

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH BULGARIAN LOCAL ACTION GROUPS Association Bulgarian National LEADER Network

International conference
FUTURE OF LEADER APPROACH 2020+
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Who we are?

Bulgarian national LEADER network Association

- Established in 2012
- 45 members – LAGs from Bulgaria
- Member of ELARD since November 2017
- Main objectives:
 - Supporting the successful implementation of LDSs of LAGs in Bulgaria
 - Supporting the processes of formulation and implementation of the rural development policy at national, regional and local level
 - Achieving balanced and sustainable development and improving the quality of life
 - Exchange of good practices and successful transnational cooperation

Bulgarian LEADER network - support for transnational cooperation between LAGs

- Transnational cooperation – effective tool for rural development
- Bulgarian LEADER network supports successful international territorial cooperation through:
 - Participation of the Association in organisations and forums at European level
 - Searching for partners and establishing of partnerships with other LAGs and organisations
 - Collecting information for the interests and needs of LAGs
 - Assistance in execution of projects
- Challenges: Better synchronization of rules, time and approval of TNC projects

Why transnational cooperation?

- The cooperation between the LAGs gives innovative opportunities for achieving the objectives of LEADER approach
- Extend the opportunities for exchange of experience, good practices and know-how
- Encourages building of sense for community and identity of European rural areas
- Developing territorial identity and raising awareness
- Jointly developing new solutions to common issues
- Synergy: the total benefits can be much greater than the sum of individual achievements (1+1=11)

Sub-measure 19.3 in Bulgaria

- Sub-measure 19.3 “Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of local action groups” of RDP 2014-2020 will be soon opened in Bulgaria
- Current applying will facilitate the process and approval and implementation of projects
- Some Bulgarian LAGs already have ideas

Topics of the projects and interests of Bulgarian LAGs

- Developing territorial identity and raising awareness
- Valorisation of natural, historical or cultural heritage
- Tourism / Territorial branding
- Agriculture and farming
- Short supply chains / Producer organisations
- Business development
- Innovation
- Culture & Cultural heritage
- Natural environment and resources
- Knowledge transfer / education / training activities

Other opportunities for funding of international cooperation of Local Action Groups and their Associations

- Could apply for funding to other EU programmes as their objectives and activities are related to different policies of the Union
- EU programmes:
 - Programme Europe for citizens
 - ERASMUS+
 - INTERREG
- Cross-border cooperation programmes (INTERREG-IPA) with neighboring countries, for example for Bulgaria:
 - Bulgaria – Turkey, Bulgaria – Serbia, Bulgaria – FYROM, Romania – Bulgaria, Greece – Bulgaria

Benefits from international partnerships under other programmes

- Contributes for achievement of LDS's objectives
- Diversifying activities and sources of financing of LAGs
- Increasing knowledge and capacity of LAGs' team and of the local communities
- Providing international contacts and extending the horizons
- Popularization of LAGs' territories among other organisations and countries

Potential results and benefits from international and transnational partnership and cooperation of LAGs

- Exchange of experience and know-how
- Establishment of contacts between partners as well as between business, institutions, NGOs from their territories
- Cooperation for encouraging business contacts
- Promotion of territories and local identities
- Development of tourism and marketing of local products
- Partnerships and involvement of young people
- Citizens participation in the development
 - ... And last but not least: **FRIENDSHIPS**

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Thank you for your attention!