



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



EU Legislation Related to LEADER

LEADER Approach to Rural Development

TAIEX Multi Country Workshop on LEADER

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Structure of the presentation

- Legal framework
- Key features of Leader
- Methodology of implementation



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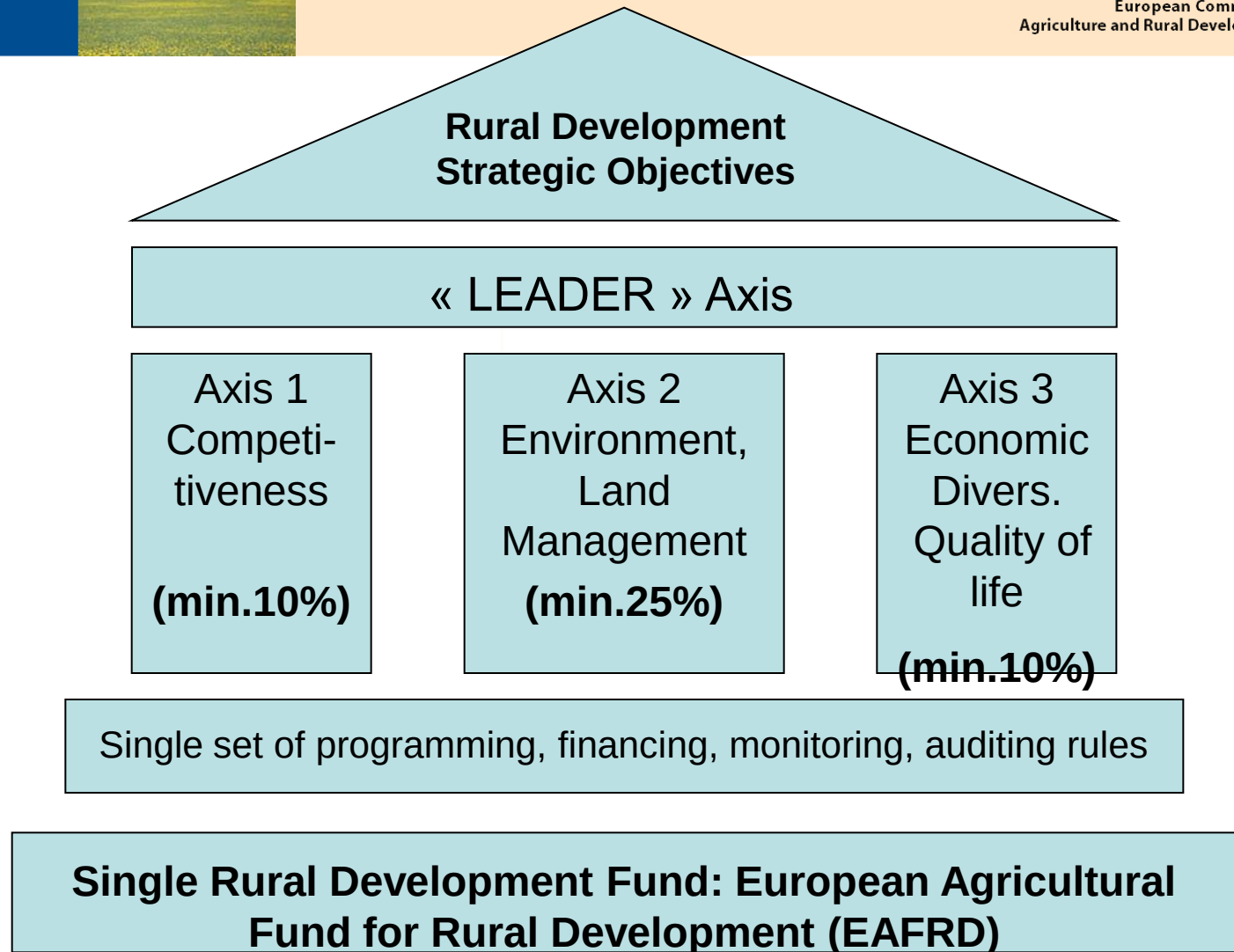
LEGAL FRAMEWORK 2007-13



EU Rural Development Framework 2007-13



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Strategic Rural development programming in three steps

Strategy document of the EU with (six) guidelines and priorities for all three thematic axes (adopted in February 2006)

National Strategic Plans (NSP)



- Application of EU priorities to the national situation
- Safeguarding complementarity with other EU-funds



Approval of National or regional programs, National Frameworks, and Network programs



➤ ***Impact assessment and evaluation based on the CMEF***



Axis 4: the Leader method

The EU priorities for axis 4:

Use the Leader approach for introducing innovation in axis 1, 2 and 3

- better governance at the local level
- endogenous development (local resources for growth and jobs)



Conception of the Leader axis

Implementation of local development strategies ensuring experimental interventions:

- Any operation within the scope of the 3 axis objectives is eligible and respecting the delimitation with other EU funds.
- This means that an operation does not necessarily need to correspond to one of the 37 measures
- If a project enters into the scope of application of one of the measures, the eligibility conditions of this measure apply.
- For Leader (axis 4) a maximum cofinancing rate of 55% (80% in Convergence regions). This means 5% more EU funding than for other interventions.



Delivery system measures (Art. 63 Regulation 1698/2005)

- a) Implementing local development strategies to achieve the objective of one or more of the 3 axis**
- b) Cooperation**
- c) Running the local action group, acquisition of skills and animating the territory**



KEY FEATURES



Evolution of the Leader approach

The Community Initiatives:

- Leader I (1991-93) – experiment: result of criticism to the individual project approach in the Structural Policy
- Leader II (1994-99) - laboratory: limited to disadvantaged rural areas, innovation, pilot actions, introduction of transnational cooperation
- Leader+ (2000-06) - maturity phase: eligibility of the whole rural territory; reinforced role of networks and transnational cooperation
- (Leader+ type measure for new Member States 2004-2006)

„Mainstreamed Leader“ 2007-13:

- Leader axis – not any longer specific programmes; methodological approach to mainstream RD programming



From Leader I to the „Leader-axis“

Stage	Duration	Funds	Budget (EUR)	LAGs
Leader I	1991– 1993	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	450 million	217
Leader II	1994- 1999	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	1.7 billion	821
Leader+	2000- 2006	EAGGF- Guidance	2.1 billion	893 in EU-15 (+ 250 in the Leader+type measure 2004- 2006) in 6 MS
„Leader axis“	2007- 2013	EAFRD	5.5 billion → 6% of the EAFRD funding	expected approx. 1.500 in EU-27 (selection in the MS still ongoing)



The main concept

LEADER: Liens Entre Actions de Developpement de l'Economie Rurale =
Linkages between development actions regarding the rural economy

Given the diversity of rural areas, development strategies are more effective and efficient if ...

- **decided and implemented at local level by local actors;**
- **accompanied by clear and transparent procedures;**
- **the support of the relevant public administrations;**
- **and necessary technical assistance for the transfer of good practice**



Leader is part of the EU's wider rural development policy

The evolving CAP takes into account:

- **the diversity of rural areas and landscapes;**
- **rich local identities;**
- **the increasing value that society puts on high-quality natural environment**



The 8 key aspects of the Leader approach

- 1) Area-based local development strategies
- 2) Bottom-up approach
- 3) Public-private partnerships: The “local action groups” (LAGs)
- 4) Facilitating innovation*
- 5) Integrated and multi-sectoral actions
- 6) Networking
- 7) Cooperation*
- 8) De-centralised governance

(* not mandatory at the level of the local strategy)



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METHODOLOGY OF IMPLEMENTATION



Implementation steps for the Leader axis

- Acquisition of skills for new LAGs or existing LAGs
- Selection of local development strategies
- Grant agreement / confirmation of selection to the LAG
- Implementation of the local development strategies



Selection of local development strategies

- **Open selection procedure ensuring competition between LAGs**
- **Not later than 2 years after the approval of the Rural Development Programme**
- **Mandatory indications in the programme on the procedure and timetable for selecting the local action groups**
 - including objective selection criteria
 - planned maximum number of LAGs
 - planned percentage of rural territories covered by local development strategies
 - justification for selection of areas whose population falls outside the limits set out in Article 36(3) of Regulation 1968/2005
- **Detailed selection criteria may be approved later after consultation of the Monitoring Committee of the programme**
- **Launching one or several calls for proposal**



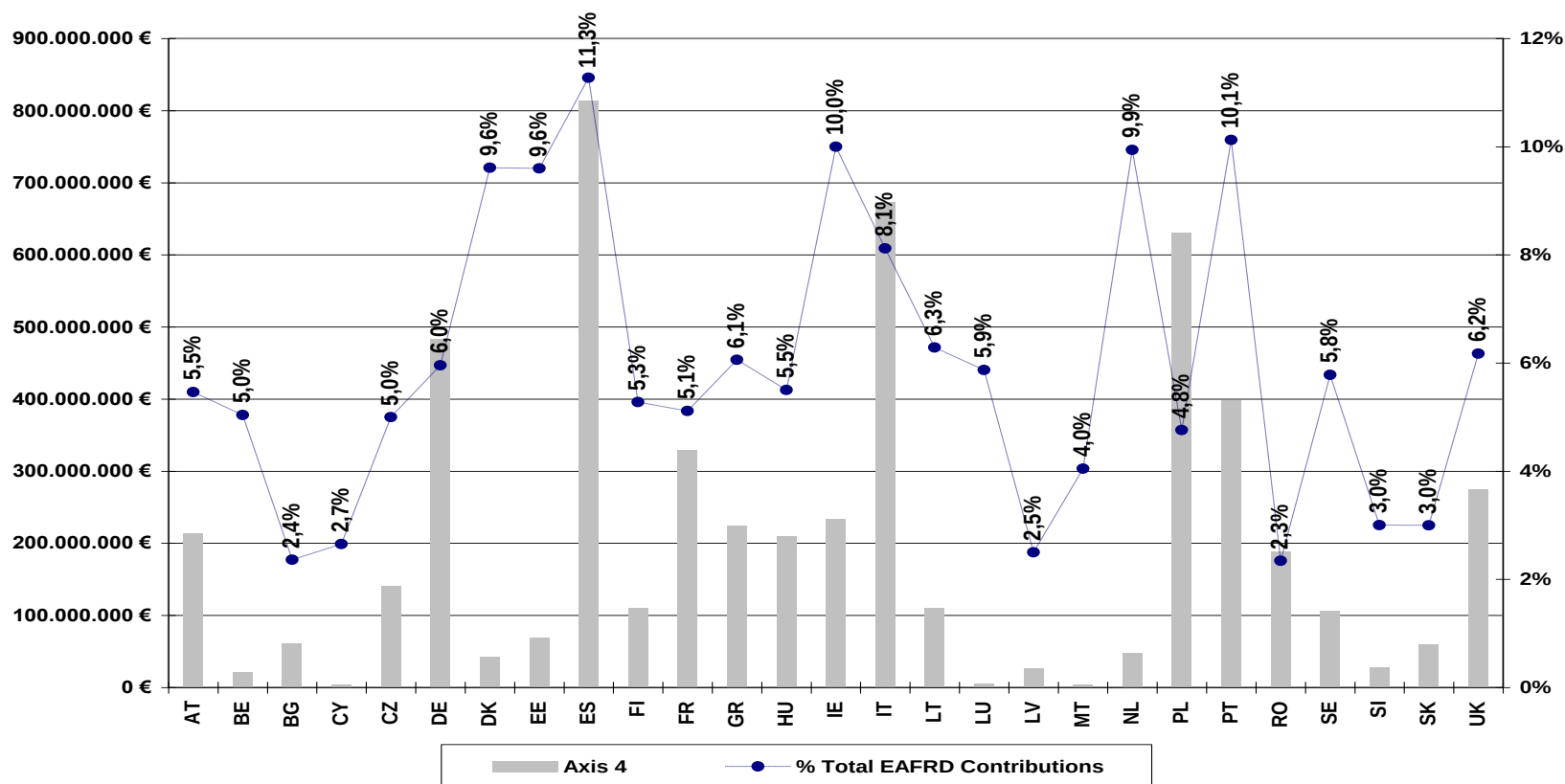
Aid commitment (Managing Authority → LAG)

Current administrative practices:

- **Grant agreement: with the LAG itself (if own legal entity)**
- **Confirmation of selection (notification)**



Total EAFRD contributions allocated to axis 4 by country (absolute value and share of total expenditure)





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Thank you for your attention !