



LEADER THEMATIC LAB

DESIGNING LEADER FOR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Lessons learnt during the COVID crisis and RDP 2014-2020

- lockdown caused the closure of many businesses and service points, which generated problems for beneficiaries to meet the obligations relating to the maintenance of jobs created;
- need for more flexibility in programme implementation due to the failure of many businesses caused by COVID:
 - possibility of changing the business plan and target indicators in situations (which are beyond the beneficiary's control) that prevent the plan from being implemented, when the application of force majeure provisions is not possible (e.g. changing the business profile);



Lessons learnt during the COVID crisis and RDP 2014-2020

- Paper vs electronic documentation in the context of reducing the need for face-to-face meetings and faster information flow - the need for electronic applications, submission of docs via Internet
- Enabling remote activities (including association activities, e.g. educational activities, animation activities, and even holding meetings of the decision-making body remotely);
- The use of simplified costs works very well, so there is a need for implementing this tool in a larger scale.

LEADER new role under the CAP Strategic Plan

- LEADER will play a key role in implementing the new approach offered by the EC - Smart Villages:
 - in the first step, LAGs will be responsible for the implementation of the preparatory support for the creation of the SV concept (by grant projects - selecting local villages interested in creating and implementing the Smart Villages concept in their village),
 - dedicated calls for applications for operations covered by SV announced by LAGs,
 - preferences for operations covered by the SV concept in other calls for proposals;
- development of infrastructure contributing in particular to environmental protection or combating adverse climate change





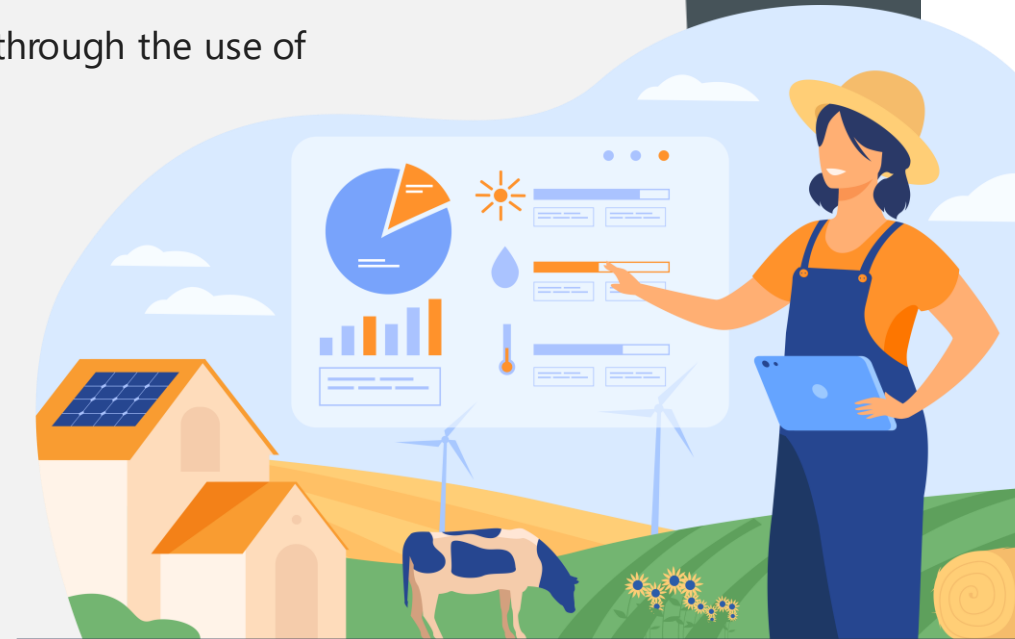
Key elements of LEADER planned for the CAP Strategic Plan

- The main goal is to build local identity based on social animation and use of local resources in a way that best meets the needs of rural communities, including the use of knowledge, innovation and digital solutions.
- The local and integrated nature of the instrument is important, it is oriented towards rural areas, allowing the LAG sufficient freedom to define local interdisciplinary development priorities.



Detailed objectives

- shaping civic awareness about the importance of agriculture, agri-food economy and the cultural and natural heritage of the Polish countryside, including strengthening education programmes for leaders in public and social life;
- improving access to public infrastructure, in particular small public infrastructure, aimed at strengthening the advantages of a given area and development opportunities for all residents and diversifying employment;
- stimulating economic development and innovation through the creation and development of entrepreneurship and cooperation, including the social economy, and the development of the leisure service sector and experience economy, as well as short food chains;
- searching for ways of providing services (other than basic ones) for local communities, including the development of care services, healthcare, culture and cultural heritage;
- development of a green economy and counteracting climate change, including through the use of renewable energy sources.



WHAT DO LOCAL COMMUNITIES NEED FOR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY?

Aware and responsible members:

- inhabitants,
- local/regional/national government,
- entrepreneurs.

We should know that we are responsible for each other.



LEADER'S POTENTIAL ROLE IN POST-COVID RECOVERY AND DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD IN A MEMBER STATE

LAGs could be **FIRST** organization which supports:

- inhabitants,
- entrepreneurs,
- local organization and governments

which run activities concerning raising awareness and social accountabilities.



LESSONS LEARNT DURING THE COVID CRISIS AND THE CURRENT PROGRAMMING PERIOD AND HOW THESE LESSONS WILL BE INTEGRATED IN PLANNING THE NEXT LEADER UNDER THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

- LEADER stakeholders (especially Paying Agencies) should be more open (even flexible) for new solutions.
- Procedures & regulations should be more simple.



KEY ELEMENTS OF LEADER PLANNED FOR THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

- Unfortunately, less money for LEADER in Poland it means **less LAGs** or **smaller LDS budget**,
- Simpler (for example wider use of lump sum).

