



European Leader Association  
for Rural Development  
Brussels, [www.elard.eu](http://www.elard.eu)

Portuguese  
Presidency  
2018 – 2019



# Future of LEADER approach 2020+ Albena, Bulgaria

## *Future of LEADER/CLLD*

Vice-president Kristiina Tammets



# **What is the situation and what are our choices today?**

# Trends in rural development – our choices

## 1. Community takes bigger responsibility in local development or we develop further state structures?

State moves more far from people – we have pressure to grow bigger, to be more efficient, mobility and digital dimension, distances of services are growing – is there possibility that community takes over some roles from state?;

Demographic trends – aging, after next 10 years rural population -20%, positive shift needs complex solution;

Local governance - what will be the management model on local level?  
How different stakeholders will be involved into partnership?

Future service centre is the place where everything is together (education, library, youngsters/seniors, mobile working centre, consultancy, health care) – this needs cooperation across sectors



# Trends in rural development – our choices

## 2. Big investments versus investing into people and networks?

1 kindergarten or 10 km footpaths **versus** 7 years continuous networking and cooperation projects?

Capacity building of local actors

Future developments – **cooperation** or fragmentation?

# Trends in rural development – our choices

## 3. Synergy from regional development and territorial cohesion?

Cooperation and knowledge exchange between different types of territories (rural, urban, coastal)

Holistic development and resources management

Local action groups - to enhance cohesion between territories

# Trends in local development

---

Keywords for the future:

Efficiency and consolidation;

Development across sectors, without borders;

Mobility and digitalization;

Focus to people and networks;

Real empowerment of communities and capacity building;

There is no alternative for Community Led Local Development?

As soon as we understand that and take responsibility ...



# ELARD surveys in 2016-2017

---

What kind of change we want to make? – to simplify LEADER/CLLD implementation

What is the added value of integrated local development? – to acknowledge the impact

What is the contribution of different ESI Funds for LDS implementation already? – to demonstrate and justify the usage of different funds via LEADER/CLLD



# ELARD surveys in 2016-2017

---

1. LEADER/CLLD implementation in Member States – needs, potential, challenges, 2000 LAGs from 20 countries, one year process ended with Tartu Declaration with 150 participants from 25 countries;
2. Integrated local development best practices analysis - 26 successful projects from 17 countries, outside EU involved, European Rural Parliament 300 participants from 30 countries;
3. Additional value of different ESI funds for local development strategies – LEADER Networks from 10 Member States.



# The Tartu Declaration

## Renewing LEADER/CLLD for 2020+

On **22 and 23 November 2016**, the ELARD conference “**Renewing LEADER/CLLD for 2020+; Celebrating 25 years of LEADER in Europe!**” was held in **Tartu, Estonia**.

At this conference, the 140 delegates from 25 European countries representing about 2000 LEADER Local Action Groups of Europe, rural networks, managing authorities and the European Commission, developed the **following vision** for the year 2027 as regards the role of LEADER/CLLD (Community-Led Local Development) and local action groups:

### LEADER/CLLD VISION 2027

*LEADER in 2027 is an independent, trusted, creative, well-known, solution-oriented movement based on community ownership with a goal of having smart, vibrant rural communities oriented to the needs of their members. LEADER is more visible and works from people to people. Local Action Groups (LAGs) are the basis of regional development, using the LEADER approach, having support, respect, flexibility and trust at the regional, national and European level. The mutual understanding of the LEADER principles interconnects all levels and actors. Local development strategies are based on rural people's real needs and implemented by truly autonomous LAGs. There is a strong trust between stakeholders throughout the delivery chain. LAGs have the capacity to involve the passive actors within their territories and measure the added value of their work both in terms of qualitative and quantitative indicators. Member States/regions are able to design a single CLLD source of funding from the various European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) and implement it under one coordinating body (Managing Authority) following one unique set of rules at the EU level. LAGs have a multi-funded, harmonised approach to transnational cooperation throughout Europe and with third countries as an effective tool for rural development.*

Based on the resolutions developed by the delegates of the conference, and with the contributions of several LEADER Local Action Groups Networks **the following declaration**, directed at the European institutions and the Member States, has been adopted.

1. We, representatives of LEADER Local Action Groups, believe that the current political developments in Europe make the **25-year-old LEADER/CLLD approach more important than ever before**. It is a European-rooted bottom-up development approach that can help to counterbalance anti-European tendencies in local communities by contributing to social inclusion and sustainable economic development in the territories where it is applied. Furthermore, the LEADER method is a good partnership tool for enhancing good rural governance and it has been the only instrument that has brought the decision-making as regards European funding to the very local level. By using the LEADER approach, **local communities have taken on the responsibility** for deciding and designing their own living and working environment. Therefore, we strongly support using this potential when designing EU and national policies, and believe **the initiative of communities and their role in rural development should certainly grow in the future**.

TRUST

HUMAN

SIMPLE RURAL  
PEOPLE LOGIC

COHERENCE AND  
COOPERATION

# Main messages of the Tartu Declaration

**Bigger role of communities and bottom-up approach** in rural development. LEADER/CLLD needs wider platform and in addition to rural development policy it has to be integrated to all relevant EU and national policies;

**Balanced legal framework** - empowerment of communities as main purpose of LEADER must come back into focus and create the balance between real development and technical procedures;

**3in1 CLLD in Members States** - one CLLD source of funding, coordination under one MA followed by one unique set of rules at the EU and national level;

**Better and closer dialogue** between all LEADER/CLLD actors. Trust the experience of LAGs that they have received throughout 25 years. Representative networks of LAGs must be accepted as full partners by MAs and Commission.



# Integrated local development survey

(26 successful projects, 17 countries)

---

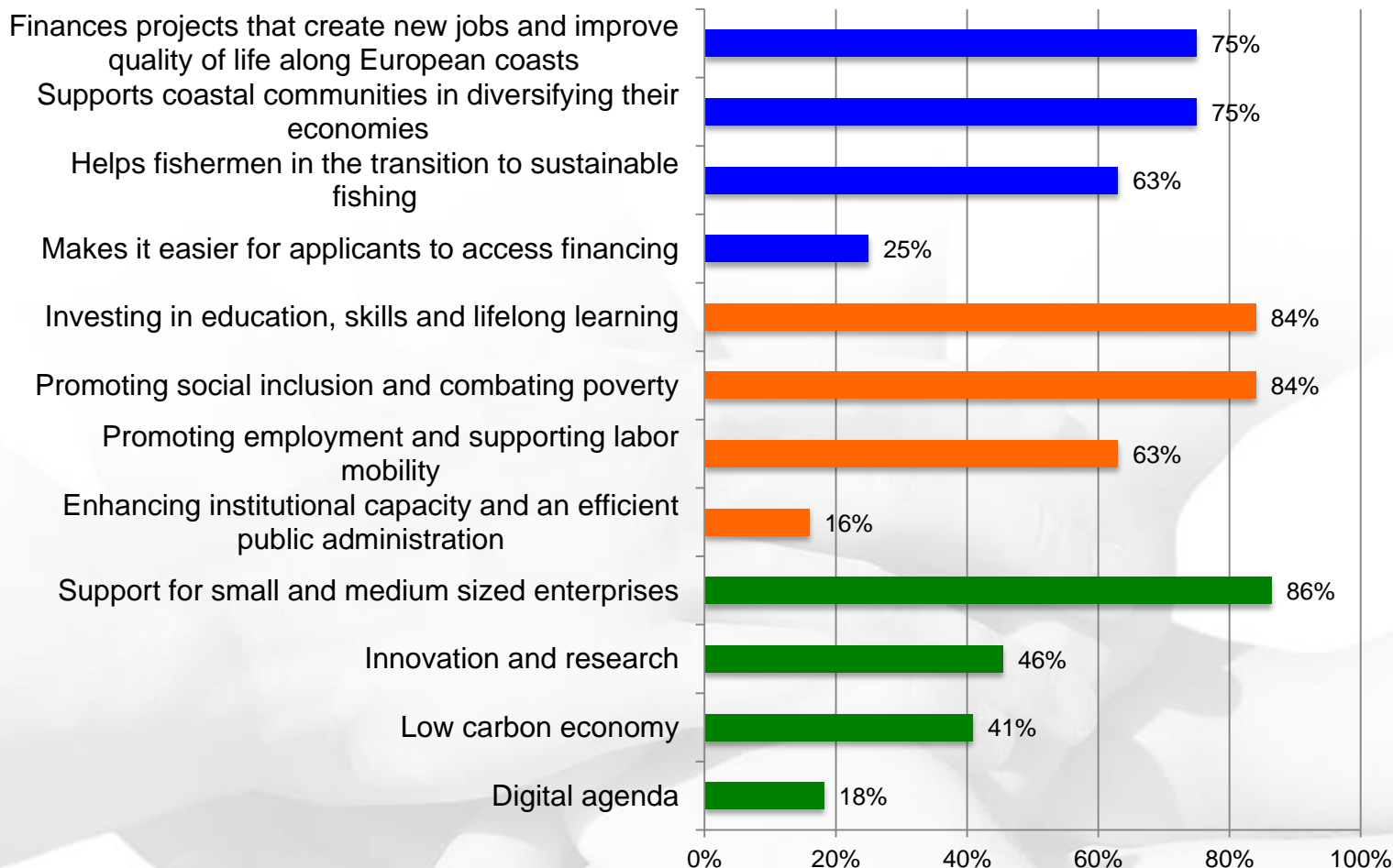
1. Integrated rural development practices influence wide spectrum of activities, but have **significantly bigger impact to local entrepreneurship**. More than 70% of practices were related to activating entrepreneurship, 30% directly innovation, 50% social inclusion;
2. Support of development organizations/agencies is needed to provoke integrated rural development. Local action groups (LAGs) in EU countries and civil society organization in non-EU countries were actively involved or initiated most of the practices. **LEADER/CLLD methodology was leading** working method for most of the practices;

# Result of the survey

---

3. All submitted integrated rural development practices are sustainable because they have a **long-term impact** or influence to new developments at local and regional level;
4. The biggest challenges at local level while implementing these practices were related to **stakeholders and all different target groups' continuous involvement**;
5. Most of practices brought forward the difficulties with **bureaucratic burden and complicated rules** of different funding schemes.

# Projects contribution to different funds



# Main advantages of the CLLD multi-funds

---

Integrated local development influences a wide spectrum of activities and has a **major impact on local economies and job creation**, especially outside primary production in agriculture;

The importance of the green economy, social inclusion, poverty reduction, migration issues, regional clusters, rural-urban-coastal linkages, smart solutions and IT technologies is growing in local development. CLLD creates opportunities for **all the different types of territories** (rural, urban and coastal) and communities to work together on these challenges. The CLLD multi-fund approach is a very good mechanism for supporting the "Smart Villages" concept through **capacity building, investments, innovation support and networking**, as well as through the provision of innovative financing tools for improving services and infrastructure.



# Main advantages of the CLLD multi-funds

---

Integrated local development has a **highly beneficial effect on social inclusion** because of the involvement and participation of different stakeholders (various types of actors, age groups, genders).

The **involvement and capacity building** of local actors is one of the biggest advantages of the CLLD methodology. Integrated local development is the best way of **building links and synergies** between various stakeholders and issues in local development.

Rural-urban-coastal links mean those involved can learn from each other and find answers to important **challenges in a more inclusive way**. Continuous cooperation, networking and training enhance **good governance**.

# Main advantages of the CLLD multi-funds

---

EU cohesion policy seeks to achieve territorial cohesion, which is also the aim of the CLLD approach.

CLLD includes all types of territories: rural, urban and coastal, various community needs (social, cultural, environmental and economic) and diverse funding mechanisms (four ESI Funds are involved).

Enabling CLLD in all types of territories helps to build cohesion between rural, coastal, peri-urban and urban areas which helps to overcome or stop the periphery effect.



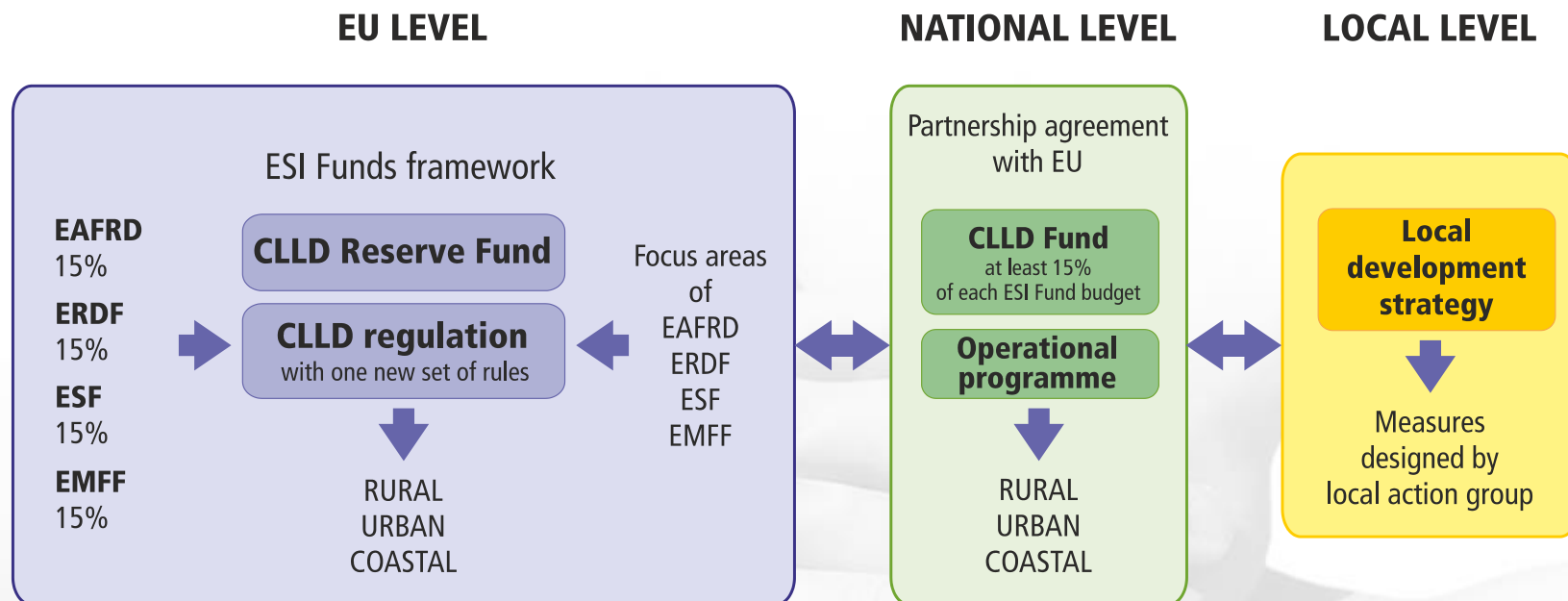
# ELARD position for 2021-2027

## Main messages:

1. Mandatory CLLD multi-funds for all types of territories: rural, urban, coastal;
2. Simple CLLD regulation at EU level with one set of rules, one national CLLD operational program, one Managing Authority.
3. Reserve Fund for CLLD at EU level or CLLD Fund at national level including all 4 ESI Funds;
4. Sufficient resources – allocation of 15% from ESI Funds + national resources;
5. Measures have to be designed by local action groups at local level.



# New model for CLLD for 2021-2027



# Finally

CLLD is a very good cooperation exercise for all levels and all stakeholders. Lets not miss it! It requires to abandon comfort zone and do things differently;

There are no borders anymore (geographical, digital dimension). Reality today and capacity of communities require more coherent solutions;

Fairness – it is fair that ESF and ERDF give their contribution as well (many examples);

Local level and communities are more ready than state structures - how can we change that?

Trust – lets admit that we all are not perfect and even bad examples are good lessons, sometimes even the best lessons. Quality grows with those lessons.

*Kui sa tahad  
minna kiiresti,  
mine üksi,*

*If you want to  
go fast,  
go alone....*

*Kui soovid minna  
kaugele, siis mingem  
koos...*

*If you want to go far,  
go together...*



# ELARD contact

---

ELARD Aisbl

[www.elard.eu](http://www.elard.eu)

<https://www.facebook.com/ELARDaisbl/>



[www.elard.eu](http://www.elard.eu)



# Thank You!



EUROPEAN LEADER ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT