

# LEADER/CLLD Added Value

## SURVEY SUMMARY



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

**SWEDISH  
PRESIDENCY**  
2020-2021

**LUS**  
LOKAL UTVECKLING  
SVERIGE

Date of the survey: 12/07/2021 – 30/07/2021

Additional term: 01 – 15/09/2021

Method: Google form questionnaire

Respondents:

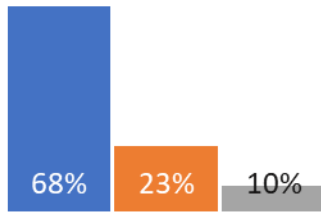
CLLD added value webinar (23/06/21) participants

ELARD members

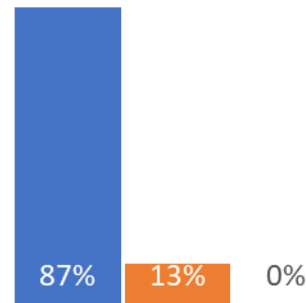
Country	No of responses
Austria	1
Bulgaria	1
Croatia	1
Estonia	1
Finland	1
Greece	3
Hungary	2
Ireland	2
Kosovo	1
Lithuania	8
Portugal	1
Slovakia	4
Spain	1
Sweden	3
The Netherlands	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

## How do you define the added value of LEADER/CLLD for local areas?

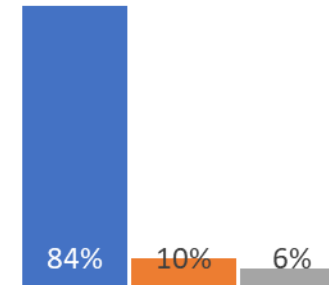
Any value created by LAG beyond the implementation of EU funded local development strategy



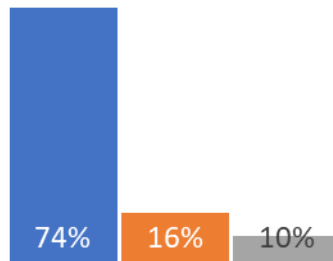
More and better results and impacts of the EU funded LDS as compared to mainstream funds (RDP, operational programmes)



Social capital created due to LAG activities



Better governance of the LAG territory created due to the LAG activities



■ strongly agree & agree   ■ neither agree nor disagree   ■ disagree & strongly disagree

## Describe your understanding of added value created by LEADER/CLLD

Direct/local democracy

Stakeholder involvement in decision making

Thinking beyond sectoral agendas

Different stakeholders have to come to a mutual understanding how to spend the funds with the greatest impact

Synergy effect for local development

Good tools for rural storms

Improved social capital

Participation of locals and increased activity in communities

Long term and territorial anchored improvements like social capital, governance (participation) and change of mentalities...

More targeted financial support

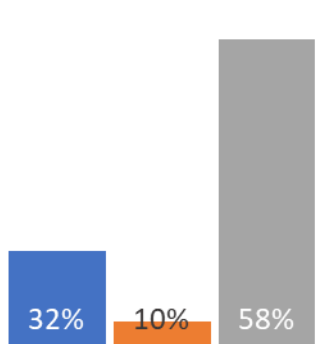
Increased value of funding delivered through better products and better jobs created

An economy or social benefit that would not have been possible without the animation, coordination and community development work of the LAG.

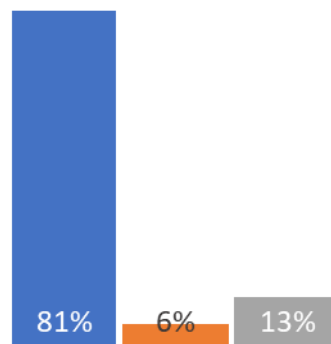
The capacity to create change in others. Creating change requires that you effectively reach people.

## To what extent is LEADER method/principles substantial for generating added value?

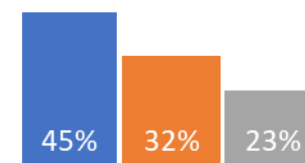
LEADER method/principles are not substantial, added value can be created in LAG territory also without promoting them



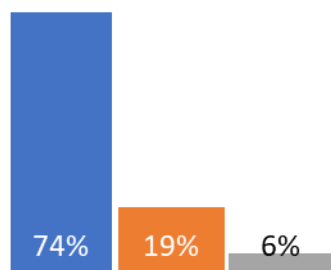
Mainly partnership, networking and cooperation can create the added value in LAG territory



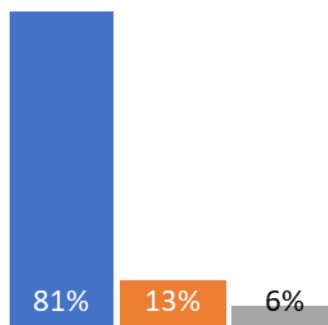
Innovation is the main principle for generation of added value in LAG territory



Mainly area-based strategies, integrated actions are principles which support the creation of LEADER/CLLD added value



The most important is the bottom-up principle for creation of added value



All the LEADER principles are very important for generating added value in LAG territory



■ strongly agree & agree   ■ neither agree nor disagree   ■ disagree & strongly disagree

## Other opinions on the relation between LEADER method/principles and generation of added value

All features of the leader approach (*bottom-up approach, area-based strategies, integrated and multidisciplinary intervention, innovation, networking and cooperation*) are the base, the substantial methodology for generating added value and success in LEADER/CLLD approach

The LEADER method as a social innovation. The basic principles of this approach seek to find common solutions to different problems.

The importance of different principles varies in time and depends on the stage of the strategy implementation.

They are all vital, but interpretation of innovation should be flexible in very remote areas with few organizations and inhabitants - main thing there, is to keep areas alive.

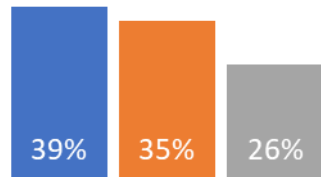
Partnership, networking and cooperation are most important

Leader is related to a specific methodology, where the empowerment and participation of the local population in the development of the area is as important as all the projects that are funded

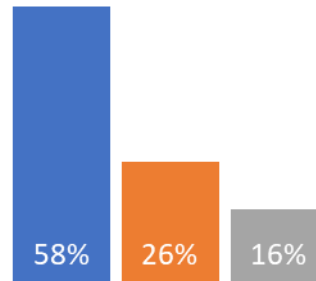
Inclusion of less visible local stakeholders is very important

## How the added value is generated by activities of local action groups ? (development and implementation of strategies, animation, operation and cooperation (LAGs))

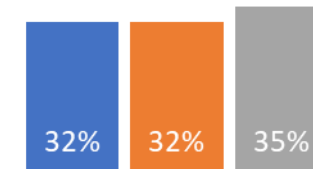
Delivery steps are designed to support LEADER method/principles



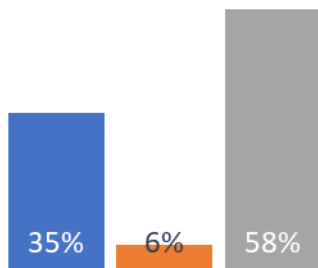
The EU level legal framework supports the method/principles



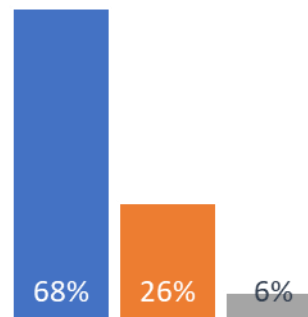
The overall national/regional legal framework supports the method/principles



The Managing Authority understands and supports the method/ principles



LAG members understand and support the method/ principles in their activities



■ strongly agree & agree   ■ neither agree nor disagree   ■ disagree & strongly disagree

## Describe your opinion on the relation between generation of LEADER/CLLD added value and LAG activities

In order to get the added value it is very important that the LAG is active and goes far beyond being a mere funding instrument

LAGs need more flexible and simplified legal framework to create added value

To work effectively, LAGs need MA who understands, believes and supports creating added value

Activities out of mainstream rules and regulations by MA create added value. This mainly depends on LAG employees and management

Key to creating added value in the area is the application of the bottom-up approach, which involves the locals in the development process of their area

Transformation of the words into real life action generates added value

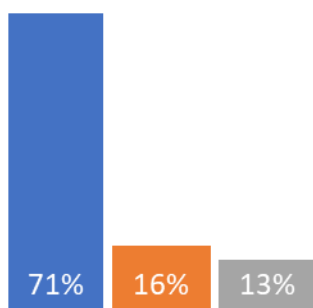
Local Authority led LAGs are not bottom up organisations and are not independent.

Animation activities such as capacity building trainings, study visits, mentoring support, dissemination of good practice are very important

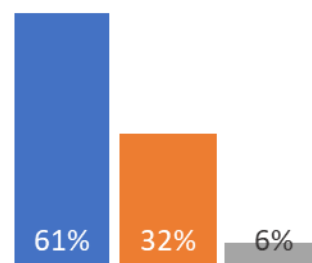


## Which types of activities can generate most added value in local areas?

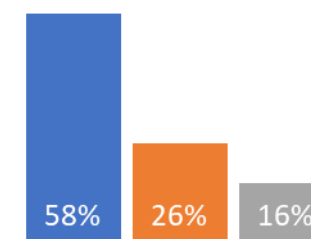
Added value is mainly generated by activities/projects supported local development strategy



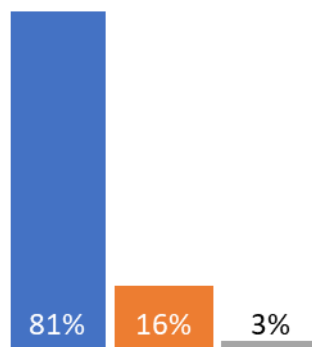
Added value is mainly generated by LAG animation activities



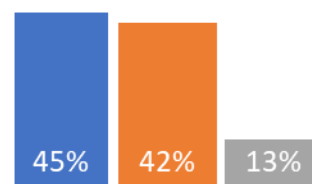
Added value is mainly created by LAG cooperation with other LAGs



Added value is generated due to all LAG's activities



Added value is created by other factors



■ strongly agree & agree   ■ neither agree nor disagree   ■ disagree & strongly disagree

## Describe your opinion on which concrete activities can contribute to the creation of LEADER/CLLD added value

Exchange of experiences and knowledge with other areas

Outreach activities - direct meetings with local community

Better assessment of local needs, better identification of local potential and innovative solutions, better selection of projects

Added value is created with the growing experience

LAG should be the main player in the region where different stakeholders (farmers, municipalities, NGOs, culture and social associations) have a neutral and open minded platform

Cross-sectoral, interregional and TN activities with new, outside Leader LAG partners generate a lot of new perspective

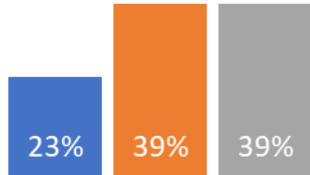
Place LAG as innovation broker in the region, LAG should focus on future trends and pick up development topics instead of just funding ordinary projects

Simplification of legal framework and creation of one - unified - Managing Authority for all funds

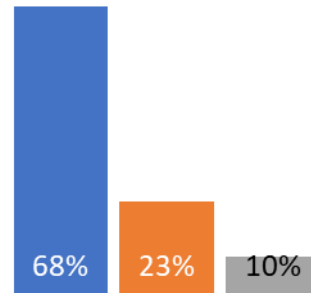
Innovations and smart actions

## The major obstacles to generate LEADER/CLLD added value

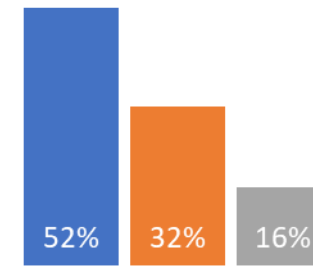
The EU legal framework



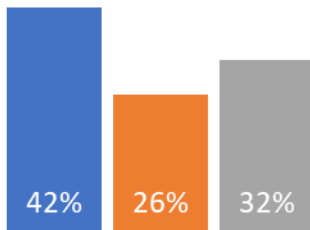
The Managing authorities in Member states



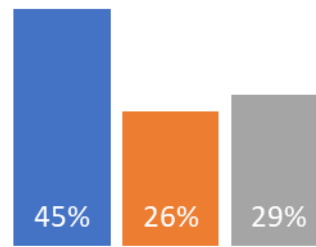
Low collaboration and coordination of activities among all involved stakeholders



Low capacities of LAGs to implement LEADER/CLLD activities



Insufficient understanding of LEADER method/principles and its insufficient application in the LEADER/CLLD delivery



## Describe your opinion on the major obstacles to generate LEADER/CLLD added value

Insufficient understanding of LEADER method/principles

Complicated legal framework causing huge delays and complexity in the implementation

Overwhelming and increasing bureaucracy that is suffocating LEADER principles

Combination of low collaboration among stakeholders and low synergy with managing authorities

Lack of knowledge and training on added value

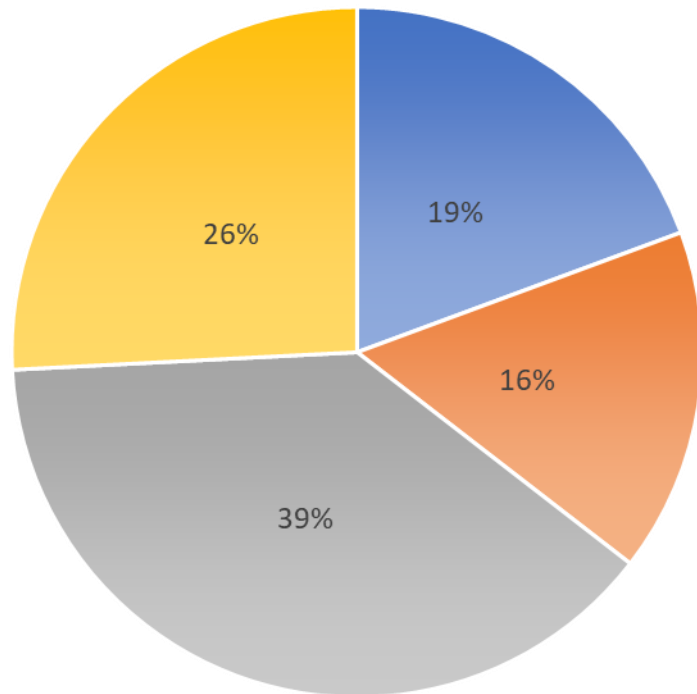
Lack of trust from managing authorities to LAGs

Excessive interference of MA

Poor LAG structure with excessive political/ Local Authority control

## LEADER/CLLD added value evaluation

- part of RDP evaluation
- part of CLLD evaluation
- a self-standing evaluation/research
- other



- **74% of respondents confirmed that different kinds of evaluation were conducted in their country, they are still running, only few focused on added value**
- Self standing evaluation was mostly run by LAGs themselves, or as a part of obligatory reporting
- Data analysis were rather quantitative than qualitative (number of jobs created, animation activities, projects implemented)
- 74% of respondents could not list any indicators used
- 62% of respondents reported lack of guidelines or information about them
- 71% of respondents confirmed that good practices were promoted in their countries

## LEADER/CLLD added value evaluation

- 84% of respondents think that evaluation of LEADER/added value is useful to show LEADER/CLLD result.  
Main reasons recalled:
  - Added value with the combination of method, money and local needs is unique for LEADER
  - Added value is main reason why to have LEADER/CLLD
  - Evaluation of added value shall
    - demonstrate of the real contribution of LEADER methodology into local and regional development
    - get better understanding on how integrated approach has multiple effects
    - improve LAG structures a use of resources
    - improve policy and implementation mechanism on national level,
    - provide the tool to convince MA, that LEADER needs bigger financial support and several funds' involvement to make real changes in rural areas
    - provide evidence to show the positive impact of LEADER while being marginalised by the farmers lobby