



LEADER intervention in CAP post 2023

Legislation update

Iwona Lisztwan
European Commission
Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit
B3



Relevant legal references

- Regulation (EP/Council) nr **1060/2021** of 24 June 2021 on common provisions for the funds (especially Art. 31-34)
- Regulation (EP/Council) nr **2115/2021** of 2 December 2021 on CAP Strategic Plan
- Commission's implementing regulation nr **2289/2021** of 21 December 2021 on CAP Plan content

Other context:

- *On going Court of Auditor's major audit on LEADER (advanced stage) looking especially at the added value of LEADER (compared with non LEADER delivery)*
- *Ongoing discussion on draft Commission's implementing regulation on evaluation of CAP Plan*

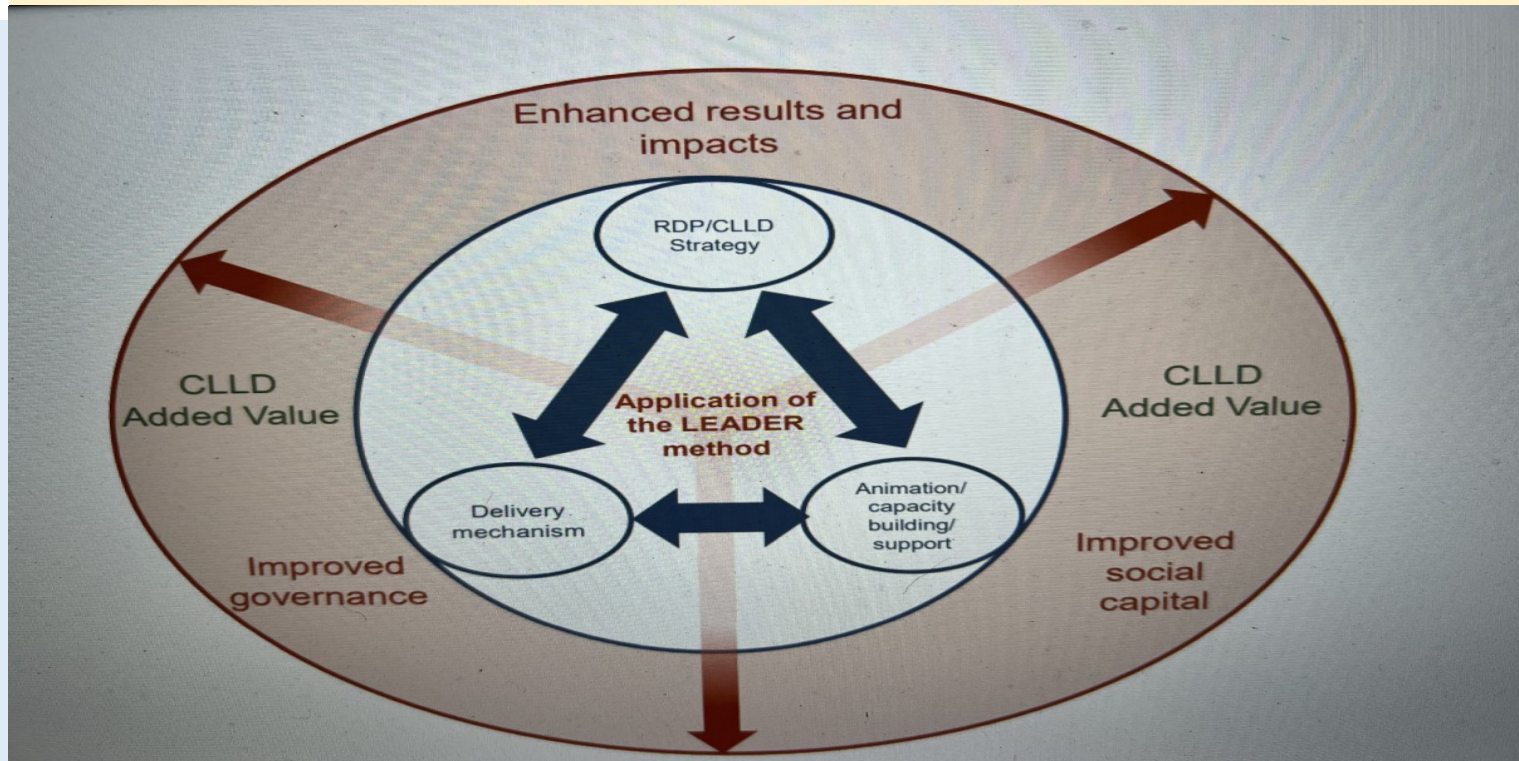
Each principle of the **LEADER method** for each LAG

- focused on **subregional** areas;
- **led by local action groups** composed of representatives of public and private local socioeconomic interests, in which no single interest group controls the decision-making; inclusive (Art. 33. 2)
- carried out through **strategies**;
- supportive of **networking**, accessibility, **innovative features in the local context** and, where appropriate, **cooperation** with other territorial actors

(art 31 of Regulation 1060/2021)



Added value of LEADER approach



*Guidelines: Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD, EU Rural Development Evaluation Network (2017)

*Requested in CAP Plan content regulation and currently also proposed in the draft Commission's regulation on evaluation of CAP Plan
Central point of the on-going audit on LEADER by the Court of Auditors



Some (other) practical considerations in the CAP Plans

- Scope of operations under Local Development Strategies: **sufficiently open to allow for bottom up approach, yet ensuring the added value;**
- **Placed in the strategic context of each CAP Plan**, linked to the needs, intervention logic, complementary CAP interventions and non-CAP measures – mostly relevant to CAP Specific objective 8.



Exclusive functions of LAGs

- **building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations;**
- drawing up a non-discriminatory and transparent **selection procedure and criteria**, which avoids conflicts of interest and ensures that no single interest group controls selection decisions;
- preparing and publishing **calls for proposals;**
- **selecting operations** and fixing the amount of support and presenting the proposals to the body responsible for final verification of eligibility before approval;
- **monitoring** progress towards the achievement of objectives of the strategy;
- **evaluating** the implementation of the strategy

Mindful: if more functions, there needs to a formal delegation to LAG as intermediate body (and appropriate resources) – they should not be performed at the expense of core functions (especially animation)

Reg 1060/2021, Art 33, point 3)



Performance indicators

Output indicator: number of Local Development Strategies prepared or implemented

Result indicator: share of rural population covered by Local Development Strategy

Other result indicators: choose a few most relevant once and add after the selection of Local Development Strategies (bottom up)

Average cost of output – maximum average cost of output



Other technical aspects

Aid intensities

Budgets

Simplification inc. use of simplified cost options

Use of multi-funded CLLDs, including Lead fund option

State aid aspects

WTO compliance

