

LEADER-CLLD in the next MFF

Key asks from ELARD - July 2025

Reaffirming LEADER's role in the CAP and beyond	<p>Maintain LEADER as a core component of the CAP's second pillar, ensuring its visibility, continuity, and long-term impact.</p> <p>Secure dedicated funding (earmarking) for LEADER/CLLD across EU policies, particularly the CAP and Cohesion Policy. This recognises that rural development goes beyond agriculture and touches on economic, social, environmental, and territorial priorities.</p> <p>Promote a clear and inclusive definition of rural development, covering all aspects of rural and coastal life, to guide programming and investment decisions.</p> <p>Reframe the CAP narrative: rural development is not a niche concern, but the foundation of rural life. Vibrant rural areas are a precondition for sustainable farming, resilient food systems, and inclusive local economies.</p>
A stronger mandate for participatory local development	<p>Make LEADER/CLLD mandatory in all Member States where rural and coastal challenges exist, ensuring no territory is left behind.</p> <p>Double the EU's financial support for LEADER and LAGs to match their proven added value and growing responsibilities (fighting disinformation and euroscepticism).</p> <p>Mandate ring-fencing of funding for rural and participatory local development, to prevent discretionary exclusion at national or regional level.</p>
Simplify and streamline funding and rules	<p>Introduce a simplified, harmonised regulatory framework for multi-fund CLLD, enabling smoother implementation, especially for LAGs working across ESF+, ERDF and CAP.</p> <p>Cut red tape, especially administrative burdens added at the national level, which delay delivery and deter participation.</p> <p>Align EU-level simplification goals with Member State implementation, ensuring that the reality on the ground matches the ambition on paper.</p>
Recognise LAGs as strategic governance partners	<p>Acknowledge LAGs as delivery partners for EU strategic priorities—from the Green Deal and the Digital Decade to social inclusion and territorial cohesion.</p> <p>Position LAGs as key actors in democratic governance and European integration, thanks to their unique role in engaging communities, building trust, and countering disinformation at the local level.</p>



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