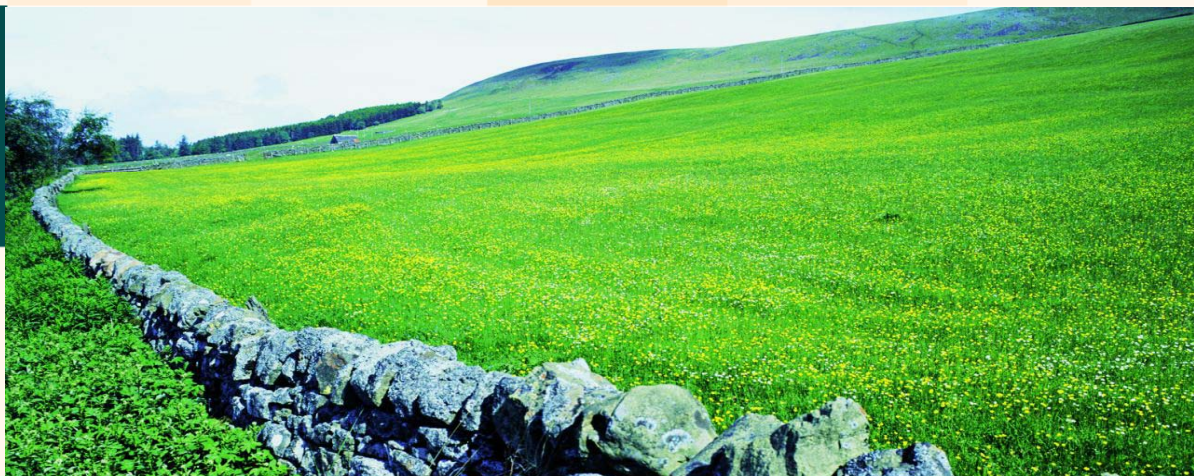




European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development



# **LEADER under IPARD : main features**

**Kaj Mortensen**

**Head of Unit E.II.4 „Pre-accession assistance to agriculture  
and rural development“,**

**DG AGRI, EUROPEAN COMMISSION**



# EU Pre-Accession assistance



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- **IPA** is an **integrated** Pre-Accession Instrument to assist candidate and potential candidate countries
- It **replaces 5 different programmes** and instruments: PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD, CARDS and Turkey pre-accession instruments
- It will ensure:
  - Higher level of coherence and co-ordination of EU Assistance and
  - better preparation for Structural, Cohesion and Rural development Funds through progressive adaptation to EU funds rules
- Financial envelope allocated for the period 2007–2013: 10.2 billion € (at 2004 prices)

# IPA – Components & Beneficiary Countries



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

1. Transition Assistance & Institution Building
2. Cross-Border Cooperation
3. Regional Development
4. Human Resources Development
5. Rural Development (IPARD)

**Annex II: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo**

**Annex I: Croatia, Turkey FYR of Macedonia**

# IPA – Policy framework and Programming



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

## **Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework (MIFF)**

establishes the financial allocation between countries and components



## **Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD)**

establishes strategies for each country for the IPA components, based on the priorities set in the Accession Partnership, NPAA and the Regular Reports



## **Each components - specific programming**

Transition  
& Institution  
Building

Regional &  
Cross-Border  
Co-op

Regional  
Development

Human  
Resources  
Development

**Rural  
Development**

# Assistance under the Rural Development Component (IPARD)



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- **Axis 1** Improving Market Efficiency and Implementation of Community Standards
- **Axis 2** Preparatory Actions for Implementation of the Agri-environmental Measures and Leader
- **Axis 3** Development of the Rural Economy



## **Axis 1 - Improving Market Efficiency and Implementing Community Standards Measures**

1. Investments in agricultural holdings to restructure and upgrade to the EU standards
2. Support for the setting up of producer groups
3. Investments in processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products to restructure and upgrade to the Community standards



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

**Axis 2-** Preparatory actions for implementation of the agri-environmental measures and local rural development strategies

### **Measures**

4. Preparation for implementation of actions relating to environment and the countryside
5. Preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

## Axis 3 - Development of the Rural Economy Measures

- 6. Improvement and development of rural infrastructure
- 7. Diversification and development of rural economic activities
- 8. Improvement of training

.....

- 9. Technical assistance



# The 7 key features of LEADER



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

1. **Area-based local development strategies** proposed for well-identified sub-regional rural territories;
2. **Bottom-up approach:** the decisions concerning preparation and implementation of the local development strategies are taken by the local action groups;
3. **Public-private partnership** with a decision-making management body, representing the interests of different groups of a rural population (Local Action Groups (LAGs));
4. Implementation of **innovative approach**;
5. Multi-sectoral design and implementation of the **strategy based on the interaction between actors and projects of different sectors of the local economy**;
6. **Networking** of local partnerships;
7. Implementation of **cooperation projects** (inter-territorial or transnational).



# LEADER under IPARD



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- Simplified approach under IPARD
- The objective: CCs and pCCs to develop practical experience in the Community LEADER approach at local and administrative level
- Support is granted to finance the preparation of rural communities to draft and implement local rural development strategies through LAGs



## LAG – the basis for LEADER type measures



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- MUST be a group representing partners from various locally based socio-economic sectors in the territory concerned
- at least 50% of the representatives of the local partnership at decision making level must be from economic and social groups, farmers, rural women, young people, etc.
- LAGs must show the ability to define and implement a development strategy



## LAG - tasks



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- Proposes an integrated local development strategy
- Sets up a Leader coordinator
- May be **involved in the selection of projects** i.e. checks if projects submitted are consistent with the local development strategy
- **Project development**, provides support to beneficiaries
- Has NO payment function



## LAG area



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- Shall be coherent and offer sufficient critical mass in terms of human, financial and economic resources
- General rule: not bigger than 100,000 and not smaller than 10,000 inhabitants

# Local development strategy



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

Implemented with a view to achieve the priorities defined under IPARD:

- Priority 1: sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and preparation of the CCs for the implementation of *acquis communautaire*
- Priority 2: sustainable development of rural areas

# LEADER under IPARD – measures of support



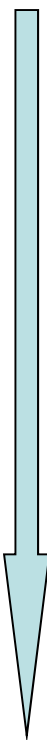
## 1. Acquisition of skills

- Information and training of the population to participate in the development process
- Building representative local development partnerships (LAGs)
- Drawing up integrated area-based local development strategies including territorial diagnosis
- Preparing for application of LEADER
- Preparation and dissemination of methodological material

## 2. Implementation of an integrated territorial rural development strategy

**Beneficiaries:**  
**Managing Authority**  
**rural communities**  
**local groups**

**Beneficiaries:**  
**Local Action Groups**



# LEADER under IPARD – measures of support



## 3. Participation in inter-territorial and transnational co-operation actions

### Beneficiaries:

### Local Action Groups

- Preparatory technical support (studies, travel expenses, etc)
- Joint actions like exhibitions, seminars, meetings, workshops
- Running common organisational structures
- Animation activities
- Publicity concerning the project

## 4. Networking of local partnerships

- to build capacity
- to exchange experience and cooperation, including networking at European level

## LEADER in CCs and pCCs



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- LEADER type measures are included in the IPARD programmes of the CCs but will not be implemented until after 2010
- For pCCs LEADER type measures may be prepared for earlier implementation through IPA component 1, focusing in the beginning mostly on technical assistance for acquisition of skills

## Next Steps



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

- LEADER seminars
- Initiation of TA to acquisition of skills
- Accreditation of LEADER measures
- Local awareness campaign