# 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 >

## Overall aim (purpose)

The overall aim of the assignment is to facilitate the process of setting up structures and delivery mechanisms for the LEADER measure during the current IPARD period and particularly in the new period 2021-27 to increase the capacities for rural diversification and re-dynamisation of lagging rural areas in the SEE countries.
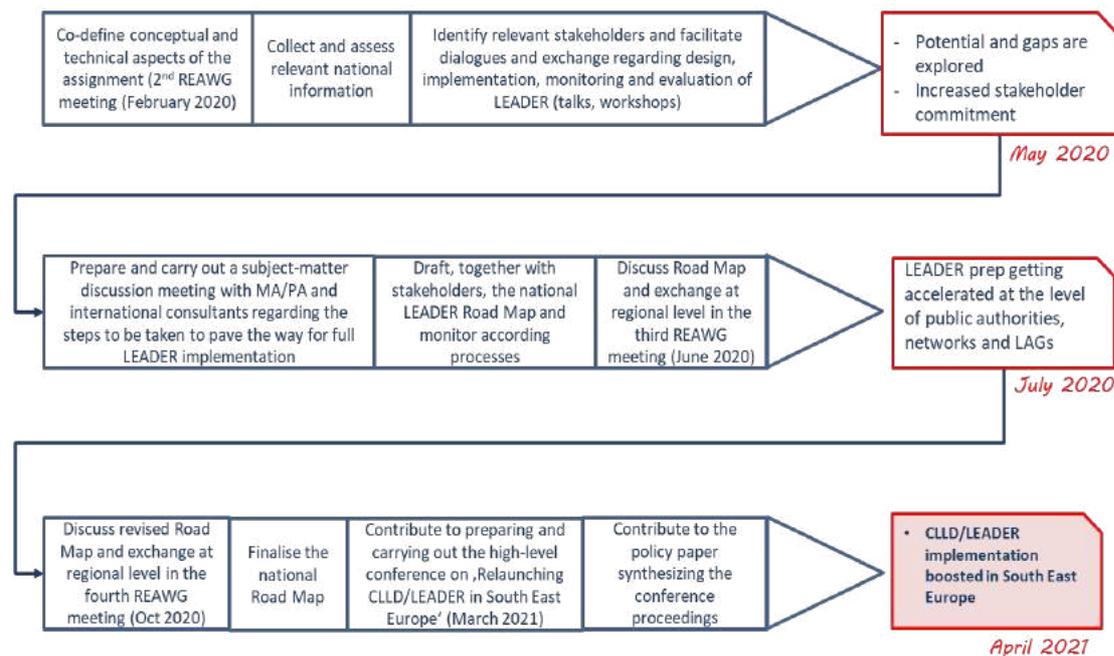
## Objective

The objective of the assignment is provision of national expertise related to facilitation of the process of horizontal and vertical integration, cooperation, dialogue and exchange of relevant stakeholders involved in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of CLLD/ LEADER in SEE and provision of policy advice to boost capacities to implement Community Led Local Development (CLLD) and LEADER in Southeast Europe.

## Main process

The diagram depicts the main stages of the core process which is supposed to lead to reaching the objective. The process is divided into three parts which are marked with intermediary results (red frame).



**Work Flow National/Regional Experts**

## Method

**Desk research**

- Assessment of available policy documents, legislation, rule books, research papers, reports, studies etc. from public authorities, from academia and from international donors and organisations.

**Dialogue meetings and consultation workshops**

- with representative(s) of the Ministry of Agriculture or other relevant Governmental body (Managing Authority, Paying Agency, Implementing Body); identified resource person(s) from rural development networks and LAGs.

**Participation in regional exchange and events**

- in three REAWG workshops (February, June, October) and in the high-level conference (March 2021).

**Written contributions**

- **National Road Map** (see next page) regarding the steps to be taken towards intensified CLLD/LEADER implementation;

- **Contributions to the policy paper** synthesizing the proceedings of the high-level conference (authored by the international consultants).

## National Road Map (Outline)

The frame of the national road map will leave much room for the specificities of the respective context. As a road map, it shall serve as a working paper and to-do list and does therefore not require lengthy narratives. It is expected to feature the following parts (see next page).

| Part | Content | Max nr. of pages | Working aid nr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Introduction** | This part comprises the rationale, a brief description of the production process, an overview on the content and acknowledgements. | 1 | -- |
| **SWOT table** | A matrix with the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats concerning LEADER implementation regarding four dimensions: the individual competencies, the capacities of organisations and cooperation systems and the framework conditions. | 2 | 1 |
| **Steering structure** | A design which depicts the actual or planned state of the governance architecture, the main decision making bodies and spaces as well as their interlinkages. | 1 | 2 |
| **Core processes** | A table depicting the main processes which are relevant for setting up and running the LEADER measure. We distinguish between a national, an intermediary and a local perspective, because different types of key actors are in the lead at the respective levels. | 1 | 3 |
| **Priorities** | The development priorities at different levels of decision making (with different lead actors) are put down in a table and commented by the national expert, first concerning the expectable or assessed effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery system, secondly concerning the extent to which the eight operational features of the LEADER method are reflected by the priorities set. The table gives important hints about possible corrective steps to be taken and focused upon in the Road Map. | 1 | 4 |
| **Road Map** | The chronology of actions, measures, events which will eventually lead to LEADER implementation at all levels.<br><br>It is possible that at the end of the assignment (after the high-level conference) parts of the road map are already worked off. | 5 | 5 |
| *Maximum pages* | | 11 | |