

Rural development in pilot regions

A year after – the strategic work and projecting with FAO - achievements in the period 2010-2011 for the pilot region Strumyani in Bulgaria

Regional Participatory Planning Workshop: "Establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries"

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Strumyani pilot region

- Local Development Strategies and Local Action Groups - instrument for implementation of the LEADER approach – RDP 2007 – 2013 axis 4.
- Approved project under sub-measure 431-2 of the Bulgarian Rural Development Programme (June 2009 – August 2010) for establishment of LAG and development of strategy.



Strumyani pilot region

Strategy preparation:

- 3 trainings of the team and local leaders;
- Establishment of LAG and setting of LAG office;
- A number of meetings with the local population in the settlements on the territory (awareness raising; identification and discussion of measures for the strategy; consultation of the draft strategy);
- Study visit to Greece;



Main characteristics of the LAG territory

Territory: Strumiani municipality (21 settlements) and Kresna municipality (10 settlements); the territory covers all the settlements of the two municipalities;

Area: 706.5 sq.km. (Strumiani – 362 sq.km.; Kresna – 344.5 sq.km.); border region, mountain area, mineral springs, Struma river, Via Aristotelis, Pirin NP;

Population: 11 825 inhabitants (Strumiani - 6 082; Kresna - 5 743); aging population and depopulation of villages;

Economy: Underdeveloped production industry structure; irrigation and drinking water supply issues, especially in dry periods; opportunities for tourism.



Strumyani LDS - objectives

Strategic Goal: Improving the quality of life on the territory of the municipalities of Strumyani and Kresna

Priority 1: Development of local, traditional or unique products

• **Specific objectives:**

1. Encouraging the production and processing of high quality and environmentally clean products.
2. Development of the entrepreneurship and diversification to non-agricultural activities.



Strumyani LDS objectives

Priority 2: Utilizing the potential of the environment and development of the local settlements

Specific objectives:

1. Development of tourism and accompanying activities
2. Development of infrastructure for sport educational, social and technical infrastructure
3. Preservation and recovery of the forestry potential.

Priority 3: Strengthening the capacity for absorption and management of financial resources under the LDS;

Specific objective:

1. Encouraging the implementation of integrated and sustainable practices



Strumyani LDS Budget

Total budget: EUR 2 000 000

Axis 1: EUR 672 000

Axis 2: EUR 32 000

Axis 3: EUR 896 000

Axis 4: EUR 400 000



Strumyani LDS - measures

Measure	Beneficiaries
121 Modernization of agricultural holdings	Agricultural producers, associations of agricultural producers
123 Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	Commercial entities (micro or SME), cooperatives
223 First afforestation of non-agricultural land	Non-agricultural land owners (physical and legal persons), municipalities
226 Restoring Forestry Potential and introducing prevention actions	Forest fund land owners (physical and legal persons, municipalities)



Strumyani LDS - measures

Measure	Beneficiaries
311 Diversification into non-agricultural activities	Agricultural producers
312 Support for the creation and development of micro-enterprises	Micro-enterprises
313 Encouragement of tourism activities	Municipalities, NGOs
321 Basic services for the economy and rural population	Municipalities, NGOs, community centres (“chitalishta”)



Strumyani LDS - measures

Measure	Beneficiaries
322 Village renewal and development	Municipalities, NGOs, “chitalishta”, civil partnerships, local religious branches
323 Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	Municipalities, NGOs, “chitalishta”, civil partnerships, local religious branches, physical persons, etc.
421 Inter-territorial and transnational cooperation	LAG
431-1 Running the LAG, acquiring skills and animating the territory	LAG



Strumyani LDS Status

Adoption of the developed and consulted Local Development Strategy - submitted for approval to MAF in August 2010

Evaluation process and results – final deadline December 2011

