



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Experiences with the LEADER-like approach in Moldova and Georgia

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LEADER

- 'LEADER' derives from the French phrase "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale" which means, 'Links between activities for the development of rural economy'
- First proposed in 1990 by a group of officials at the European Commission
- Experimental phase 1991-1993, LEADER II from 1994
- New in LEADER CLLD-concept and multi-funding
- Stakeholders in EU – EP, EC, EESC, CoR, ENRD, ELARD

LEADER-principles



LEADER-experiences



Country	Period	Position
ESTONIA	2007 - ...	Sceptic, LAG-leader, consultant
CROATIA	2015	Consultant for MA
TURKEY	2016	Consultant
MOLDOVA	2016 - ...	Project expert
GEORGIA/ABKHAZIA	2017 - ...	Consultant



LEADER-experiences (2)

- Bilateral projects funded by financed by Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the funds of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, as a result 2 Local Action Groups were established in Moldova and are operational (just finishing their first sub-grant call)
- Review of the local development strategies, establishment, capacity building and operational support for Georgian Association of Local Action Groups (GALAG) during the EU(ENPARD)-funded project "Strengthening Rural Development Models in Georgia" during 2017-2019 in co-operation with Mercy Corps Georgia (lead partner), ELARD, CARE and PIN
- ENPARD II and III implementation support for UNDP to implement LEADER-concept in Abkhazian districts of Gagra, Gudauta, Tkuarchal/Tkvarcheli and Ochamchira/e.

LEADER-principles in Eastern Partnership countries

1. Bottom-up decision making and local private-public partnerships – crucial, challenging in post-soviet context and rewarding
2. Area-based strategies – implementation and M&E
3. Networking and co-operation – for knowledge and experience exchange and further resource mobilization
4. Integrated and multisectoral actions – LAG as local/regional development hubs
5. Innovation – grassroot level new or advanced approaches – social entrepreneurship, resource efficiency etc.

Critical questions

- Is it cost-effective?
- Is it sustainable?
- Is it well received?
- What's the difference between EU and non-EU LEADER implementation?
- Does it replace/compete with local/community development and/or other approaches?
- Is it worth it?

THANK YOU!

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