



Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Rural Development Department

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2007-2013



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II-Programm Leader – II-Mizuri

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LEADER a "going local" approach to rural development

- **BOTTOM –UP-APPROACH**

The Leader method encourages rural communities to design their own strategies and allows them to implement tailor made measures, experiment with new ways of boosting growth, enhancing natural and cultural heritage and giving their community a place in the future!

- **AREA BASED APPROACH**

- **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

- **INTEGRATED APPROACH**

- **INNOVATION**

- **COOPERATION**

- **NETWORKING**



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What does the Leader Initiative require to get started?

Rural actors from different localities coming together with a COMMON OBJECTIVE



To enhance the long term potential of their local region!

1st step is to form a partnership.

PARTNERSHIPS must be geared at achieving recognition as LAGs.
Hence the composition of the partnership and the private component of the Decision Body must fit definite certain.



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- **Localities must be Rural Areas**
- **Minimum localities = 8 localities**
- **Localities, characterised by Local Councils**
- **The same locality can only participate in one partnership**
- **Localities must be adjacent and coherent**
- **Number of participants must not exceed 150,000**
- **Private and public component**
- **Multi-sectoral design:**

The partnership must be representative of the community it represents. It should encompass a wide range of stakeholders including voluntary organisations such as women's groups, youth groups, other minority groups, environmental and cultural interest groups, civil society and any other interest group that identifies itself as such, as well as entrepreneurs and commercial organisations based in the localities.

- **Decision Making Body must be at least 51% private**



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To tap funds under AXIS 3 – Measures 341, public private partnerships must be legally formalised as a non-profit making Foundation

- **Studies** of the region → for the formulation of the strategy
- Actions to **disseminate the information** → to animate the region about the initiative, to source feedback, to ensure the applicability of the results derived...
→ *undertaken and managed by partners*
- **Training** of key persons in the preparation of the strategy and in running a lag.
- **Promotional and animation activities** → to increase awareness about Leader.
→ *undertaken by partners in coordination with the MA*



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Measure 341 should lead to the formation of number of partnerships (not LAGS!) and associated local strategies.

The local Development STRATEGY will:

- Include a SWOT **analysis of the region**, identifying disparities and highlight areas offering potential for growth
- On the basis of the swot, elaborate **priority intervention areas** in which the Leader approach could result in significant improvements
- Define the **actions and measures** that will enable identified targets to be reached
- Demonstrate a **sound and cohesive partnership** detailing the **participatory role of various rural actors**
- Inform about the **Decision Body** and how it **enjoys the backing** of partnership members



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Measures 341: Skills acquisition and animation with a view to preparing and implementing a Local Development Strategy

The measure will run for two years

Target = Maximum 5 partnerships

Measure Budget = 450,000 Euros

Fully co-financed

Running costs up to 15% of partnership allocation



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The transition from partnerships to LAGs

The local development strategy and the business plan will be **submitted for evaluation** under Measure 41

Approval will mean:

- Designation of the partnership as a LAG
- Opportunity to tap RDP funds to implement the strategy

**Note - Once 3 LAGs get approved
the measure will be closed**



Measures / Actions that a LAG can implement:

1. Measures elaborated by the LAG
2. One-off projects or pilot-projects
3. Cooperational projects (interterretorial and transnational)
4. Measures elaborated by the MA and reserved for implementation by LAG

Why giving LAGs the opportunity to administer these actions?

- LAGs are **more in tune** with the **requirements of the region** and can **filter projects which generate the most value added** to their region.
- The **nature of these actions** is such that if implemented on a



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Measures designed by the MA & included in the RDP

Axis 1. M. 125 - Infrastructure for the Development and Adaptation of Agriculture

- Action Type 3: Increasing accessibility of access roads to farmers.

Axis 3. M. 313 - Encouragement of Tourism Activities

- Action Type 3: Setting of trails that interlink various sites of tourist value
- Action Type 4: Small-scale recreational amenities
- Action Type 7: Events and short-ter attractions

Axis 3. M. 323 - Conservation and Upgrading of Rural Heritage

- Action Type 3ii: Stand alone actions that do not emanate from approved management and conservation plans.



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Axis 4 Funds:

3.9 Million €

80% EAFRD : 20% National

LAGs' RD Budget → 20% of allocated € for Running Costs

AXIS 4

- administrative costs
- skills acquisition
- promotion

→ Aid Intensity 80% EAFRD : 20% LAG

(except for measures in RDP developed by MA.
These do not absorb Axis 4 funding)



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Financing the Implementation of the Strategy

The LAG will be given a **20% cash advance of projected annual expenditure**. The projected expenditure would have been outlined in the Business Plan which the LAG forwards to the MA on an annual basis. The 20% will be topped up on absorption.

Implementation and financial circuits
Depends on category of action. In general:

LAG will be responsible for issuing calls, receiving proposals and for evaluating submissions.

MA will approve procedures employed and the list of selected applicants/projects.

LAG will be responsible for subsequent administrative and implementation stages - involving follow up of approved projects, receiving requests for payments, compiling documentation – up to the point of requesting fund transfer from MA.

MA will have a continuous supervisory role. It will also carry out independent checks and audits. On verification of proper implementation procedures, the MA will instruct the **PA** to instruct payments.



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Internal structure of a LAG:

Local Partners	Women's groups	Youths' groups	Entrepreneurs
	Sectoral reps.	Local councils	NGOs
			Etc...

DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE

51% Private Component

Advised by:

THEMATIC GROUPS

Eg: (Environment) (Gender Equality) Etc...

Backed by:

ADMINISTRATION



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Decision Making Committee

The Decision Committee is the decision-making body of LAG. It will take strategic decisions and endorse decisions concerning LAG funding. Good practice requires that the DC seeks the expert advice of the thematic working groups.

The Committee shall be composed of 5, 7 or 9 representatives elected from the members of the LAG.

It must at least contain representatives from the four sectors –

- **Local Councils**
- **Government and other state entities**
- **Business Sector**
- **Voluntary organisations**

Private representatives must make up at least 51% of the Decision Committee.



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Thank you