

Evaluation criteria for Local action Groups and local rural development plans

I Criteria established for Leader LAGs

II Criteria established for local rural development programme

III Features of a good local rural development programme

I Criteria established for Leader LAGs:

- 1.** The operational area of the LAG must be defined in a clear and binding manner in the application. The area of the LAG does not necessarily have to follow administrative borders. Each area can only belong to one LAG.
- 2.** The definition of the area of the LAG must show the population of this area and state the reasons why it is appropriate for local action and involvement as well as indicate that the area has sufficient financial and human resources. The Leader measures must be targeted at rural areas. All municipalities or towns with less than 20,000 inhabitants are defined as rural areas in their entirety. As a general rule, the urban centre areas of municipalities or towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants are excluded from the definition.

I Criteria established for Leader LAGs

3. The LAG must be a competent actor (a registered association, etc.). All the actors of the area must have the opportunity to become LAG members (rules cannot exclude certain actors). There must be a sufficiently large and extensive number of members in the LAG. The members must include representatives of public administration, entrepreneurs, communities and local people.

4. The Board of the LAG must follow the tripartition principle. The following parties must have a balanced representation (each with a share of one-third) on the Board or the decision-making body of the LAG:

- 1) municipalities (local government)
- 2) communities (organisations, associations and large companies)
- 3) local people (individuals and small entrepreneurs).

The principles of tripartition and the regular terms of the Board members must be included in the rules and be visible in the composition of the Board at the time of application.



I Criteria established for Leader LAGs

- 5.** The LAG must show in its application how it will organise itself internally or acquire the sufficient economic and administrative skills through co-operation.

***II* Criteria established for local rural development programmes:**

- 1.** The local rural development programme must be prepared openly and extensively using the bottom-up principle. The programme or its annexes must describe the preparation process and the parties involved.
- 2.** The local programme must concentrate on rural development, creating conditions and new models to develop the area in question. The objective of the programme is to improve the quality of life and living conditions in rural areas and to increase social capital by developing the communities, etc. The objectives of the programme must clearly show its contribution to the emergence of new work and income opportunities.
- 3.** The local rural development programme must describe and analyse the current situation of the area. The activities planned in the programme must be broad-based and include activities from many different fields.



***II* Criteria established for local rural development programmes**

- 4.** The programme must include separate objectives for measures for women, men and young people and possibly include measures targeted at various population groups. The objectives and measures of the programme must follow the principles of sustainable development.
- 5.** The programme or its annexes must have a clear description of how co-operation, co-ordination and complementarity with the other actors and programmes of the area have been arranged.
- 6.** The exchange of expertise and the division of duties in business financing must clearly be agreed upon with municipalities, regional business service centres or business associations at the regional level.

***II* Criteria established for local rural development programmes**

- 7.** The application must include an estimate of the total need for public funding and of the amount of private funding. The programme or its annexes should include an estimate of those measures in the rural development programme for continental Finland which funding is being applied for.
- 8.** The municipalities of the area must commit themselves to contributing 20% of the public funding received by the LAG from the rural development programme for continental Finland, except for Axis 2, which does not use municipal funding. The municipalities must commit themselves to funding according to the annual one-time payment principle ("lump sum").

III Features of a good local rural development programme

- The programme has a clear and logical strategy. The experiences of the LAG obtained from implementing the development programmes in previous programming periods have also been analysed and the result of these analyses have been considered when planning the strategy and priorities of the programme. The programme is coherent and has a "sense of purpose" to it, building on the strengths of the area and finding solutions to its weaknesses.
- The programme is feasible and realistic and includes ideas or solutions that are clearly new to develop the area. The programme shows how these new solutions, ideas or practices are brought within the reach of rural actors

***III* Features of a good local rural development programme**

- The programme clearly describes co-operation with various parties (Regional Councils, key organisations in the area, municipalities, sub-regional units, etc.). The LAG has developed co-operation with several parties. Its role towards the other actors of the area is clear and functional.
- The programme includes a plan on how to activate and involve the inhabitants of the area and the various population groups and actors in developing their own area when implementing the programme.
- If the programme involves transnational and inter-territorial co-operation, these must have clear and reasonable objectives.
- The LAG has clear indicators to monitor the attainment of objectives and a plan for the practical implementation of the programme.

III Features of a good local rural development programme

- The programme has a broad selection of activities from the various axes of the rural programme for continental Finland.
- The LAG has negotiated other funding for the implementation of the programme or for its activities in addition to that from the rural development programme, such as funding from other Structural Funds.

Example of LAG's indicators

	Result 2000-06	Target 2007-13
<u>Hard indicators</u>		
Number of new jobs generated	53	75
Number of jobs maintained	26	50
Number of jobs within the projects	25	30
New investments, millions of €	5,6	10,0
Increase of turnover in focused companies, millions of €	0,4	1,0
Number of new inhabitants moved to the region	480	1 000
Increase in number of tourists	55 000	100 000
Articles in local media	605	700
Articles in regional and national media	95	150
<u>Soft indicators</u>		
Number of participants in the projects	2 200	3 000
Number of trained persons in the projects	5 500	7 500
Number of partner organisations in the projects	720	1 000
Number of new companies	7	20
Number of new associations	8	20
Number of new services or products	90	100
Number of new village developments plans	37	50
Number of new quality management plans	15	30
Number of new community buildings	36	30
Number of maintained community buildings	40	30
Number of environmental actions	60	60