



Planned support from the CAP Implementation Contact Point

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#LeaderCLLD





New LEADER resources

LEADER newsletter



LEADER Newsletter
March 2023

Welcome to the first edition of our new LEADER newsletter!



Every quarter, we'll bring you a round-up of the main LEADER-related activities facilitated by the EU CAP Network and its national partners, as well as inspiring LEADER stories from the ground.

We're looking forward to hearing from you! Share your views, questions and LEADER stories via implementation@eucapnetwork.eu.

Spread the word! Invite your own networks to subscribe via the EU CAP Network website and follow us on social media.

[Find out more](#)

Policy Insights article



LEADER's potential from a policy perspective

POLICY INSIGHTS
MARCH 2023

The EU's LEADER methodology is world famous for leaving no one behind in a variety of rural policy fields. LEADER's flexibility continues to make it an ideal tool for helping Local Action Groups (LAGs) deliver valuable local contributions to high-level objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the coming years.

The LEADER approach to rural territorial development is now over 30 years old and its stakeholders have gained significant insight into best practice approaches to implementing innovative rural development policy. The methodology is acknowledged for its capacity to build social and human capital through helping communities to innovate and advance. Resulting benefits also often boost confidence of local populations to take forward new initiatives that help them help themselves.

Success stories from three decades of such LEADER implementation reinforce its international credentials. For example, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization meeting of the European Commission for Europe in 2022 highlighted the opportunities that LEADER offers. The methodology was promoted by the UN to agricultural and rural development Ministers from EU and other governments as good practice. LEADER's competence was heralded for paving new territorial development pathways in rural areas and offering options for significant additional contributions to creating new jobs, income opportunities, facilities, and services. LAGs in various EU Member States have also successfully applied the method in addressing emerging challenges, for examples related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, the social priorities for socio-economic development and environmental management.

Policy implementation benefits

EU rural communities can benefit greatly from the thousands of LAGs involved in implementing the new CAP. This additional critical mass of bottom-up development practitioners and expertise can also act as a valuable resource to help implement the top-down policy.

LAGs are all connected via national and EU networking. Together, this web of rural development extension services can provide an effective policy outreach channel that allows high level policies direct access to engage with EU citizens - through village level action on the ground all around rural Europe. Similarly, the LAGs are able to raise awareness of their local area's development priorities at the highest CAP levels through their connectivity and close networking relations with local, national and EU bodies. This policy outreach and implementation channel is unique in the CAP and it can be considered to represent a specific and highly valuable strategic attribute of LEADER from a policy perspective - including for those responsible for thinking globally and needing to act locally.

Top-down priorities of the CAP are packaged through the policy's three over-arching general objectives: fostering a smart, competitive, resilient, and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security; as well as supporting and strengthening environmental protection, including biodiversity and climate action.

Projects Brochure



Rural Inspiration Awards 2022
Projects brochure

6 Green Futures
18 Digital Futures
30 Resilient Futures
42 Socially Inclusive & Innovative Futures

Funded by the European Union



Planned events, thematic activities

- › Workshop on LEADER added value (to be confirmed)
- › One meeting of the LEADER and territorial development Subgroup
- › LEADER and territorial development aspects featured in Thematic Groups
 - › Thematic Group on developing rural skills (to be confirmed)
 - › Thematic Group on mental health (to be confirmed)
- › CAPI CP participation in / contribution to LEADER events organised by other stakeholders (e.g., LINC, MS networking events, etc.)



Planned publications, other networking activities

- › LEADER newsletter (one in each quarter)
- › ARIA2023 (agricultural and rural inspiration awards 2023)
- › Collection of good practices, case studies (includes LEADER projects)
- › Website tools
 - › Development of the LAG directory and partner search tool
 - › Interactive functionalities for LEADER stakeholders
- › Other possible support to relevant networking activities between Member States



Developing the new LAG directory

› Objectives:

- › creating a LAG directory that provides useful basic information about LAGs; and
- › allows for a good EU overview of LAGs and their strategic priorities in the EU
- › Discussions with MS Managing Authorities about specific fields
- › Technical development of basic fields
- › No further updates to the LAG database in the ENRD website



Developing the new LAG Directory

- **Major change:** new field “theme linked to LAG strategy” - part of basic LAG information (for comparability and better overview of LDSs at EU level)
- Discussions planned with Member States to finalise options for this field as LDSs are being selected
- Relevant basic information will be collected from MS Managing Authorities (based on template provided by CAPI CP) in 2023



Get in touch

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