

Definition of the framework and the outline of the assessment/study and definition of the role of the regional coordination unit/team and the structures on national level

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1. INTRODUCTION (up to 1 page)

Executive summary:

State the EU integration status of the country (e.g candidate or else)

- Explain the current status of the country regarding the EU integration process
- Give brief history of the progress and achievements regarding the EU approximation process with a focus to agriculture and rural development
- Further steps

1. INTRODUCTION (up to 1 page)

Executive summary:

Describe strategic approach of rural development policy of the country

- Consider national rural development strategic documents for the period 2014-2020.
- Give some statistical data on the percentages representing rural territories and population living in rural areas
- What are the major challenges and strategic objectives with regards to economic growth, jobs creation and sustainability of the rural communities and quality of life among rural population.



1. INTRODUCTION (up to 1 page)

Executive summary:

Explain the national rural development support scheme

- Take into consideration related national programs in terms of financial support and set of measures implemented

1. INTRODUCTION (up to 1 page)

Executive summary:

State the eligibility for utilization of the Instrument for Pre Accession IPA, specifically IPARD

- Past performance and utilization of the IPARD I funds (where applicable) or other EU pre-accession assistance
- State the new IPARD II programming period with major goals and objectives
- Briefly describe the major set of measures
- The maximum EU contribution programmed for the period 2014-2020 in the amount of €.

1. INTRODUCTION (up to 1 page)

Executive summary:

Provide information on defining rural areas in the country both administratively and in relation to the implementation of the rural development policy

- It is important to assess how the rural territories are defined under the current countries regulations. In some countries (Macedonia) the state statistical office provides data, on the basis of the law on territorial organization defining towns and villages based on the number of population, infrastructure and employment as one approach. While according the law on agriculture and rural development, rural areas are municipalities with less than 30 000 inhabitants and this is another approach
- Assess relevant laws and regulations for defining of rural areas

2. LEADER Environment in country/territory (up to 3 pages)

- ***The Objective:***
- *To present the current state of LEADER in*
COUNTRY/ TERRITORY *from the perspective of:*
- *the policy, regulatory and institutional framework;*
- *previous actions and initiatives and lessons learned;*
- *available funds from public sources and donors;*

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2.1. LEADER in the national strategic program document (up to 1 page)

Describe the strategic policy framework for the implementation of the LEADER; Purpose: to identify where LEADER or similar to LEADER strategies are elaborated and what are common linkages between these strategies and programs

- Documents to be analysed:
- National strategies (not only on Agriculture! look as well outside of the Ministry of Agriculture, e.g. regional development and local self-government),
- Programs, annual regulations, e.g. National rural development program
- IPARD programs
- Regional, sub-national strategic documents (example of RS and BA)

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2.2 Institutional and Legal Settings(up to 1 page)

Describe the institutional setting and relevant actors

- Which organisations have a mandate and are responsible related to the issues concerning, programming, implementation; funding promoting, evaluation of LEADER.,(e.g ministries, paying agency national rural networks, LAGs, or LAG initiatives existing organisations that provide services and activities,
- What are their roles and what relations do exist between these organisations; hierarchical lines: who gives orders to whom?
- How the responsibilities are divided between various governmental and ministry bodies
- The capacity of the relevant institutions(general observation based on previous programmes, assessments and activities)
- Networking / LEADER networks or Networks, Projects, Organizations supporting LAGs

2.2 Institutional and Legal Settings(up to 1 page)

Describe the legal and regulatory requirements for the implementation of the LEADER

Purpose: To identify which national laws and regulations are relevant to LEADER; to elaborate the synergies between the relevant laws and define the necessary modifications and approximations that would be needed to create better legal environment for implementation of LEADER. The listed regulations should be used as an example of laws that would need to be assessed in each of the countries

Consider primary legislation like:

- Law on Agriculture and rural development
- Law on regional development
- Law on local self-government
- Legal form for establishment of a LAG (state the under which law)
- Law for Non-Governmental Organizations and Foundation
- Any other relevant Law

2.2 Institutional and Legal Settings (up to 1 page)

Consider secondary legislation like:

- Eligibility conditions for the geographical scope of possible co-operation partners,
- Conditions for establishment of LAG and definition of partners
- Main criteria for development of a Local Development Strategy
- Regulation for establishment of a national rural network (is there a legal basis for establishment of a national rural network) maybe as a separate issue
- Any other relevant regulation

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2.3 Funding (up to one page)

- *List the policy measures on support to activities related to LEADER, LEADER like measures (i.e training , implementation of small projects; in-kind support like office rent etc. funded by Ministry of Agriculture(IPARD; national funds) or any other regional, local governmental body (e.g through IPA cross border) and any other donor project or donor funded organization in period since 2010 (if any);*
- *Please provide even indicative amount of money spent for these purposes*

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