



Third Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working group on LEADER

24th June 2020
Online meeting

*Strategic policy advice and process management to boost capacities to implement
Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) and LEADER in Southeast Europe
Standing up for LEADER*

National/Entity Road Map

Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Introduction

Introduction (1)

- COVID-19 and the consequences of this pandemic significantly disrupted the planned activities, their dynamics as well as the method of work itself
- Main information and data collected only at the beginning of June 2020
 - 4 face-to-face meetings were held (with representatives of the FMAWMF, NGOs and regional agencies)
- At the middle of May, an online questionnaire, on the basis of which certain qualitative and quantitative information was obtained
- List of contacts:
 - Beisa Bećirbegović – FMAWMF
 - Pejo Janić – FMAWMF
 - Ivica Sivrić – REDAH
 - Sanale Klarić – NGO Green Council and Member of Parliament of BiH
 - Šefik Veladžić – Former director of LAG Una-Sana
 - Branka Janko – Development Agency RAŽ
 - Zlatan Saračević – SERDA
 - Ivan Jurij – Government of West Herzegovina Canton

Introduction (2)

- Compared with previous report (2017) **situation** regarding LEADER and LAG in Federation of BiH (FBiH) **got worse**
 - There are no new LAGs, existing LAGs have become inactive
 - Support for LEADER and LAGs is lacking from FMAWMF level without budget support measures
 - There is no indication of any progress in finding the legislative framework and place for LEADER
 - MoFTER stops writing annual reports on LAG works in BiH
- FBiH needs a new approach to the LEADER concept (current one have to be changed) in the rural development of this BiH entity and the new basis of establishment of new LAGs as well as the possible reactivation of existing LAGs.
- Such project like this SWF-GIZ one could make LEADER possible and LAGs sustainable
- Opportunity: Drafting of new Development Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of FBiH; 2021-2017

Introduction (3)

Some answers from questionnaire:

"...The LEADER approach and LAGs in BiH are currently totally neglected and in a worse position than 10 years ago. The lack of hope for young people in rural areas leads to the devastation of rural areas and the loss of any prospects for sustainable development in the next 50 years. LEADER and LAG as terms do not exist at all in the dictionaries of local and cantonal authorities in FBiH. It is time for a new beginning, but this time on a realistic basis and estimates with previously well-thought-out strategies for establishing the LEADER approach in BiH".

"... LEADER and LAGs must be the result of a clear strategic commitment and a clear legislative and institutional framework “.

" ... Without providing financial support for the work of the LAGs, everything else was in vain.".

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SWOT Analysis



SWOT – Human Resources and Organizational Capacities

- **Strengths:**
 - Existence of educated people of the LEADER approach
- **Weaknesses:**
 - Dependence of the work of existing LAGs on the knowledge, skill, will and enthusiasm of one person
 - Human resource capacities at the local level are low and insufficient
 - Insufficient education of staff in institutions for potential participation in the implementation of LEADER
 - Insufficient animation/mobilization of local rural development actors/stakeholders
- **Opportunities:**
 - Recent local development strategies with measures that include support for LAGs
 - New strategic documents that include a mandatory part of the implementation of the LEADER concept and the position of LAGs
- **Threats:**
 - Abandonment of young and educated people - depopulation of rural areas
 - Political changes in government - changes in the understanding of the importance of LEADER
 - Strategic documents are not binding and their implementation depends on the decision makers themselves

SWOT – Society – Development of cooperation systems

- **Strengths:**
 - Good cooperation between different participants in the implementation of rural development measures
- **Weaknesses:**
 - Insufficient pressure of existing LAGs on the public sector
 - Insufficient cooperation with the municipal level
 - Low level of initiative
 - Insufficient public-private partnership (if there is - more it is formal and less real)
 - Insufficient network capacity for rural development
- **Opportunities:**
 - Acquiring new knowledge through networking
- **Threats:**
 - Decreased interest of international organizations in networking of NGOs and civil society

SWOT – Society – Development of enabling frameworks

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LEADER

- **Strengths:**
 - Existence of natural potential for rural development - unused natural resources
- **Weaknesses:**
 - Lack of strategic / program documents for the implementation of the LEADER approach from the level of the Federation of BiH
 - Lack of legislative framework
 - LAGs as citizens' associations
 - Lack of institutional capacity at all levels
 - No IPARD structure in BiH and the possibility of withdrawing funds
 - Exclusion of the cantonal level of government in the current process of establishing LEADER in FBiH
 - Lack of a clear financial framework for the operation of LAGs
 - Lack of LAG accreditation agency and rural development paying agency
- **Opportunities:**
 - Instead of IPARD funds, becoming an EU4-Agri program (under the jurisdiction of UNDP)
 - Interest of donor organizations in supporting the work of LAGs
- **Threats:**
 - Political instability of the country
 - Potential new approach in IPA III - Abandonment of access to clearly defined assistance to each Western Balkan country
 - Economic instability due to the consequences of COVID-19

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Steering structure

Steering structure

- There is no governing body that would be within the FMAWMF and represent a decision maker with the task of establishing a well-organized system for LEADER (harmonized with EU rules)
- Three existing LAGs, as a result of international projects (primarily UNDP) that only formally still exist in the Federation of BiH registered as a society of citizens
- Legally prescribed management structure:
 - **The Assembly** as the highest decision-making body and
 - **The Management Board** that implements the policy and other decisions made by the Assembly.

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Core processes

Core processes – (Level FMAWMMF)

- 1.1. Drafting of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development of the FBIH (2021-2027)
- 1.2. Drafting of a legislative framework at the FBIH level and positioning of the LEADER approach and the role of LAGs in rural development through two laws: the Law on Agriculture of the Federation of BiH and the Law on Financial Incentives for Agriculture and Rural Development in the FBIH.
- 1.3. Strengthening institutional capacity in the FBIH (MAWMMF entities and cantons) to implement LEADER and support
- 1.4. Ensuring regular financing of LAGs through budget transfers at the FMAWMMF level, and gradually from the cantonal level
- 1.5. Preparation and fulfilment of conditions for possible withdrawal of funds from the IPA III program / Preparation for the use of the EU4-Agri replacement program (UNDP)

Core processes – (Level Network)

2.1. Capacity building of rural stakeholders

2.2. **Networking** at different levels within BiH (state, entity, canton) and outside BiH

2.3. **Strengthening the rural development network** as a state umbrella organization

Core processes – (Level LAGs)

- 3.1. Comprehensive analysis of the current state of the LEADER approach in FBiH and the position of current LAGs
- 3.2. Raising awareness of the importance of LEADER and the work of LAGs
- 3.3. Animating local actors and strengthening the capacity of LAGs
- 3.4. Drafting of local development strategies - one of the bases for the work of LAGs. Process - analysis of the situation, definition of goals, priorities and measures, as well as public discussion and adoption of the LDS
- 3.5. Defining the scope of new LAGs - Assuming that the planned processes from level 1 are realized - FMAWMMF

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Priorities

Priorities

- **By public authorities:**
 - Positioning of LEADER concept and support to LAGs through strategic / program document in FBH for the next period 201-2017
 - Development of a legislative framework to support LAGs
 - Institutional strengthening at all levels
 - Creating conditions for withdrawal of EU funds
- **By networks and intermediary agents**
 - Animation and involvement of a larger number of actors (a larger number of ministries that can deal with rural development)
- **By LAGs and local actors:**
 - Providing permanent financial support to existing and new LAGs
 - Animating local actors and strengthening the capacity of LAGs
 - Raising awareness of the importance of LAGs - especially at the local (municipal) level
 - Establishment of new LAGs based on pilot projects - Need for (agro) regional approach
 - Development of local development strategies

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Road Map



Road Map (1)

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Processes	Action	Responsible actor and other contributing actors	Output	Date	Comment
1.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of the Strategy (2021-2027) with a defined position of LEADER and LAGs in FBiH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMAWMF and participants in the drafting of the document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic document with defined measures that support the work of LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 	
1.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of the legislative framework at the level of FBiH and positioning of the LEADER approach and the role of LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMAWMF and other participants outside the Ministry competent to draft legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law on Agriculture of FBiH Law on Financial Incentives of FBiH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 	An important condition for the future operation of LAGs
1.3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening institutional capacities in the FBiH through various forms of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMAWMF Other Ministries of FBiH International organizations NVO and regional development agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated staff with the necessary management skills in the field of LEADER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-2027 	
1.4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular funding of LAGs through FMAWMF budget transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMAWMF Cantonal MA (?) Local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget transfer for the work of LAGs in FBiH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-2027 	
1.5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and fulfillment of conditions for possible withdrawal of EU funds (IPA III or EU4Agri) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoFTER FMAWMF UNDP and other international organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positioning the financing of LEADER measures and the work of LAGs in FBiH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-2027 	

Road Map (2)

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Processes	Action	Responsible actor and other contributing actors	Output	Date	Comment
2.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of rural stakeholders 				
2.3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the rural development network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network for rural development of BiH FMAWMMF Local communities Actual and new LAGs Network of organization involved in rural development issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More efficient work of LAGs More projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-2027 	

Road Map (3)

SWG RRD

Processes	Action	Responsible actor and other contributing actors	Output	Date	Comment
3.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive analysis of the current state of the LEADER approach in FBiH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMAWMF Academia LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on the state of LEADER and LAGs in FBiH with recommendations for their improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020-2021 	
3.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of a new concept of rural development and the principle of public-private partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Development Network LAGs Academy Local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater interest of rural stakeholders in LEADER and the work of LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 	
3.3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animating local actors and strengthening the capacity of LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Development Network LAGs Academy Local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animated local rural actors and the establishment of new successful LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-2025 	
3.4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of local development strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMAWMF LAGs Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDS 		
3.5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining the scope of new LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FMAWMF Network of rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined new areas of activity for the establishment of 4 new LAGs in FBiH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-2027 	



Thank you for your attention!