



# Young LEADER Forum

## Welcome to the **Warm-up session!**



#YoungLEADERForum





# Introduction to the Warm-up session

Veronika Korcekova, EU CAP Network  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2024





# Young LEADER Forum

- › **11 – 13 June, Vierumaki, Finland**
- › Organised by the EU CAP Network jointly with the Finnish National Network
- › **Objectives**
  - › to collect youth perspectives on LEADER – to understand how LEADER implementation could work for them
  - › to exchange approaches to increasing the power of young people in LEADER policy making and implementation
  - › to foster an international young LEADER community





# Young LEADER Forum

- › **202 participants** from **32 countries** (26 EU + 7 non EU)
  - › 140 young people below 35 years – 2/3 involved in LEADER, 1/3 rural youth activists and leaders
  - › 50 LEADER representatives from Ministries, National Networks, National LEADER Networks and EU level organisations
  - › European Commission colleagues
  - › Organisers: EU CAP Network and Finnish National Network





# Young LEADER Forum

## 11 JUNE

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Transfers from Helsinki Airport to the venue  
 19.00 - 22.00 **Welcome evening:** Dinner & Networking

## 12 JUNE

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8.30 - 9.00 Registration  
 9.00 - 9.45 **Welcome message**  
 Inspiring youth insights on their involvement in LEADER  
 9.45 - 11.45 **Interactive group work:** Youth-led discussions on the role of young people and their experiences in implementing LEADER  
 11.45 - 12.30 **Feedback:** Sharing reflections  
 12.30 - 13.45 **Networking lunch**

13.45 - 14.00 **Intro to interactive session**  
**Presentation on EU level networking**  
 14.00 - 15.30 **Actions orienteering** - towards an international young LEADER community!  
 15.30 - 16.00 **Coffee break**  
 16.00 - 17.00 **Wrap-up:** Taking forward actions and building on ideas from the day's discussions  
**Closing Remarks**  
 18.30 - 22.00 **Networking activities & dinner**

## 13 JUNE

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8.30 - 16.00 **Field trip visits** & transfers to Helsinki Airport





# Overview of LEADER

Alistair Prior, EU CAP Network  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Funded by  
the European Union





# Firstly! Are you already involved in LEADER?





# LEADER

Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de  
l'Economie Rurale

(Links between activities (or actions) for the  
development of rural economy)







## What is LEADER?

A participatory and bottom-up method driven by local partners including from public, private and voluntary sectors, that involves local communities in project development, implementation and decision-making processes.

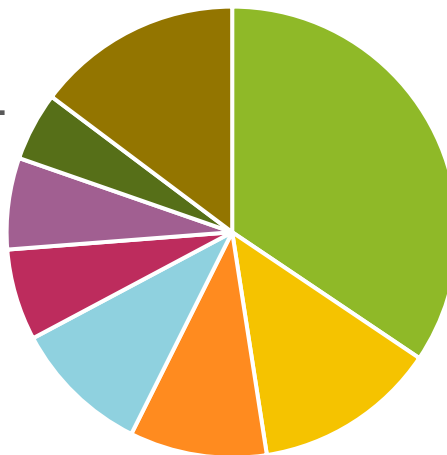
Local action groups, made up of partners from the public, private and civil society manage activities.





# Survey: what does LEADER mean to you?

LEADER is...



- Rural development
- Cooperation
- Bottom-up approach
- Youth empowerment

- Local involvement
- Community support
- Innovation
- Community development, other





## LEADER origins

Born in the early 90s...

Mainstreamed into EU Rural Development policy in 2007 –  
(+ extended thematically to include fisheries policy)

Utilised by MS across a number of EU funding programmes to varying degrees – using the term ‘Community Led Local Development’ (CLLD).





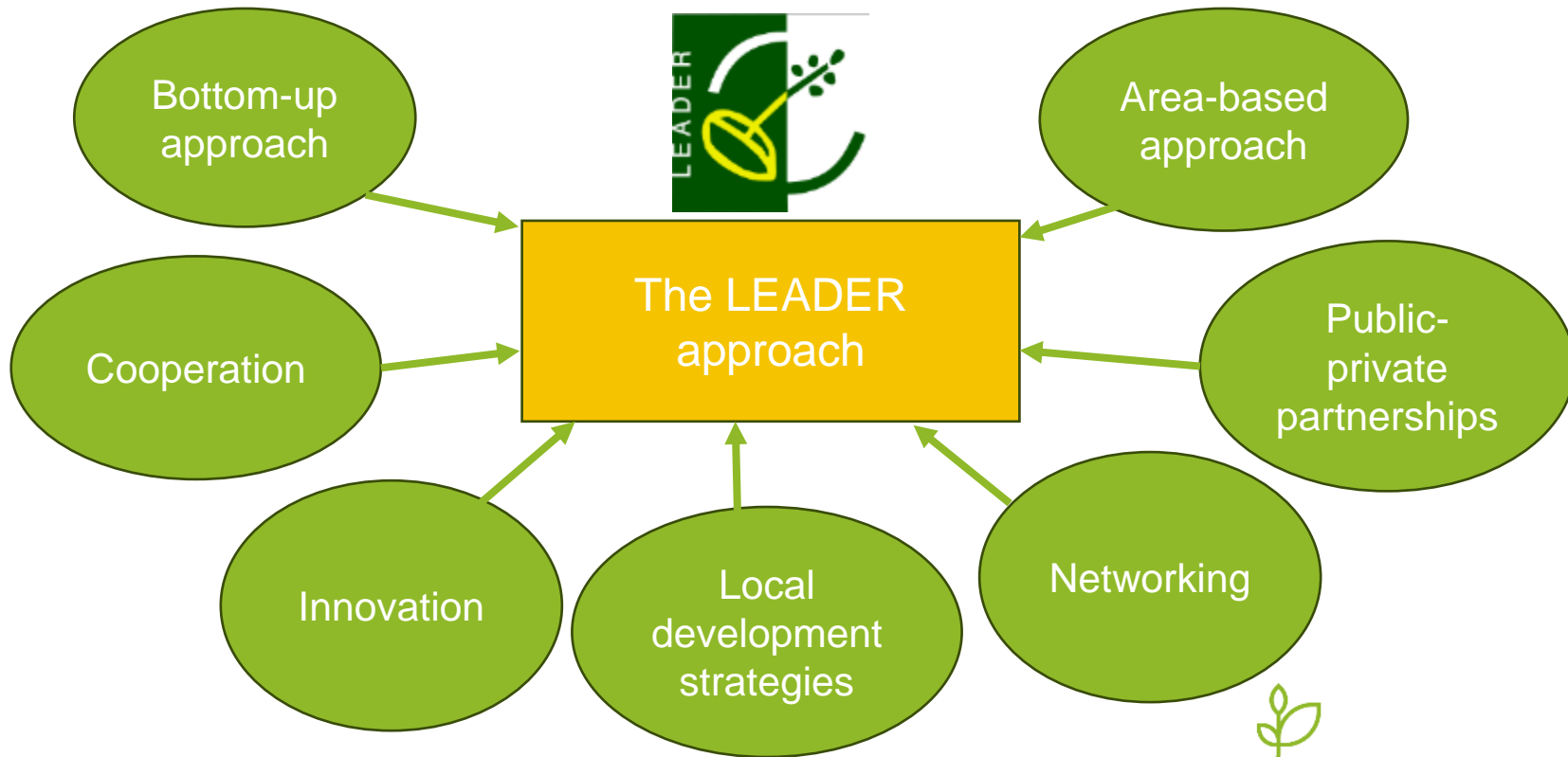
## What LEADER means to me...



- Partnership of key people and organisations with relevant knowledge, expertise and networks
- Catalysts for local action
- Intermediaries that work effectively across public, private and third sector
- Giving communities agency through animation = where communities lead and own their future
- Influencing wider policy development/implementation as advocates for local needs
- Translating and distilling local needs and aspirations into strategic plans
- Being innovative - testing ideas, enabling transformation, taking risks
- A process that stimulates and supports local development over time
- Actioning agreed strategies and priorities of local people



# Seven Principles of LEADER





# Seven Principles of LEADER

## **Bottom-up approach**

Local stakeholders that participate in the implementation of the local strategy, either as a project holder or as part of the decision-making body of the LAG (Local Action Group), are then able to drive the development of their territory according to their needs.





# Seven Principles of LEADER

## **Co-operation**

Co-operation, either within MS (Member States), or across international boundaries, involves one or more cooperation partners with the main objective of sharing experiences, designing joint actions, and finding joint solutions to issues identified in the local development strategies of cooperating partners.





# Seven Principles of LEADER

## **Innovation**

LAGs decide what projects/initiatives are innovative according to the local context (e.g. organisational, social, technological).

A supportive innovation ecosystem for LAGs can also include new procedures, coordination mechanisms, guidance, and relevant criteria through the LEADER delivery system.

Disseminating examples of local innovation more widely and provide capacity-building (e.g., through training, networking events, peer to peer learning, etc.) can also enhance how LAGs support local innovation.







# Seven Principles of LEADER

## **Local Development Strategies**

They build on, create and strengthen links between different sectors of the local economy and the diverse stakeholder groups within the area.

The people who live and work in the area are critical in the successful development and implementation of the strategy (and the successful implementation of this principle).

Local Development Strategies are developed in a bottom-up participatory process, covering a range of themes that are relevant to the territory covered and reflect the needs of the local population.

Local Development Strategies set out a vision, aims and objectives based on careful assessment and prioritisation of such local development needs where LEADER can add most value locally





# Seven Principles of LEADER

## Networking

Networking is the essence of LEADER!

LAGs groups create the conditions to drive innovation, build capacities, promote peer working and knowledge exchange between different sections of the local economy or local society.

Networking is also about breaking down the 'silos' and crossing boundaries, including between policy, research and practice.

Networking also involves new forms of cooperation (including cooperation projects) that bring in new knowledge with scope to develop new solutions to local challenges and new opportunities.





# Seven Principles of LEADER

## **Public-Private Partnerships**

Bringing together representatives of a broad range of socio-economic interests (particularly young people) from local municipalities, wider public sector, local businesses, non-governmental organisations & private individuals.

A balanced representation of ages, various interests including disadvantaged and minority groups.

A diversity of partners will significantly strengthen the development potential of the local territory by creating new connections between different stakeholders.





# Seven Principles of LEADER

## **Sub-regional areas**

Defined by the knowledge and expertise of local stakeholders and based on the needs and aspirations of all those living and working in the locale.

Such areas will be characterised by a shared coherent identity, for example:

- Economic (key sectors, transport connections, services etc.)
- Environmental and natural (resources, landscapes, etc.)
- Social (population, demography, etc.)
- Cultural and historical (common history and cultural characteristics)





## Key figures: LEADER in CAP Plans 2023-27

**7,7%**  
Of EAFRD\*

**5 billion  
EUR**  
Of EAFRD

**2,678  
LDS\*\***  
To be supported

**65%**  
Rural population  
in EU to be  
covered by  
LEADER

\*EAFRD – European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

\*\*LDS – Local Development Strategies





# Survey: What issues should LEADER be focusing on?





# Areas of LEADER Intervention



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## Diversification of economic activities

PL, IE, CZ, RO, HU, HR, AT, BG, PT, SK, SE, IT, LT, LV, EE, EL, SV, CY, BE WAL.



## Short value chains

### Local food production

PL, IE, CZ, RO, HU, HR, AT, PT, SK, IT, LV, EL, CY, BE WAL, BE FL.



## Rural services

### Small infrastructure

PL, IE, CZ, RO, HU, HR, BG, SK, SE, FI, IT, LT, LV, EE, DK, EL, SV, CY, BE FL



## Social inclusion

### Social innovation

RO, BG, SE, IT, EE, SV, SK, LV, IE, HU, AT, SK, PL



# Areas of LEADER Intervention



## Cultural, social and community life

SK, SE, FI, IT, LT,  
DK, CY, BE WAL.



## Climate change mitigation and environment, inc renewable energy

IRL, RO, HU, HR,  
AT, SK, SE, FI, IT,  
EE, DK, SV, BE FL.



## Green economy, circular, bioeconomy

IE, RO, AT, PT, SE,  
IT, LT, EE, DK, EL,  
SV, CY, BE FL



## Heritage

CZ, RO, HU, AT, EL,  
BE WAL





# Areas of LEADER intervention: Smart Villages

The majority of Member States explicitly plan to support Smart Village approaches (PL, IE, CZ, RO, HU, HR, AT, SE, FI, IT, LV, EE, EL, BE, FI, CY, LUX, SL)





# Areas of LEADER Intervention



## Farms

Caring farms (PL)  
 Educational (PL)  
 Small experiments (FI)  
 Collective investments  
 (RO, BG)



## Rural youth

IE (explicit key  
 theme)  
 Simplified youth  
 tickets (LV)  
 Empowering rural  
 leaders of the future  
 (EE)



## Digital transition

Regional learning  
 and participation  
 (AT)  
 Training in basic  
 digital skills



## Diversification

Simplified rural ticket  
 (LV)



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# Young LEADER Forum

11.-13.6.2024

Warm-up session 17.5.2024

**Salla Pätilä**

**Finnish National Rural Network**

# LEADER and Youth in Finland

- Youth LEADER in Finland: LEADER working method for young people, by young people, aimed at providing an opportunity for individuals aged 13-25 to influence the development of their region
- Youth LEADER in Finland includes:
  - Funding (young people's own projects and entrepreneurship experiments)
  - Activities and international cooperation (international exchange programs, voluntary work)
  - Participation in the governance of the local action group (Youth boards, young board members aged under 30)
- Finnish Youth LEADER in numbers (year 2023):
  - Youth LEADER method applied in 31 LAGs / out of 53 LAGs
  - Youth boards in 20 LAGs
  - International cooperation in 17 LAGs
  - Under 30-years-old board members in 12 LAGs



# Welcome to Finland and in Vierumäki!

- Vierumäki village has 750 permanent inhabitants and is located in the rural heart of Southern Finland in Päijät-Häme region
- Travelling time from Helsinki to Vierumäki is around 1,5 hours – you can reach the closest city of Lahti in 20 minutes
- Vierumäki is known for its sports services (the official training and coaching centre of the Finnish Olympic Committee) – in Vierumäki, a regular exerciser can utilise the same top facilities as professional athletes
  - Outdoor sports routes call for nature activities on foot, by bike or in waterways throughout the year; indoor facilities enable a wide variety of sports from racket and team games to gym exercise, ice skating and swimming



# Field trips 13.6.2024

- Five field trips organised in coordination with the local action groups in Southern Finland: Päijänne-Leader, Leader Silmu, Leader Pohjois-Kymen Kasvu, Leader Emo
- Discover LEADER funded activities, enterprises, cultural destinations and sports venues – all run by or for local rural young people

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE HEART OF NATURE

Exploring the active rural associations around the Lahti area with specific interest in youth entrepreneurship. Explore [Vierumäki village association](#) organizing forest camps for children, [Ampu 4H](#) providing entrepreneurship education for rural youth, and [Mallusjoki youth association](#) running a local cultural center with theatre, music and poetry.



## FROM VILLAGES TO TOWN

A comprehensive experience of local entrepreneurship and youth work in unique environments from litti to the historical corners of Parvoo. Through [Vuolenkoski village's job placement service](#), local youth find summer employment. The charming [litti summer café](#) serves as a place for youth employment and events. In Parvoo, mobile youth work takes place, and the [Limo car](#) meets young people in Parvoo's rural villages.



## PLAY, FURRY AND FUN

Diverse experiences from [world-class disc golf to farmyard tales](#) and [inspirational youth meeting place](#) in Pukkila village - all run by or for local rural young people.



## FOLK TRADITIONS AND CREATIVITY

Discover national cultural heritage and the creativity of youth through [dance moments](#) by [Hallola youth association](#). Enjoy theatre at the [Miinan Monttu summer theatre](#) and explore Finnish nature with the [Tuusula 4H](#) organizing forest camps for local children.



## SWEETS BY THE SEA

A delicious journey from Parvoo's popular candy factory [Brunberg](#) to the heart of the Baltic archipelago in [Varloxudden](#) recreational area. Explore the innovative work of the [NopeeGarage](#), a cultural workshop and youth center for children and young people in Sipoo area.





# Get ready for Young LEADER Forum!

- › Using spirit of Olympic training centre- bring **sports clothes and trainers**
- › Unique Lakeside Sauna experience organized by the Finnish hosts- don't forget your **swimming suit**
- › Active roles at the event- we'll get in touch
- › LEADER Cooperation corner- possibility to submit offer ahead of the event
- › Eager to network ahead of the event? Check the **list of participants**
- › Get in touch with us if needed:  
**Seminars.implementation@eucapnetwork.eu**







# Thank you and stay tuned!



- › Facebook – @EU CAP Network, @MaaseutuFi
- › Twitter - @eucapnetwork, @maaseutufi
- › Instagram - @maaseutufi

[https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/young-leader-forum\\_en](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/young-leader-forum_en)

