



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA KMETIJSTVO,  
GOZDARSTVO IN PREHRANO

# LEADER in Slovenia

## Maintaining stakeholder engagement and ensuring RD policy delivery during the COVID-19 crisis

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**CLLD**  
LEADER  
SLOVENIA

# LEADER during the COVID-19 crisis at MAFF

The declaration of coronavirus epidemic in March - Offices at MA, PA, NRN, LAGs closed → Fast adaptation to work from home.

## Administration and communication with LAGs and stakeholders:

- Daily online communication with LAGs and stakeholders, information, news – phone, CLLD email, Facebook. - *We have experiences with daily communications within CLLD Coordinating Committee, whose members are dislocated.*
- LEADER/CLLD Forum for Q/A.
- Amendments of local development strategies – paperless administrative procedures, coordination via e-mail, electronic approval, digital signature.
- Preparation of Strategic plan, Intervention for LEADER – 2 online surveys.

## Fast amendment of legislation:

- national legislation (General Administrative Procedure Act,...) – coordination of Q/A with other CLLD Funds, with Division for Legal Issues, Paying agency;
- Rural development programme 2014-2020 – in line with Regulation 1305/2014: changes in conditions for prepayments (including LEADER), simplifications in other RDP measures;
- Proposal of amendments s of CLLD Regulation.



# LEADER during the COVID-19 crisis at Paying agency

## Selection procedure and controls

- **IT system** is established (before crisis) to enable **electronic submission of applications and claims for payment** System enables no paper applications, scanned documentation on electronic media, sending via e-mail. – *Fast adaptation of officials and beneficiaries.*
- **Simplifications** in administrative checks, automatic control of conditions, use of official state evidences.
- A lot of coordination and communication needed with beneficiaries, Q/A about changes of applications due to epidemic, force majeure, deadlines,...
- Despite corona situation the higher average of applications were checked and approved and claims for payments payed.

**Webinar for LAGs** at the end of May 2020: *The most common mistakes in applications and claims for payment*, to help LAG-s to reduce errors in applications and claims for payments.

# LEADER during the COVID-19 crisis at National rural Network

- Slovene **national NRN** is adapt to fast changes: daily communication with PR, stakeholders, Facebook posts, RDP website news, weekly news.
- During CORONA-19 crisis NRN supported activities of **national project Naša super hrana** steered by MAFF (financed by national fund) – with good practises, lists of local producers, farmers, an interactive map of local farms and growers (searching by regions, Local action groups,...)



MAP of local farms  
List of producers  
on LAGs areas



# ~ NAŠA SUPER HRANA ~

ZA POTROŠNIKE ▾

ZA PRIDELOVALCE IN PREDELOVALCE ▾

DOGODKI IN NAPOVEDI

ISKANJE

IŠČI



O PROJEKTU



Regija

Osrednje-slovenska ▾

Vse regije

Osrednje-slovenska

Štajerska

Primorska

Notranjska

Gorenjska

Prekmurje

Zasavje

Dolenjska

Bela krajina

Koroška

Posavje

Pomurska

Certifikat

Vsi ▾



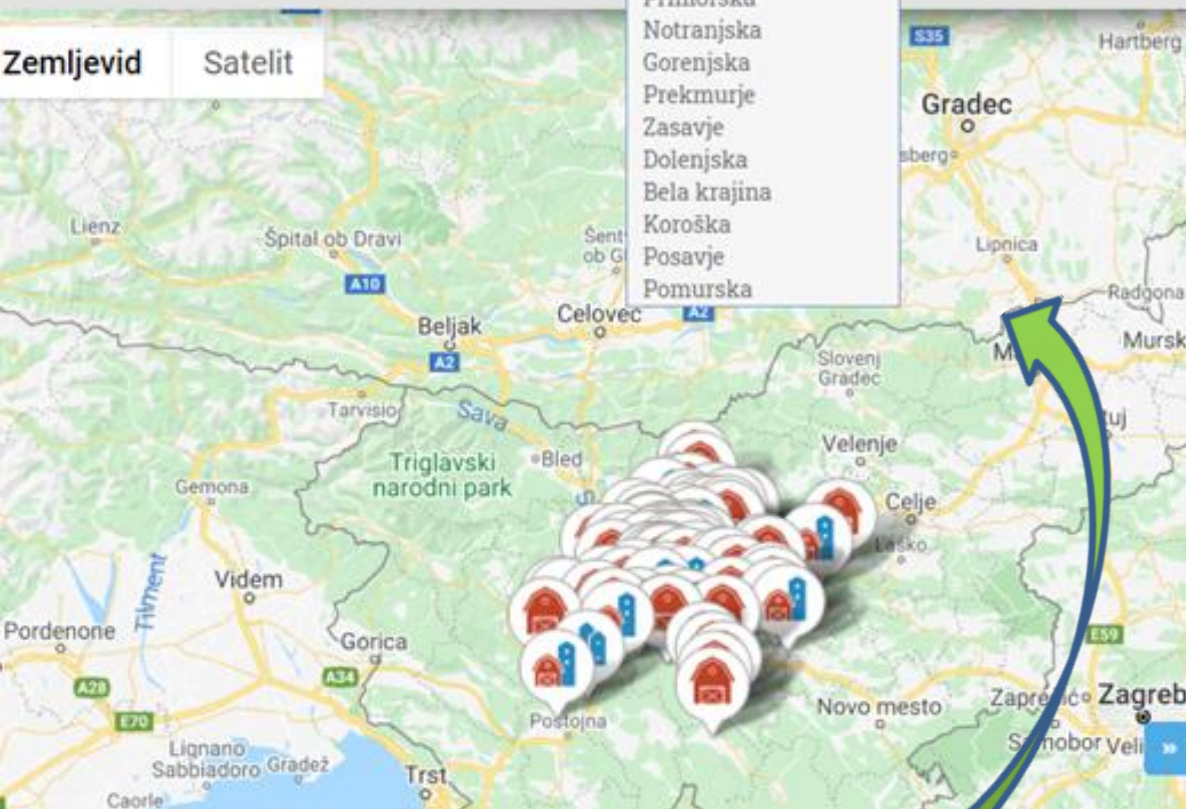
Prodaja izdelkov



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# LEADER during the COVID-19 crisis at LAGs

**LAGs are formed as a contractual partnerships** - a big role in resolving local needs and issues, knowledge and experience exchanges between LAG partners, between LAGs;

**LAG Managers** are important facilitators in LAG areas.

## Administration and communication

- LAGs are used to be **innovative**: work from home, use of electronic systems, online meetings, communication with beneficiaries via e-mails, phones, websites,...;
- **Calls for operations**: 1. procedures were postponed or 2. online procedures.

## Important role during COVID-19 crisis:

- LAGs had an important **role as local information-hubs and service providers** also during COVID-19 crisis. They connected local farmers and food producers, published on LAG website.
- **LAG projects**:
  - Short supply chains, platforms for online buying local food and products, transports direct from farmers and local producers.
  - Local markets (many financed with LEADER) were allowed to stay opened.
  - Digital learning and education (platforms, online meetings), joint promotion of local producers,...

# What have we learned

- Importance of resolving local needs - self-sufficiency, food supply (role of LAGs, project results)
- Importance of good IT systems (digitalised administration, remote work, online meetings)
- Importance of flexibility (legislation – fast amendments, simplification, changes in LEADER projects, administration)



THANK YOU

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Catalogue of SI LAGs: <https://www.program-podezelja.si/sl/knjiznica/358-local-action-groups-in-slovenia-in-the-programming-period-2014-2020/file>

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