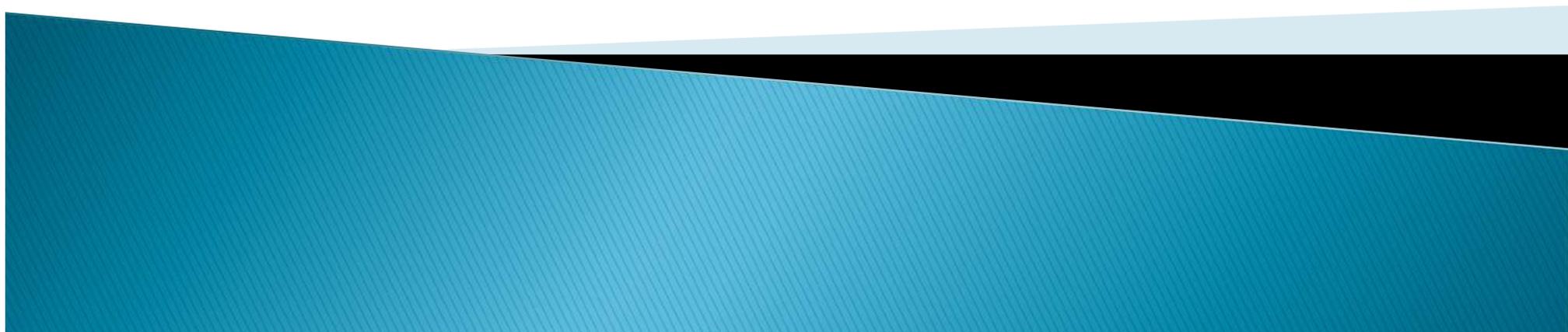


Update on the state of art of LEADER implementation

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ALBANIA



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. National legislation that include normative acts and laws Law No. 9817, dated 22.10.2007 “On Agriculture and Rural Development” and the Law 139/2015 “On Local Self-Government”.
2. Common legal acts and agreements between EU and Albania including Framework Agreement and IPARD
3. EU legal documents including regulations regarding the Instrument for Pre-Accession and other regulations concerning the LEADER approach.
4. Draft Law “On organization and functioning of local action groups”.

Gaps

- ▶ The draft law for the LAGs is not yet adopted (expected within 2020)

DRAFT LAW ON LAGs

- ▶ The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has prepared the draft law on organization and functioning of Local Action Groups.
- ▶ This draft law establishes the framework on the organization and functioning of the LAGs.
- ▶ In line with EU regulations 1303/2013 and 1305/2013



SCOPE OF LAW

- ▶ This law will provide the preconditions for the evaluation and functioning of the LAGs.
- ▶ LAGs through local partnership and bottom-up approach will enable the involvement of local community:
 - in identifying and implementing development strategies based on the needs of the community;
 - decision-making on allocation of financial sources;
 - Providing an environment for investment in rural areas by the community itself;
 - local capacity building.



PRINCIPLES

The law defines the principles on organizing and functioning of LAGs.

- ▶ Partnership principle
- ▶ Territorial principle
- ▶ Bottom-up principle
- ▶ Networking and collaboration principle



STRUCTURE OF LAGs

- ▶ LAGs will be established and function as non-profit organizations.

- ▶ LAGs will be accredited and registered if it has at least the following structures:
 - General Assembly
 - President
 - Executive Board
 - Staff



FUNCTIONS OF LAGs

- ▶ LAGs accredited and registered shall design and implement the community-led local development strategies.
- ▶ Some of the functions of LAGs:
 - building the capacity of local actors;
 - drawing up a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations;
 - ensuring coherence with the community-led local development strategy when selecting operations.



ACCREDITATION OF LAGS

- ▶ LAGs shall fulfill the accreditation criteria to exercise their functions.
- ▶ LAGs will be accredited by the MARD and registered in the register of LAGs.



LEADER Approach under IPARD Programme

- ▶ The IPARD II programme will support building up of the national capacity for local development based on LEADER approach.
- ▶ The Technical Assistance measure will be used for initial capacity building of Local action groups and preparation of their strategies (Number of potential LAGs supported – 10).



LEADER Approach under IPARD Programme

- ▶ *'Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER approach'* will support actions for animation of the territory, further capacity building and implementation of small scale projects.
- ▶ The measure is being elaborated.
- ▶ The indicative allocation is EUR 2.4 million.



Thank you for your attention

