

# **The Leader approach in Malta**



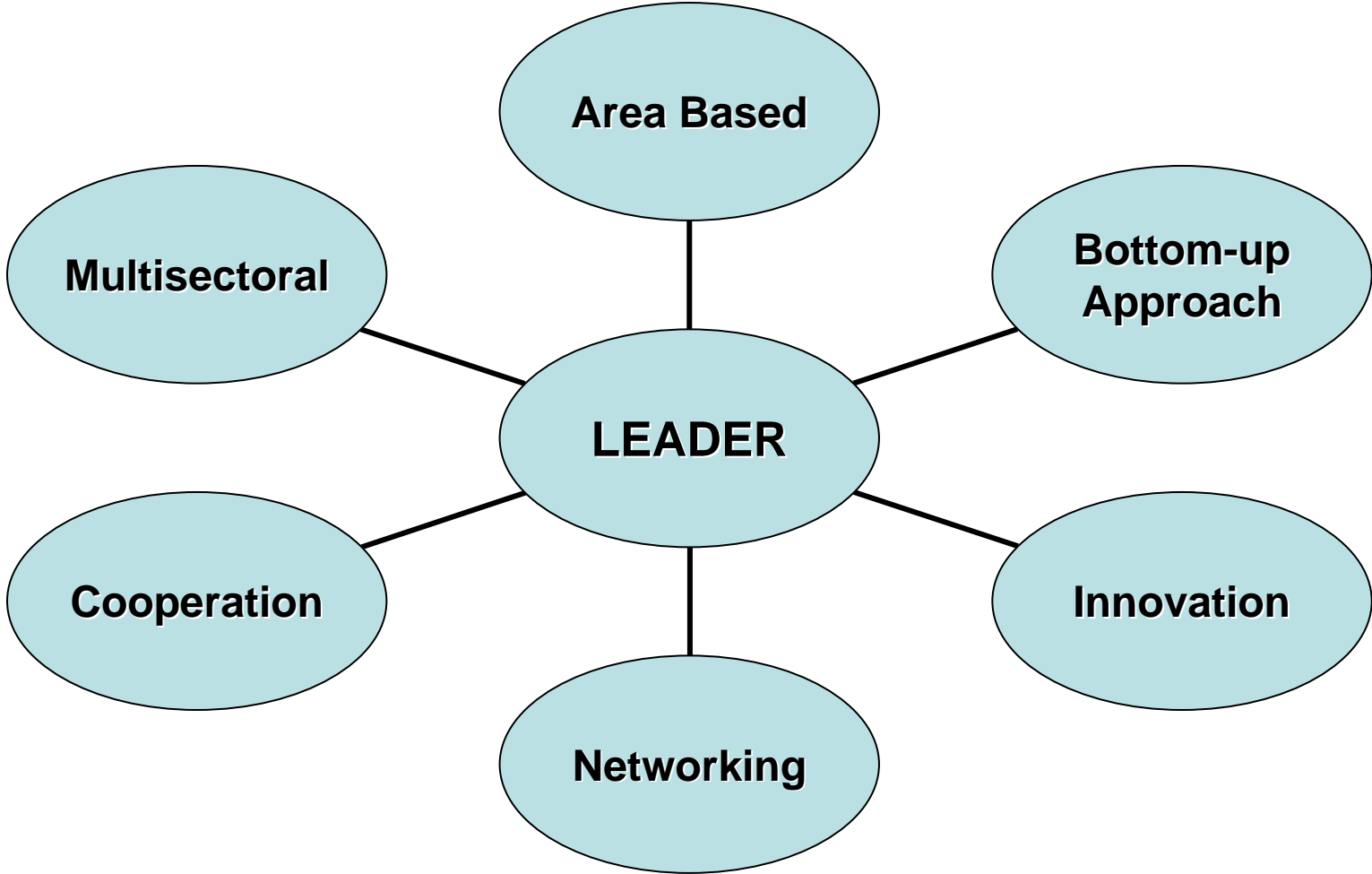
**Managing Authority- Rural Development Programme 2007-2013**

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# What is Leader?

- LEADER is one of the initiatives of the European Commission which in simple words can be translated as “collaboration initiatives in Rural Development”;
- It is an experimental programme giving a social-economic impulse to the country’s rural regions;
- Bottom-up approach.

# The Leader Initiative



# Overview of Rural Malta

- The Rural Area of Malta as defined in the National Rural Development Strategy is made up of 47 local councils;
- 14 of which are located in Gozo;
- Whilst 33 are located in Malta;
- Surface Area - Gozo 69Km<sup>2</sup>  
Malta 219Km<sup>2</sup>
- Population in Rural Areas approx 258,000 Inhabitants
- Agricultural Area in Rural Localities 11,500 Ha



# **Constitution of an eligible Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**

- Minimum of 8 rural localities that form one whole block;
- No overlapping allowed;
- One action group per territory;
- Number of inhabitants in the PPP must not exceed 150,000;
- Decision body of PPP constituted of 51% Private & 49% Public;
- PPP must be a non profit making foundation.

## **RDP Measure 341- Skills acquisition & preparation of a Local Development Strategy**

- Through this measure eligible PPPs need to develop a local development strategy
- Actions foreseen comprise of:
  - Studies of the area concerned;
  - Provision of info about the area and the strategy;
  - Training of staff involved;
  - Promotional events and training of leaders;
  - Strategies must be presented within 6 months from contracting;
- Financial allocation amounts to 450,000 Euros.

# **The Local Development Strategy**

## **Important considerations when developing the Strategy**

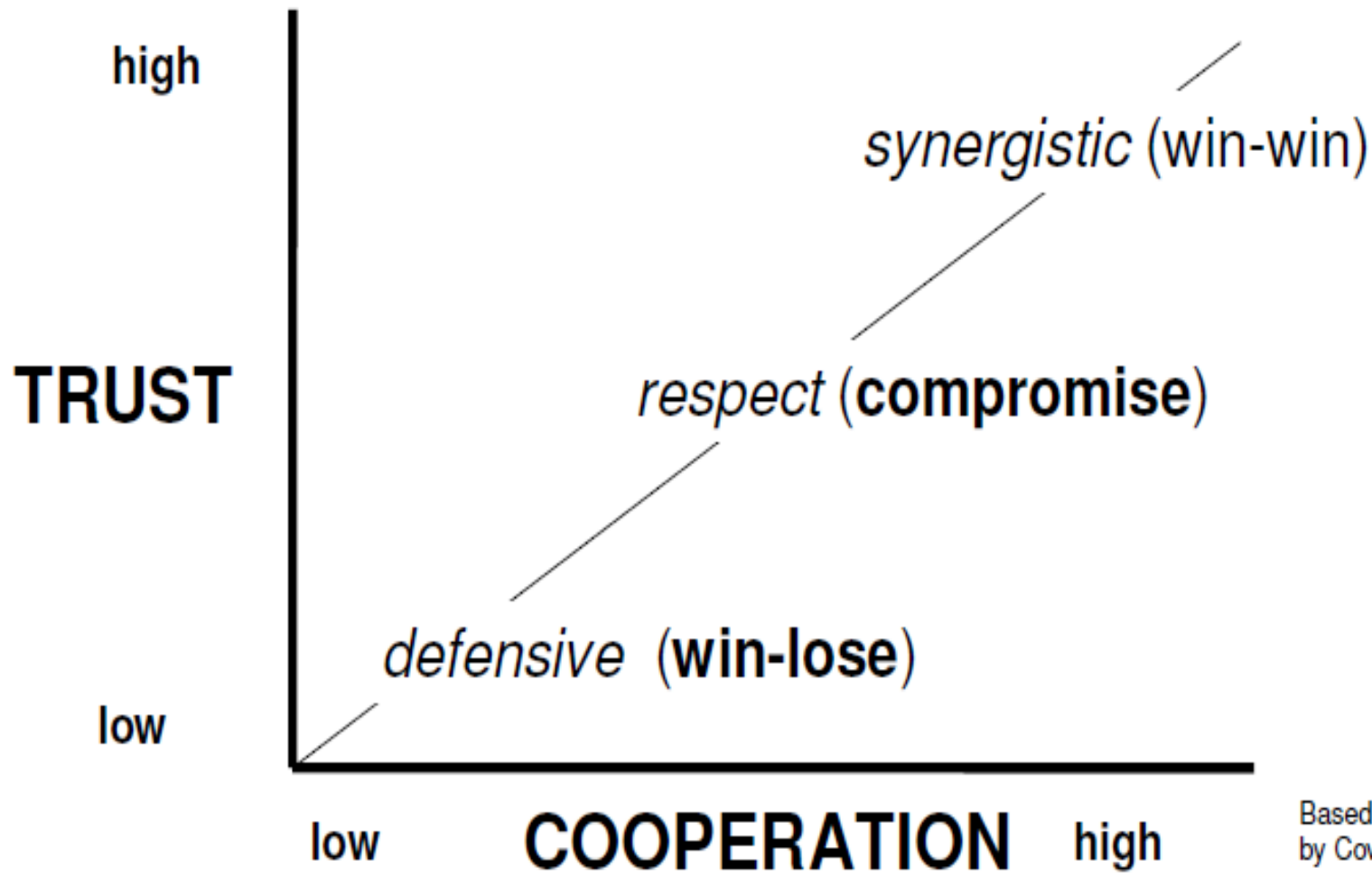
- Manage the flow of information;
- Have the right resources available;
- Efficient management of these resources;
- Avoid duplication of work done elsewhere;
- Ensure & demonstrate network activities;
- Open inclusive approach;
- Added Value.

# **The Local Development Strategy**

## **Important considerations when developing the Strategy**

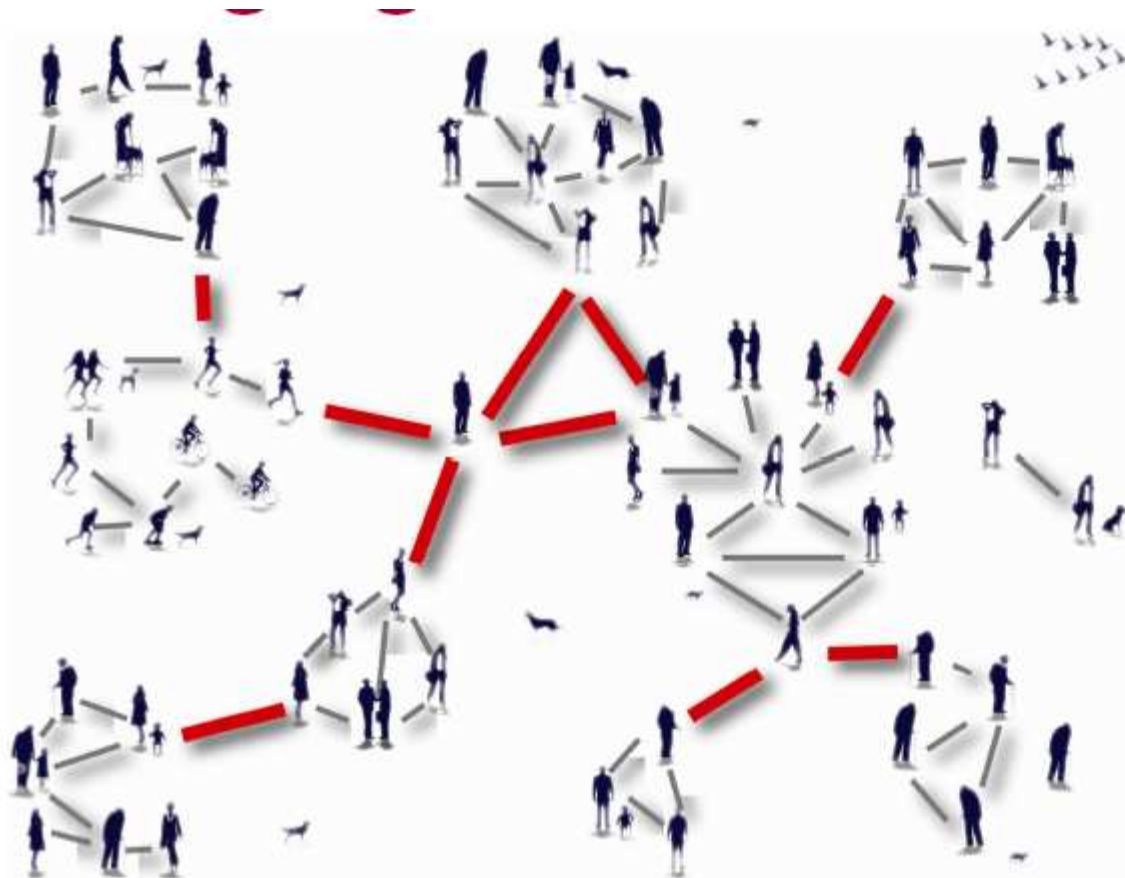
- Sustainability;
- Identify short term & long term challenges;
- Work on specific Thematic areas such as Agriculture & Fisheries, Environment, Social, Economic, etc..
- Overcome national differences & at the same time enhance national strategies;
- Better knowledge (understanding) of the EU!

# The ideal approach- Finding the right equation with Rural Actors



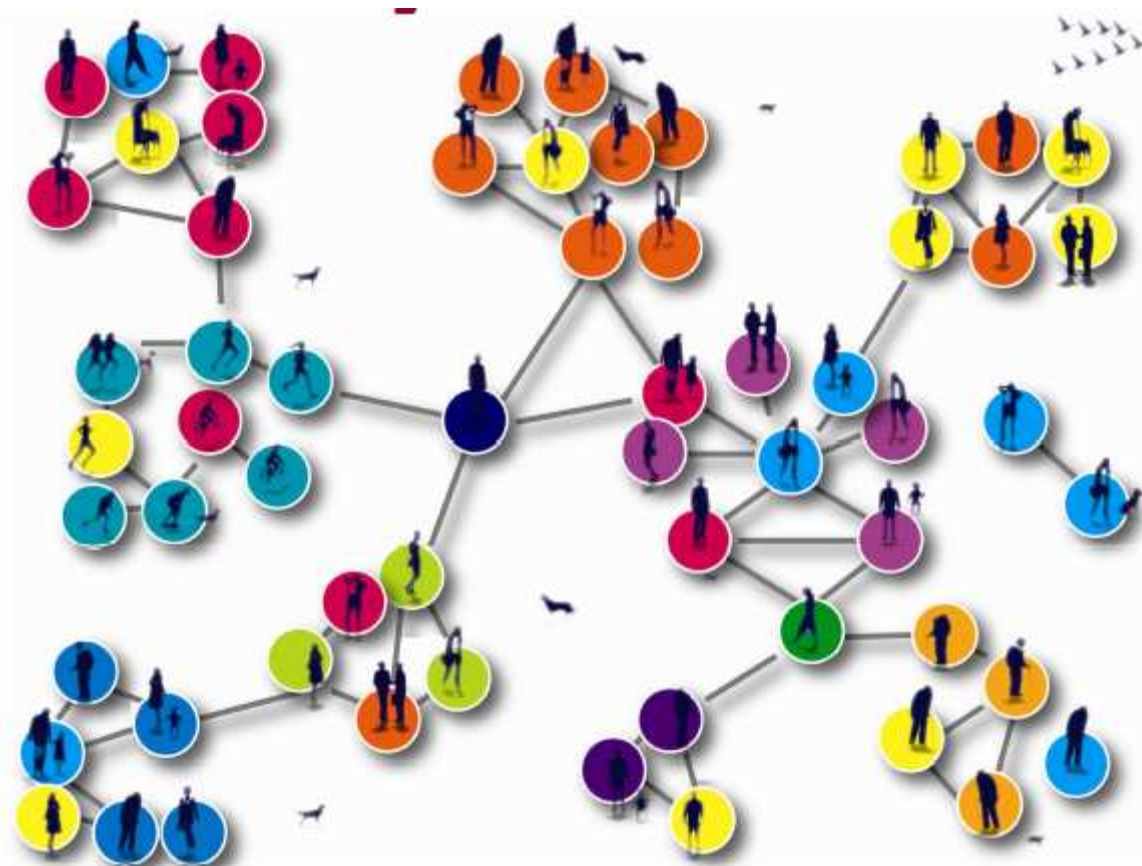
Based on an Illustration  
by Covey, S. R. (2004)

# Bridge clusters - Network



- New ideas
- Local Knowledge become global, global knowledge local
- Flow

# Strengthening of Strategy - Diversity



- Different attributes, different thoughts
- Culture of managing imbalance
- Culture of coalition building
- Win-win

# Transition from partnerships to LAGs

Through Axis 3 measure 341: Partnership forms + Strategy elaborated.

Now Axis 4 sets in!

strategy (etc.) are **submitted for evaluation**  
under Measure 41 (budget 2.6 M Euros)

**Approval through Measure 41 means:**

- Designation as a LAG!
- Possibility to tap RDP funds to implement the strategy

Caution! Measure 341 does not pose a strict limit on the number of submitted strategies **BUT Axis 4 only caters for 3 LAGs.**

**! A competitive process !**

# **Other Axis 4 Measures**

## **Measure 421-Interterritorial & Transnational Cooperation**

- Implementation of joint collaborative projects supported by a common structure
- Allocation of 500,000 Euros

## **Measure 431- Running costs, acquisition of skills & animation.**

- Aims to provide LAGs with sufficient resources to effectively implement the strategy
- Allocation of 775,000 Euros

**Axis 4 Funds:**

**3.9 Million €**

**80% EAFRD : 20% National**

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

administrative costs

skills acquisition

promotion

→ Aid Intensity 80% EAFRD : 20% LAG

# Leader Programme in Malta to date

- One 2 One meetings & consultation with local rural actors;
- Establishing rules of procedure for Public Private Partnerships (PPPs);
- Launching of RDP Measure 341-Preparation of Local Development Strategies (March 2009);
- Closure date for PPPs to submit applications under M 341 (April 2009);
- 4 proposals received & currently being vetted.

## **Upcoming activities**

- Contracting of Technical experts to assist and support both the Managing Authority as well as the selected PPP's;
- Provision of training to selected PPPs & assistance in the development of the local strategies;
- Launching of calls for Axis 4 measure 41 in order to assess & vet the strategies by which PPP's can get recognized as LAGs;
- Recognition of LAGs;
- Implementation of strategies.

**Remember that Rural Actors  
leave from Pole Position.....  
.....it is crucial that they  
continue to lead  
throughout...**



**Important that everyone's voice  
is heard!!**



**Thank you**

