

LEADER SIMPLIFICATION EXAMPLE

Brief 'title' of simplification example (if relevant)	Coordination among Managing Authorities of the NDPs and the Hellenic Network of LAGs - LEADER/CLLD.
Relevant theme <i>(Please select the relevant option from the drop-down menu in the adjacent cell.)</i>	simplification through cooperation of LAGs
LAG name (if relevant)	Hellenic Network of LAGs - LEADER/CLLD (Steering Committee - 7 members, Assembly - 51 Members)
Country / region	GREECE - all Regions
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<p>Summary of the issue/initiative/example related to LEADER simplification</p> <p><i>(Please describe the key issue which was 'solved' by the simplification solution and the actual simplification 'method'/approach, also including who were involved and in how the solution was developed.)</i></p> <p><i>Susan, I am not sure the example i showcase is very relevant, or that it "solves", or has the ability to "solve" the Key issue which is, complexity, loss of autonomy, "gold-plating" and in many cases mistrust.</i></p> <p><i>Those issues are not easy to openly name them and address them...</i></p> <p><i>I am not even sure that the Authorities really want simplification.</i></p>	<p>The LAGs/FLAGS, re-defined the scope of the "Network of Greek LAGs" introducing the multi fund approach and setting up a new steering committee (SC) with a new mandate which aims to achieve improvements and results in various common issues.</p> <p>As a result of the multi-fund approach the Greek LAGS have to adapt to new management environments and systems regarding the three funds that constitute LEADER/CLLD in Greece for the 2014-2020 period.</p> <p>There are 51 LAGs in Greece in this period, of these 13 have three funds in their LDS, (EAFRD -EMFF-ESF), 19 have two funds in their LDS (EAFRD-EMFF), 18 have one fund in their LDS (EAFRD) and one has one fund in its LDS (EMFF). The total budget of these LDSs is approximately €380 m of public expenditure.</p> <p>The main issue is the new variables introduced in this period and the variance in the exposure the Greek LAGs had from the previous period. The aim is to harmonize and have a common understanding, addressing new issues swiftly and derive a generic approach upon which each LAG can adapt its own systems. The Network hopes to make the process a little simpler, make it run as fast as possible and as standardized as possible.</p> <p>For example, in the previous period 11 FLAGS successfully completed their LDS funded by EFF, therefore they have experience in this and can help new FLAGS.</p> <p>The Hellenic Network of LAGs was first set up in 1998. In this period there has been a need to address various new issues and take the initiative to coordinate the actions of the Greek LAGs. All activities are on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>There is a newly elected steering committee. Each member is responsible for the LAGs of a geographic area, collects needs and issues, and disseminates information. For every major issue that needs to be examined a working group is set up where LAG members that have experience provide input. The working groups are coordinated by a member of the Steering Committee.</p> <p>The Steering Committee then refers to the Programmes Managing Authorities with suggestions and provides proposals for implementing solutions.</p> <p>The Steering Committee cooperates with the NRN, Greek and EU networks and fora and disseminates information to all members of the network.</p>

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	<p><u>Some examples of issues that are currently being handled:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The calls for proposals from beneficiaries are being deliberated through the MA and SC with all the LAGS/FLAGS solving any issues that arise. A standardized methodology is provided which each LAG will adapt. • The status of the Intermediary Body of the FLAGS is being deliberated with the Fisheries MA in order to solve issues regarding compatibility with National Law. • There is a plan to address the need for training of staff members and exchanges on practical issues for the implementation the LDSs and the everyday work of the LAGs/FLAGS, the need is due to the complexity of the management systems of the NDPs. • There is a plan for bi-annual Meetings-Assemblies where Local Development issues will be discussed. • There is a plan for a coordinated more outward looking mobility of the Greek LAGs/FLAGS in National and EU Fora to get more experience and more confidence. • There is big demand for simplification of implementation and the SC will work on that to present proposals in this direction. • The aim of the Network is to promote and showcase results achieved, the results that the LEADER methodology has achieved in Greece. • There is a need to address the issue of evaluation and derive some standards and proposals for corrective actions wherever necessary. • There will be thematic reflection groups on more general issues i.e. Innovation at Local Level, Environmental issues, Social Inclusion, Local Culture, these will be researched and proposals and results presented to the Assembly of the LAGs.
<p>Possible relevance to other LAGs / EU MSs - transferable experiences or elements</p>	<p>The work plan of the Hellenic Network of LAGs is a coordinated reaction to the challenges of the current multi-fund period.</p> <p>All the Greek LAGs are connected to the methodology and its results.</p> <p>There could be relevance to other LAGS, or MAs or even other countries. Once the system is fully operational there will be influence through the participation of the Greek LAGs/FLAGS in LEADER/CLLD Transnational Cooperation Projects.</p> <p>There will also be influence on the participation of local stakeholders and even public authorities (i.e. Regional Authorities, Municipalities, Agricultural or Fisheries Associations, Chambers, Social Organizations etc).</p> <p>It all becomes relevant once there are real and tangible results.</p>