

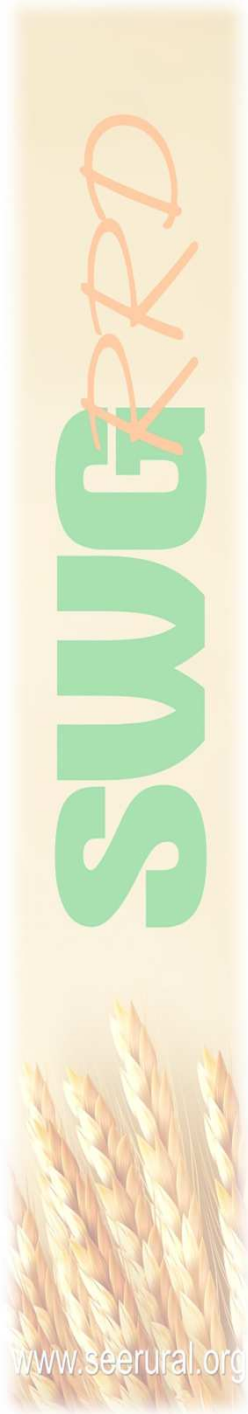
Assessment of the application of the LEADER approach in the Western Balkan Countries - “from a local initiative to a mainstream concept in the rural areas”

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Rationale and Background

- **The new RDP of EU moves away from the axes structure**
 - Priority 6: *Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas*
 - More decentralisation and devolution of power to local communities - CLLD
- **Important developments in agricultural policy in the Western Balkans in recent years as well...**
 - an intensive political process on preparation and adaptation of a strategic and programming documents
 - rural development policy is an increasingly important component
 - the CAP-type programming framework, the harmonisation of specific policy instruments...



Rationale and Background

- **Less is known about the current state of LEADER and/or LEADER-like initiatives in Western Balkan!**
 - How do policy makers and local stakeholders deal with the policy instrument that extensively relies on local initiative?
 - How are they successful in managing a new method of territorial governance?

Objectives

- **Overall objective:**
 - To improve understanding of the current state and the barriers for effective implementation of LEADER initiative
- **Specific objectives:**
 - To present the current state of LEADER in country / territory in WB from the perspective of:
 - *cross-country comparative analysis of the policy, regulatory and institutional framework;*
 - *To assess the available funds from public sources and donors;*
 - *Review practical activities already undertaken to identify good practice from previous actions and initiatives and lessons learned;*
 - To draw conclusions by generalizing from the findings on the specific national needs, challenges and constrains

Method (1)

Facts finding - desk research!

- Systematic assessment of relevant national documents, according to the instructions given in template:
 - *policy documents, laws, regulations*
- All relevant information and data that have been already collected or recorded
 - *research papers, reports, studies, etc.*
- Look as well outside of the sources of Ministry of Agriculture
 - *websites of national, local and regional institutions, academia, donor projects, CSOs...*
- Provide the list of references in annex;
 - *Separate authorised documents, web sources, legal and policy documents etc.;*

Method (2)

Understanding the state of art - Interview with identified resource person!

- Characteristics for identifying stakeholders:
 - *Responsibility and position;*
 - *Knowledge level of the domain / experience level of the domain?*
 - *Leadership role and influence, control over information, resources ...*
- Representative(s) of the Ministry of Agriculture or other relevant Governmental body;
- Other relevant resource person(s) where needed

Method (3)

Illustrate by an example - Case study!

- Check out some of the stories from the communities, LAGs, Networks
- Illustrate the diversity of:
 - *contexts,*
 - *approaches,*
 - *types of partnerships and institutions developed.*

