

# LEADER-CLLD in the next MFF

## Key asks from ELARD - November 2025

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| <b>Reaffirm LEADER as part of the CAP and rural development</b> | <p><b>Maintain LEADER as a multi-sector territorial approach.</b> LEADER must remain open to all actors in rural communities: SMEs, municipalities, cultural, youth, social, environmental and civic organisations.</p> <p><b>Promote a clear and inclusive definition of rural development,</b> covering all aspects of rural and coastal life, to guide programming and investment decisions; and a common understanding of LEADER-CLLD across policies.</p> <p><b>Reframe the CAP narrative:</b> 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> <p><b>Recognise LEADER-CLLD as contributing to the EU's social objectives</b> by raising its social expenditure classification from 0% to at least 40%, reflecting its real impact on services, inclusion, youth, wellbeing and demographic resilience.</p> |
| <b>A stronger mandate for participatory local development</b>   | <p><b>Make LEADER/CLLD mandatory in all Member States</b> and across all policies, where rural and coastal challenges exist, ensuring no territory is left behind, with a mandatory ring-fencing.</p> <p><b>Double the EU's financial support for LEADER and LAGs</b> to match their proven added value and growing responsibilities (fighting disinformation and euroscepticism).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Simplify and streamline funding and rules</b>                | <p><b>Cut red tape,</b> especially administrative burdens added at the national level, which delay delivery and deter participation.</p> <p><b>Align EU-level simplification goals with Member State implementation,</b> ensuring that the reality on the ground matches the ambition on paper.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Recognise LAGs as strategic governance partners</b>          | <p><b>Acknowledge LAGs as delivery partners for EU strategic priorities</b></p> <p><b>Position LAGs as key actors in democratic governance and European integration,</b> thanks to their unique role in engaging communities, building trust, and countering disinformation at the local level.</p> <p><b>Restore full LAG decision-making competences,</b> including preparation of project selection criteria, support levels and local calls, as currently defined in Article 33(3) Reg. 2021/1060.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



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