

Designing LEADER for resilience and sustainability

setting the scene - Germany

LEADER's potential role in post-COVID recovery and during the transition period in a Member State

- | Role of LEADER in post Covid recovery will be low
- | But the transition period is a great chance:
 - | continuous transition between the funding periods (FP)
 - | No brain-drain in the LAG
 - | parallel lessons to be learned from the expiring FP with the conclusions for the new FP
 - | a lot of time for LES-development in 2021 and 2022, quick start in 2023

Lessons learnt during the current programming period and how these lessons will be integrated in the next LEADER

- I Federal system in Germany: one strategic 2021 – 2027 plan instead of 13 programmes in 2014 – 2020 > this means that not all regional requirements can be mapped > delegate many powers to regions and LAGs
- I Do not see sustainability only in relation to Covid, especially because the framework conditions of the reconstruction fund do not justify their use in LEADER (too late)
- I no restriction beyond EAFRD, allow full range of challenges
- I further regulations differentiated by region

Key elements of LEADER planned for the CAP Strategic Plan in your Member State - SN

- I survey of all LAGs and other stakeholders
- I public co-financing of non-public applicants by the Free State
- I no transfer of paying agency tasks to LAG (interest in how this should work – please contact me if you are successful; we make LAG to a granting authority only with national funds)
- I LAG function as protected as possible with little financial risk for LAG-registered association

Key elements of LEADER planned for the CAP Strategic Plan in your Member State - SN

- I at least 2 employees in running the LAG
- I LAG not too small - not under 25,000 inhabitants
- I only one LAG per area
- I no limitation in competition for LEADER - anyone who meets the requirements can become a LAG, because LEADER is a development tool for everyone, the significant involvement of civil society in the decision about the regional future is always an added value

Key elements of LEADER planned for the CAP Strategic Plan in your Member State - SN

- I LAGs have to be widely involved and informed on broad topics; we are planning around 10 events for the creation of the LES, where the ministries present their specialist strategies and the specialist guidelines so that the LAG can find their place and do not work against each other
- I Indicators for the LAG from the programme - yes, but from the LAG to the programme?
- I we think about 4 interest groups
- I broad topics, broad cooperation > no limitation of rural areas, if they benefit!
- I No gold plating, SCO

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- Aspects from the LAG perspective

LEADER's potential role in post-COVID recovery and during the transition period in a Member State

- I LEADER's share of the Post-Covid recovery **fund** (Next Generation EU) will be low

- I **However** LEADER can play an important role in Covid recovery **measures** if
 - I the LAGs receive a sufficient share of the transitional allowance
 - I national programmes allow support across the whole EAFRD spectrum
 - I the framework enables the LAGs to work continuously
 - I simplified cost options are used wherever possible and bureaucracy is limited

Lessons learnt during the current programming period and how these lessons will be integrated in the next LEADER

- I LEADER can contribute to overcoming the impacts of the Covid crisis, by
 - I specific projects (strengthening neighbourhood, village shops etc.)
 - I convey knowledge (e.g. of digital communication tools)

- I LEADER can also contribute to an increasing resilience by
 - I specific projects (sustainable mobility, short local food chains etc.)
 - I strengthening awareness (e.g. of environmental or climatic challenges)

- I Further efforts need to be made for more simplification, less responsibility of voluntary actors, better financing conditions (e.g. prefinancing/refund procedure) and shorter approval procedures

Key elements of LEADER planned for the CAP Strategic Plan in our Member State

- I The change from 13 regional programmes to one strategic plan gives the chance to simplify and unify the national regulations in Germany if they are reduced to a minimum
- I LAGs can contribute to more resilience in their region if the whole range of possibilities of the EAFRD can be used
- I LAGs need to be aware of this and use the possibilities when they develop their new strategies
- I Flexibility is a keyword with regard to the strategy, to indicators and to bureaucratic procedures if LAGs are expected to react on crisis and contribute to an increasing resilience of rural communities

Covid

**Climate
Change**



Covid

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