



European Network for  
Rural Development

# **LEADER LAG Survey 2017**

**Working Paper**

**Findings at Member State level**

**Member State: Netherlands**

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## 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*

- The Netherlands (NL)
- 8 LAGs responded, representing 1.13% of total LAG responses
- 40% of NL LAGs responded to the survey

## Question 2

Please select your Rural Development Programme (RDP)

- NL has one national programmes.

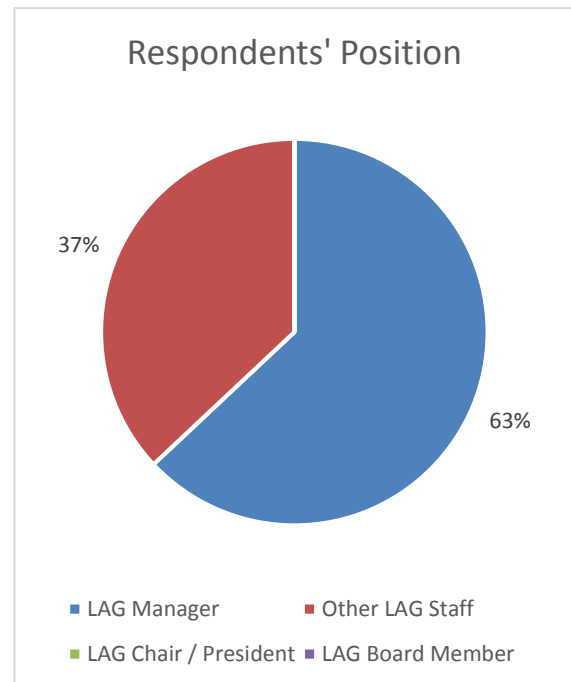
Total Number of Responses 8

## 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 8



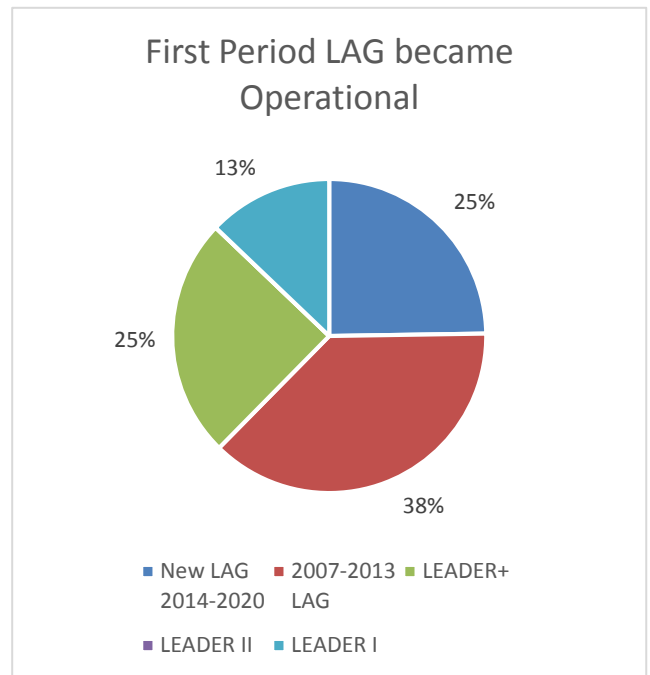
### Question 7

*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)
- 2007-2013 Programming Period
- LEADER+
- LEADER II
- LEADER I

*Total Number of Responses 8*

- The proportion of NL LAGs who became operational in each period is similar to the EU-wide average, although no NL LAGs became operational during LEADER II compared to the EU average of 17%.

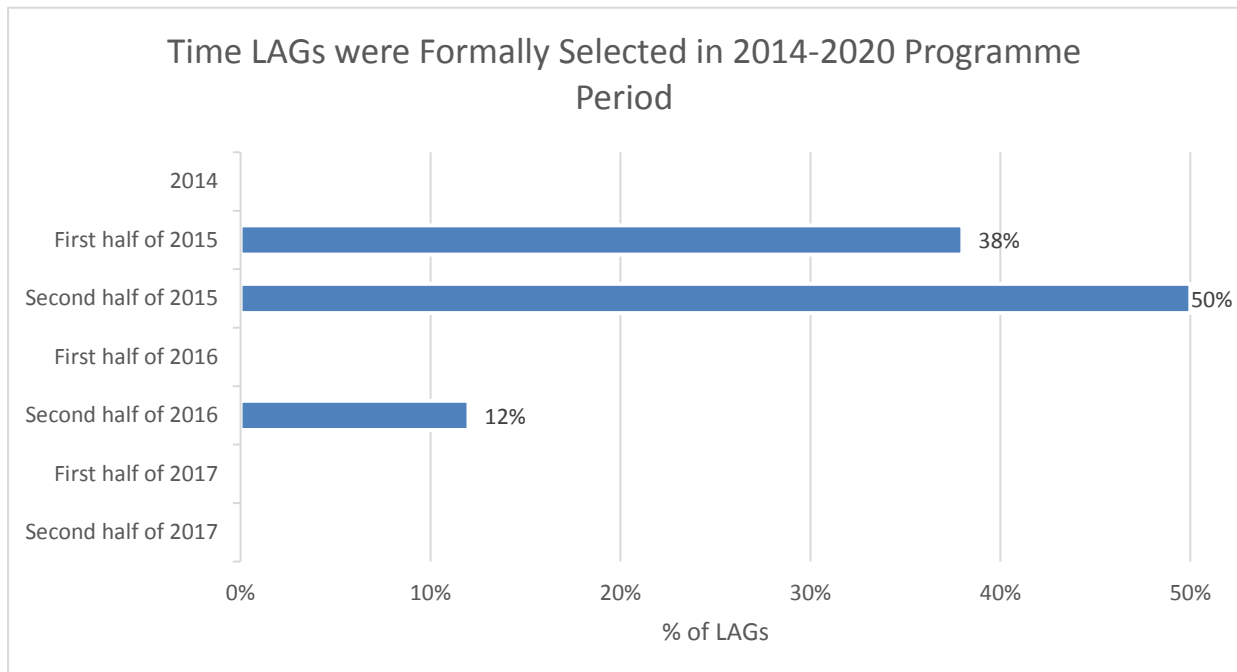


### Question 8

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 8



- 88% of NL LAGs were formally selected in 2015, whereas across the EU sample only 50% of LAGs were formally selected in this period.

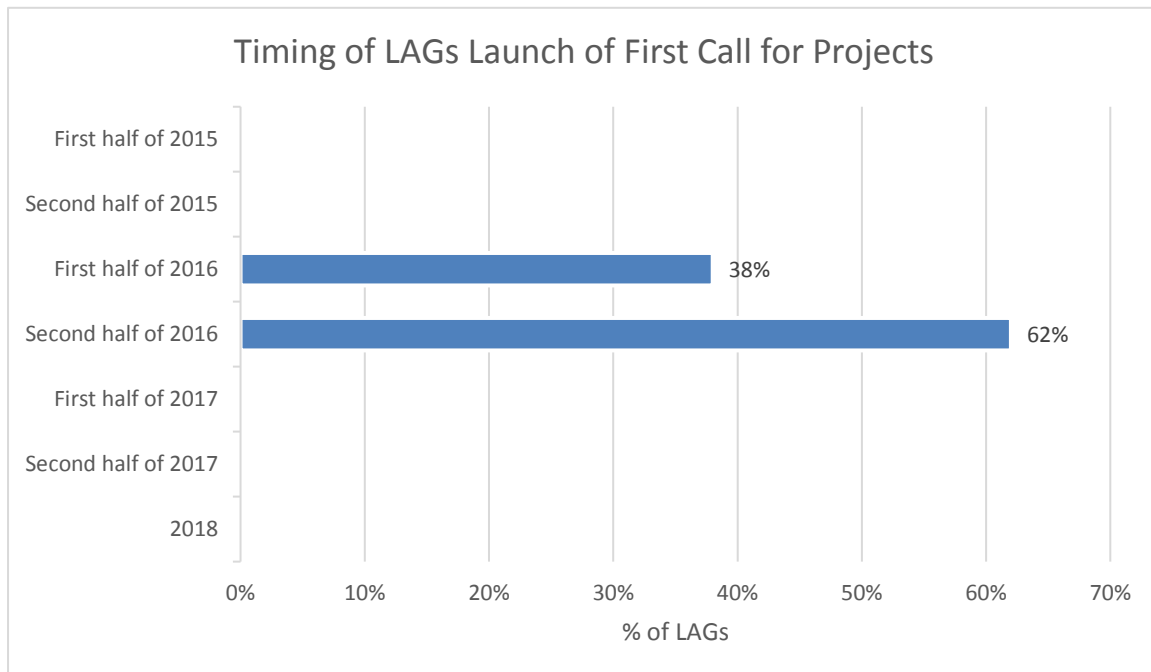


### Question 9

*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 8*



- All NL LAGs which responded had launched their first call for projects by end 2016, whereas across the EU only 67% of the wider sample of LAGs had launched their first call during this period.

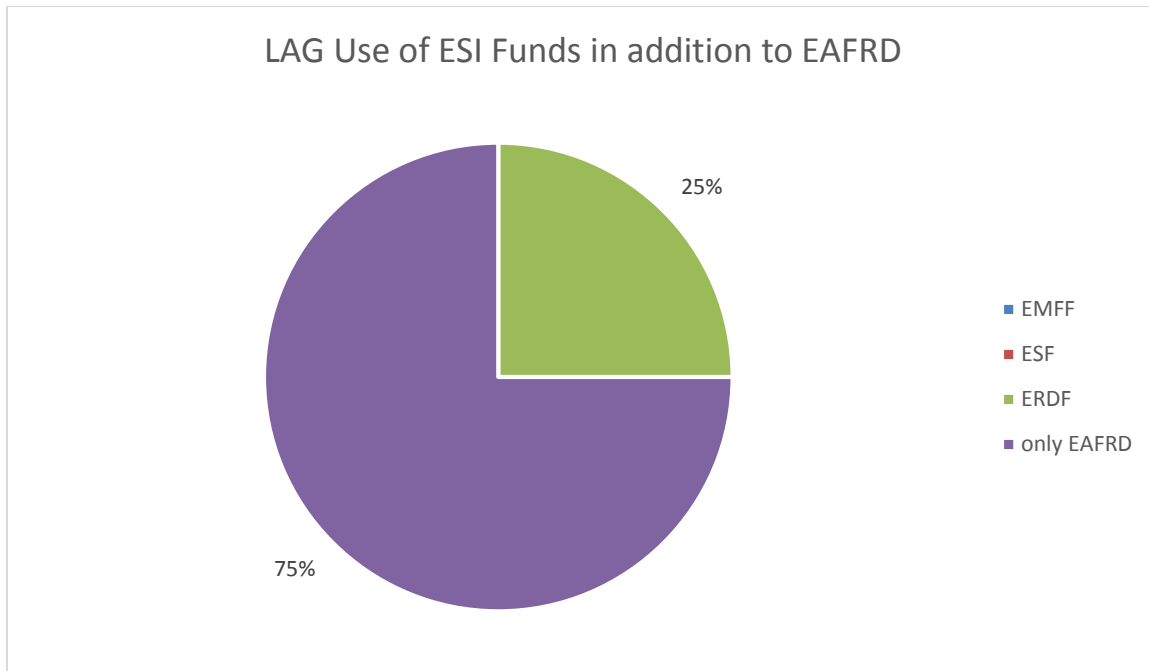
## LAG Funding

### Question 10

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 8



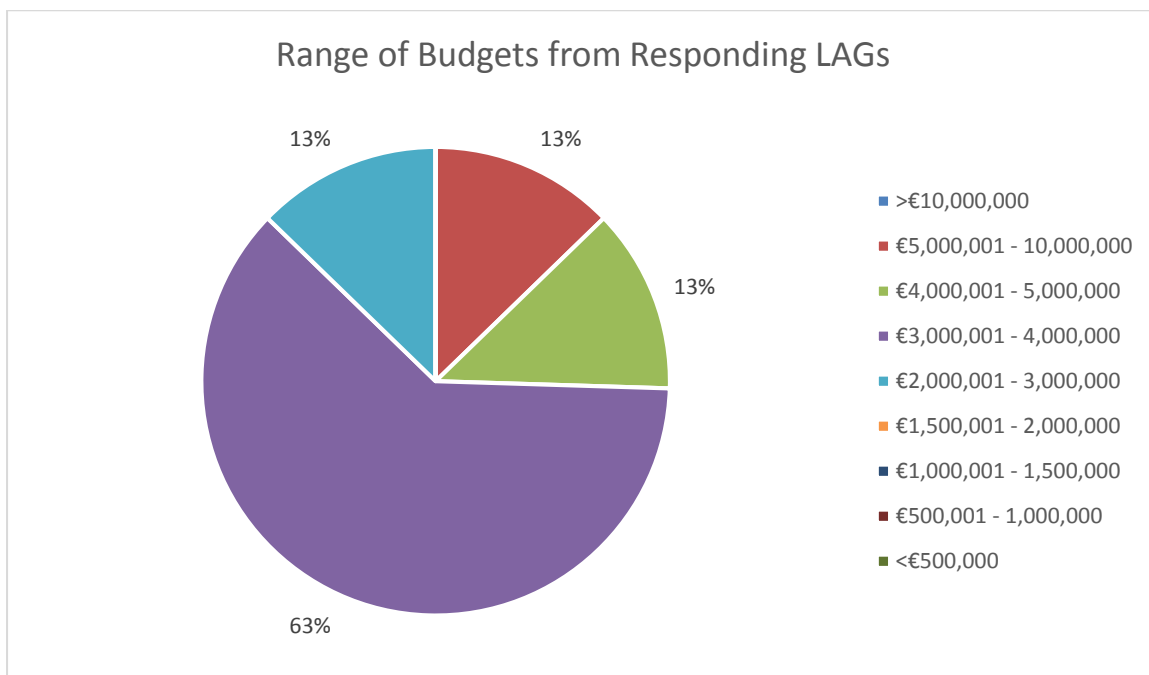
- A slightly higher proportion of NL LAGs report using EAFRD only compared to the EU-wide sample (75% vs 67%). The proportion of LAGs using ERDF in NL (25%) is the same as for the EU-wide sample of LAGs. (25%)

### 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 8



- A much higher proportion of NL LAGs who responded have a budget between €3m and €4m than in the EU-wide sample average (63% vs 22%). Only 13% of NL Lags reported budgets of less than €3m vs 49% of the wider sample.

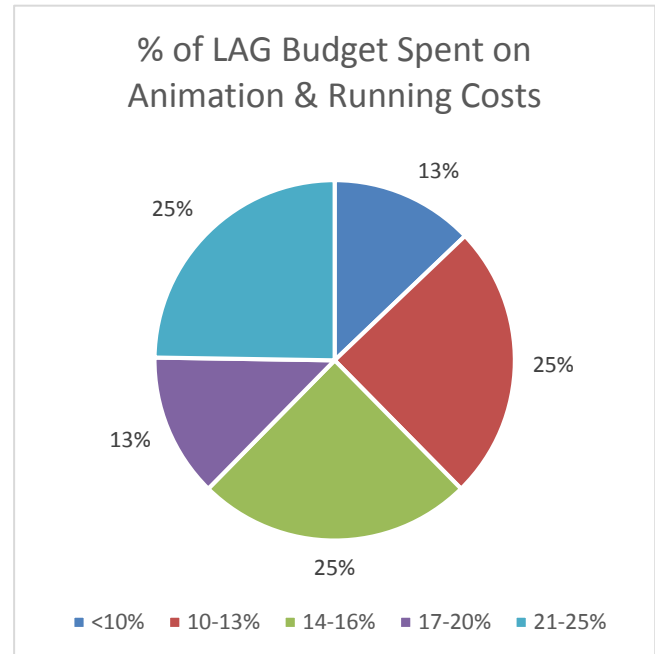
### Question 12

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 8

- NL LAGs allocate less of their budget to running costs and animation compared to the EU sample average, 38% of NL LAGs allocate 17% or more compared to a corresponding figure of 64% across the EU sample. 38% of NL LAGs allocate less than 13% vs 21% of the EU sample.



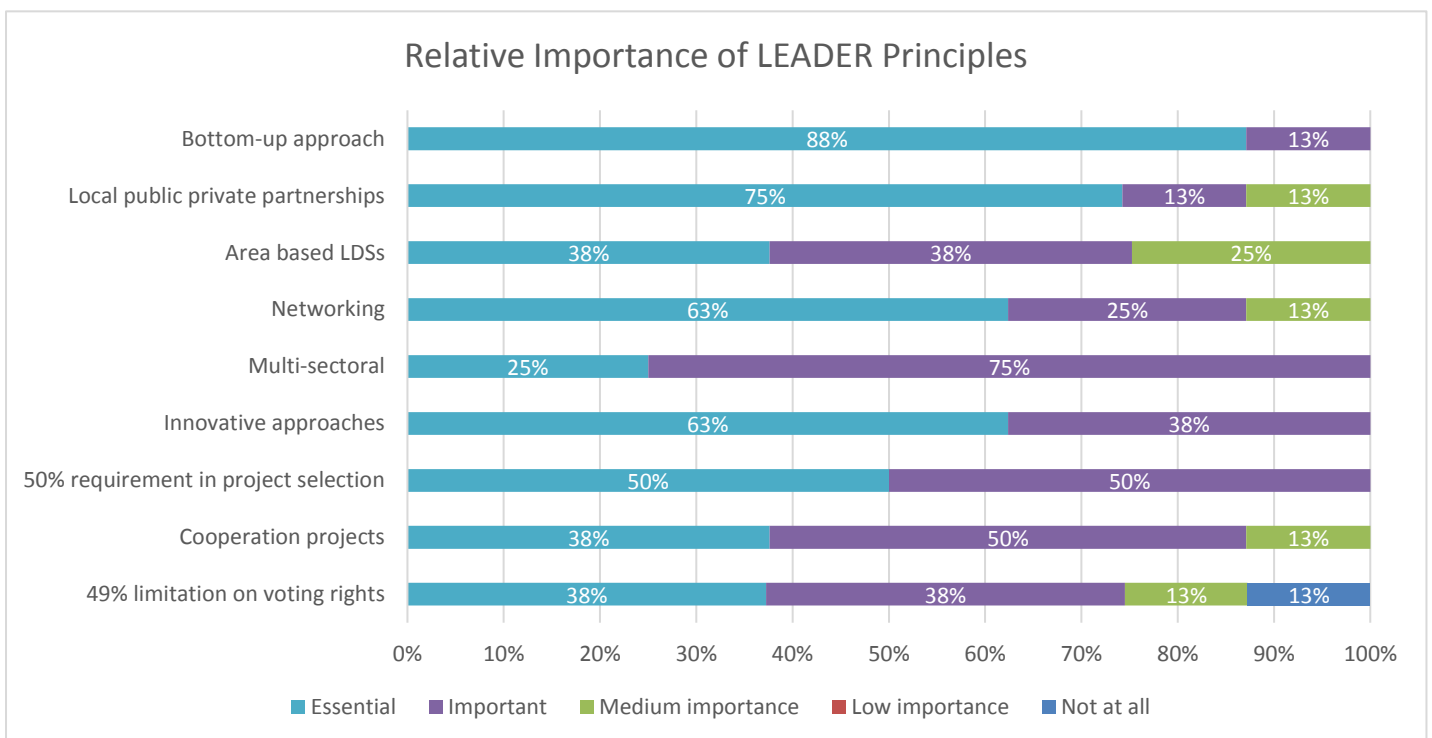
## LEADER Principles

### 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 8



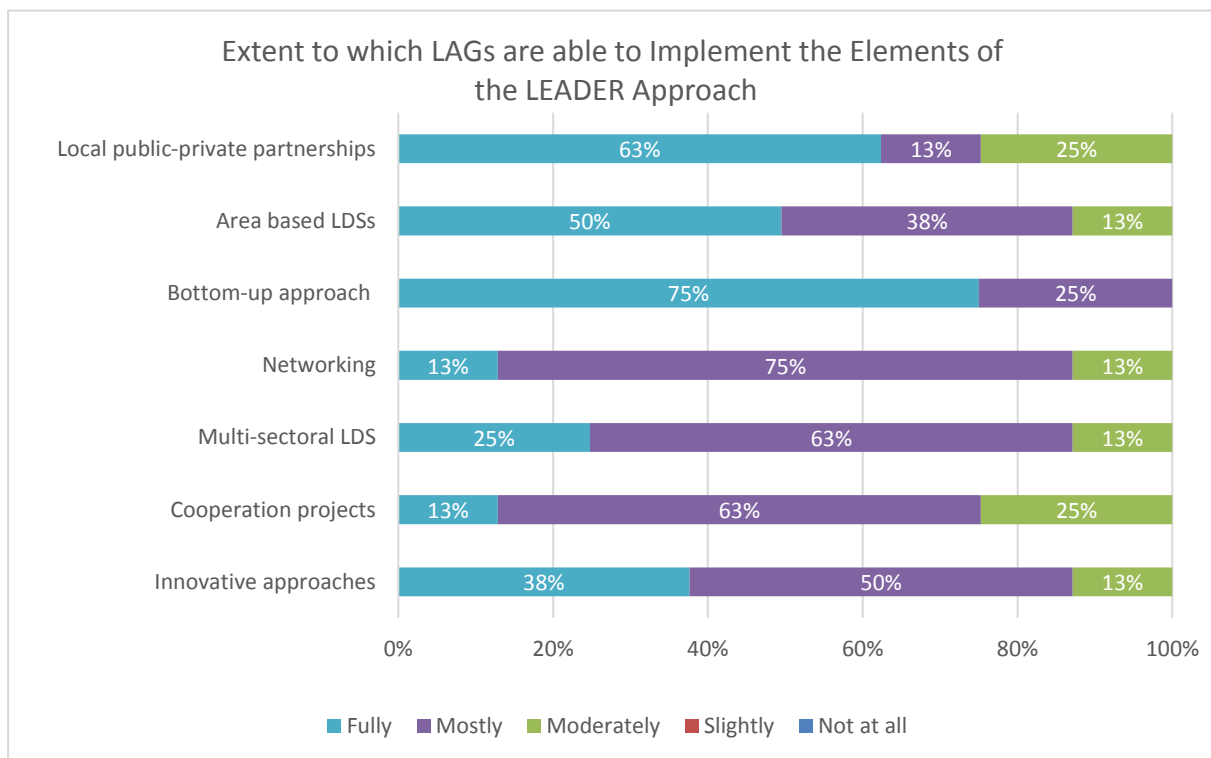
- All but two of the LEADER principles (area based LDS and multi-sectoral) were held by NL respondents to be essential more frequently than across the EU sample. Overall NL LAGs accorded the full range of principles notably higher importance rankings than the EU sample.

### 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 8



- At least 75% of NL LAGs could implement each element of the LEADER approach fully or mostly with no slightly or not at all responses. The extent of this markedly exceeds EU sample levels.
- Compared to the EU average, the bottom-up approach could be implemented fully to a markedly greater extent in NL (75% compared to 48%).

- Innovative approaches rates 88% fully or mostly implemented in NL vs 54% in the EU sample. Only 'local public private partnerships' is marginally below the EU (fully and mostly) level.
- Networking and cooperation projects were both fully implemented to a lower extent in NL compared to the EU although a much higher proportion of NL respondents said both elements were implemented fully or mostly.

### Question 15

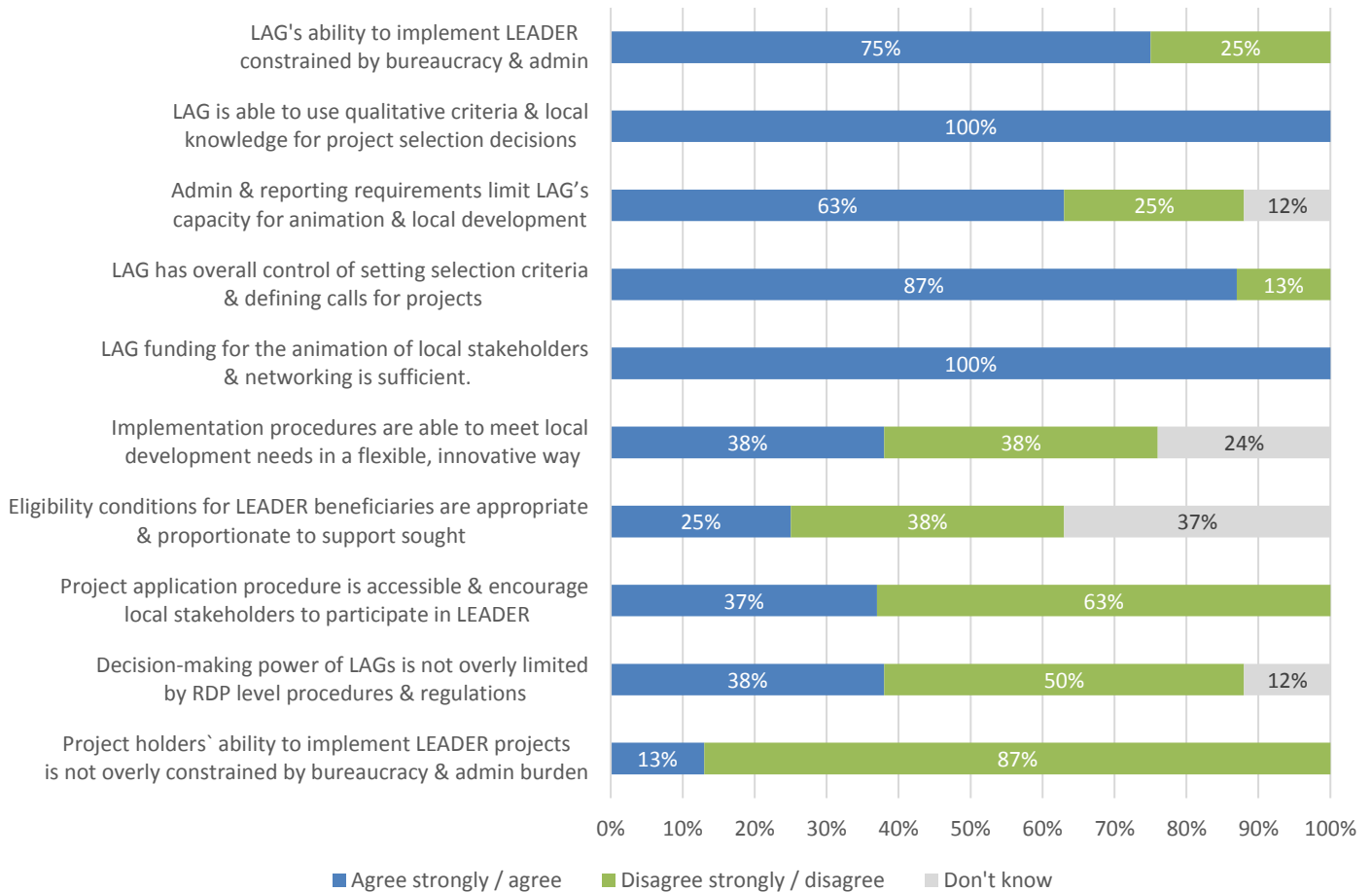
*Please consider the statements below and for each statement select the option that best reflects your practical experience from this scale: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = disagree, 3 = don't know, 4 = agree, 5 = agree strongly.*

- 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 8*



## Aspects of LEADER Implementation as seen by Local Action Groups



- Compared to the EU sample average a higher proportion of NL LAGs agreed that LAGs are able to use qualitative criteria and local knowledge for project selection decisions (100% vs 79%), that the LAG has control of setting selection criteria and defining calls for projects (87% vs 66%), and that LAG funding for the animation of local stakeholders and networking is sufficient (100% of NL LAGs agreeing vs 54% across the EU).
- Dutch LAGs were more undecided about the proportionality of eligibility conditions to the support sought than the overall sample.

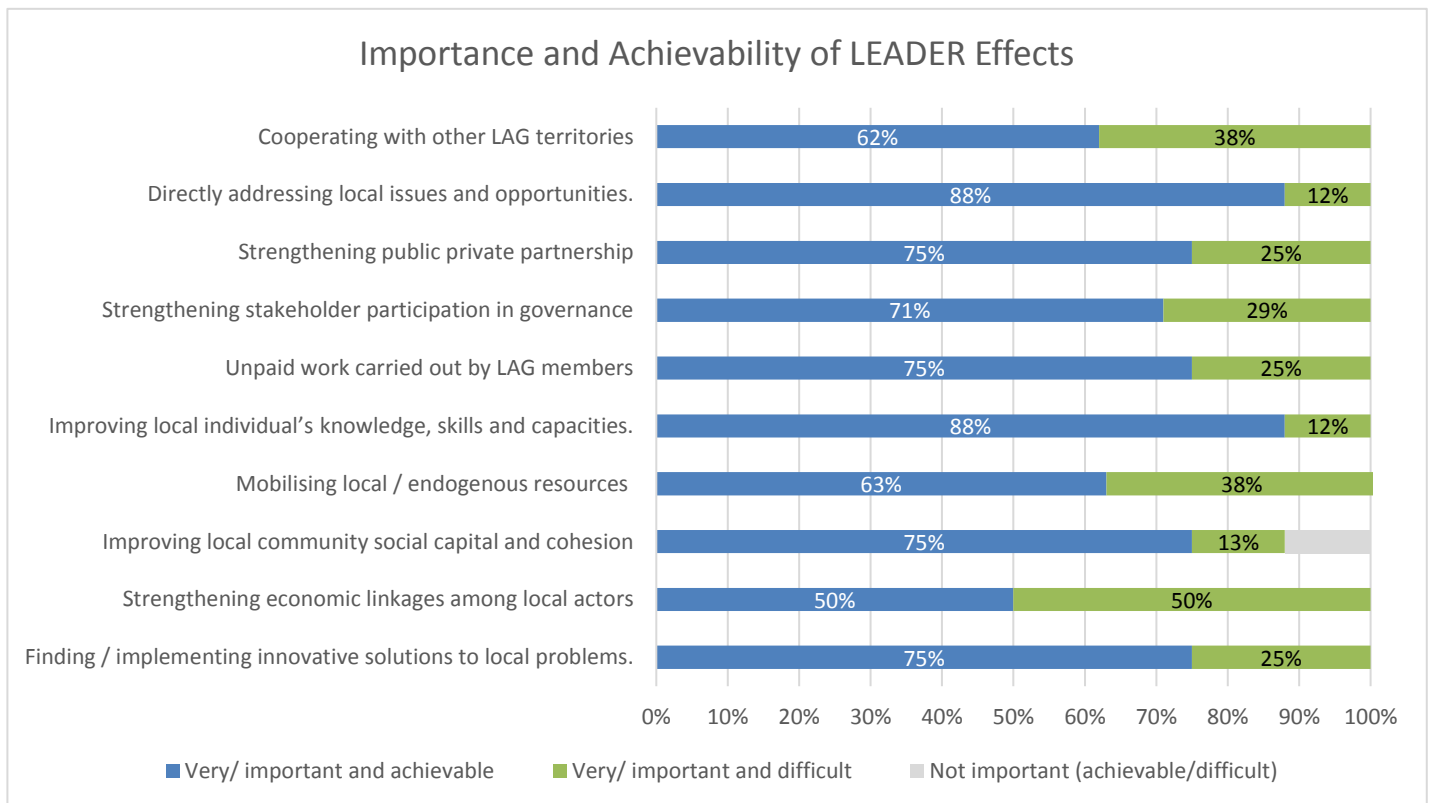
## Question 16

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 8



- With the exception of cooperating with other LAG territories, NL LAGs judged all LEADER effects to be important and achievable more frequently than the EU average, Dutch levels of achievability reported are therefore markedly higher than the EU sample.
- The LEADER effects most frequently judged to be very / important and achievable by NL LAGs were directly addressing local issues and opportunities (88% vs 63%) and improving local individual's knowledge, skills and capacities (88% vs 48%).
- The greatest differences in achievability between the NL and wider sample are finding/implementing innovative solutions to local problems (75% vs 33%), improving local individual's knowledge, skills and capacities (88% vs 48%) and improving local community social capital and cohesion (75% vs 40%). Stakeholder participation in governance and unpaid LAG work was also ranked as noticeably more achievable in NL.

## LEADER Operation

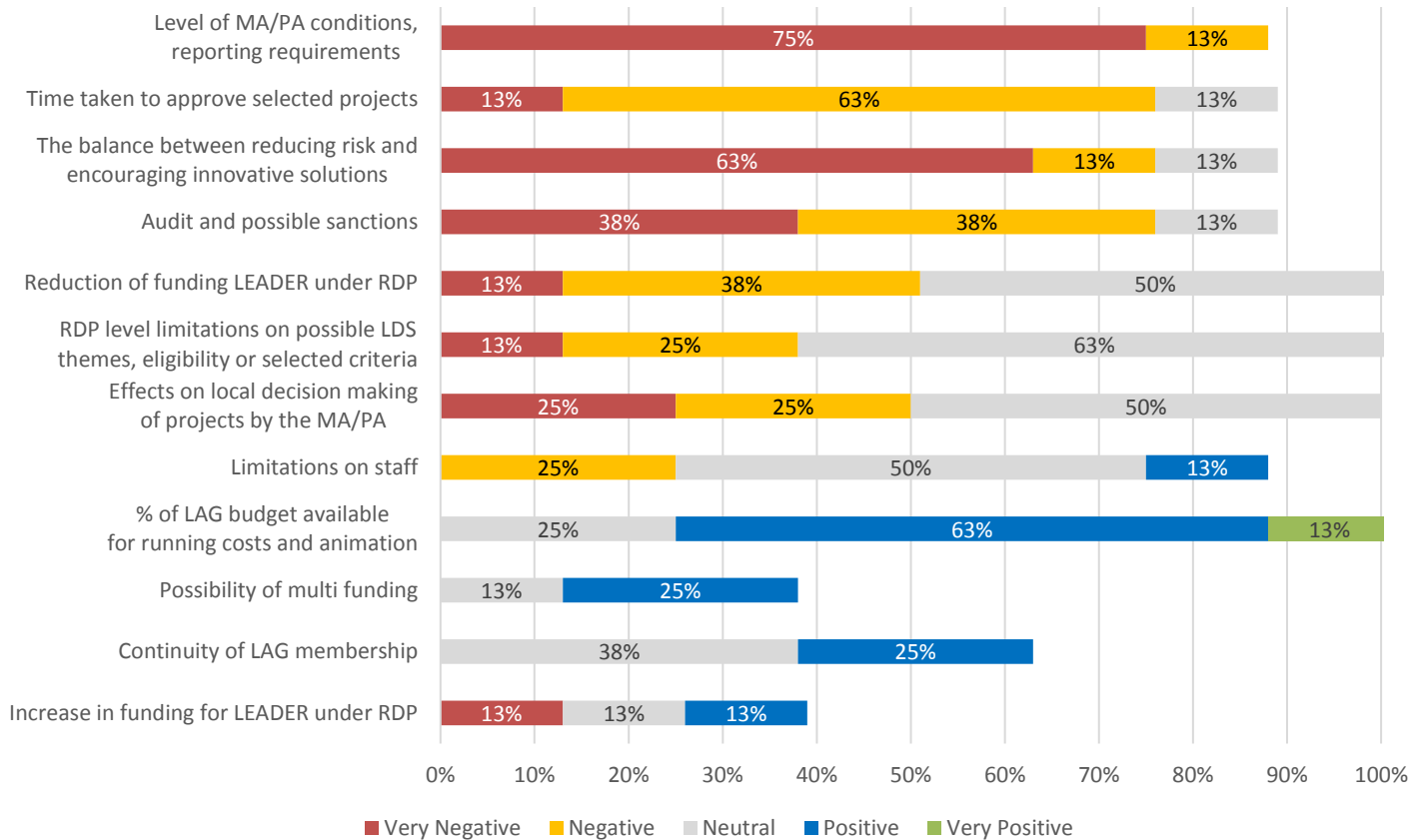
### Question 17

*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 8*

### Level of Effects on LEADER Implementation



For the purposes of improving the clarity of the analysis the ‘not applicable’ responses have been removed from the chart.

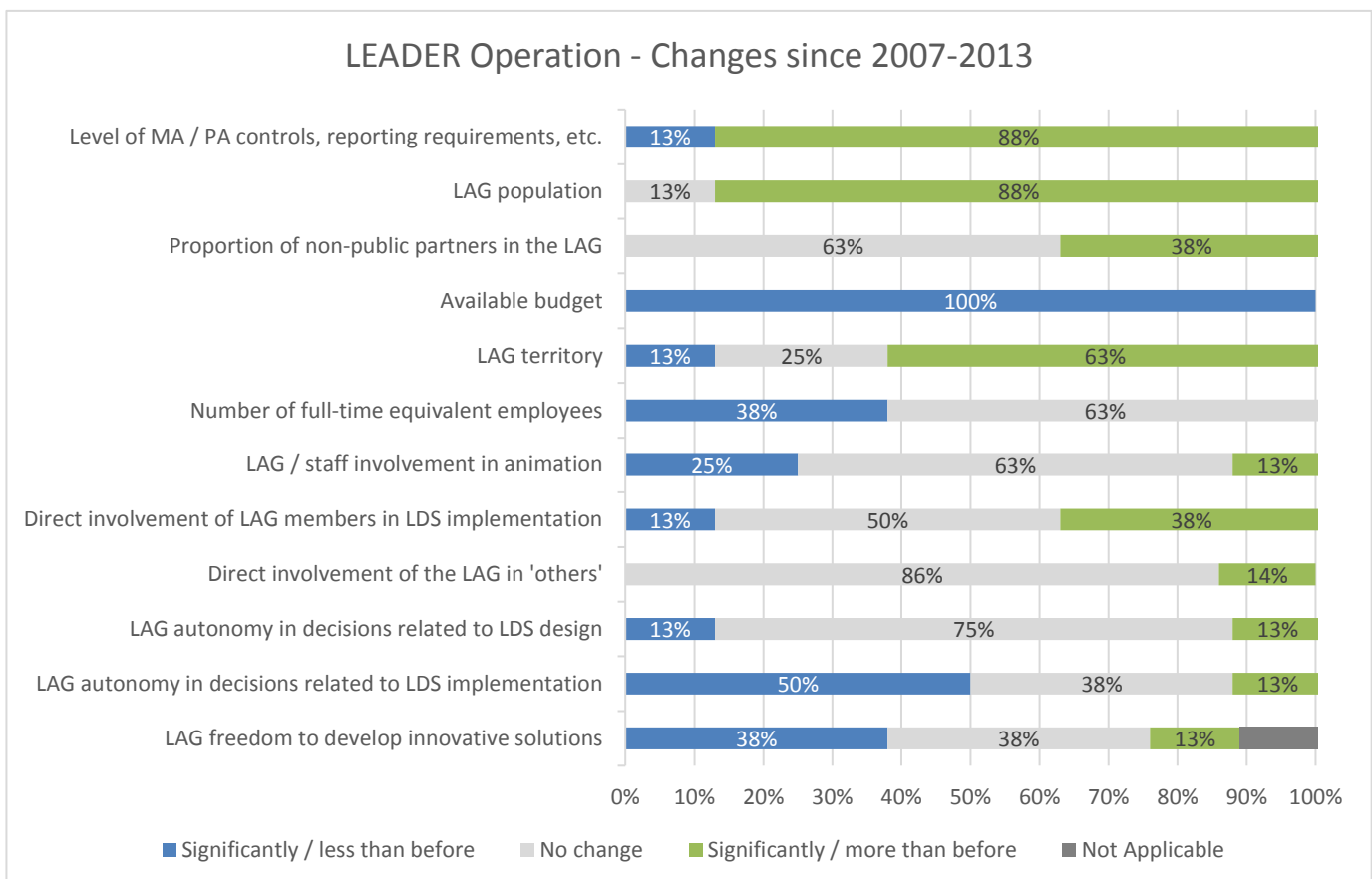
- Compared to the EU-wide average, LAGs in The Netherlands were generally more negative about the level of effect on LEADER implementation of most of these factors; the pattern of responses is broadly similar however.
- Greater negativity is most notable for audit and possible sanctions, where 76% of NL LAGs regarded the effect as negative or very negative, compared to 56% across the EU and for the balance between reducing risk and encouraging innovative solutions (63% very negative vs 34%).
- However, the effect on LEADER implementation of the running costs and animation budget was more positive, with 76% of respondents regarding this as positive or very positive, compared to just 32% 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 8



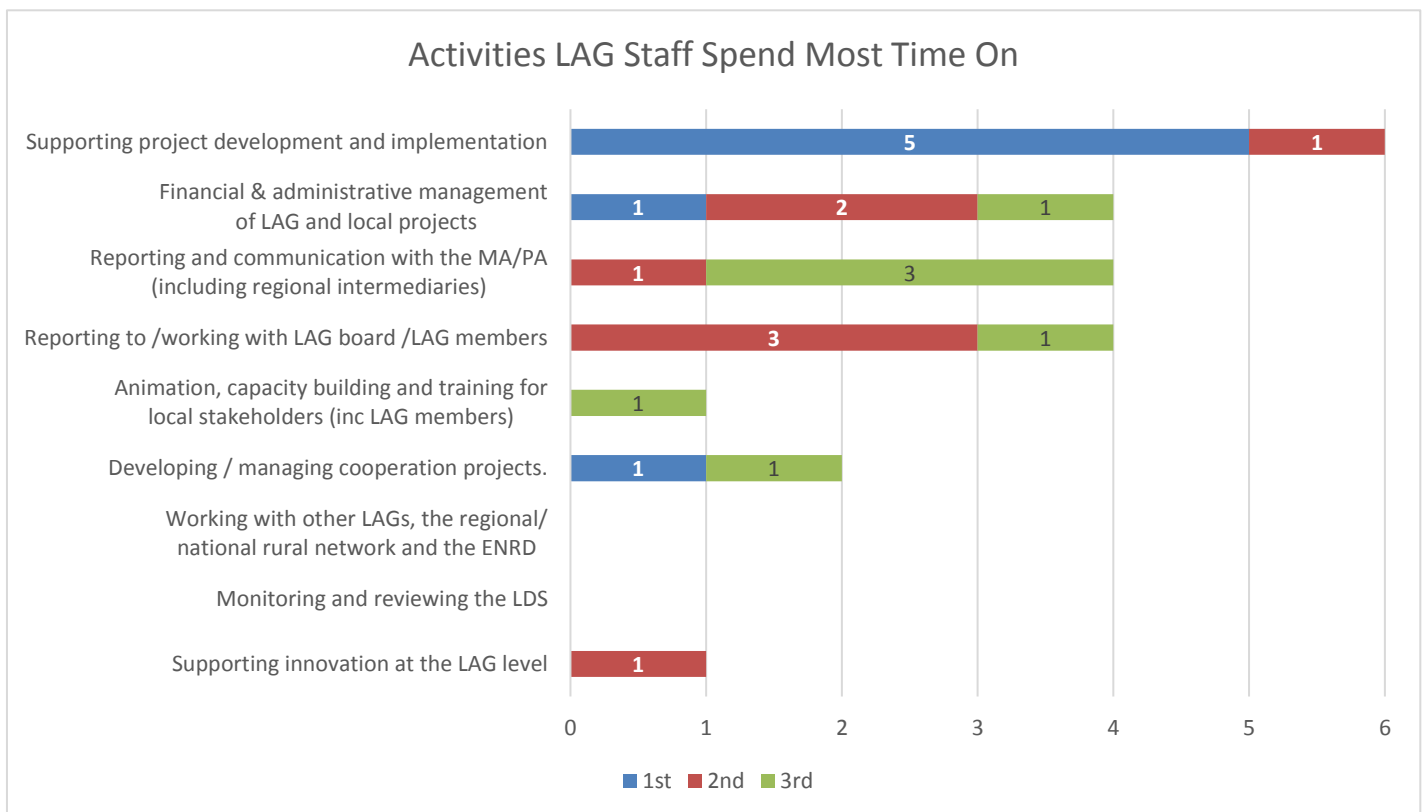
- When considering changes in LAG operation between the current and 2007-2013 programme periods, it is noticeable that all NL respondents felt that their budget had reduced while only 43% across the EU said it had done so.
- LAG autonomy in decisions related to LDS implementation also reported to have reduced to a greater extent in NL, with 50% of respondents reporting a decrease as opposed to 23% across the EU.
- A greater proportion of NL respondents reported that the number of full-time equivalent employees had reduced (38% vs 20%).
- However, for most other aspects of LAG operation under consideration, when compared with the EU-wide picture NL respondents felt that there had been a greater increase since the previous programming period.
- This was particularly the case for LAG population (88% of NL respondents reporting an increase vs 34% across the EU), LAG territory (63% vs 27%) and level of MA/PA conditions and reporting requirements (88% vs 63%).

### 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 8



- The four activities that LAG staff spend most time on were the same in NL as across the EU.

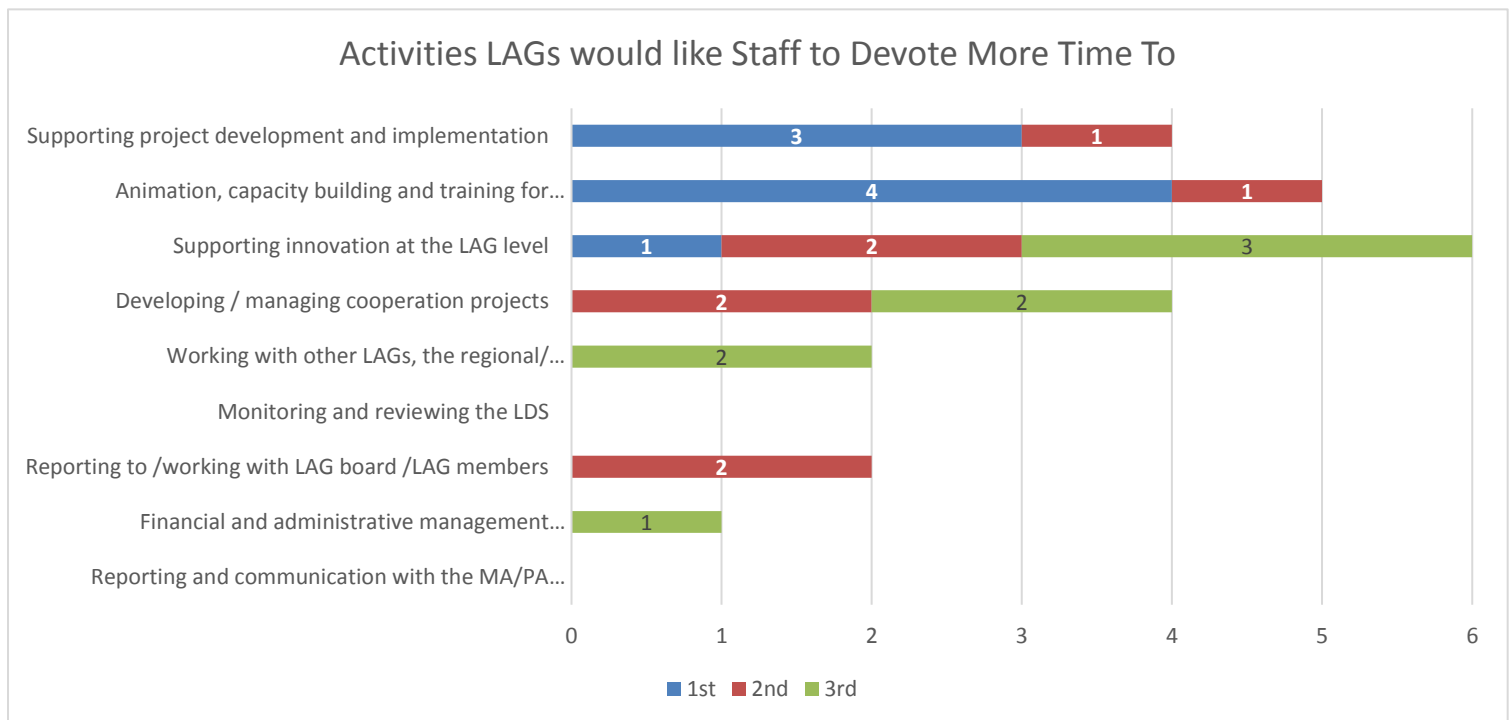


## Question 20

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 8



- The ranking of activities that LAG staff would like to devote more time to in The Netherlands was broadly similar to the EU-wide sample, with the four most frequently ranked activities the same across both samples.
- The most frequently ranked activity in NL was supporting innovation at the LAG level, ranked third most frequently across the EU. Monitoring and reviewing the LDS was not ranked in the top three by any of the NL respondents.

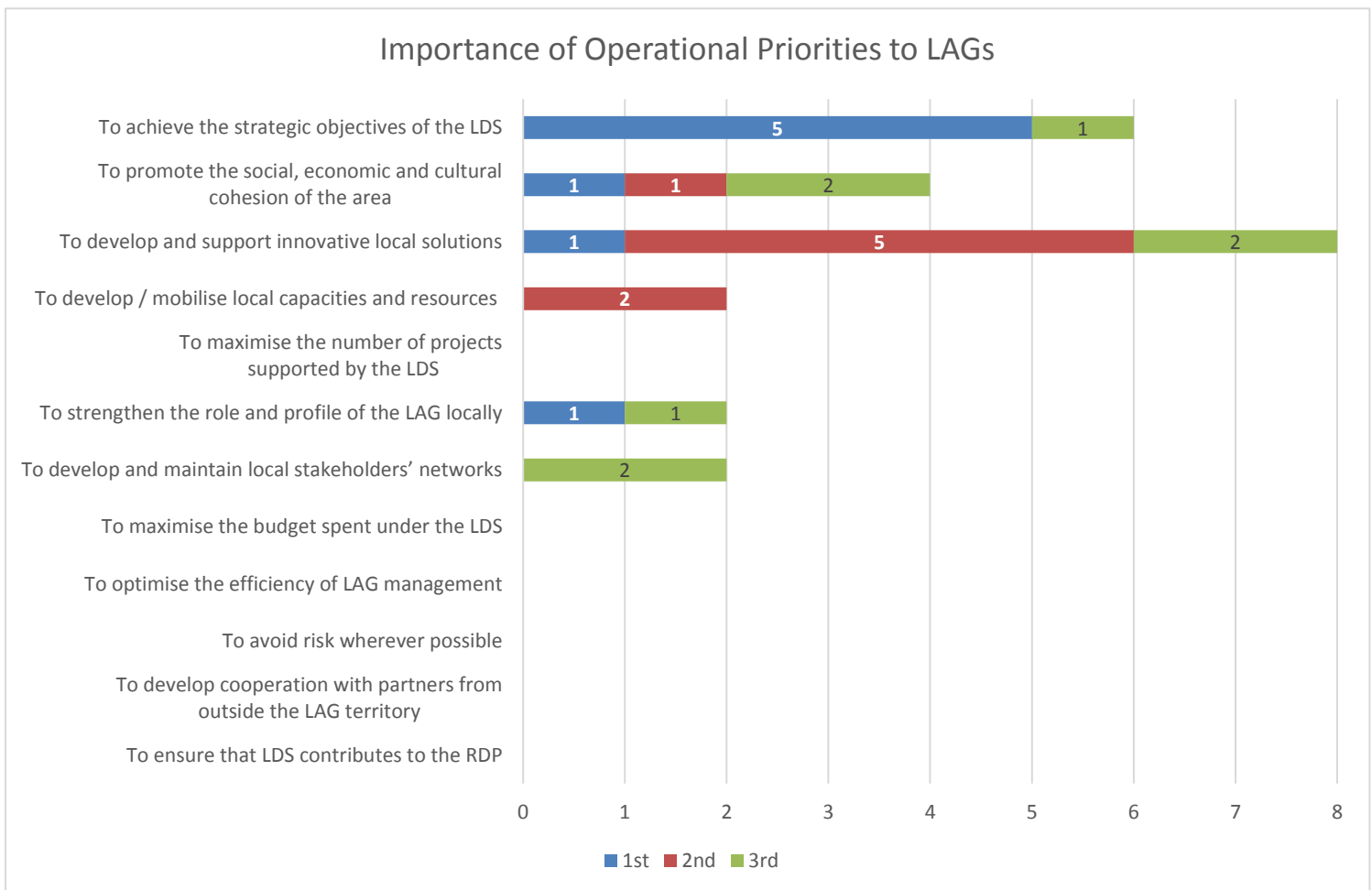
### Question 21

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 8

#### Importance of Operational Priorities to LAGs



- The top three priorities in NL and EU samples were the same.
- Developing and mobilising local capacities and resources was more frequently ranked in the top three priorities by NL respondents than was the case across the EU.
- To achieve the strategic objectives of the LDS and to promote the social, economic and cultural cohesion of the area, the first and second most commonly ranked operational priorities across the EU, were second and third most commonly ranked amongst NL respondents.

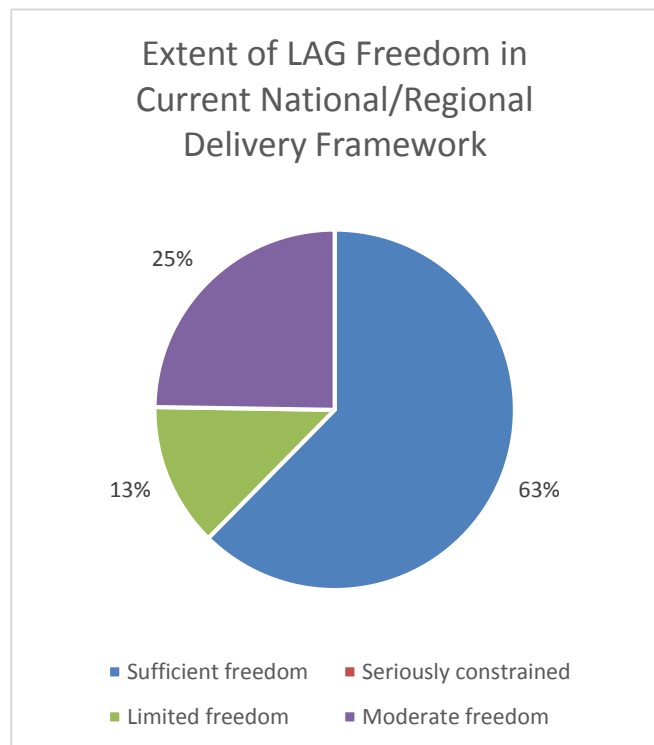
## Question 22

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 8

- The vast majority (88%) of NL respondents felt that their degree of freedom in current national / regional delivery frameworks was either sufficient or moderate, whereas across the EU the corresponding figure was 62%.

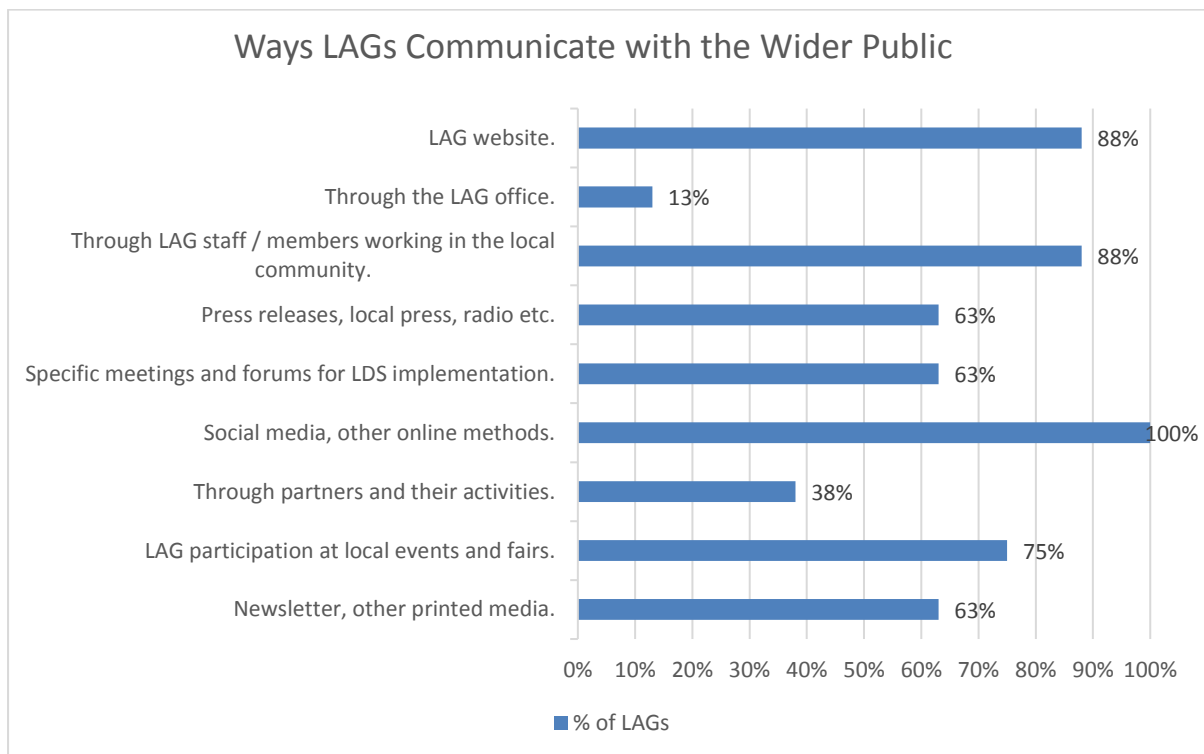


### Question 23

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 8



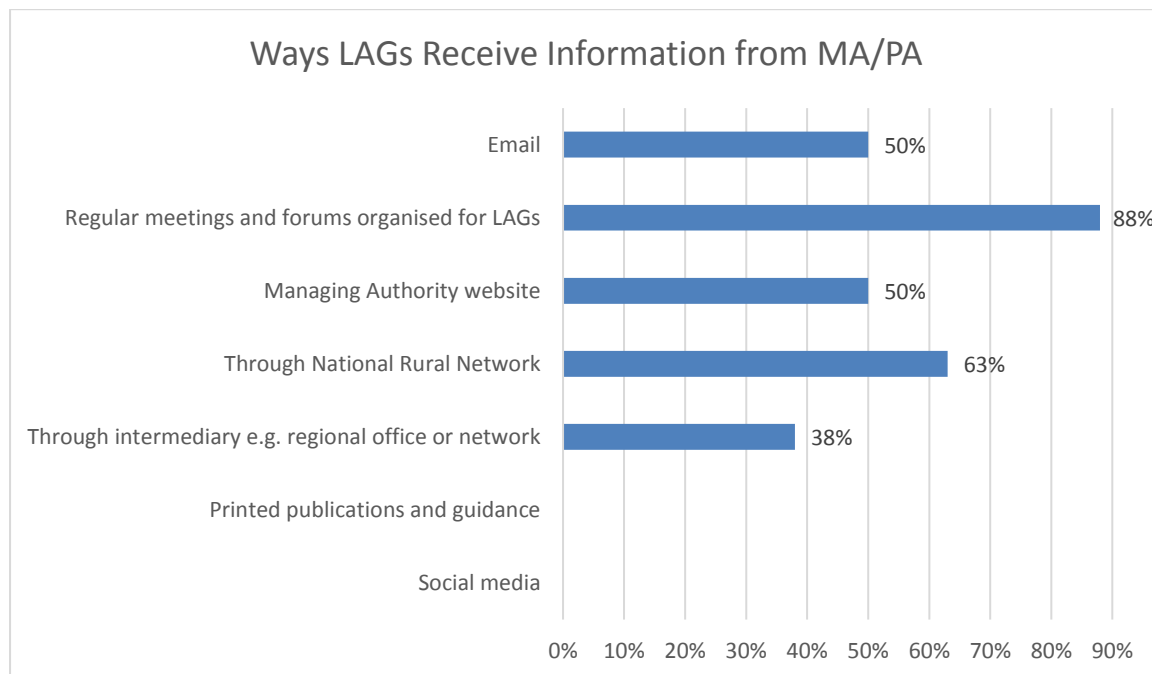
- Compared to the EU average NL LAGs communicate less frequently through the LAG office (13% of NL respondents said they use this methods vs 71% across the EU) and through partners and their activities (38% vs 54%).
- Social media and other online methods were used much more frequently in NL than across the EU (100% vs 61%), greater use of LAG staff / members working in the local community (88% vs 66%) and LAG participation at local events and fairs (75% vs 52%) was reported in NL than the overall sample.

### 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 8



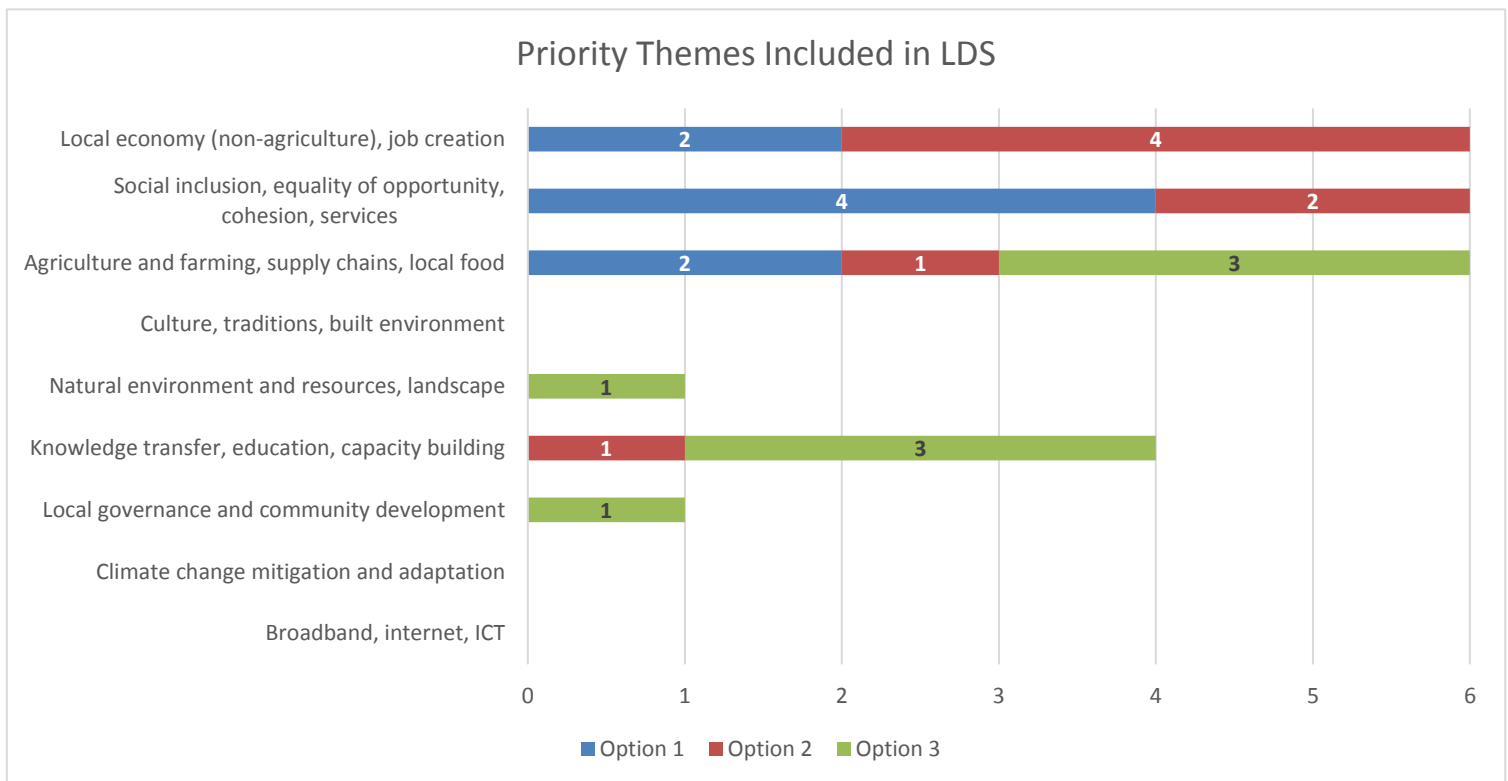
- LAGs receive information from the MA/PA in The Netherlands most frequently through regular meetings and forums organised for LAGs and through the NRN. Both of these are used more frequently than across the EU (88% vs 68% and 63% vs 31% respectively).
- Email was used less frequently in NL than across the EU (50% vs 90%) while printed publications and guidance and social media were not used at all by the MA / PA to communicate with LAGs in NL.

### 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 8



- In common with the EU wide sample, local economy (non-agricultural) and job creation, social inclusion, equality of opportunity, cohesion, services and agriculture and farming, supply chains, and local food were most frequently ranked by NL LAGs as priority themes included in the LDS.
- However, culture, traditions and built environment was not included as a priority theme in any of the NL LAGs' LDS, across the EU this was the fourth most frequently included theme.

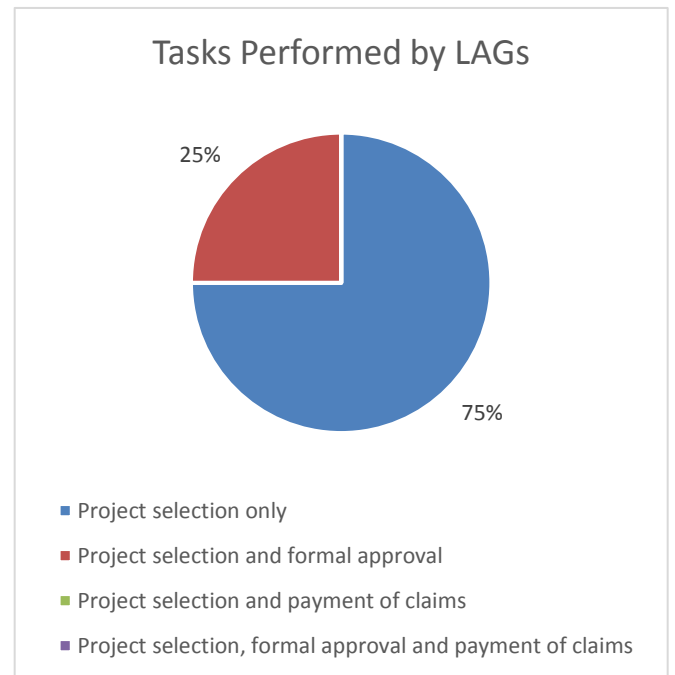
### Question 26

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 8

- 75% of NL LAGs are involved only in project selection compared to the EU wide average of 48%, with the remaining 25% also tasked with formal approval. None of the NL LAGs perform the task of paying claims, whereas across the EU 22% of LAGs do so.





## LEADER Improvements

### Question 27

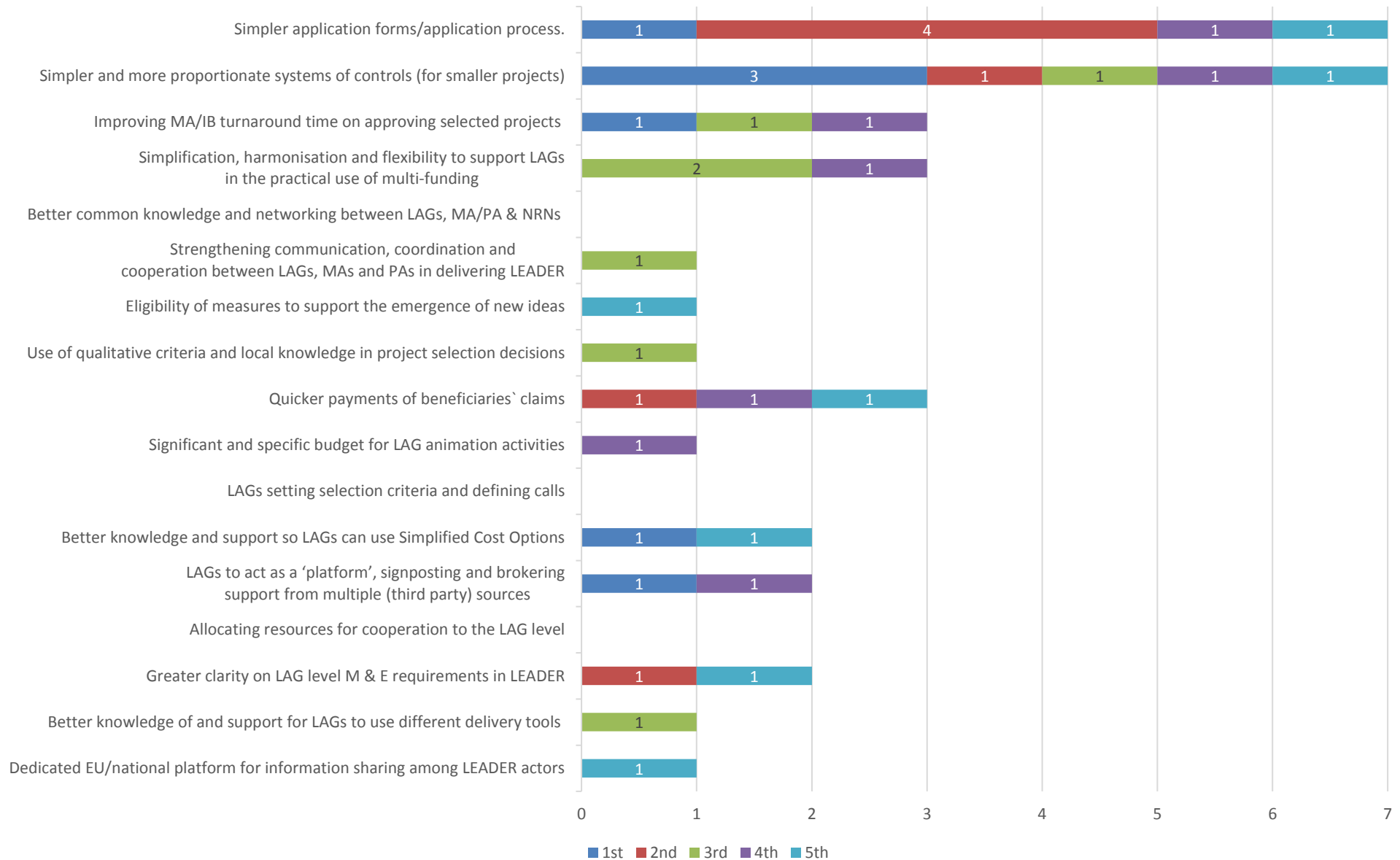
*What is most important to address in helping LAGs to be effective in implementing LEADER now? Please select and rank your top five priorities from the following items in order of their importance in (where 1= highest importance and 5 = 5th most important)*

- 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 7*

- In common with the EU-wide sample the two most frequently ranked most important changes in the NL were simpler application forms / application process and simpler and more proportionate systems of controls for smaller projects. Better common knowledge and networking between LAGs, MA/PA and NRNs was not ranked by any NL respondents despite being the fifth most frequently identified change across the EU sample.

## Most Important Changes to Improve Implementation Now

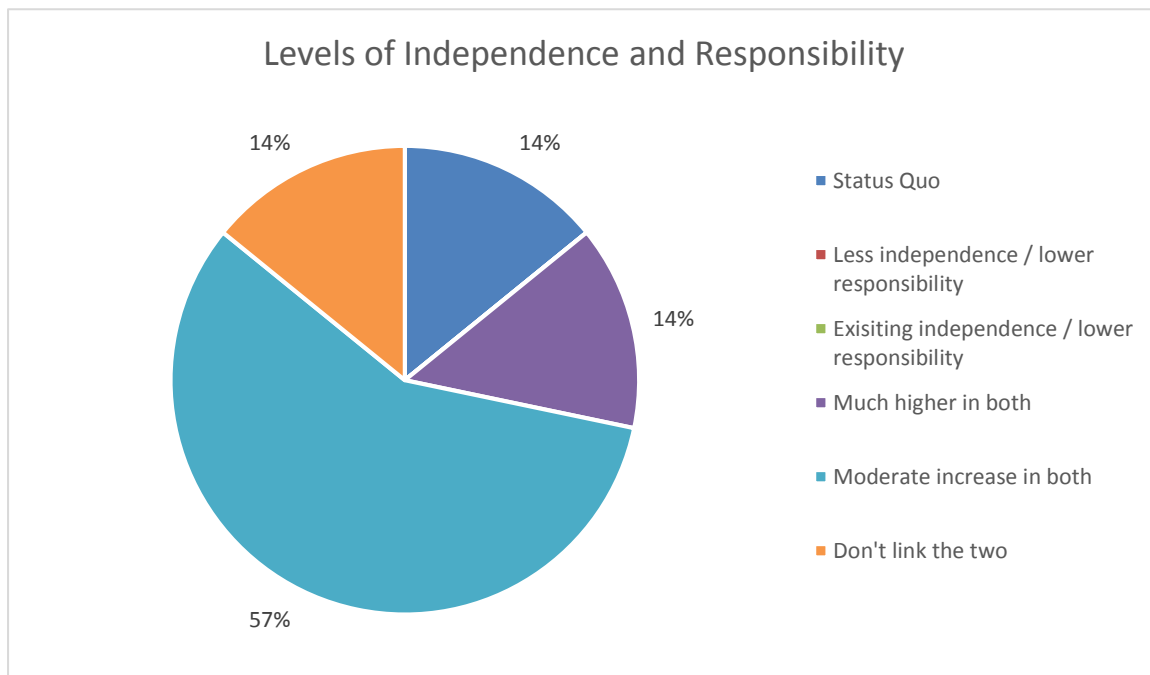


### Question 28:

*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 7



- NL LAGs were much more in favour of a moderate increase in both independence and responsibility compared to the EU-wide sample, with 57% of NL LAGs in favour compared to 28% across the EU.

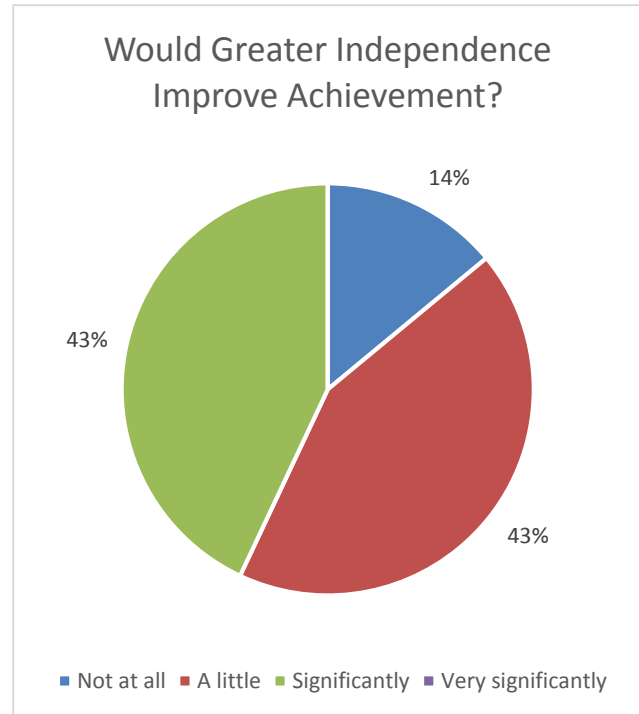
### Question 29

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 7

- A larger proportion of NL LAGs thought that greater independence would improve achievement a little compared with the EU wide sample average (43% vs 34%).
- No NL LAGs thought greater independence would be very significant, whereas across the EU 12% thought it would be.

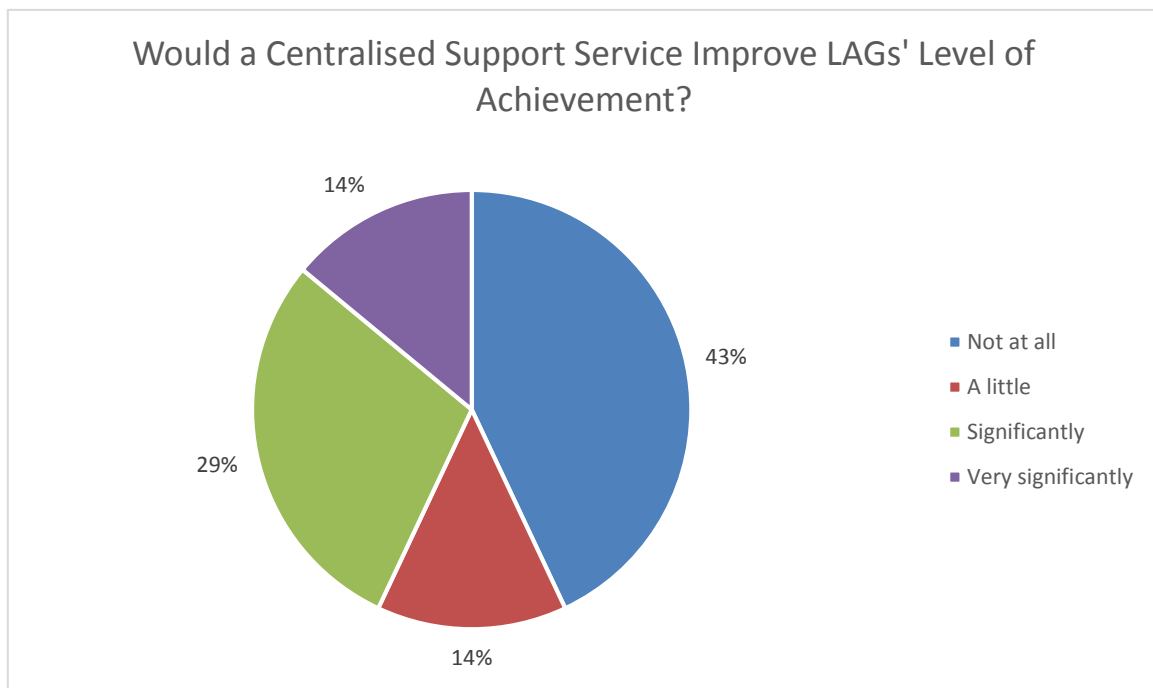


### Question 30

*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 7



- Compared to the EU-wide sample, a slightly higher proportion of NL LAGs thought that a centralised support service would not improve LAGs' level of achievement at all (43% vs 36%)

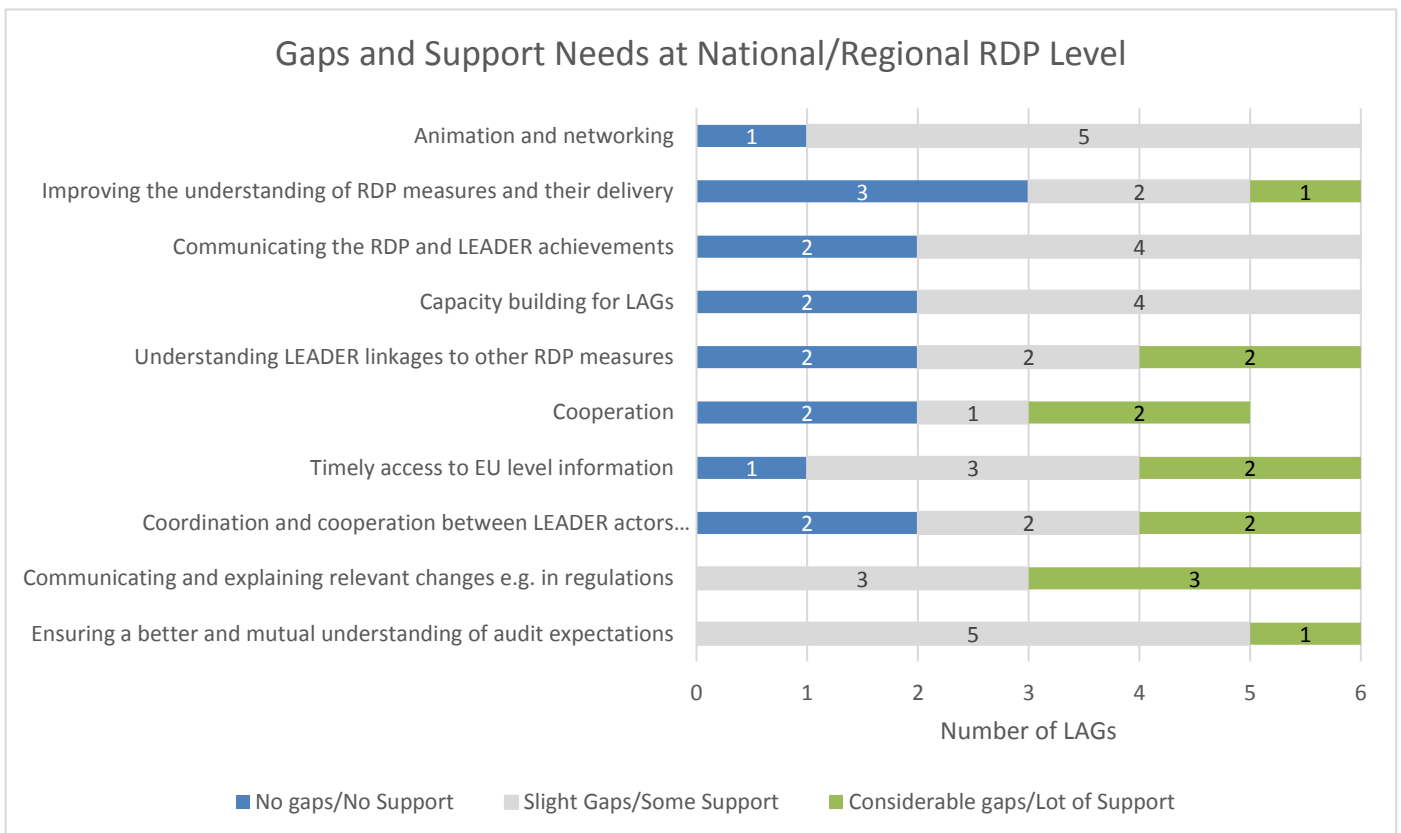
### Question 31

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 6



- Gaps and support needs at the national / regional RDP level in the areas of animation and networking and communicating and explaining relevant changes were more frequently identified by NL LAGs who responded than the EU sample, although in general the two samples' results were not dissimilar.

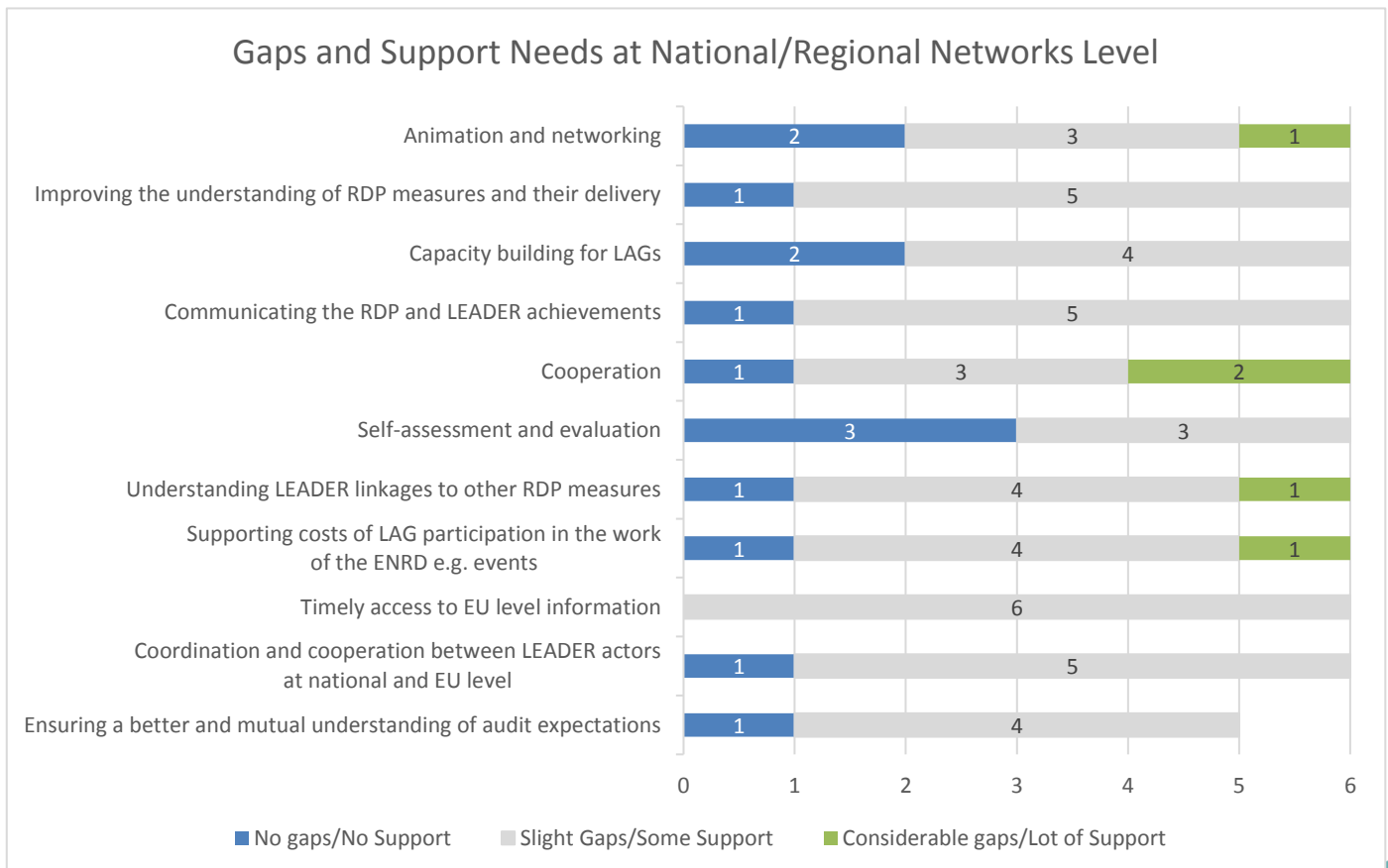
### Question 32

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 6





- The gaps and support needs from the networks identified by NL LAGs show that, in common with the EU-wide results, for each specified need the majority said that gaps in provision were slight. Overall NL LAGs were less likely to identify considerable gaps.
- A smaller proportion of NL LAGs identified gaps in support for self-assessment and evaluation and capacity building in NL compared to the EU-wide results but slightly more frequently identified gaps for cooperation.

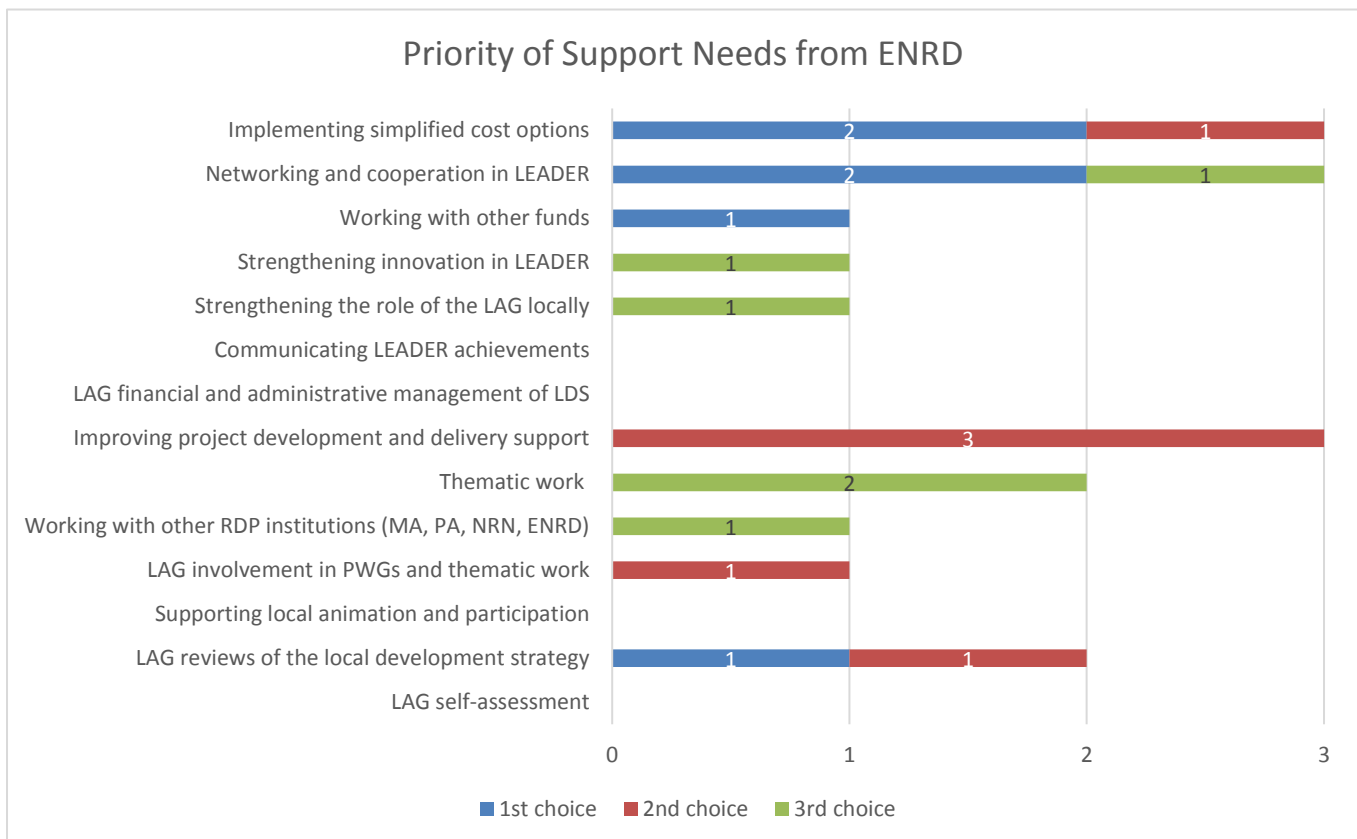
### Question 33

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 6



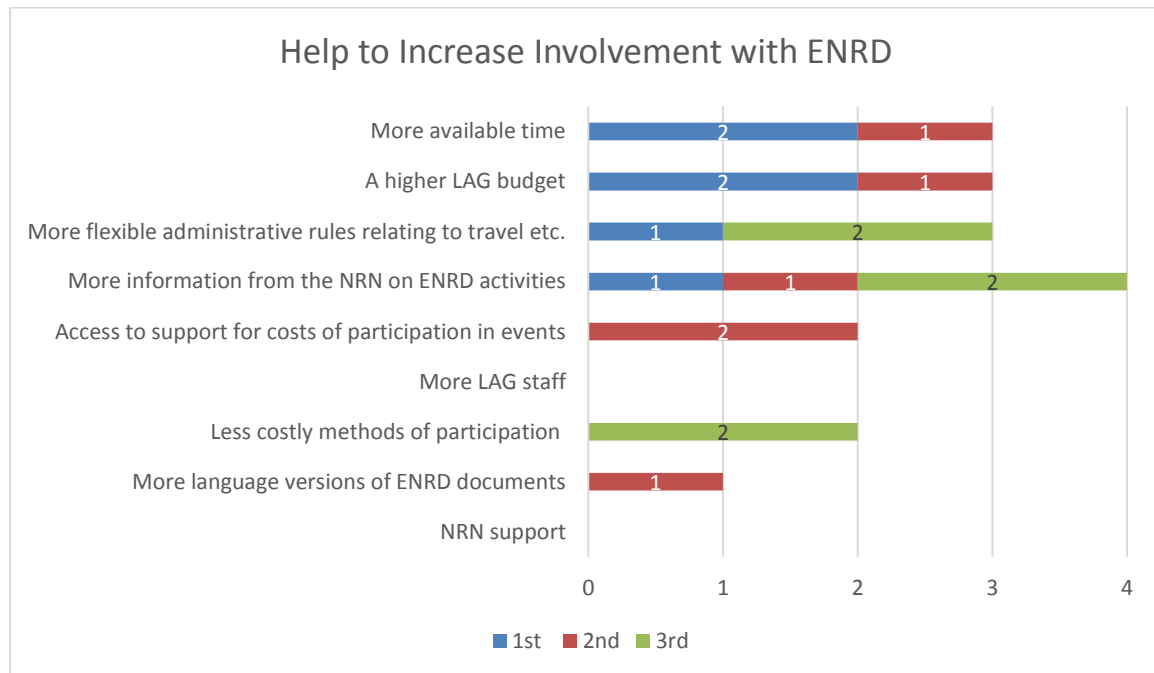
- In common with the EU-wide sample implementing SCO and networking and cooperation in LEADER were the most frequently ranked priority ENRD support needs in NL.
- Improving project development and delivery support was third ranked priority in NL but was only the eighth most frequently ranked priority across the EU.

### 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 6



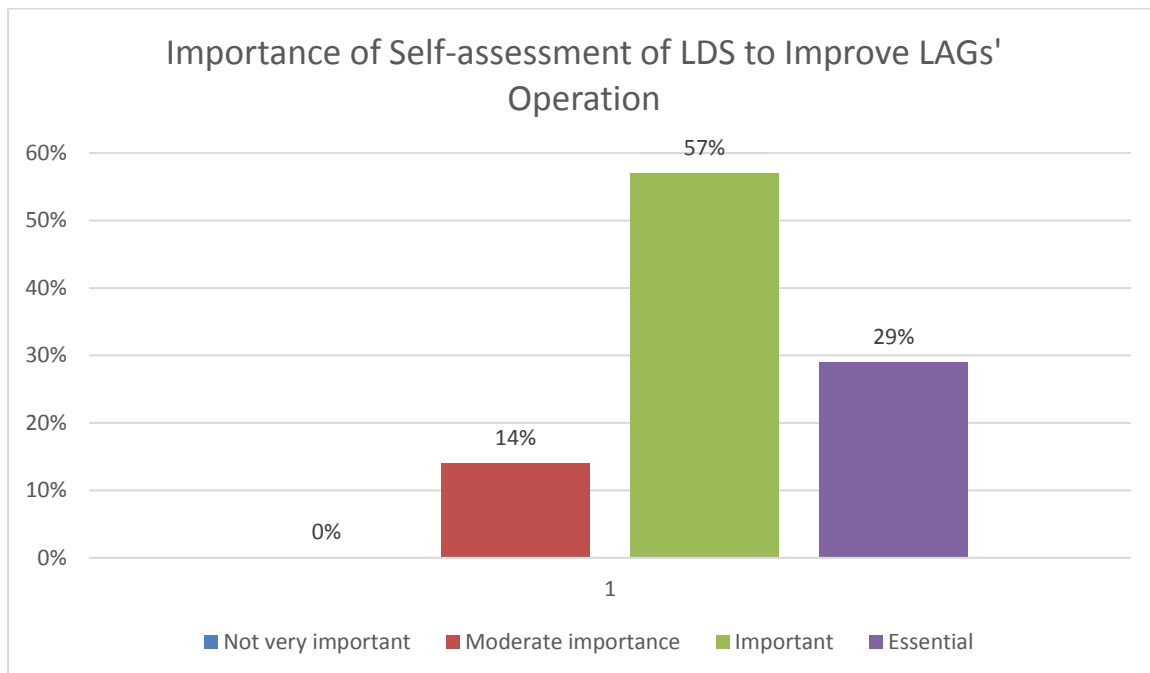
- Amongst NL respondents more information from the NRN on ENRD activities was identified as the most important way to increase involvement with ENRD.

### 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 7*



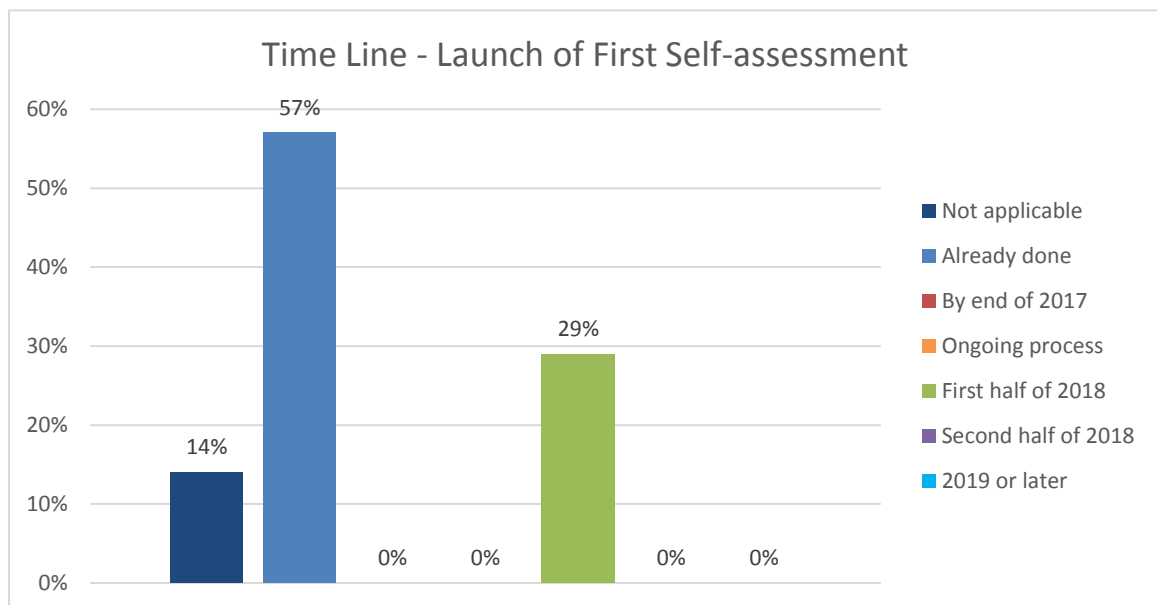
- Compared to the EU-wide sample, NL respondents placed a slightly greater importance on LDS self-assessment, with 86% of respondents stating that it is either important or essential, compared to 71% across the EU.

### Question 36

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

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

*Total Number of Responses 7*



- In NL 57% of respondents said that they had undertaken self-assessment work as opposed to only 14% of the EU-wide sample. A further 29% stated that it would be completed in the first half of 2018.

### 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 – 100%
- No – 0%

*Total Number of Responses 7*