



REAWG on LEADER

September – December 2019

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RRD



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Meetings in 2019

- **First interim meeting** – 07 – 08
October, APF, Ohrid, N. Macedonia



Discussions & Recommendation

- Need for institutional set up improvements in the SWG countries/territories related to LEADER
 - *institutional, strategic and regulatory framework for introducing LEADER*
 - *inter-institutional cooperation for strategic programming of LEADER*
 - *capacity building and coordination of the personnel responsible for LEADER*
- Need for policy improvements
 - *measures created for improvement of the national rural development policy;*
 - *improvement of local development policies;*
 - *setting up the legislative and administrative procedures form making LEADER operational*
 - *synchronization of national with EU funding*
- Need for capacity development of the authorities responsible for administration the procedures for the LEADER measure
- Discussion on possible models of networking of various stakeholders (public, civil society and business)

Planned actions

- **Six road maps** (one per country/territory) setting out the specific steps to be taken to relaunch the LEADER preparation process and the respective capacity.
 - GIZ responsible for international backstopping; International Expert to provide ToR by the end of 2019
 - SWG to provide contract the national experts
 - The road maps to be done by October 2020
- **A high-level conference** including stakeholders from all SEE countries/territories, regional experts and EU representatives to be organized in March or April 2021 in one of the WB countries/territories.
- **A policy paper** synthesizing the proceedings and main outcomes from the high-level conference and measures taken by the national authorities in response to the road maps

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Conclusions

- Commitment from the government to delegate people for implementation of LEADER measure/LAGs
- Measures/actions/activities and deliverables to be prepared by the government in order to be accordingly reached, monitored and reported.
- REAWG on LEADER could serve as a creation of such a model.
- Need for high level discussion related to aim of LEADER and role of EU countries
- Need for assistance for establishment of LAGs
- Mobilize all other actors that directly influence on the implementation of LEADER measure

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Upcoming meetings

- 2nd Interim meeting, March 2020 – location TBD
 - *Interim reports on the road maps to be delivered*
- 3rd meeting, June 2020 - location TBD
 - *Draft version of the reports to be delivered*
- 4th meeting, October 2020 – location TBD
 - *Road maps per country/territory to be submitted*