGs (by 73% and 58% of LAGs respectively).

- Networking was the principle least frequently stated as essential by Hungarian LAGs (30% regarding it as such as opposed to 47% of the EU-wide sample. However, when essential and important rankings are taken together networking is the second highest ranked principle in Hungary (90%) as opposed to 4th in the EU (82%).

Question 14

To what extent is your LAG able to implement the following elements of the LEADER approach? (please rate each option from 1-5, where 1= not at all, 5 = fully)

- Area-based local development strategies intended for well-identified sub-regional rural territories.
- Local public-private partnerships (local action groups).
- Bottom-up approach with decision-making power for local action groups concerning the elaboration and implementation of local development strategies.
- Multi-sectoral design and implementation of the strategy based on interaction between actors and projects of different sectors of the local economy.
- Implementation of innovative approaches.
- Implementation of cooperation projects.
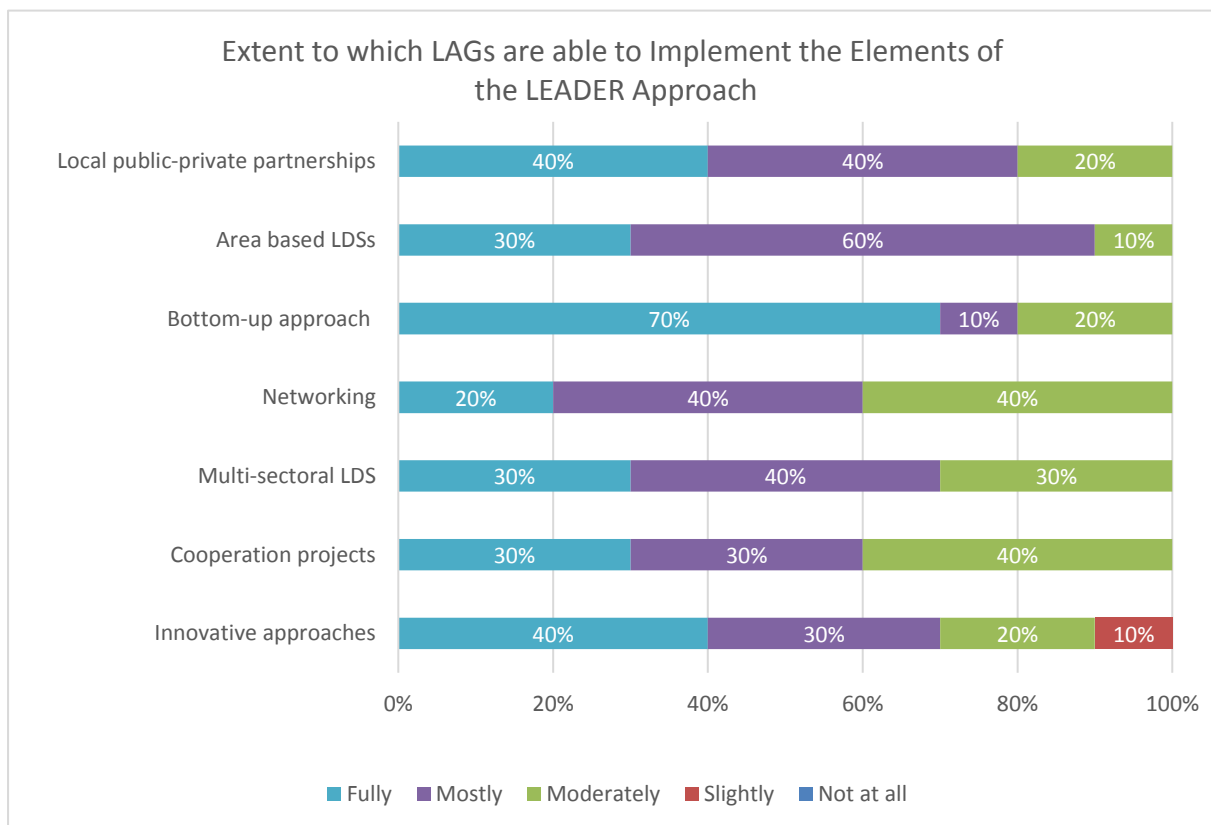- Networking of local partnerships.

Total Number of Responses 10

Extent to which LAGs are able to Implement the Elements of the LEADER Approach

- Compared to the EU-wide sample, Hungarian LAGs report they are more frequently able to fully implement LEADER's bottom-up approach (70% of cases vs 48% across the EU) and innovative approaches (40% vs 19%).

- However, local public-private partnerships, area-based LDSs and networking are all elements less frequently fully implemented in Hungary compared to the EU-wide sample, whilst multi-sectoral LDS and cooperation projects are fully implemented to a similar extent across both samples. When the fully and mostly responses are considered together Hungarian LAGs report 90% for 'Area based LDS' vs 83% at EU level.

- The level of 'slightly or 'not at all' responses is lower in Hungary than the EU sample.

Question 15

Please consider the statements below and for each statement select the option that best reflects your practical experience from this scale:1 = disagree strongly, 2 = disagree, 3 = don't know, 4 = agree, 5 = agree strongly.

- LEADER implementation procedures are able to meet local development needs in a flexible, innovative way.
- The project application procedure is designed to be accessible and encourage local stakeholders to participate in LEADER.
- The LAG has overall control of setting selection criteria and defining calls for projects.
- The LAG is able to use qualitative criteria and local knowledge to inform project selection decisions.
- The decision-making power of LAGs is not overly limited by Rural Development Programme (RDP) level procedures and regulations.
- Your LAG's ability to implement the LEADER approach is constrained by bureaucracy and administrative burden.
- Project holders` ability to implement LEADER projects is not overly constrained by the level of bureaucracy and administrative burden.
- Eligibility conditions for LEADER beneficiaries are appropriate and proportionate to the amount of support sought.
- LAG funding for the animation of local stakeholders and networking is sufficient.
- Administrative and reporting requirements limit your LAG's capacity for animation and other development oriented activities.

Total Number of Responses 10

Aspects of LEADER Implementation as seen by Local Action Groups

Statement	Agree strongly / agree	Disagree strongly / disagree	Don't know
LAG's ability to implement LEADER constrained by bureaucracy & admin	70%	30%	
LAG is able to use qualitative criteria & local knowledge for project selection decisions	80%		20%
Admin & reporting requirements limit LAG's capacity for animation & local development	30%	40%	30%
LAG has overall control of setting selection criteria & defining calls for projects	80%	10%	10%
LAG funding for the animation of local stakeholders & networking is sufficient.	30%	60%	10%
Implementation procedures are able to meet local development needs in a flexible, innovative way	70%	20%	10%
Eligibility conditions for LEADER beneficiaries are appropriate & proportionate to support sought	40%	10%	50%
Project application procedure is accessible & encourage local stakeholders to participate in LEADER	90%	10%	
Decision-making power of LAGs is not overly limited by RDP level procedures & regulations	40%	40%	20%
Project holders` ability to implement LEADER projects is not overly constrained by bureaucracy & admin burden	40%	10%	50%

■ Agree strongly / agree   ■ Disagree strongly / disagree   ■ Don't know

- Compared to the EU average the most significant differences with Hungarian LAGs is that many more Hungarian LAGs agree that the project application procedure is accessible and encourages local stakeholders to participate in LEADER; 90% of Hungarian LAGs agree or strongly agree compared to just 33% across the EU.

- On the other hand 60% of Hungarian LAGs disagree or disagree strongly that LAG funding for animation of local stakeholders and networking is adequate vs 39% of EU respondents.

- More HU LAGs also agree or strongly agree that project holders' ability to implement LEADER projects is not overly constrained by bureaucracy and admin burden (40% in Hungary vs 15% in EU), while markedly fewer (30% vs 69%) Hungarian LAGs agree or strongly agree that admin and reporting requirements limit LAGs' capacity for animation and local development.

- In the vast majority of cases the HU LAGs who responded indicated a higher level of agreement with positive statements compared to the EU average.
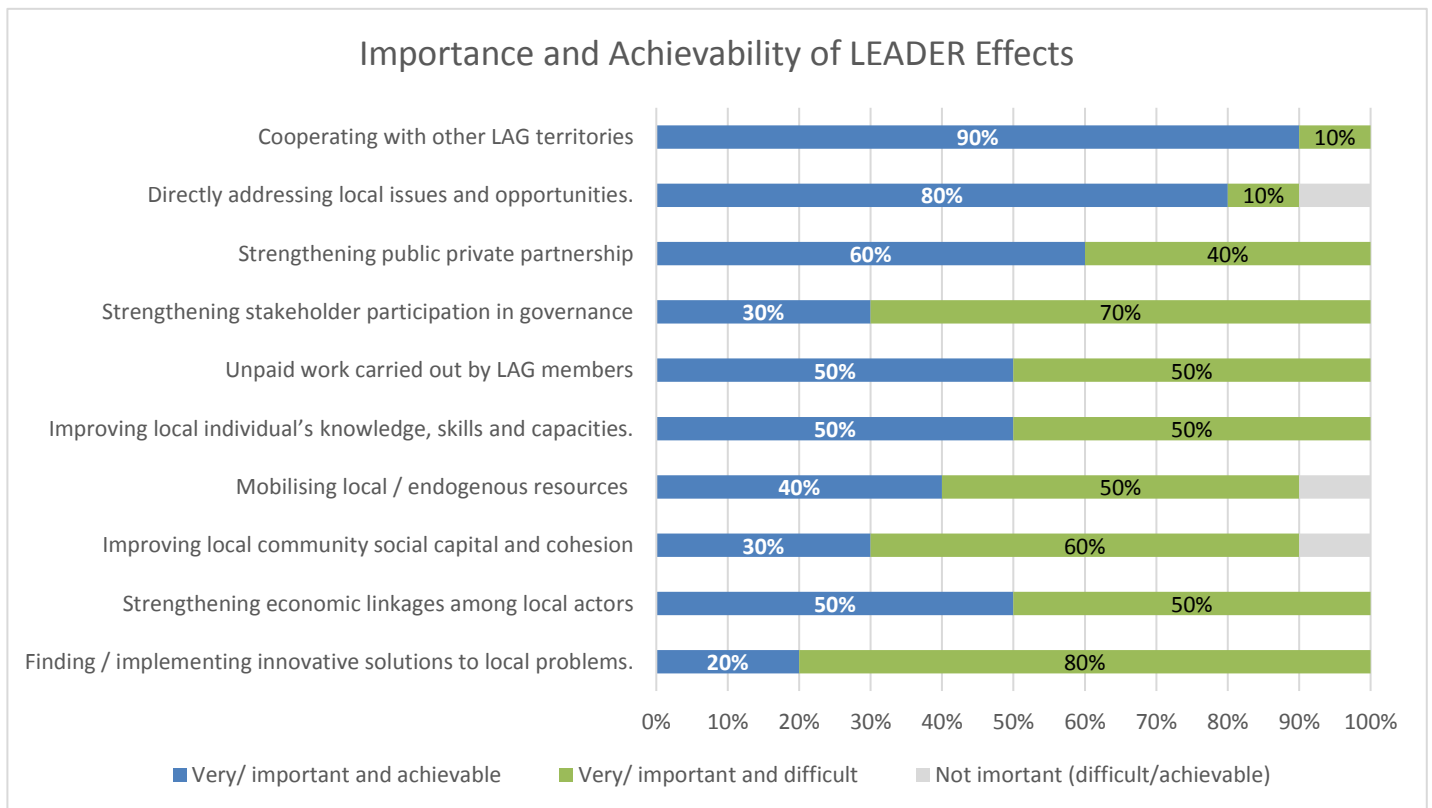
Question 16

The LEADER approach can deliver qualitative local effects which are distinctive from those of other rural development activities. The importance of these effects and how easy they are to achieve may vary by LAG.

Please rank how important and how achievable each of the possible effects is for your LAG according to the following scale. 1= Very important and achievable, 2 = Very important and difficult, 3 = Important and achievable, 4 = Important and difficult, 5 = Not important but achievable, 6= Not important and difficult.

- Directly addressing local issues and opportunities.
- Strengthening stakeholder participation in local partnership and its governance.
- Strengthening economic linkages among local actors.
- Strengthening public private partnership.
- Unpaid work carried out by LAG members.
- Mobilising local / endogenous resources (human, physical, financial).
- Improving local community social capital and cohesion.
- Improving local individual's knowledge, skills and capacities.
- Finding / implementing innovative solutions to local problems.
- Cooperating with other LAG territories.

Total Number of Responses 10

Importance and Achievability of LEADER Effects

Effect	Very/ important and achievable	Very/ important and difficult	Not imortant (difficult/achievable)
Cooperating with other LAG territories	90%	10%	
Directly addressing local issues and opportunities.	80%	10%	
Strengthening public private partnership	60%	40%	
Strengthening stakeholder participation in governance	30%	70%	
Unpaid work carried out by LAG members	50%	50%	
Improving local individual's knowledge, skills and capacities.	50%	50%	
Mobilising local / endogenous resources	40%	50%	
Improving local community social capital and cohesion	30%	60%	
Strengthening economic linkages among local actors	50%	50%	
Finding / implementing innovative solutions to local problems.	20%	80%	

- Overall Hungarian and EU respondents ranked the importance of these effects similarly. The main differences evident were in levels of achievability.

- Hungarian LAGs judged the following LEADER effects to be more achievable than the EU average: cooperation with other LAG territories (90% of HU LAGs state it as important and achievable compared to 67% of EU LAGs), directly addressing local issues and opportunities (80% of HU LAGs regarded it as important and achievable compared to 63% across the EU) and strengthening economic linkages among local actors (50% vs 37%).

- The achievability of most of the other effects were broadly similar, however strengthening stakeholder participation in governance was regarded as less achievable in Hungary compared to the EU average (30% vs 56%).
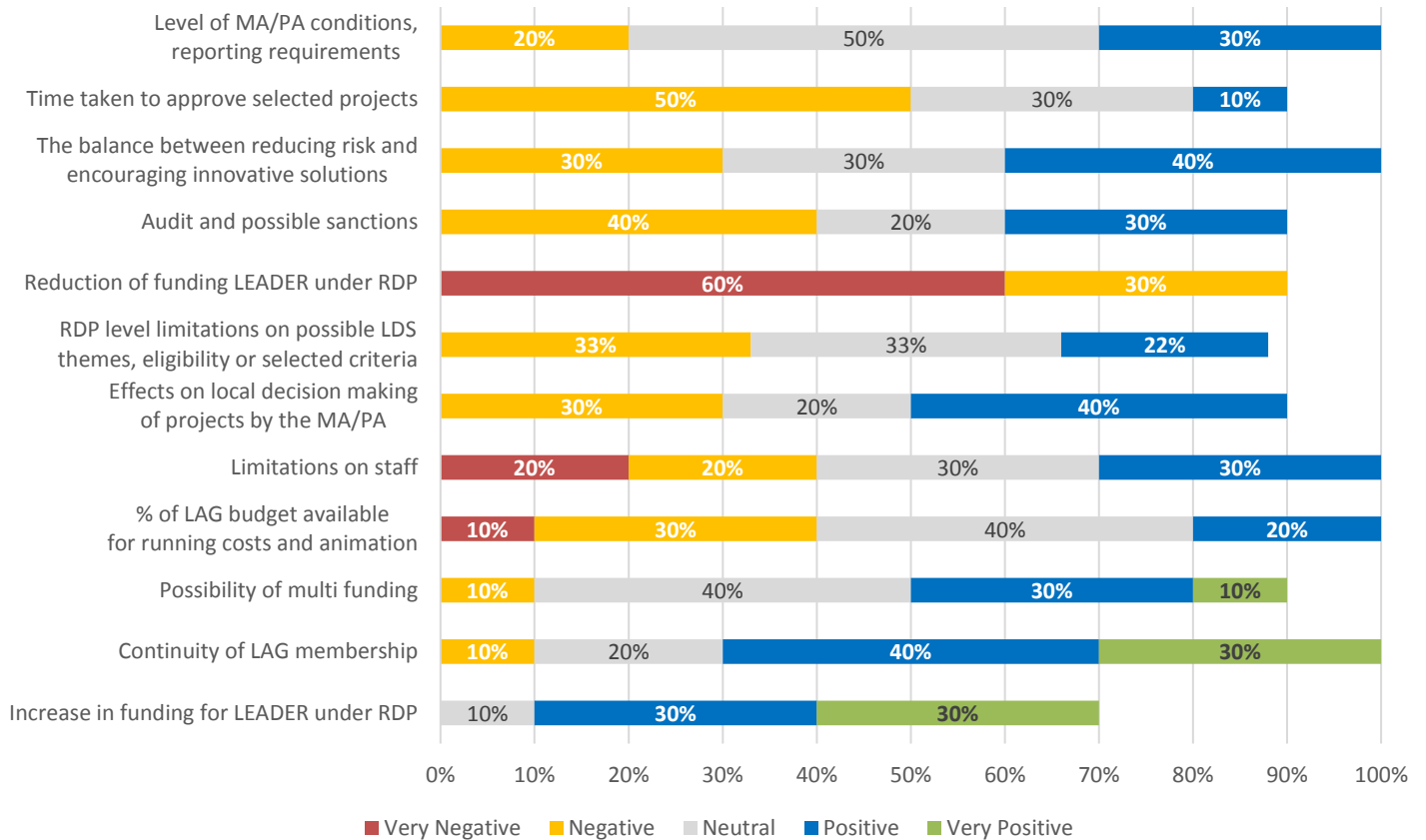
LEADER Operation

Question 17

What level of effect have the following factors had on the implementation of LEADER in your LAG territory? (for each option enter either 0 = not applicable, 1 = very negative, 2 = negative, 3 = neutral, 4 = positive, 5 = very positive)

- Reduction of funding for LEADER under the RDP.
- Increase in funding for LEADER under the RDP.
- RDP level limitations on possible Local Development Strategy themes, eligibility or selection criteria.
- Level of Managing Authority/Paying Agency conditions, reporting requirements.
- Time taken to approve selected projects.
- Audit and possible sanctions.
- The balance in implementation procedures effects between reducing risk and encouraging innovative solutions.
- Effects on local decision-making of final approval of projects by the managing authority or paying agency.
- Percentage of LAG budget available for running costs and animation.
- Limitations on staff (continuity, skills, number).
- Continuity of LAG membership.
- Possibility of multi funding.

Total Number of Responses 10

Level of Effects on LEADER Implementation

	Very Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Very Positive
Level of MA/PA conditions, reporting requirements		20%	50%	30%	
Time taken to approve selected projects		50%	30%	10%	
The balance between reducing risk and encouraging innovative solutions		30%	30%	40%	
Audit and possible sanctions		40%	20%	30%	
Reduction of funding LEADER under RDP	60%	30%			
RDP level limitations on possible LDS themes, eligibility or selected criteria		33%	33%	22%	
Effects on local decision making of projects by the MA/PA		30%	20%	40%	
Limitations on staff	20%	20%	30%	30%	
% of LAG budget available for running costs and animation	10%	30%	40%	20%	
Possibility of multi funding		10%	40%	30%	10%
Continuity of LAG membership		10%	20%	40%	30%
Increase in funding for LEADER under RDP		10%		30%	30%

For the purposes of improving the clarity of the analysis the 'not applicable' responses have been removed from the chart.
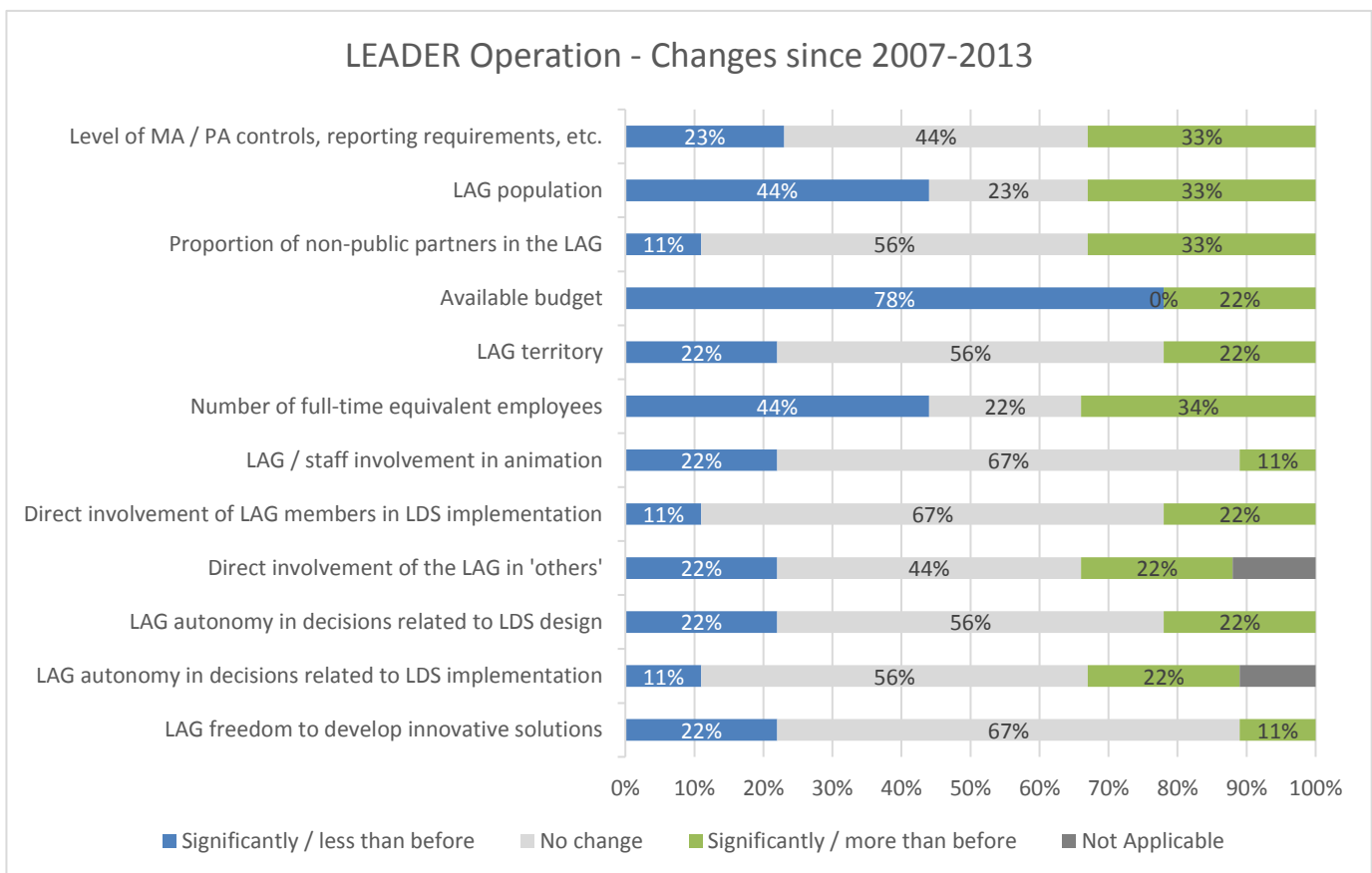
- LAG respondents in Hungary were noticeably more positive in their assessments of effects on LEADER implementation compared to the EU-wide sample e.g. in relation to effects on local decision making on projects by the MA / PA and the balance between risk and encouraging innovative solutions (both 40% vs 8%). Indeed, only reduction of funding LEADER under RDP (60% vs 28%) and limitations on staff (20% vs 16%) were regarded as very negative more frequently amongst the HU LAGs compared to the EU-wide sample.

- LAGs in Hungary were noticeably more positive about the effect of continuity of LAG membership; it was regarded as positive or very positive by 70% of HU LAGs compared to 38% across the EU.

Question 18

How have the following aspects changed for your LAG between the 2007 – 2013 and 2014-2020 Programming periods? (1 = significantly less than before, 2 = less than before, 3 = no change, 4 = more than before, 5 = significantly more than before) (routed for only those LAGs previously operational)

- Available budget.
- LAG territory.
- LAG population.
- Number of full-time equivalent employees.
- LAG / staff involvement in animation.
- LAG autonomy in decisions related to local development strategy design.
- LAG autonomy in decisions related to local development strategy implementation.
- Level of MA controls, reporting requirements etc.
- LAG freedom to develop innovative solutions.
- Proportion of non-public partners in the LAG.
- Direct involvement of LAG members in LDS implementation.
- Direct involvement of the LAG in other regional and territorial development actions or structures.

Total Number of Responses 9

LEADER Operation - Changes since 2007-2013

| Aspect	Significantly / less than before	No change	Significantly / more than before	Not Applicable
Level of MA / PA controls, reporting requirements, etc.	23%	44%	33%	
LAG population	44%	23%	33%	
Proportion of non-public partners in the LAG	11%	56%	33%	
Available budget	78%	0%	22%	
LAG territory	22%	56%	22%	
Number of full-time equivalent employees	44%	22%	34%	
LAG / staff involvement in animation	22%	67%	11%	
Direct involvement of LAG members in LDS implementation	11%	67%	22%	
Direct involvement of the LAG in 'others'	22%	44%	22%	
LAG autonomy in decisions related to LDS design	22%	56%	22%	
LAG autonomy in decisions related to LDS implementation	11%	56%	22%	
LAG freedom to develop innovative solutions	22%	67%	11%	

- When considering changes between the current and 2007-2013 programme periods, there were several notable differences between the Hungarian and EU wide responses.

- One such notable difference was that 78% of HU LAGs said that their available budget was less or significantly less than before, whereas across the EU just 43% said so. Furthermore, 44% of HU LAGs said that the LAG population was less or significantly less than before compared to just 23% across the EU, and 44% of HU LAGs said that the number of full time equivalent employees was less or significantly less than before compared to just 20% across the EU.

- Only 33% of HU LAGs felt that the level of MA / PA conditions and reporting requirements were more or significantly more than before, compared to 63% across the EU and only 22% report that their freedom to develop innovative solutions was less than before vs 37% at EU level.

Question 19

Please think about your day-to-day work in the LAG and rank the three types of activity which your LAG staff spend most time on overall on a scale of 1 − 3 where 1 = most time spent.

- Reporting to /working with LAG board and members.
- Supporting project development and implementation.
- Financial and administrative management of LAG and local projects.
- Reporting and communication with the Managing Authority and Paying Agency (including regional intermediaries).
- Animation, capacity building and training of local stakeholders (inc LAG members).
- Supporting innovation at the local level.
- Monitoring and reviewing the local development strategy.
- Developing /managing cooperation projects.
- Working with other LAGs, the regional/national rural network and the ENRD.

Total Number of Responses 10

Activities LAG Staff Spend Most Time On
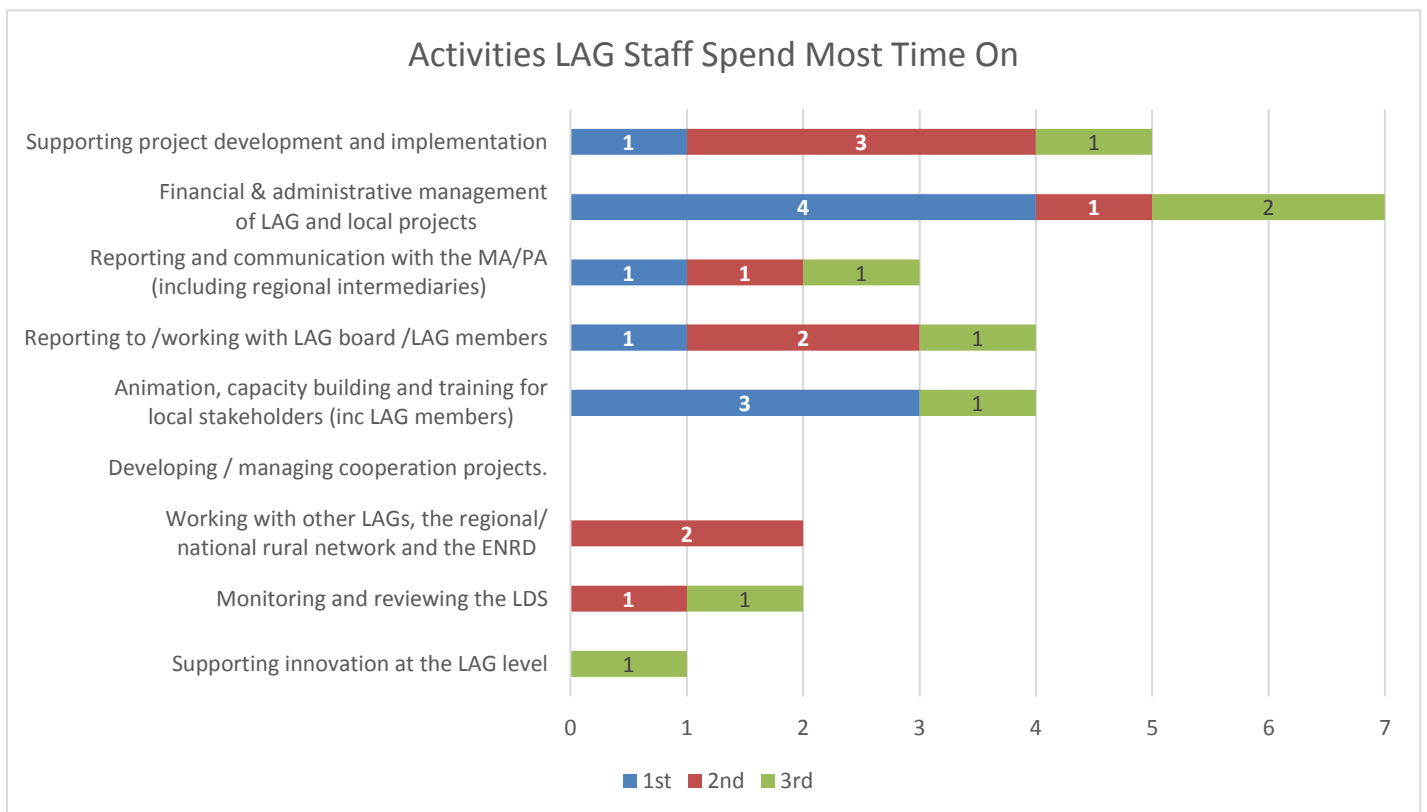
- When considering activities that LAG staff spend most time on the highest ranked activities overall amongst the HU LAGs were financial and administrative management of the LAG and local projects and supporting project development and implementation. These activities were also mentioned most frequently across the EU sample.

Question 20

Where would you like to be able to devote more of your LAG team`s time or resources in order to maximise the benefit of LEADER to your LAG territory? Please rank the three most important options below on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- Reporting to /working with LAG board /LAG members.
- Supporting project development and implementation.
- Financial and administrative management of LAG and local projects.
- Reporting and communication with the Managing Authority and Paying Agency (including regional intermediaries).
- Animation, capacity building and training of local stakeholders (inc LAG members).
- Supporting innovation at the local level.
- Monitoring and reviewing the local development strategy.
- Developing /managing cooperation projects.
- Working with other LAGs, the regional/national rural network and the ENRD.

Total Number of Responses 10
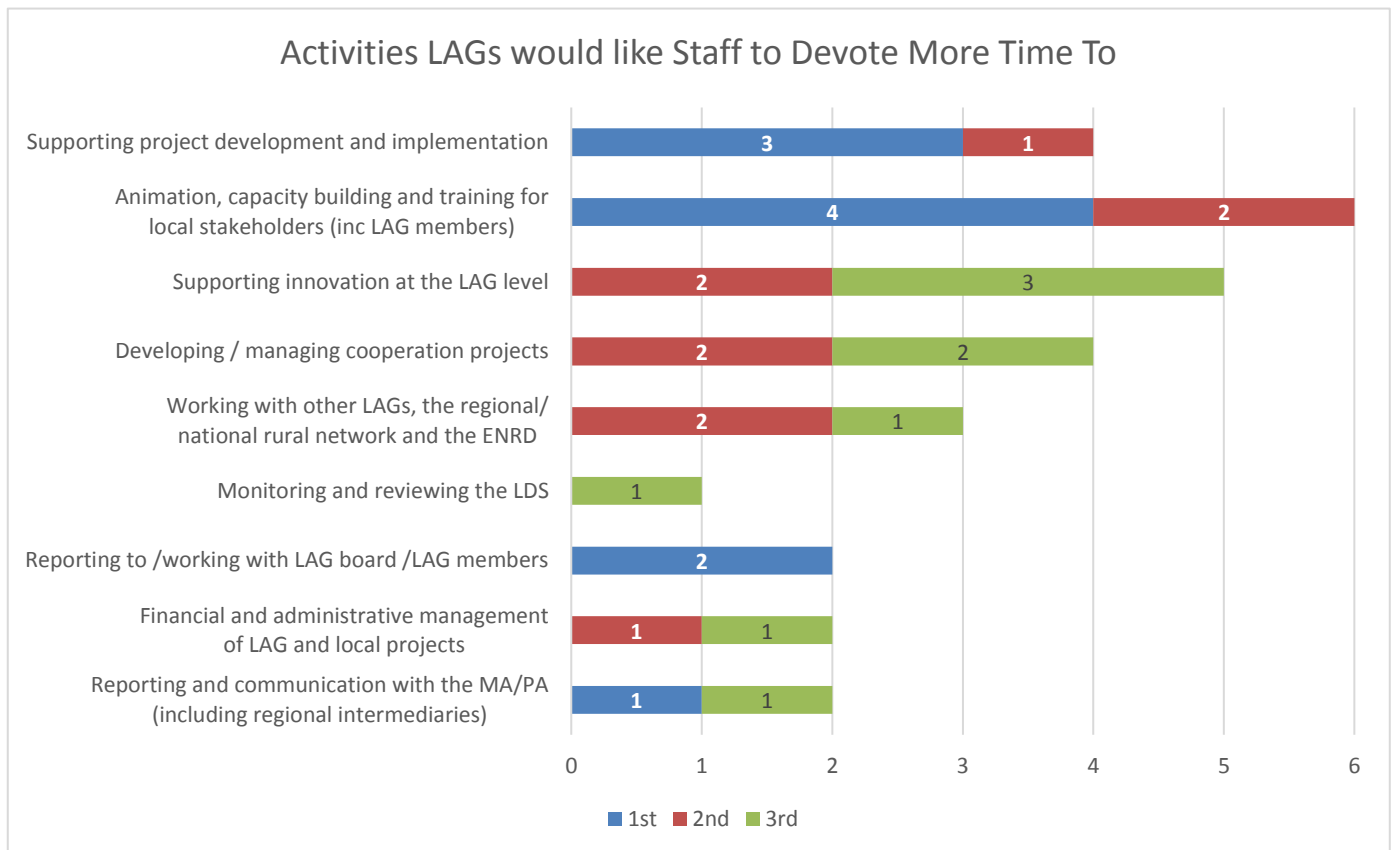
- There are no significant differences in activity ranking between the Hungarian LAGs and the wider sample.

- In common with the EU-wide sample, financial and administrative management of LAG and local projects takes up a considerable amount of time for HU LAGs and was not a priority to increase. As a percentage of overall responses, animation, capacity building and training for local stakeholders was mentioned more frequently in HU than across the EU-wide sample, both as a priority to increase and an activity that currently absorbs most time.

Question 21

How important are the following operational priorities to your LAG? Please select your top 3 most important options below in order of importance on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- To achieve the strategic objectives of the local development strategy (LDS).
- To maximise the number of projects supported by the LDS.
- To maximise the budget spent under the LDS.
- To ensure that LDS contributes to the RDP.
- To optimise the efficiency of LAG management.
- To strengthen the role and profile of the LAG locally.
- To promote the social, economic and cultural cohesion of the area.
- To develop and support innovative local solutions.
- To avoid risk wherever possible.
- To develop and maintain local stakeholders' networks.
- To develop cooperation with partners from outside the LAG territory.
- To develop / mobilise local capacities and resources (human, funding, knowledge, etc.)

Total Number of Responses 10

Importance of Operational Priorities to LAGs
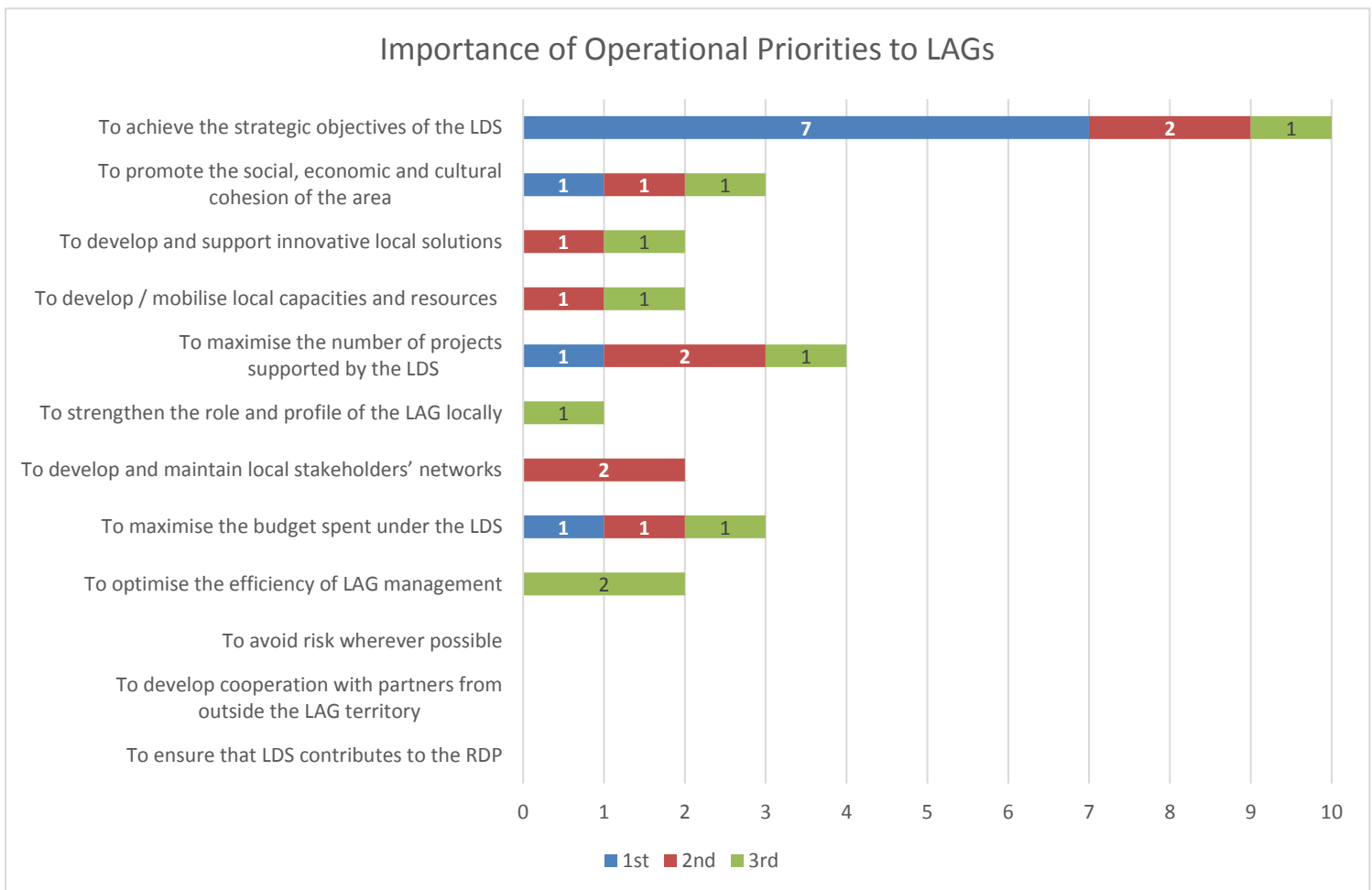
- In keeping with the EU-wide sample, the most frequently ranked operational priority amongst the HU LAGs was to achieve the strategic objectives of the LDS. To maximise the number of projects supported by the LDS was the second most important operational priority amongst the HU LAGs, although across the EU this was only ranked fifth most important operational priority.
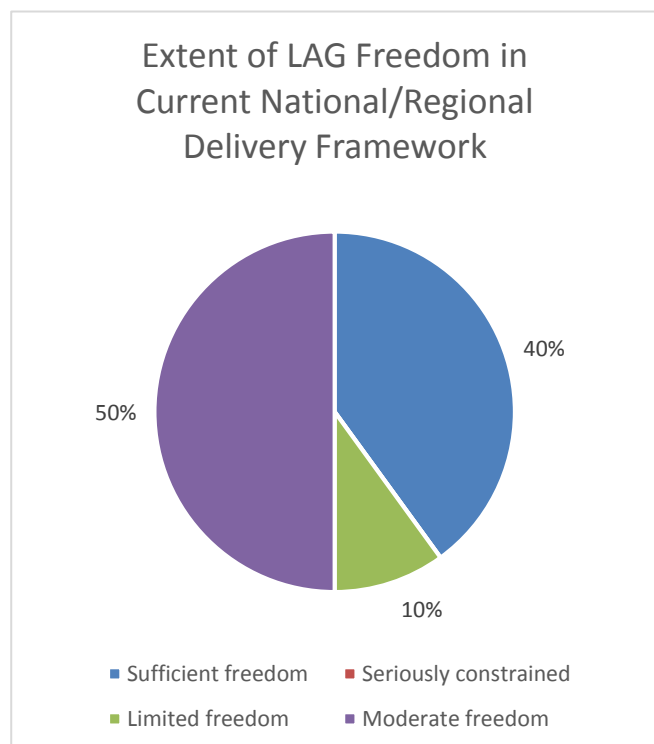
Question 22

To what extent does your national or regional LEADER delivery framework enable your LAG to pursue these operational priorities? Please select the option most appropriate to your LAG.

- The LAG has sufficient freedom to allow it to pursue its preferred priorities.
- The LAG has a moderate degree of freedom which allows it to partially address its priorities.
- The LAG has a limited degree of freedom which substantially compromises its freedom to address its priorities.
- The LAGs freedom to address its operational priorities is seriously constrained

Total Number of Responses 10

- There was a marked difference between the Hungarian LAGs response to this question and the overall sample response, with 40% of HU LAGs judging their level of freedom to pursue their priorities as sufficient as opposed to just 17% in the EU-wide sample.

- A lower proportion (10%) of the HU LAGs said they are constrained compared to the EU-wide sample (38%), none were seriously constrained.
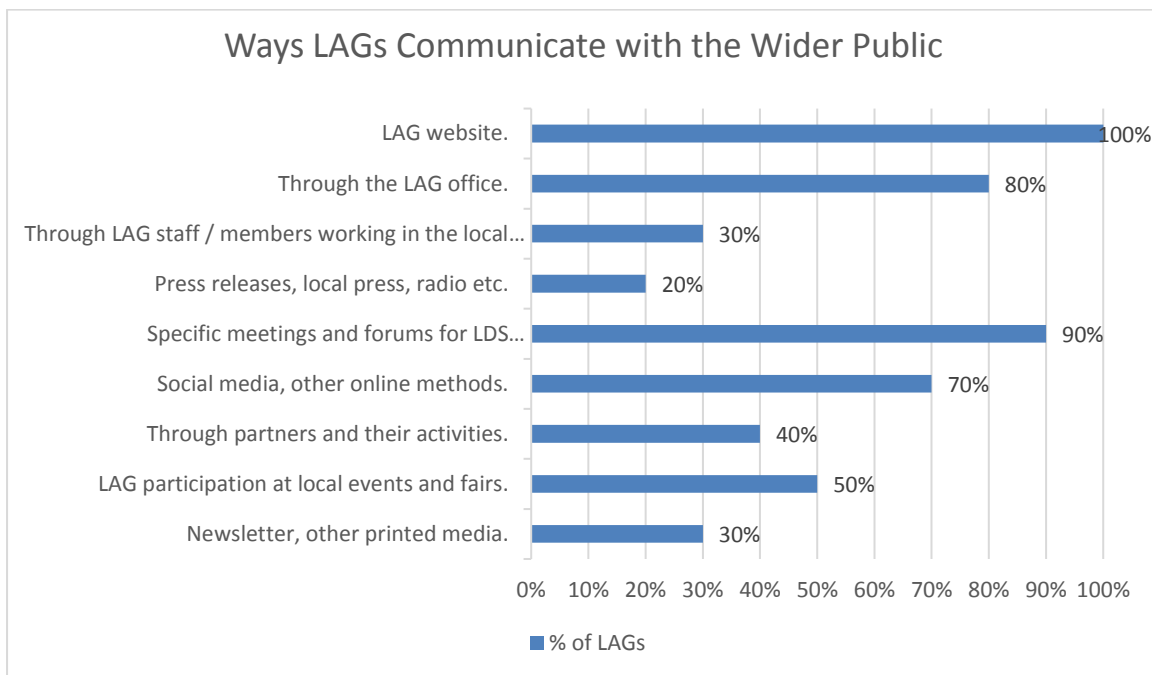

Extent of LAG Freedom in Current National/Regional Delivery Framework

40%
10%
50%

- Sufficient freedom
- Seriously constrained
- Limited freedom
- Moderate freedom

Question 23

What is the main way your LAG communicates with the wider public in your LAG Territory (including potential beneficiaries)? Please select those methods which your LAG uses.

- LAG website.
- Specific meetings and forums for LDS implementation.
- Through the LAG office.
- Through LAG staff / members working in the local community.
- LAG participation at local events and fairs.
- Press releases, local press, radio etc.
- Newsletter, other printed media.
- Social media, other online methods.
- Through partners and their activities.

Total Number of Responses 10

Ways LAGs Communicate with the Wider Public

| Category	%
LAG website.	100%
Through the LAG office.	80%
Through LAG staff / members working in the local…	30%
Press releases, local press, radio etc.	20%
Specific meetings and forums for LDS…	90%
Social media, other online methods.	70%
Through partners and their activities.	40%
LAG participation at local events and fairs.	50%
Newsletter, other printed media.	30%

■ % of LAGs

- Hungarian LAGs communicate less frequently through LAG staff / members working in the local community (30% vs 66%) and also less frequently through press releases, local press, radio etc compared with the EU sample (20% vs 65%),.

- However, specific meetings and forums for LDS implementation are more frequently used in Hungary compared to the EU-wide sample (90% vs 62%).

Question 24

What are the main ways in which you receive information from the Managing Authority? Please select those methods which are most used

- Managing Authority website.
- Regular meetings and forums organised for LAGs.
- Through National Rural Network.
- Social media.
- Printed publications and guidance.
- Email.
- Through intermediary e.g. regional office or network.

Total Number of Responses 10

Ways LAGs Receive Information from MA/PA

Method	Percentage
Email	90%
Regular meetings and forums organised for LAGs	90%
Managing Authority website	40%
Through National Rural Network	
Through intermediary e.g. regional office or network	
Printed publications and guidance	10%
Social media	10%
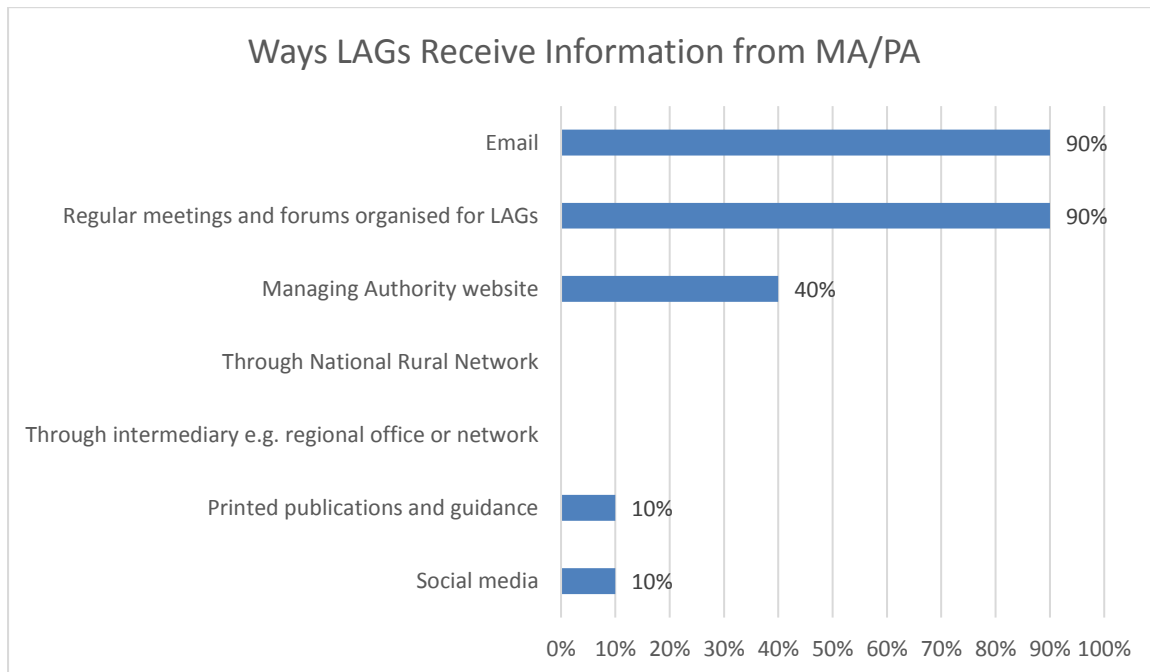
- In common with the EU-wide sample, e-mail and regular meetings and forums organised for LAGs are the most common methods by which LAGs receive information from their MA / PA in Hungary.

- However, the National Rural Network (0% vs 31%) and intermediaries (0% vs 22%) are notable as unused communication methods in Hungary compared to the EU-wide sample.

Question 25

Which of the following priority themes relate most closely to your Local Development Strategy objectives? Please select (up to) the three most relevant ones from the options provided.

- Knowledge transfer, education, capacity building.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Agriculture and farming, supply chains, local food.
- Local economy (non-agriculture), job creation.
- Culture, traditions, built environment.
- Natural environment and resources, landscape.
- Social inclusion, equality of opportunity, cohesion, services.
- Local governance and community development.
- Broadband, internet, ICT.

Total Number of Responses 10

Priority Themes Included in LDS
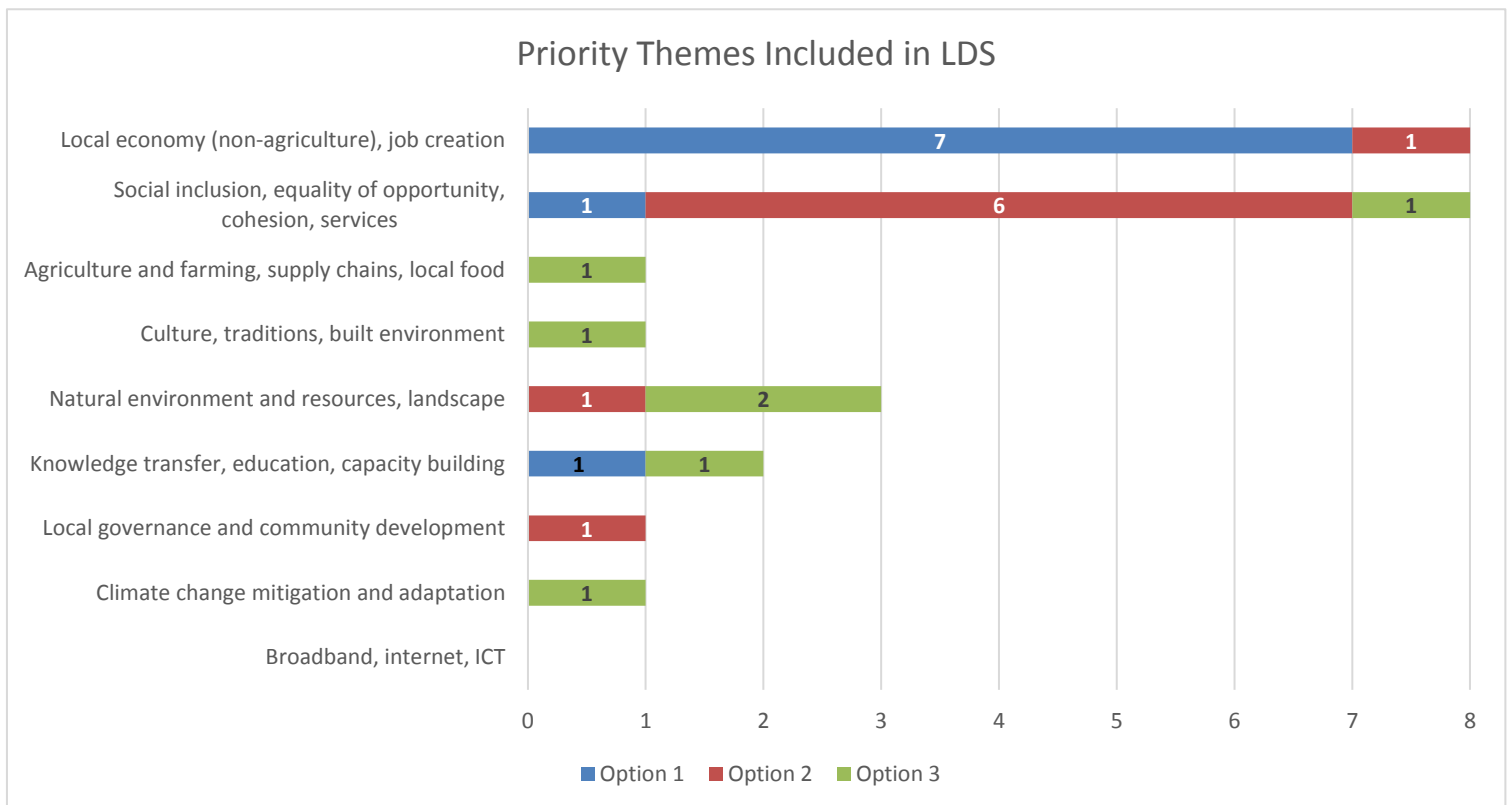
- In common with the EU-wide sample, local economy (non-agriculture), job creation and social inclusion, equality of opportunity, cohesion, and service and are the most frequently ranked priority themes amongst Hungarian LAGs.
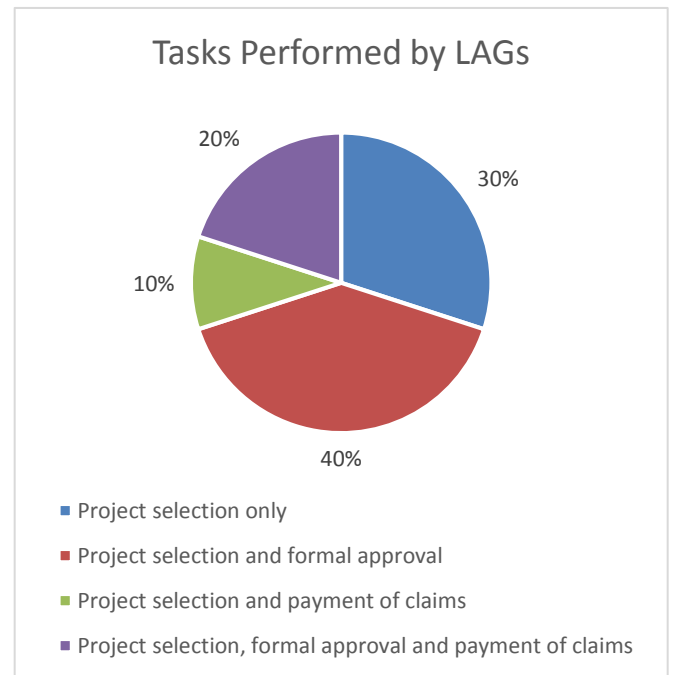
Question 26

What tasks does your LAG perform in relation to LEADER projects as part of your LDS implementation?
Please select one of the options.

- Project selection only
- Project selection and formal approval
- Project selection and payment of claims
- Project selection, formal approval and payment of claims

Total Number of Responses 10

- Fewer Hungarian LAGs undertake project selection only compared to the EU-wide sample (30% vs 48%) and a larger proportion undertake selection and formal approval (40% vs 30%).

Tasks Performed by LAGs

- Project selection only
- Project selection and formal approval
- Project selection and payment of claims
- Project selection, formal approval and payment of claims

LEADER Improvements

Question 27

What is most important to address in helping LAGs to be effective in implementing LEADER now? Please select and rank your top five priorities from the following items in order of their importance in (where 1= highest importance and 5 = 5th most important)

- Better common knowledge and support through networking of LAGs, Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies and National Rural Networks and exchanges on transferable experience and practices
- The eligibility of measures to support the emergence of new ideas, e.g. the use of feasibility studies, LAG led projects, pilot projects, preparatory work etc. should be ensured from the EU level down.
- Setting aside a significant and specific budget for LAG animation activities.
- Allocating resources for cooperation to the LAG level.
- Ensuring better common knowledge of and support for LAGs to take advantage of using simplified cost options.
- LAGs setting selection criteria and defining calls
- LAGs using qualitative criteria and local knowledge to inform project selection decisions.
- Ensuring better common knowledge of and support for LAGs to take advantage of using different delivery tools e.g. 'Umbrella projects'.
- Improving MA or intermediary body turnaround time on approving selected projects.
- Improving timeliness of payments of beneficiaries` claims.
- Simpler and more proportionate systems of controls (for smaller projects?).
- Simplification, harmonisation and flexibility to support LAGs in the practical use of multi-funding.
- Greater clarity on LAG level monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements in LEADER.
- Strengthening communication, coordination and cooperation between LAGs, Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies in delivering LEADER.
- A dedicated EU/national platform for information sharing among LEADER actors.
- Simpler application forms/application process.
- Allowing LAGs to act as a 'platform', signposting and brokering support from multiple (third party) sources to further LDS objectives.

Total Number of Responses 10

- A noticeable difference between the Hungarian LAG responses and the EU-wide LAG response is that improving MA/ intermediary body turnaround time on approving selected projects was the least frequently mentioned change amongst the Hungarian LAGs but was the third most frequently mentioned change in the EU-wide sample. On the other hand, better knowledge and support so LAGs can use SCO and allocating resources for cooperation at the LAG level were more important changes for the Hungarian LAGs than for LAGs in the EU wide-sample.
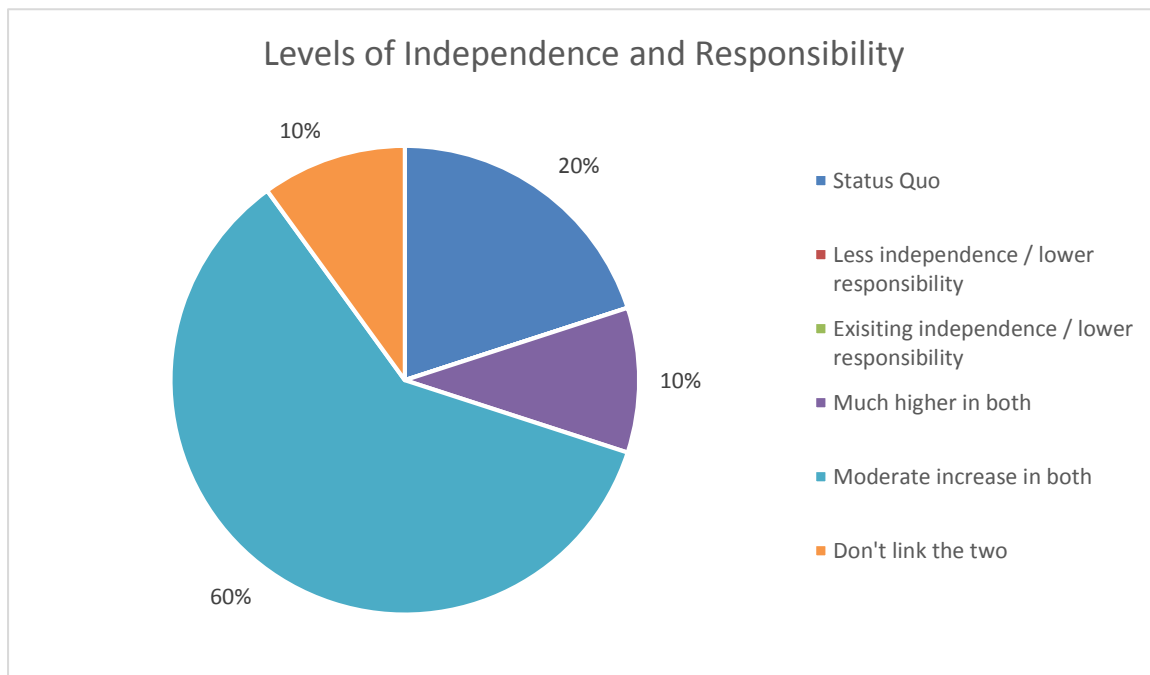
Most Important Changes to Improve Implementation Now
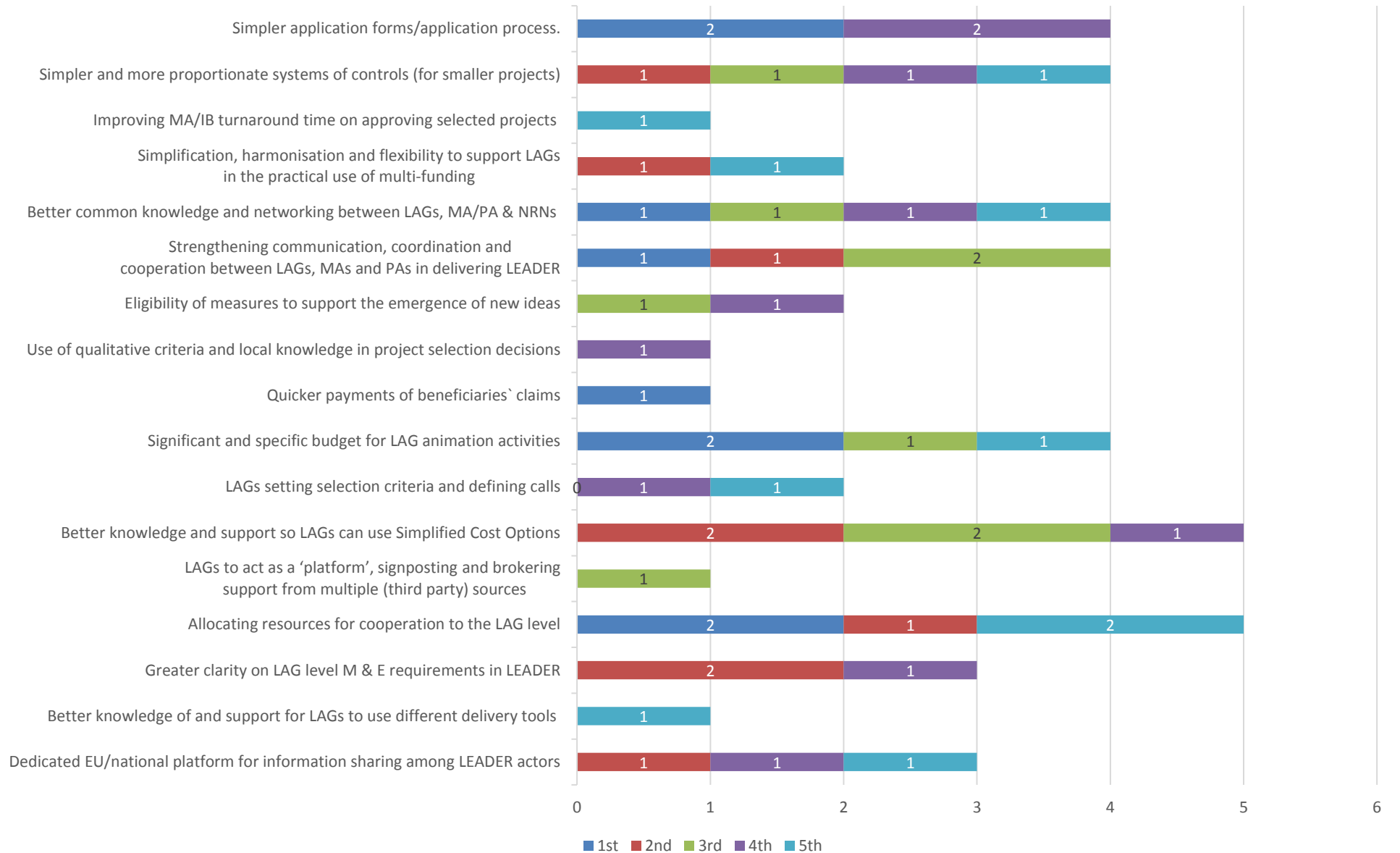
Question 28:

Some LAGs desire greater independence in their operations with more power and responsibility e.g. in project selection and approvals, project management, use of funds, managing risk etc. Which one of these statements best reflects your LAG`s position?

- We are happy with the existing levels of responsibility, independence and accountability
- We prefer less independence with a lower level of direct LAG responsibility and financial accountability
- We prefer the existing level of independence with a lower level of direct LAG responsibility and financial accountability
- We prefer a much higher degree of independence and would be happy with a significantly higher degree of direct responsibility and financial accountability
- We prefer a moderate increase in independence with a moderate increase in direct responsibility and financial accountability
- Any increase in independence should not be linked to increased LAG responsibilities and accountability

Total number of responses – 10

Levels of Independence and Responsibility

Legend:
- Status Quo
- Less independence / lower responsibility
- Exisiting independence / lower responsibility
- Much higher in both
- Moderate increase in both
- Don't link the two

- Hungarian LAGs were more in favour of moderate increases in both independence and responsibility compared to the EU wide sample (60% vs 28%).
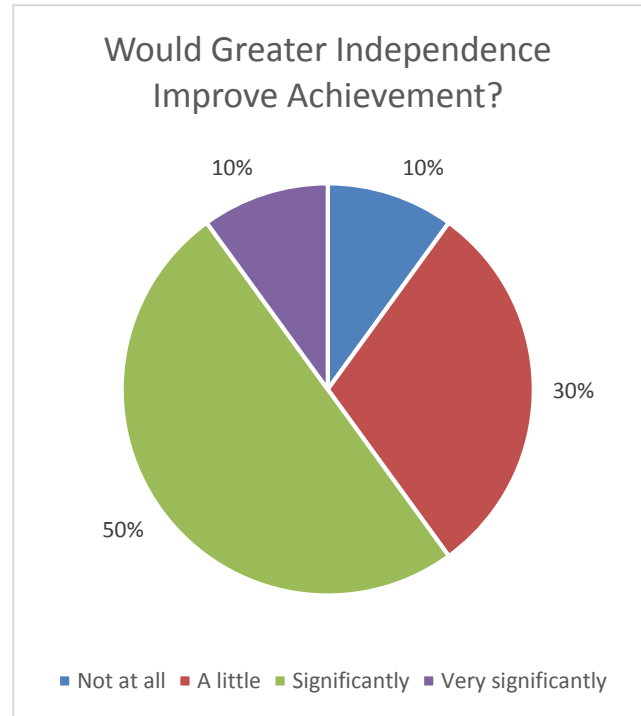
Question 29

To what extent would greater independence, power and responsibility for your LAGs improve what you are able to achieve? Please select one option.

- Not at all
- A little
- Significantly
- Very significantly

Total Number of Responses 10

- Hungarian LAG responses closely mirrored the EU wide sample although slightly more (50%) thought that greater independence would improve achievement significantly compared with the EU-wide sample (42%).

Would Greater Independence Improve Achievement?

10%   10%

30%

50%

■ Not at all ■ A little ■ Significantly ■ Very significantly

Question 30

If it was possible to reduce LAG administration through the provision of a centralised support service (e.g. shared and managed by multiple LAGs) to what extent would that improve your LAGs level of achievement?

- Not at all
- A little %
- Significantly
- Very significantly

Total Number of Responses 10

Would a Centralised Support Service Improve LAGs' Level of Achievement?
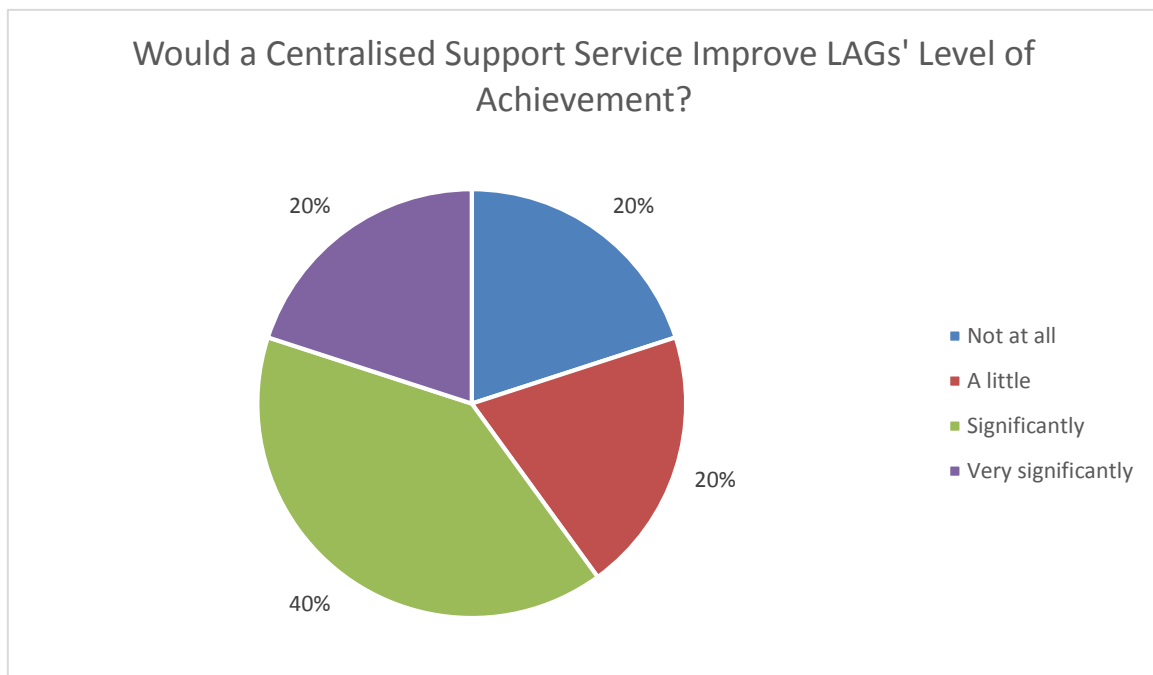
- Compared to the EU-wide sample, more (60% vs 37%) HU respondents felt that a centralised support service would improve LAGs' level of achievement to a significant or very significant extent.
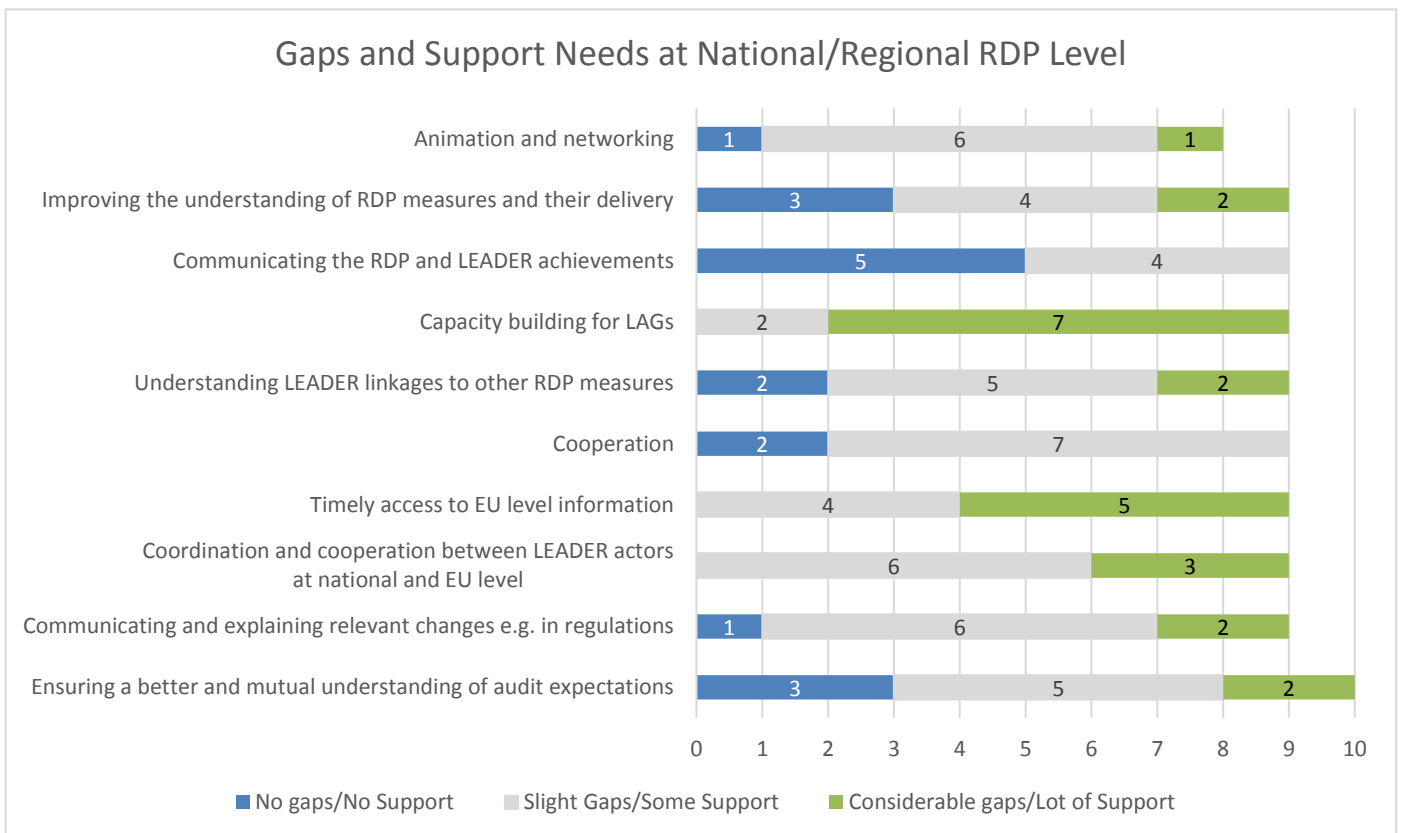
Question 31

To what extent does support from national and regional Rural Development Programme authorities (e.g. Managing Authority, Paying Agency) meet LAG needs and enhance LEADER implementation? Please, use the following scale to rank the provision against the specified needs:

1= no gaps in support – no support needed,
2 = slight gaps – some support needed,
3 = considerable gaps – lot of support needed.

- Improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery.
- Communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements.
- Understanding LEADER linkages to other RDP measures.
- Capacity building for LAGs.
- Animation and networking.
- Cooperation.
- Timely access to EU level information.
- Coordination and cooperation between LEADER actors at national and EU level.
- Communicating and explaining relevant changes e.g. in regulations.
- Ensuring a better and mutual understanding of audit expectations.

Total Number of Responses 9

Gaps and Support Needs at National/Regional RDP Level

Category	No gaps/No Support	Slight Gaps/Some Support	Considerable gaps/Lot of Support
Animation and networking	1	6	1
Improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery	3	4	2
Communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements	5	4	
Capacity building for LAGs		2	7
Understanding LEADER linkages to other RDP measures	2	5	2
Cooperation	2	7	
Timely access to EU level information		4	5
Coordination and cooperation between LEADER actors at national and EU level		6	3
Communicating and explaining relevant changes e.g. in regulations	1	6	2
Ensuring a better and mutual understanding of audit expectations	3	5	2

- Capacity building for LAGs is a much greater support need in Hungary than across the EU. Timely access to EU level information is also in greater need of support in Hungary, although cooperation and communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements are slightly less of a need than across the EU.
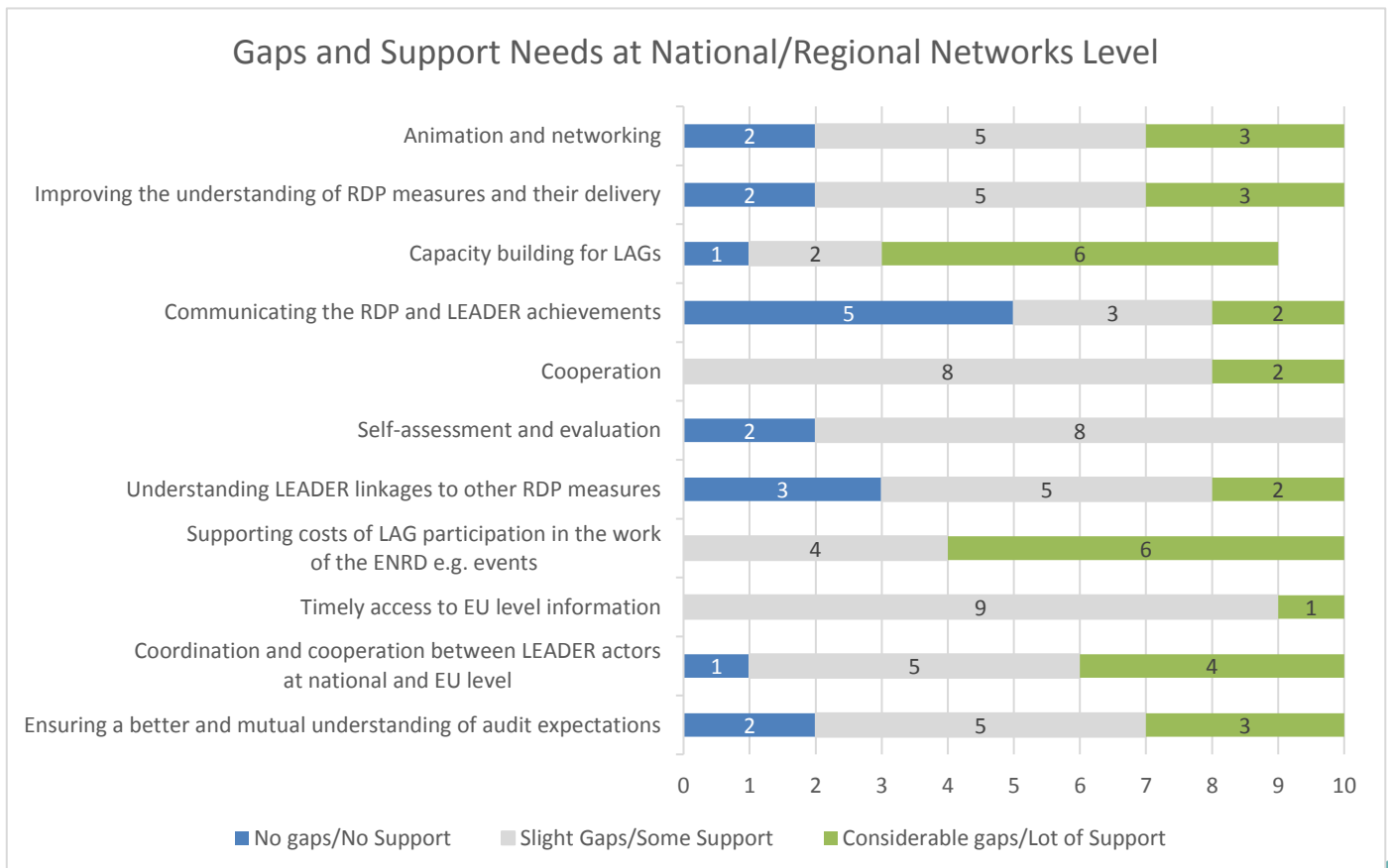
Question 32

To what extent does support from national and regional Rural Networks meet LAG needs and enhance LEADER implementation? Please, use the following scale to rank the provision against the specified needs:

1= no gaps in support – no support needed,
2 = slight gaps – some support needed,
3 = considerable gaps – lot of support needed.

- Improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery.
- Self-assessment and evaluation.
- Communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements.
- Understanding LEADER linkages to other RDP measures, e.g. EIP Operational Groups.
- Capacity building for LAGs.
- Animation and networking.
- Cooperation.
- Timely access to EU level information.
- Supporting costs of LAG participation in the work of the ENRD e.g. events
- Coordination and cooperation between LEADER actors at national and EU level.
- Ensuring a better and mutual understanding of audit expectations.

Total Number of Responses 9

Gaps and Support Needs at National/Regional Networks Level

Category	No gaps/No Support	Slight Gaps/Some Support	Considerable gaps/Lot of Support
Animation and networking	2	5	3
Improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery	2	5	3
Capacity building for LAGs	1	2	6
Communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements	5	3	2
Cooperation		8	2
Self-assessment and evaluation	2	8	
Understanding LEADER linkages to other RDP measures	3	5	2
Supporting costs of LAG participation in the work of the ENRD e.g. events		4	6
Timely access to EU level information		9	1
Coordination and cooperation between LEADER actors at national and EU level	1	5	4
Ensuring a better and mutual understanding of audit expectations	2	5	3

- The gaps and support needs from the networks identified by Hungarian LAGs vary from the EU-wide sample. HU respondents indicated considerable gaps in capacity building support for LAGs while supporting costs of LAG participation in the work of the ENRD was also frequently mentioned. However, cooperation and communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements are slightly less of a support need than across the EU.
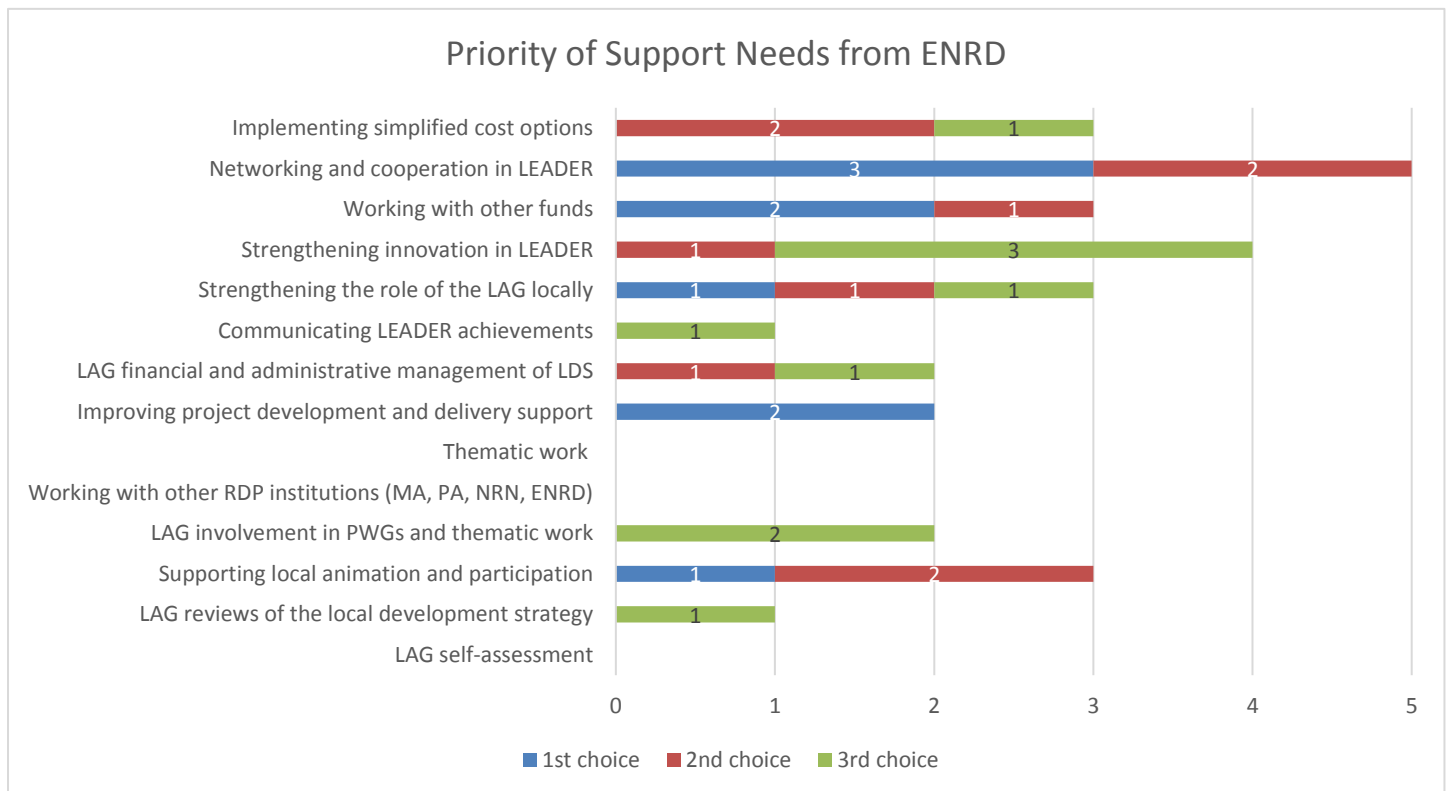
Question 33

Which of the following areas of your LAG's activity are the priorities which the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) should work on to help your LAG most?

Please rank the three most important options below on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- LAG reviews of the local development strategy.
- LAG financial and administrative management of local development strategy implementation.
- Improving project development and delivery support.
- Implementing simplified cost options.
- Networking and cooperation in LEADER.
- Communicating LEADER achievements.
- Strengthening innovation in LEADER.
- Strengthening the role of the LAG locally.
- Supporting local animation and participation.
- Thematic work (e.g. Greening the local economy, social innovation, ICT & broadband, smart villages, etc.).
- Working with other RDP institutions (MA, PA, NRN, ENRD).
- LAG self-assessment.
- Working with other funds.
- LAG involvement in practitioner-working groups and thematic work.

Total Number of Responses 10


Priority of Support Needs from ENRD

- There are differences between the Hungarian responses to this question and the wider sample. Communicating LEADER achievements was not as important to Hungarian LAGs, neither was thematic work or working with other RDP institutions (MA, PA, NRN, ENRD). However, networking and cooperation in LEADER and supporting local animation and participation were identified as support needs to a greater extent than across the EU sample.

Question 34

What could help you get more involved in the work of the ENRD? You may select up to three of the options below. Please rank the three most important options below on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- More flexible administrative rules relating to travel, participations in conferences etc.
- A higher LAG budget
- More available time
- More LAG staff
- More language versions of ENRD documents
- More information from the NRN on ENRD activities
- NRN support
- Less costly methods of participation (e.g. Online meetings)
- Access to support for costs of participation in events
- Other, please describe

Total Number of Responses 10
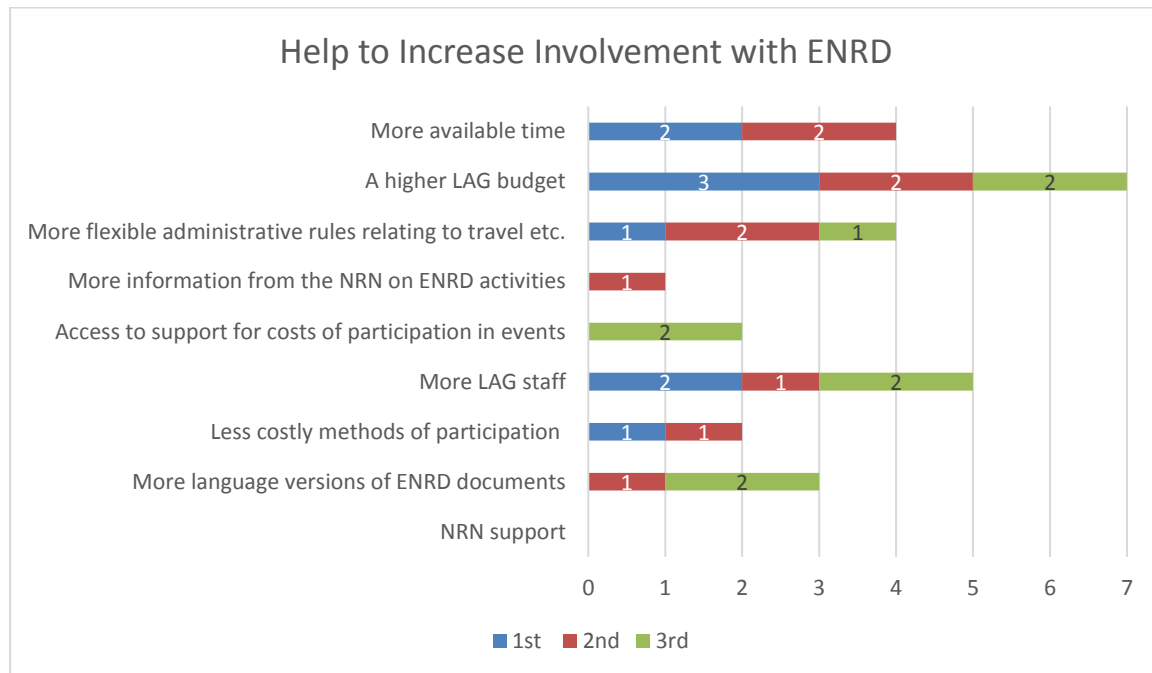
- Across the Hungarian LAGs more LAG staff was the second most frequently ranked way in which involvement with the ENRD could be increased, but across the EU it was only the sixth most frequently ranked option. More information from the NRN on ENRD activities was much less frequently mentioned amongst the HU LAGs than across the EU-wide sample.

Question 35

How important do you think self-assessment (internal review) of your own Local Development Strategy is to improving your LAG`s operation?

- Not very important
- Moderate importance
- Important
- Essential

Total Number of Responses 9
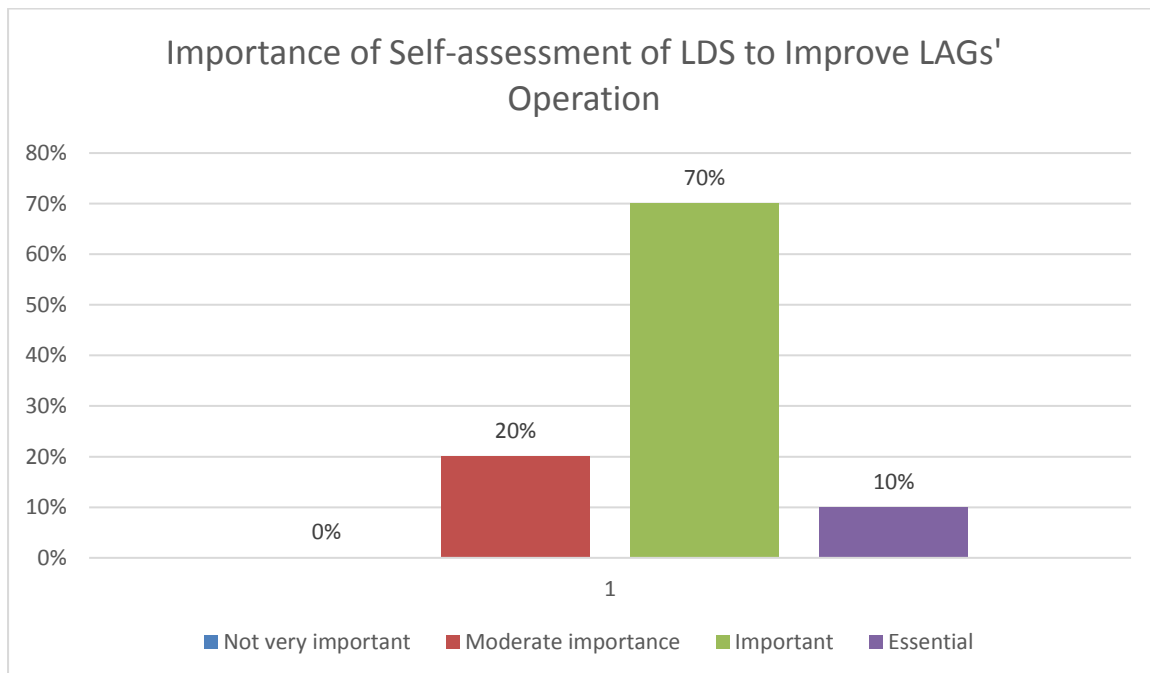
- Compared to the EU-wide sample, a higher percentage (70% vs 43%) of HU respondents said LDS self-assessment was important, but fewer (10% vs 28%) said it was essential.

Question 36

When are you planning to launch your first self-assessment?

- Already done
- By end 2017
- First half of 2018
- Second half of 2018
- In 2019 or later
- It is an ongoing process
- Not applicable

Total Number of Responses 10
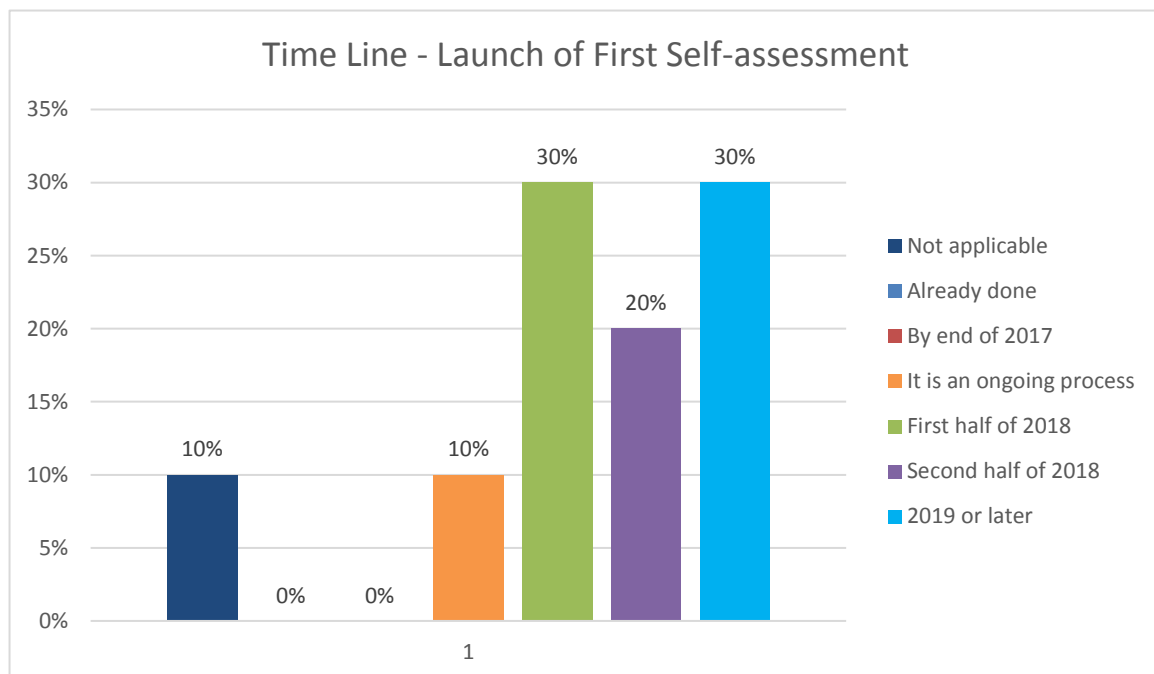
- Whereas 14% of the EU-wide sample said they had already conducted self-assessment work, and 18% stated it as an ongoing process, in Hungary no respondents indicated that it had taken place and only 10% said it was an ongoing process. Furthermore, while the figure of 50% of Hungarian respondents indicating a self-assessment would be launched in 2018 is very similar to the EU-wide figure of 48%, a further 30% said it would not be launched until 2019 or later compared to the EU wide sample of just 12%.

Question 37

Are you willing to participate in further LEADER work with the ENRD (e.g. a focus group, practitioner-working group, other forms)?

- Yes – 78%
- No – 22%

Total Number of Responses 9

78% of Hungarian LAGs said they were willing to participate in further LEADER work with the ENRD which is very similar to the figure of 81% in the EU wide sample.