



AGRI experience on evaluating the impact of LEADER: Challenges and lessons learned

GPW - 'How to assess LEADER added value'

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Outline

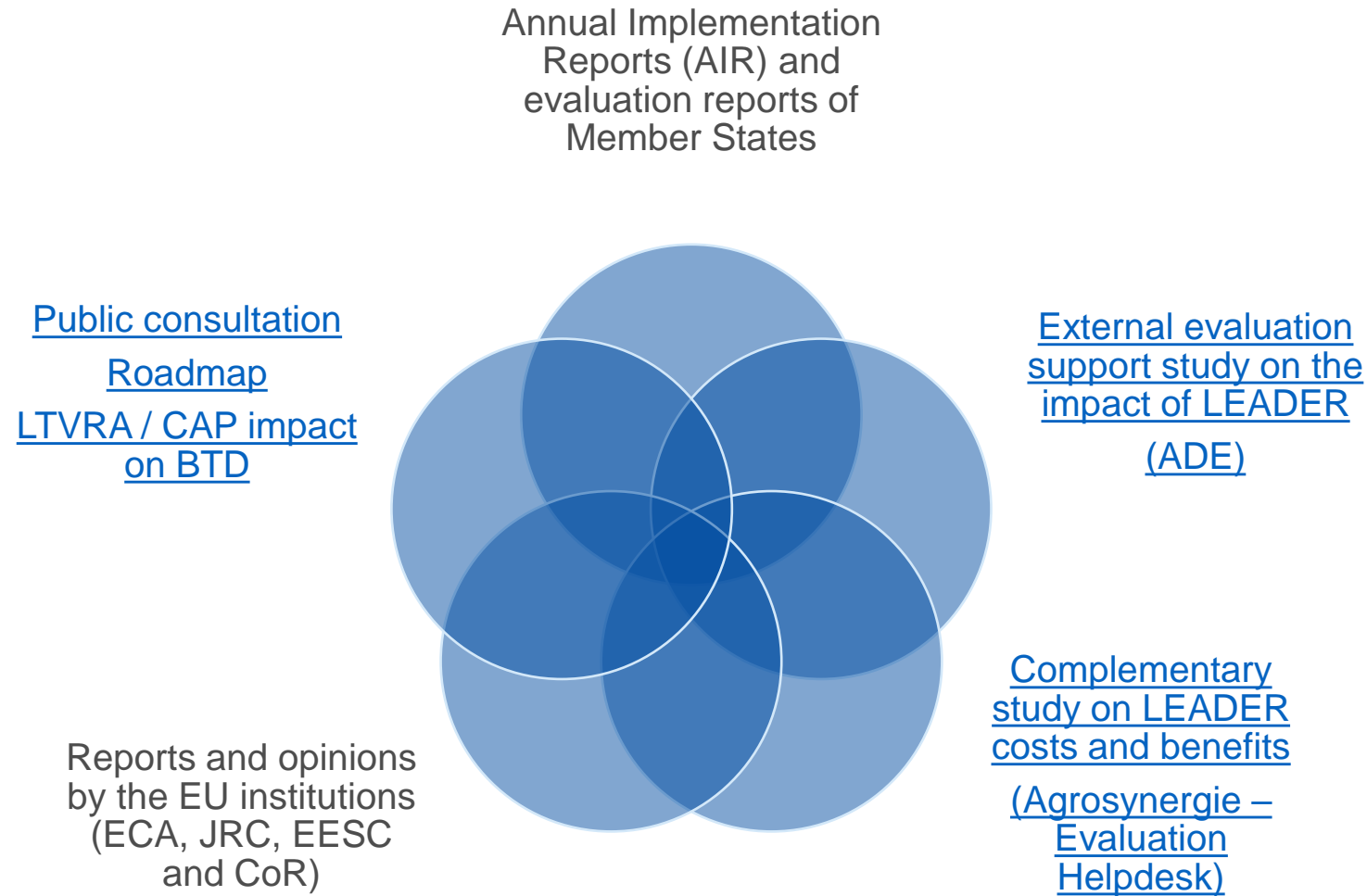
Introduction to evaluation of LEADER 2014-2022

Challenges of the evaluation

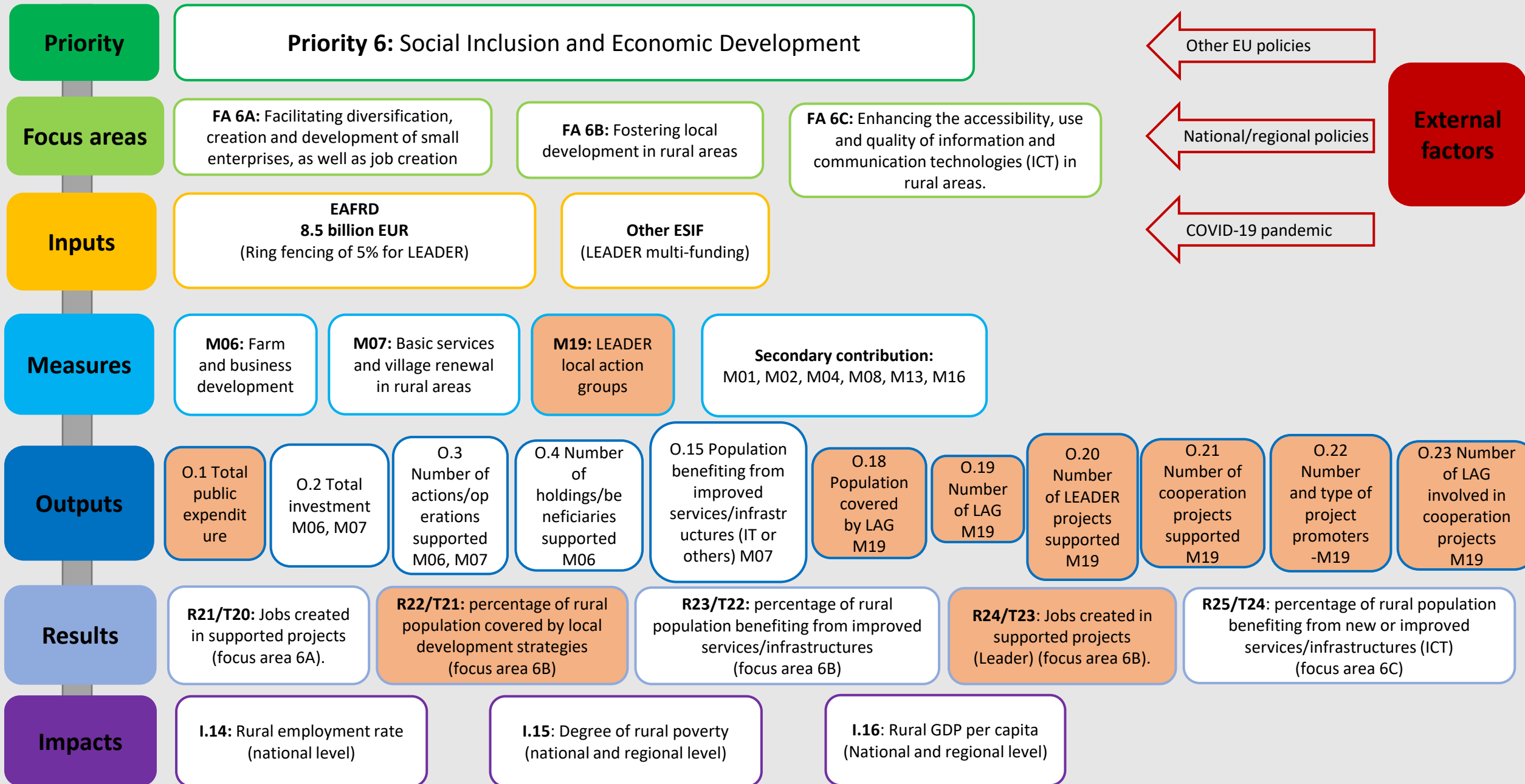
Lessons learned



Evaluation of LEADER: sources

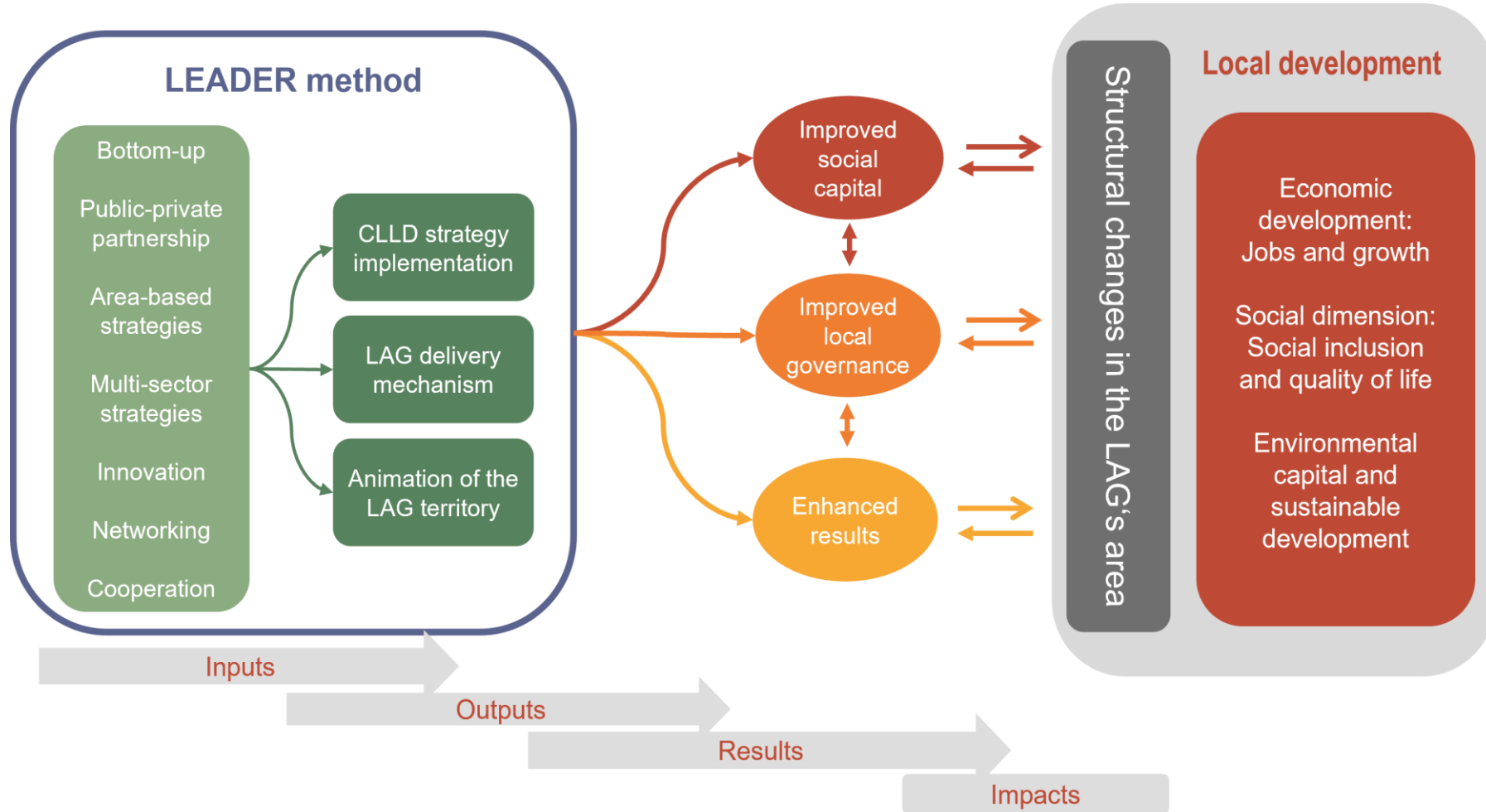


LEADER Intervention logic of Local Development



LEADER Common Intervention Logic

LEADER added value



Concept developed by the Evaluation Helpdesk to capture LEADER benefits (including intangible benefits)

Based on 3 elements:

- Governance (participation of rural society in designing and steering its development strategy)
- Social capital (local networks, rural community involvement, ...)
- Better results (including additional benefits; cooperation, multi-objective projects, ...)

Evaluation of LEADER

Factors of success of LEADER

LEADER contribution to local development

- Population covered by local strategies
- Jobs created in supported projects
- Provision of improved services to local population
- Positive contribution to sustainable local development dimensions: Economic, Social and Environment
- Positive contribution and broad implementation of LEADER's features
- EU added value of LEADER

LEADER added value

- Improved governance
- Improved social capital
- Enhanced results: delivery of better-tailored, more innovative and sustainable projects
- Additional benefits outweigh additional costs.



Challenges (and limitations) of the evaluation

Low uptake of LEADER to capture its effects

Complexity/wide range of intervention logics

Effects of LEADER at micro level

Limited use/significance of output and result indicators

Quantification of LEADER added value (even more for intangible benefits)

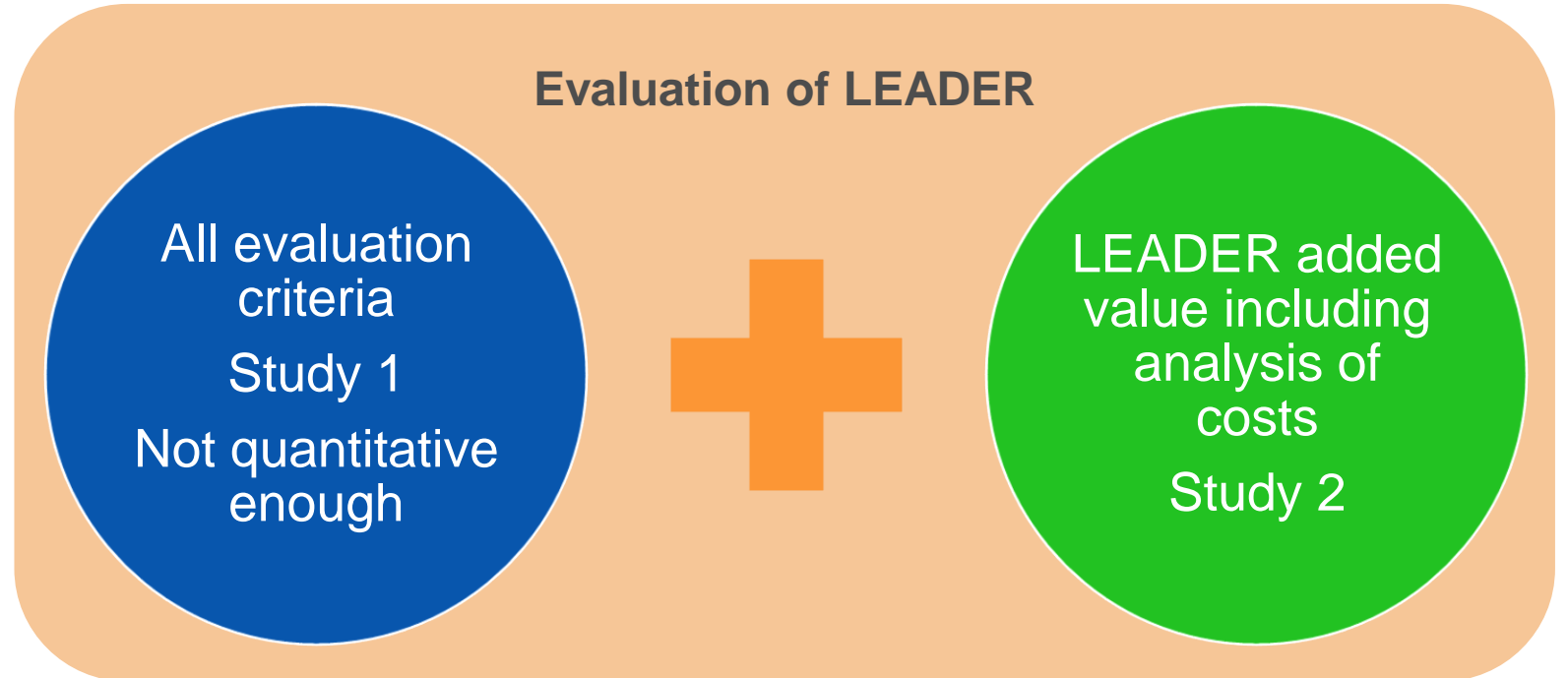
Proportionality vs Representativeness

Difficult evaluation period due to the Covid pandemic

Mitigation of challenges through a combination of approaches

Approach to mitigate the challenges of the evaluation

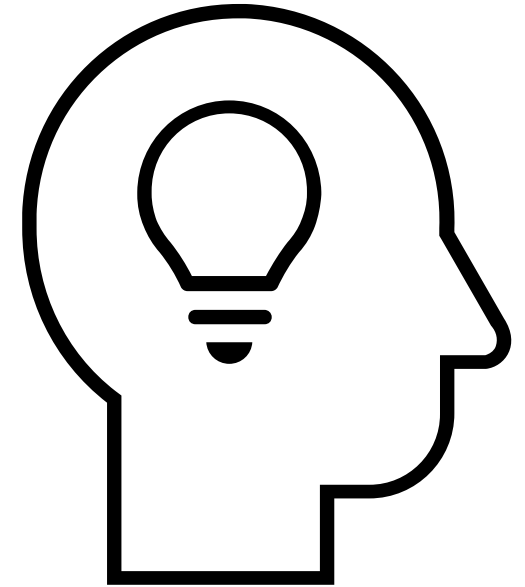
- Rich qualitative approach completed with dedicated study on LEADER added value, with best LEADER experts



- Use of any quantification available below EU level
- Report will highlight good practices

Lessons learned

- LEADER contribution to be seen at local scale
- Promotion of LEADER added value concept and its adding value features (animation, networking, innovation, etc.): IR (EU) 2022/1475 – Helpdesk’s support (TWG, GPW, etc.)
- More suitable/practical methods and points of comparison (specially on intangible benefits), and better data for monitoring and evaluation are needed: IR (EU) 2022/1475
- Data on costs could be improved to enhance their usability:
 - Animation vs Running costs at LAG level
 - Robustness and clarity of administrative costs at MA/PA level
- Missing link: To what extent has LEADER contributed to structural changes?





European
Commission





Background information

Annex I: ECA report recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Comprehensively evaluate the costs and benefits of LEADER

The Commission should comprehensively evaluate both the costs and benefits. This evaluation for LEADER should cover (points a-e):

- (a) The application of a selection process of local action groups that allocates money on quality local development strategies;
- (b) Actions to reduce costs and administrative complexities (e.g. extra administrative burden for project owners, long selection procedures);
- (c) The extent to which decision-making bodies are representative, including by age, gender and other target groups;
- (d) The extent to which LEADER funded projects bring additional benefits compared to non-LEADER projects and
- (e) the extent to which LEADER funds are used to fund the statutory tasks of EU, national, regional or local bodies.

Target implementation date: 2023

EC replies

All recommendations accepted except

Implementation date 2026
(only age and gender of the members. No other groups)

To the extent possible if data and definition of statutory tasks are available

Annex II: Methodological approach

Study 1

Evaluation support study ADE (2021)

- Quantification and analysis of CMEF indicators
- Qualitative analysis and quantification of qualitative evidence at EU level (EU surveys for LAGs and MAs)
- Case studies (10 MS – 14 RDP – 36 LAG) + validation workshop with ISSG and DG AGRI's Geographical units

Study 2

Support study EH (2023)

- Quantification and analysis of costs (LEADER and non-LEADER measures)
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of additional benefits
- Analysis of benefits and costs (comparison with non-LEADER measures)
- 2 levels of quantitative and qualitative analysis of benefit and costs:
 - RDP level (EU survey for MAs)
 - Case studies (9 MS - 10 RDP – 13 LAG)

