

South Eastern Europe



Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

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

Republic of Srpska/Bosnia and Herzegovina

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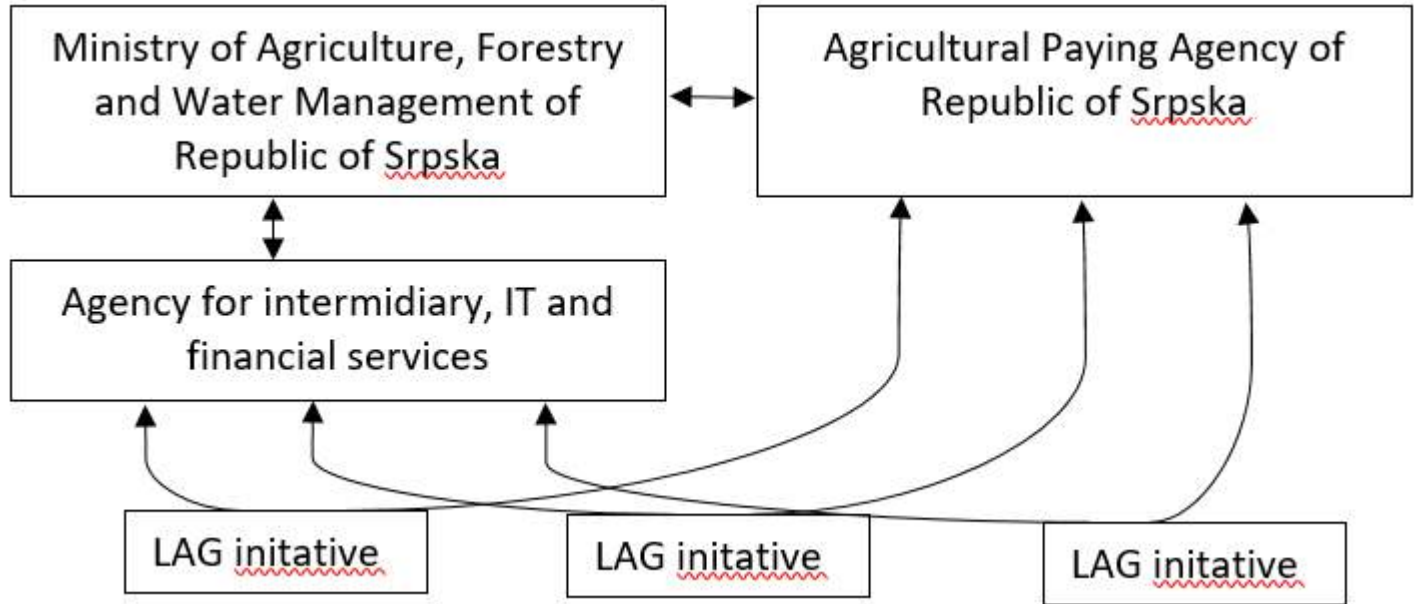
24. June 2020.

	Human Resources and Organizational Capacities	Society	
		Development of cooperation systems	Development of enabling frameworks
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of educated people familiar with the LEADER approach principles • Existence of LAG initiatives (CSOs) that could transform to LAGs if legal framework is created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good cooperation between different actors • Existence of active public, private and civil sector in rural • Existence of the RDN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of unused natural resources • Existence of basic physical infrastructure • Existence of basic strategic document in RS
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of cooperation between different actors in LAG initiatives • Existing LAG initiatives depend on the knowledge, skill, will of few enthusiasts • Human resource capacities at the local level are insufficient • Insufficient animation of local rural development actors • Insufficient mobilization of stakeholders from rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient pressure of existing LAGs on the public sector • Insufficient cooperation of CSOs with the municipalities • Low level of initiative from civil, private and public institutions in forming cooperation system • Insufficient network capacity for support to sustainable rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of legislative framework • LAGs registered as CSOs and not accredited • Lack of institutional capacity at all levels • Lack of understanding of LEADER approach • No IPARD structure in RS/BiH • Lack of a clear financial framework • Lack of LAG accreditation agency and its legislation

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	Human Resources and Organizational Capacities	Society	
		Development of cooperation systems	Development of enabling frameworks
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of local development strategies with measures that include support for LAGs • New legislation that include a mandatory part of the implementation of the LEADER approach and the recognition of LAGs • Provision of sustainable financing for LAGs and implementation of LDS recognized as LEADER approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring new knowledge through networking • Transfer of international experience through cooperation system • Existence of international connections from LAG initiatives in area of rural development • cooperation with the neighboring countries from the EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of IPARD funds • Availability of different donor programs, like EU4Agri program (under the jurisdiction of UNDP) • Interest of donor organizations in supporting and recognition of the work of LAGs
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of institutional support • Depopulation of rural areas • Disinterest of governing structures • Political changes in government • Strategic documents are not binding and their implementation depends on the decision makers themselves • Lack of understanding of the difference between the role and work of the LAG in relation to other development organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased interest of international organizations in support to LEADER approach and LAGs • Networking of civil, public and private sector not supported by decision makers • Not available international projects for LAG initiatives because of lack of formal recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political instability of the country • Lack of political will to establish IPARD 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



LAG initiatives are registered as CSOs without formal accreditation and recognition and registered as citizens associations they have a 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, usually with President that is legal representative.

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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 legislative framework at the level of RS for positioning of the LEADER approach, accreditation of LAGs and the role of LAGs in rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS, LAGs representatives and other participants outside the Ministry competent to draft legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law on Agriculture and rural development of RS Rulebook on accreditation of LAGs in RS Rulebook/Law on Financial Incentives for LAGs of RS 	2020-2021	An important precondition for the recognition of LAGs and future operation of LAGs
1.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of the Strategy (2021-2027) with a defined position of LEADER and LAGs in RS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS and other participants outside the Ministry competent to contribute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic document with defined measures that support the work of LAGs 	2020-2021	LEADER approach and LAGs have bin part of previous strategies, but there is no bylaws that support their implementation
1.3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening institutional capacities of LAGs in the RS through various forms of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS, Other Ministries of RS International organization and donors NGOs and regional development agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated staff with the necessary management skills in the field of LEADER 	2021-2027	Many decision makers and other actors are not familiar with LEADER approach and LAGs functioning

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1.4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular funding of LAGs through MAFWMRS and local communities budget transfers 	MAFWMRS Local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget transfers for the work of LAGs in RS 	2021-2027	Without regular funding, LAGs are nothing but another development CSO
1.5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and fulfilment of conditions for possible withdrawal of funds from the IPA III program 	MoFTER MAFWMRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable financing of LEADER measures and the work of LAGs in RS 	2021-2027	This is political circumstance that blocked withdrawal of funds in the past
1.6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for the use of the EU4Agri program 	UNDP and other international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing of LEADER measures and the work of LAGs in RS 	2021-2027	EU have created different program EU4Agri for BiH to make possible to use IPA funds through it

Processes	Action	Responsible actor and other contributing actors	Output	Date	Comment
2.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of LAGs and LAG initiatives to organize rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS Local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated LAGs staff for administration and implementation of projects 	2021-2027	LAGs and LAG initiatives are limited with capacities and need support to build them
2.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animation of rural stakeholders to take active role in rural development and LEADER approach implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS Local communities LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated stakeholders from rural areas to prepare and implement projects 	2021-2027	Rural stakeholders are frequently not interested to be generator of change, that is why they need animation to be active
2.3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking at different levels within BiH and outside BiH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network for rural development of BiH LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional, national and international connections created 	2021-2027	New networks open opportunities for future collaborations

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2.4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the rural development network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network for rural development of BiH MAFWMRS 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 	2021-2027	Rural Development Network in BiH is Civil Society Organizations network that needs support to implement more capacity building activities with different stakeholders
2.5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing the potentials for future networking in rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network for rural development of BiH LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More sectors involved More inhabitants targeted 	2021-2027	There are various unused potentials in rural areas that could be put in function



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3.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive analysis of the current state of the LEADER approach in RS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS Academia LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on the state of LEADER and LAGs in RS with recommendations for their improvement 	2020-2021	There is need to do comprehensive analysis of the LEADER approach in RS
3.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness of the importance of LEADER and the work of LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAGs Academy Local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater interest of rural stakeholders in LEADER and the work of LAGs 	2021-2027	Popularization of LEADER approach can be done through promotion of its core values and principles
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 	2021-2025	LAGs should animate population from their rural area to integrate their opinions in LDS and activities

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3.4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of local development strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS LAGs Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDS 	2021-2027	LDS are needed in order to plan future development
3.5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining the scope of new LAGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWMRS Network of rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined new areas of activity for the establishment of new LAGs in RS 	2021-2027	LAGs should tackle some priority areas of rural development with bottom up approach

