



European Network for
Rural Development

LEADER LAG Survey 2017

Working Paper

Findings at Member State level

Member State: Sweden

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Introduction

The ENRD Contact Point (ENRD CP) launched a survey of LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) in November 2017 to explore on the ground experiences of implementing LEADER from the LAG perspective. Drawing on the ENRD LAG database over 2,200 LAGs were contacted and 710 confidential responses were received from 27 EU Member States making this the largest and most comprehensive LEADER survey conducted. LAGs from 19 national and 70 regional Rural Development Programme (RDP) 'territories' responded. Germany, France, Spain, Czech Republic and Austria provided over 50% of the total responses.

The online survey included 38 questions in four sections and the questionnaire was provided in six languages. Each section addressed several key themes. The main chapters of this report follow the structure of the questionnaire and are as follows:

1. Basic LAG data.
2. LEADER principles.
3. LEADER operation.
4. LEADER improvements.

This working paper has been prepared by the ENRD Contact Point and its content does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission. The order of results presented for each question is consistent with the ranking from [the EU level report](#) to enable direct comparison. Please note that this report **does not present a comparative analysis** but where clear and significant differences are evident between the Member State LAG responses and the overall survey sample these have been highlighted.

In this paper all references to LAGs relate specifically to those LAGs who responded to the survey.

Explanatory points

The questionnaire used a multiple choice format allowing respondents to choose the answers most appropriate to their LAG's circumstances. The text of some questions has been simplified in the charts that follow. The full text of each question and all possible answers are listed in the sections below.

The total number of responses for each question is recorded individually as response levels varied between questions throughout the survey.

Questions three, five and six of the original questionnaire are not relevant for this paper being primarily for survey management and have been omitted. Where necessary a limited level of data cleaning has been undertaken to ensure consistency and correct obvious errors.

Please note that there is a degree of variation in the number of responses by RDP and question. Where relevant this should be taken into account when considering or interpreting the wider implications of the findings for some questions. It is not possible to reflect regional RDP differences e.g. the date of RDP approval although this may explain some of the variations within regionalised Member State responses. For example, the date of RDP approval will influence the timing of LAG selection and approval and subsequent LAG actions.

Basic Implementation Data

Question 1

Please select your country

- Sweden (SE)
- 9 LAGs responded, representing 1.3% of total LAG responses
- 20% of Swedish LAGs responded to the survey

Total Number of Responses 9

Question 2

Please select your Rural Development Programme (RDP)

- SE has one National RDP.

Total Number of Responses 9

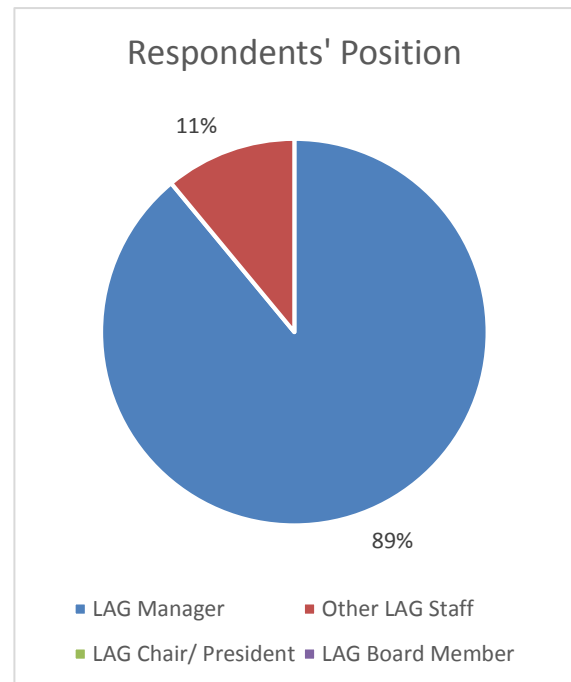
Question 4

Respondents were asked to identify which position they held within the LAG.

- LAG Manager
- Other LAG staff
- LAG Chair /President
- LAG Board Member

Total Number of Responses 9

- The responses from Sweden had a larger percentage of LAG Manager respondents in comparison with the overall EU sample (89% vs 72%).
- There were no responses Swedish from LAG Chair/Presidents or LAG Board Members.



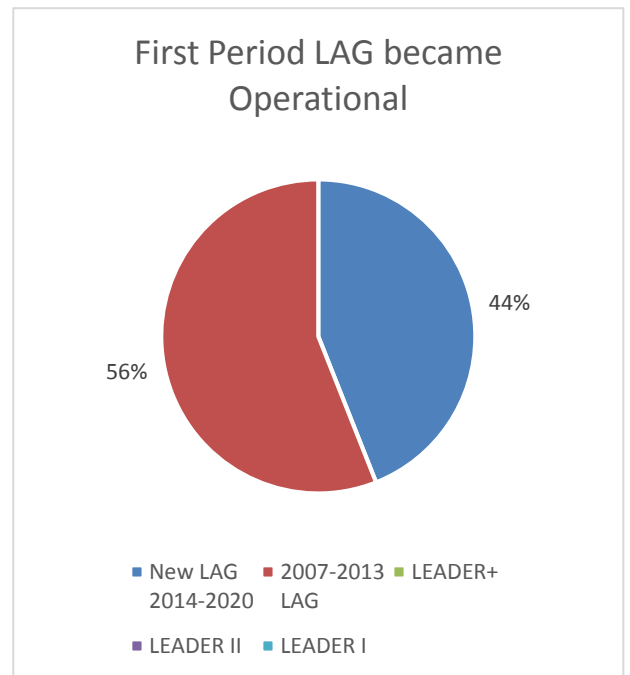
Question 7

In which period did your LAG first begin its operation? Please select the option that applies to you. (i.e. point from where there is a significant degree of continuity in membership or territory)

- Newly established LAG (2014-2020 Programming Period)
- 2007-2013 Programming Period
- LEADER+
- LEADER II
- LEADER I

Total Number of Responses 9

- In the Swedish sample, a higher proportion were LAGs who were Newly established LAGs (44% vs 22%) than was the case in the EU sample. They also had a larger share who originated from the 2007-2013 Programming period (56% vs 34%).
- There were no LAGs who originated in the LEADER +, LEADER II or LEADER I period, in comparison with 44% in the EU sample.

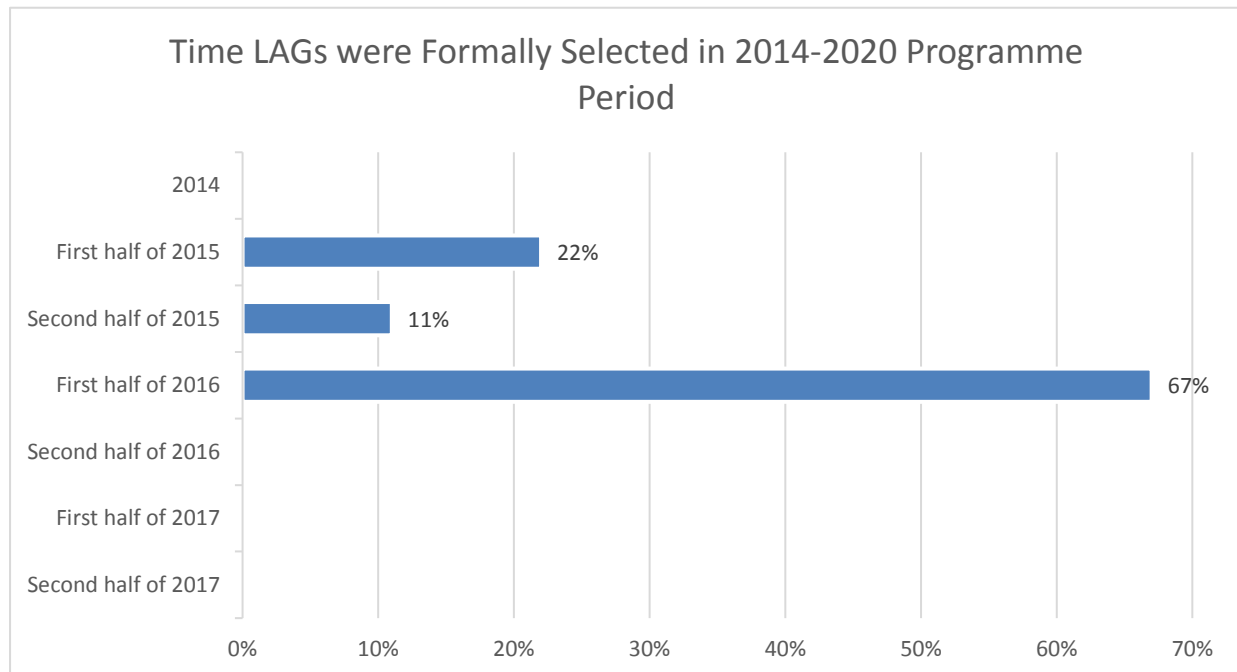


Question 8

When was your LAG formally selected in this (2014-2020) Programming Period?

- 2014
- First half of 2015 (Jan - June)
- Second half of 2015 (July – December)
- First half of 2016
- Second half of 2016
- First half of 2017
- Second half of 2017

Total Number of Responses 9



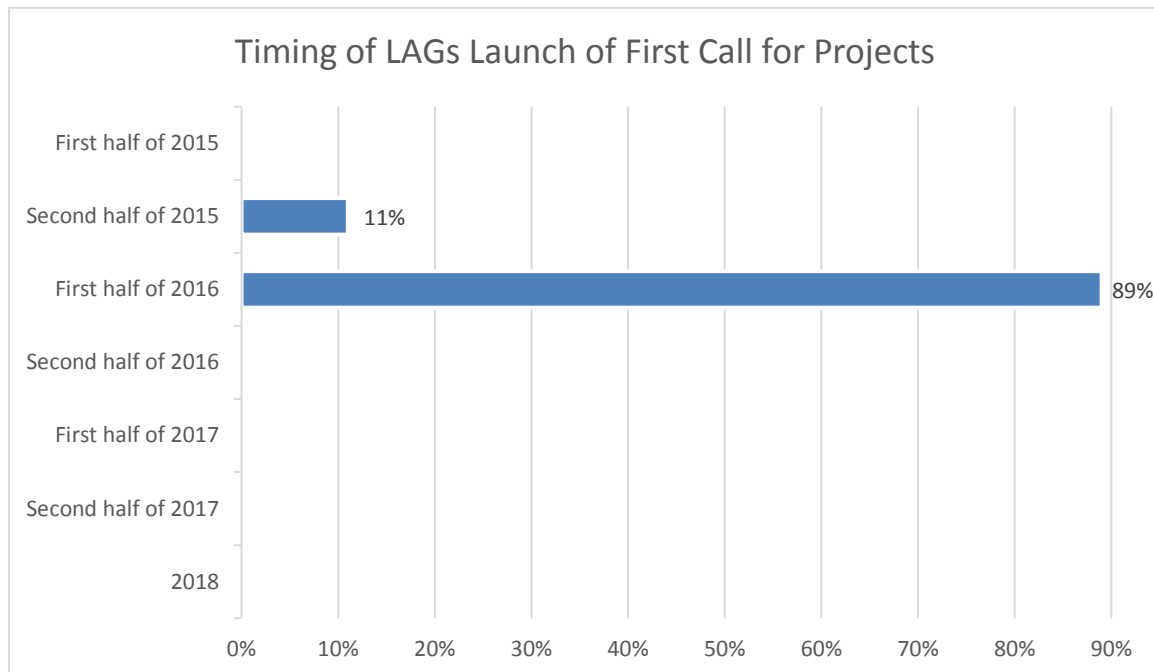
- By the end of 2015, 33% of responding LAGs from Sweden were formally selected, in comparison to 59% of the EU sample.
- The remaining responding Swedish LAGs (67%) were formally selected by the end of the first half of 2016, in contrast to only 14% at the EU level. At this point 27% of EU LAGs had yet to be selected.

Question 9

When did / will your LAG first launch a call for projects?

- First half of 2015
- Second half of 2015
- First half of 2016
- Second half of 2016
- First half of 2017
- Second half of 2017
- 2018

Total Number of Responses 9



- Only 11% of the responding LAGs in Sweden, had their first call of projects in 2015 in comparison to 32% of the EU sample.
- The remaining 89% of Swedish LAGs who responded had launched their first call by the end of the first half of 2016 in comparison with 19% of the overall sample. At this point all Swedish LAGs had launched a call vs 51% of the wider sample.

LAG Funding

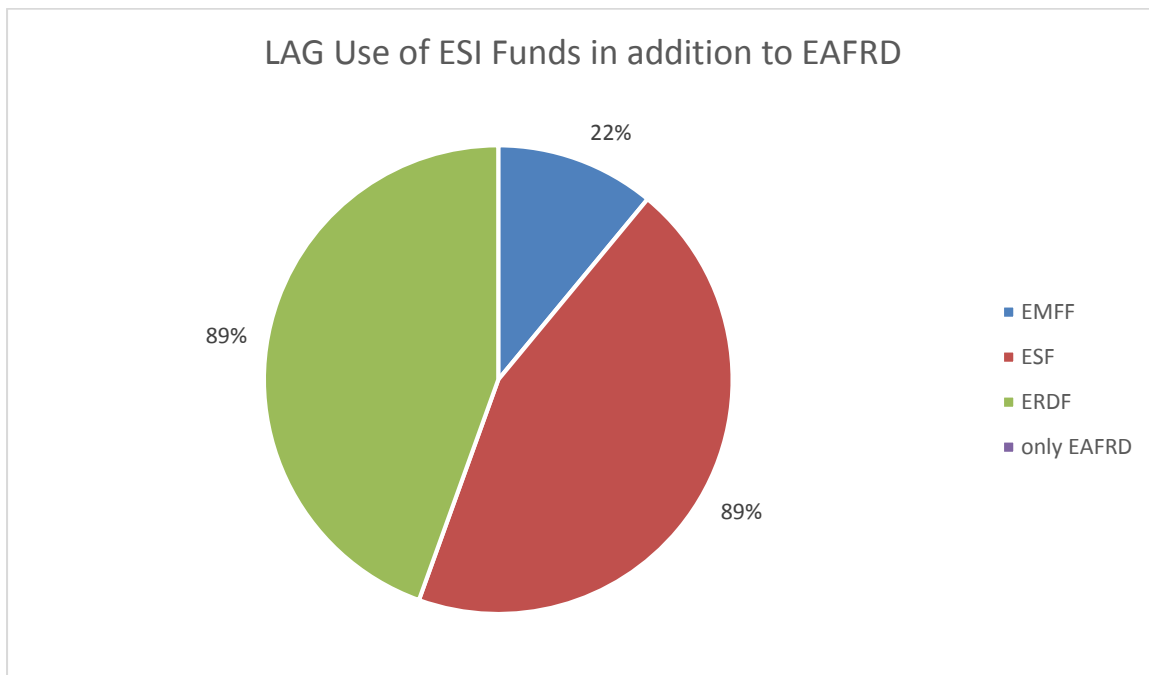
Question 10

Please select all the European Structural and Investment Funds that your LAG uses to financing your Local Development Strategy (in addition to EAFRD).

- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- None of the above (only EAFRD)

It should be noted that the percentages sum up to more than 100% reflecting LAGs use of multiple funds.

Total Number of Responses 9



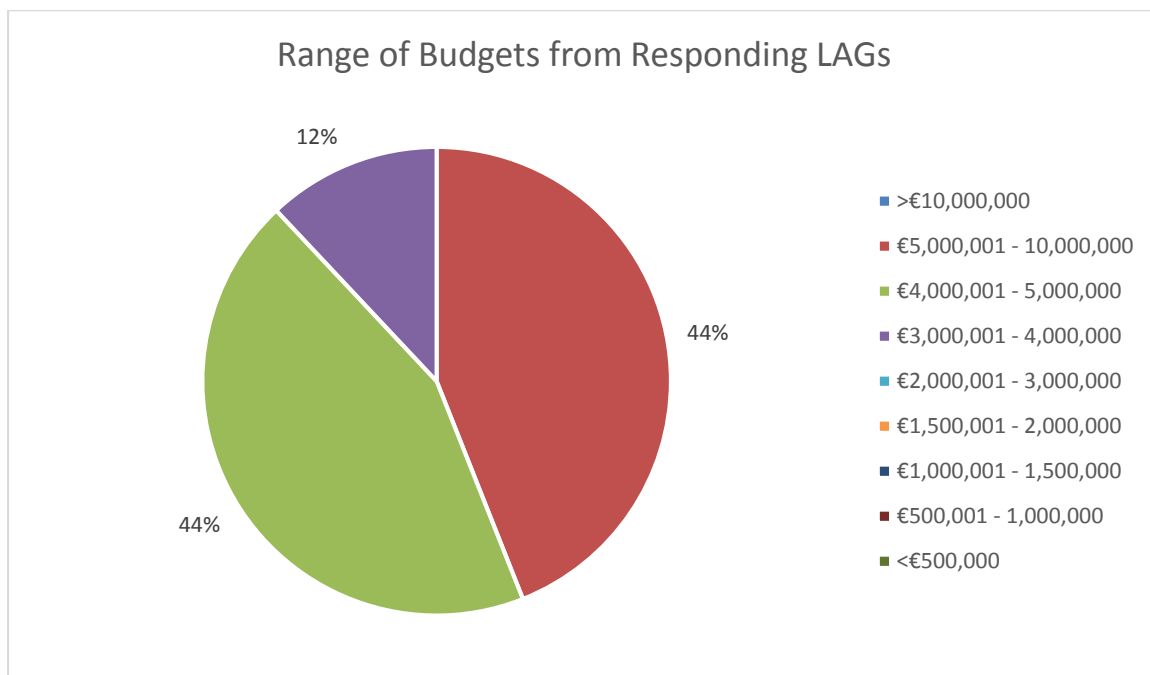
- None of the Swedish LAGs who responded reported using 'only EAFRD' in comparison to 67% of the EU sample.
- In contrast, the use of ERDF and ESF funds are much higher in responding Swedish LAGs than the EU sample. For ERDF it is 89% vs 25% and for ESF it is 89% vs 16%.

Question 11

What is your LAG budget (total public expenditure Euro, i.e. EAFRD plus all other EU and domestic public funds) for the 2014-2020 Programming Period? Please provide your best estimate if data are not available.

- < €500,000
- €500,001 – 1,000,000
- €1,000,001 – 1,500,000
- €1,500,001 – 2,000,000
- €2,000,001 – 3,000,000
- €3,000,001 – 4,000,000
- €4,000,001- 5,000,000
- €5,000,001 – 10,000,000
- >€10,000,000

Total Number of Responses 9



- 100% of Swedish respondents have budgets over €3m in comparison to 49% of LAGs from the EU sample, 88% have budgets over €4m vs 29% of the wider sample.
- No responding Swedish LAGs had budgets in excess of €10m.

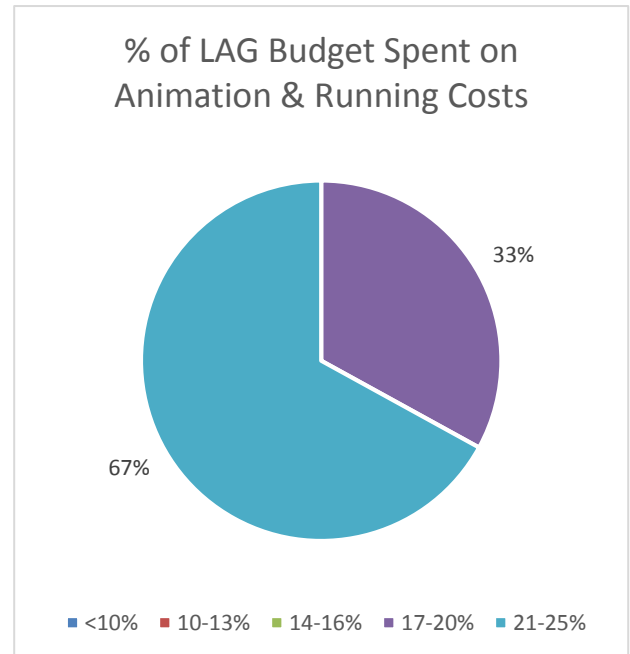
Question 12

What % of this total LAG budget is allocated to running costs and animation?

- < 10%
- 10 – 13%
- 14 – 16%
- 17 – 20%
- 21 -25%

Total Number of Responses 9

- Responding Swedish LAGs allocated more to animation and running costs than the EU sample, with no LAGs using less than 17%-20%, in comparison to 36% of the EU sample.
- More of the responding Swedish LAGs spent 21-25% of their budget on animation and running costs than the EU sample (67% vs 31%).



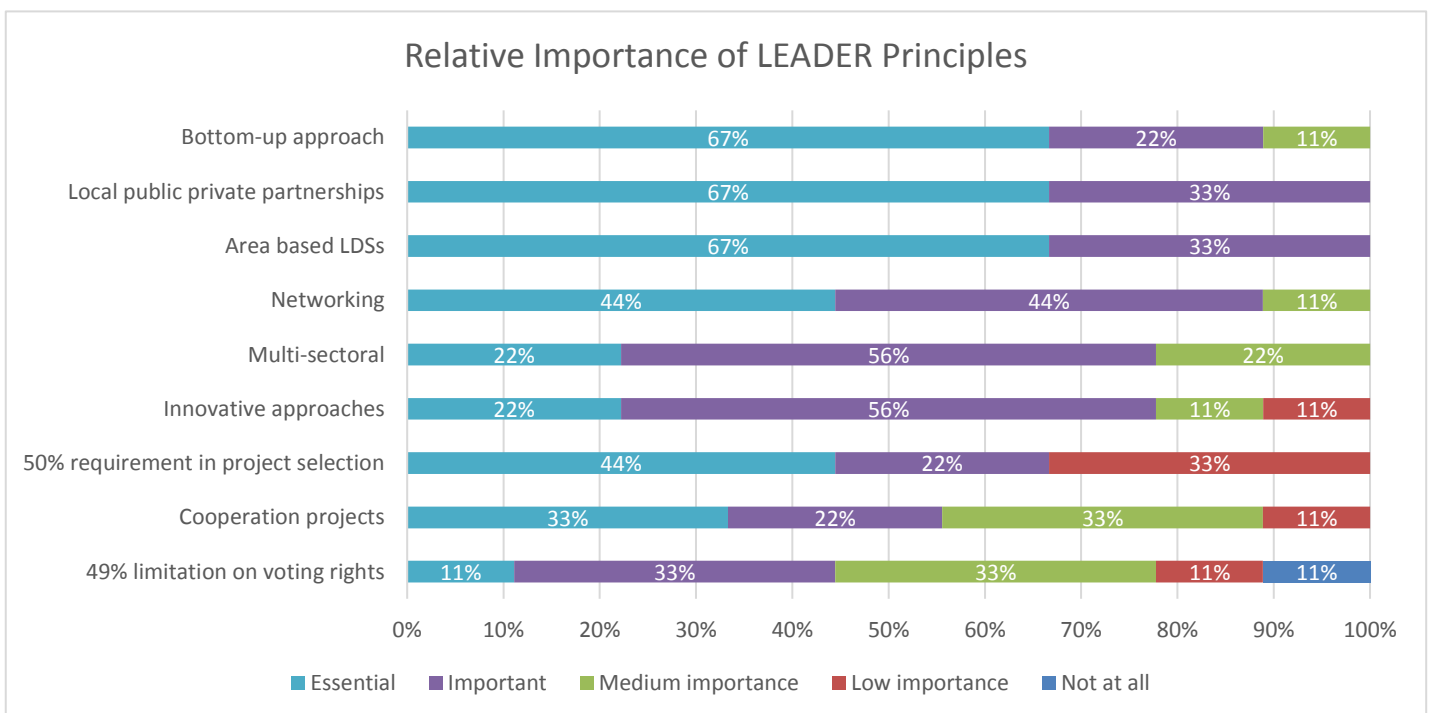
LEADER Principles

Question 13

How important are each of the following LEADER principles for your LAG in delivering real benefits on the ground? (Please rate each option from 1= not at all to 5 = essential).

- Area-based local development strategies intended for well-identified sub-regional rural territories.
- Local public-private partnerships (local action groups).
- Bottom-up approach with decision-making power for local action groups concerning the elaboration and implementation of local development strategies.
- The 49% limitation on voting rights of any single interest group.
- The 50% requirement for non-public sector votes in project selection.
- Multi-sectoral design and implementation of the strategy based on interaction between actors and projects of different sectors of the local economy.
- Implementation of innovative approaches.
- Implementation of cooperation projects.
- Networking of local partnerships.

Total Number of Responses 9



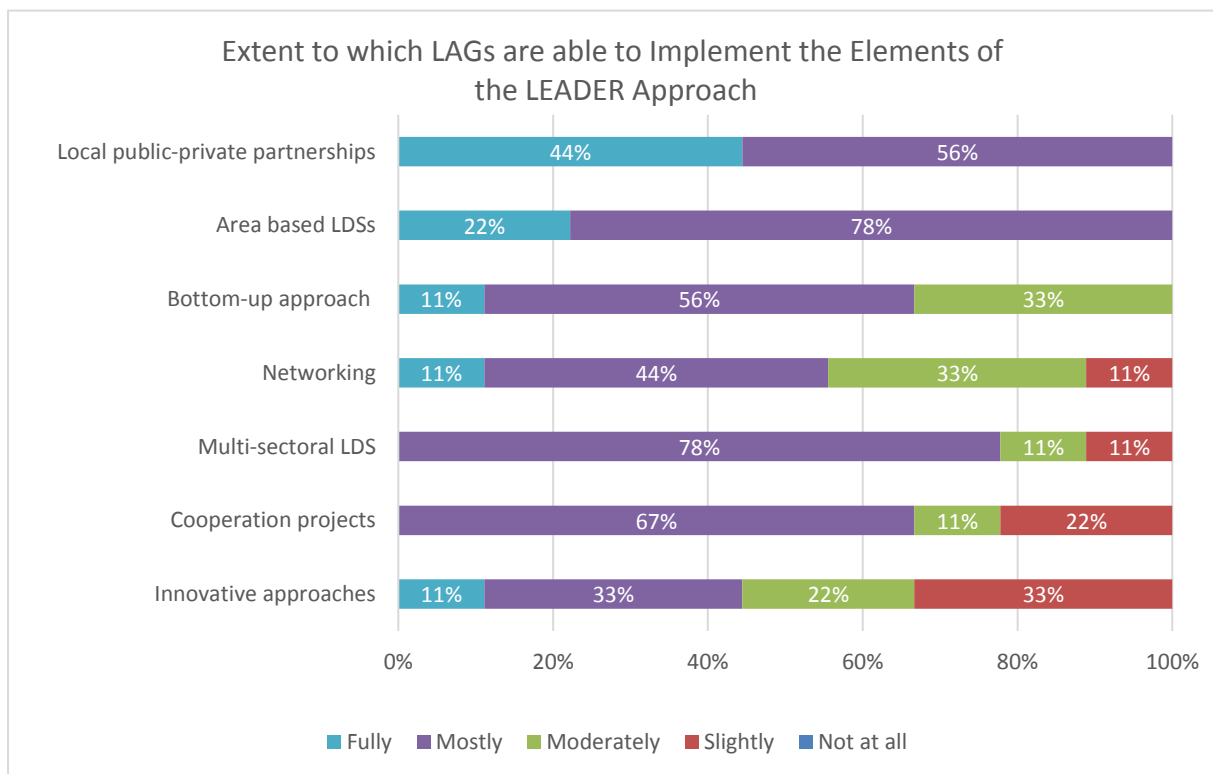
- The pattern of Swedish and EU response was very similar but with slightly higher essential and important ratings overall. Local public partnerships and area based LDSs were seen as essential or important by 100% of responding LAGs in Sweden, compared to the EU sample, 86% and 85% respectively.

Question 14

To what extent is your LAG able to implement the following elements of the LEADER approach? (please rate each option from 1-5, where 1= not at all, 5 = fully)

- Area-based local development strategies intended for well-identified sub-regional rural territories.
- Local public-private partnerships (local action groups).
- Bottom-up approach with decision-making power for local action groups concerning the elaboration and implementation of local development strategies.
- Multi-sectoral design and implementation of the strategy based on interaction between actors and projects of different sectors of the local economy.
- Implementation of innovative approaches.
- Implementation of cooperation projects.
- Networking of local partnerships.

Total Number of Responses 9



- In general, responding Swedish LAGs reported being able to fully implement the elements of the LEADER approach less than the EU sample but when fully and mostly scores are summed the levels are higher in the main.
- No responding Swedish LAGs reported that they could fully implement multi-sectoral LDSs or cooperation projects, compared to 29% and 27% respectively, in the EU sample. When fully and mostly scores are added the comparisons are 78% vs 69% and 67% vs 58% respectively.

- 100% of responding Swedish LAGs reported that they could implement local public private partnerships and area based LDSs fully or mostly, compared to 87% and 83% of LAGs in the EU sample.

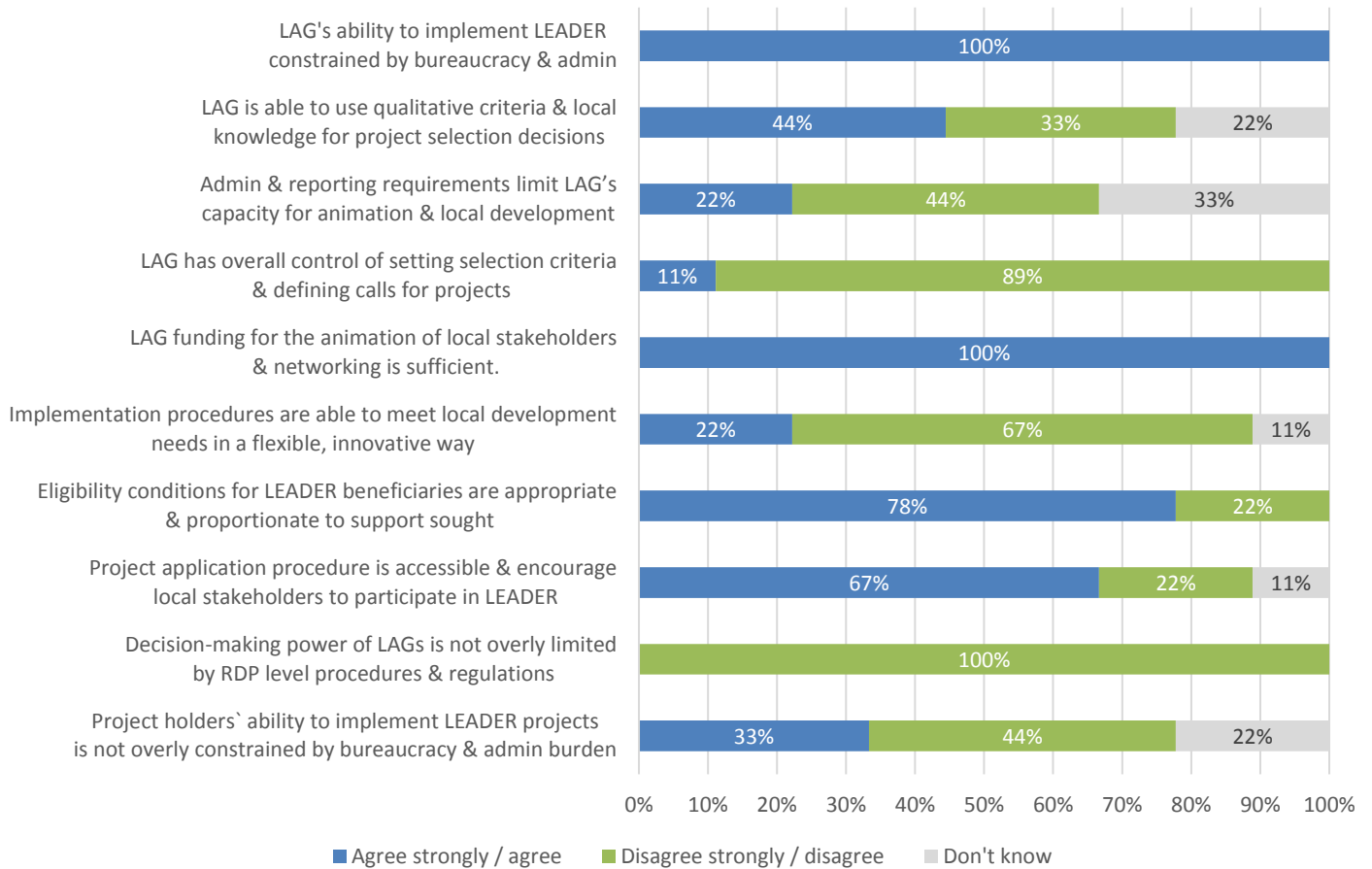
Question 15

Please consider the statements below and for each statement select the option that best reflects your practical experience from this scale: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = disagree, 3 = don't know, 4 = agree, 5 = agree strongly.

- LEADER implementation procedures are able to meet local development needs in a flexible, innovative way.
- The project application procedure is designed to be accessible and encourage local stakeholders to participate in LEADER.
- The LAG has overall control of setting selection criteria and defining calls for projects.
- The LAG is able to use qualitative criteria and local knowledge to inform project selection decisions.
- The decision-making power of LAGs is not overly limited by Rural Development Programme (RDP) level procedures and regulations.
- Your LAG's ability to implement the LEADER approach is constrained by bureaucracy and administrative burden.
- Project holders' ability to implement LEADER projects is not overly constrained by the level of bureaucracy and administrative burden.
- Eligibility conditions for LEADER beneficiaries are appropriate and proportionate to the amount of support sought.
- LAG funding for the animation of local stakeholders and networking is sufficient.
- Administrative and reporting requirements limit your LAG's capacity for animation and other development oriented activities.

Total Number of Responses 9

Aspects of LEADER Implementation as seen by Local Action Groups



- The responses from the Swedish LAGs were quite different from the EU sample in many areas.
- 100% of the LAGs agreed/strongly agreed that the LAG's ability to implement LEADER was constrained by bureaucracy & admin and that LAG funding for animation of local stakeholders was sufficient, in comparison to 84% and 54% respectively in the EU sample.
- Only 22% of Swedish LAGs who responded agreed / agreed strongly that admin and reporting requirements limit LAG capacity for animation and local development vs 69% of the wider sample.
- 100% of responding Swedish LAGs disagree strongly/disagreed with the statement that the decision-making power of LAGs is not overly limited by RDP level procedure & regulation compared to 62% in the EU sample.
- 89% of responding Swedish LAGs disagree strongly/disagreed that the LAG has overall control of setting selection criteria & defining calls for projects, compared to 30% in the EU sample.

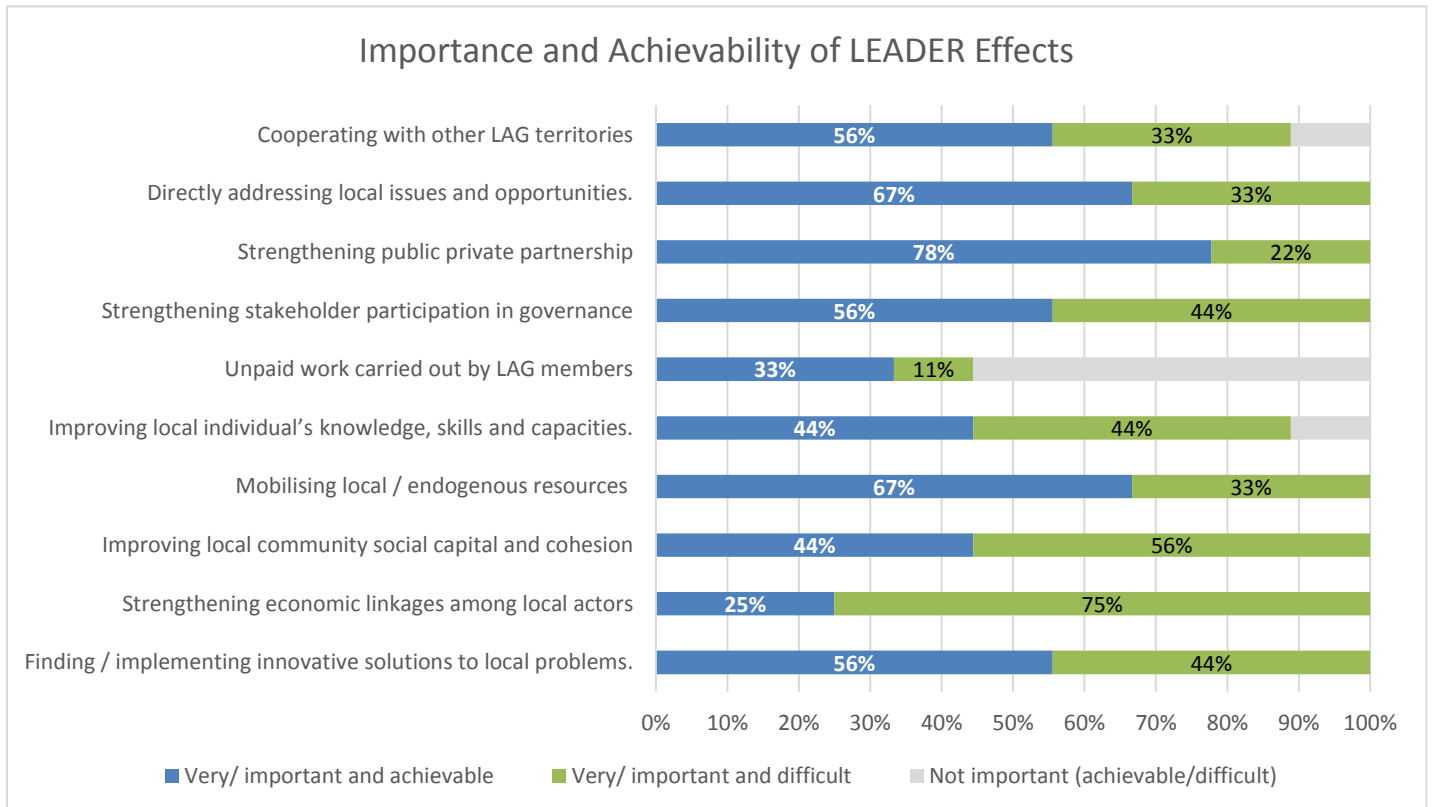
Question 16

The LEADER approach can deliver qualitative local effects which are distinctive from those of other rural development activities. The importance of these effects and how easy they are to achieve may vary by LAG.

Please rank how important and how achievable each of the possible effects is for your LAG according to the following scale. 1= Very important and achievable, 2 = Very important and difficult, 3 = Important and achievable, 4 = Important and difficult, 5 = Not important but achievable, 6= Not important and difficult.

- Directly addressing local issues and opportunities.
- Strengthening stakeholder participation in local partnership and its governance.
- Strengthening economic linkages among local actors.
- Strengthening public private partnership.
- Unpaid work carried out by LAG members.
- Mobilising local / endogenous resources (human, physical, financial).
- Improving local community social capital and cohesion.
- Improving local individual's knowledge, skills and capacities.
- Finding / implementing innovative solutions to local problems.
- Cooperating with other LAG territories.

Total Number of Responses 9



- In comparison to the EU sample, generally a greater share of Swedish respondents considered the LEADER effects as 'very/important and achievable, therefore more achievable, e.g. 56% of responding Swedish LAGs said that finding innovative solutions to local problems was very / important and achievable as opposed to 33% of the overall sample.
- The exception to this was that 75% of responding Swedish LAGs found strengthening economic linkages among local actors very/important and difficult compared to 56% of the EU sample.
- A large proportion, 56% think unpaid work carried out by LAG members is unimportant vs 14% of the wider sample.

LEADER Operation

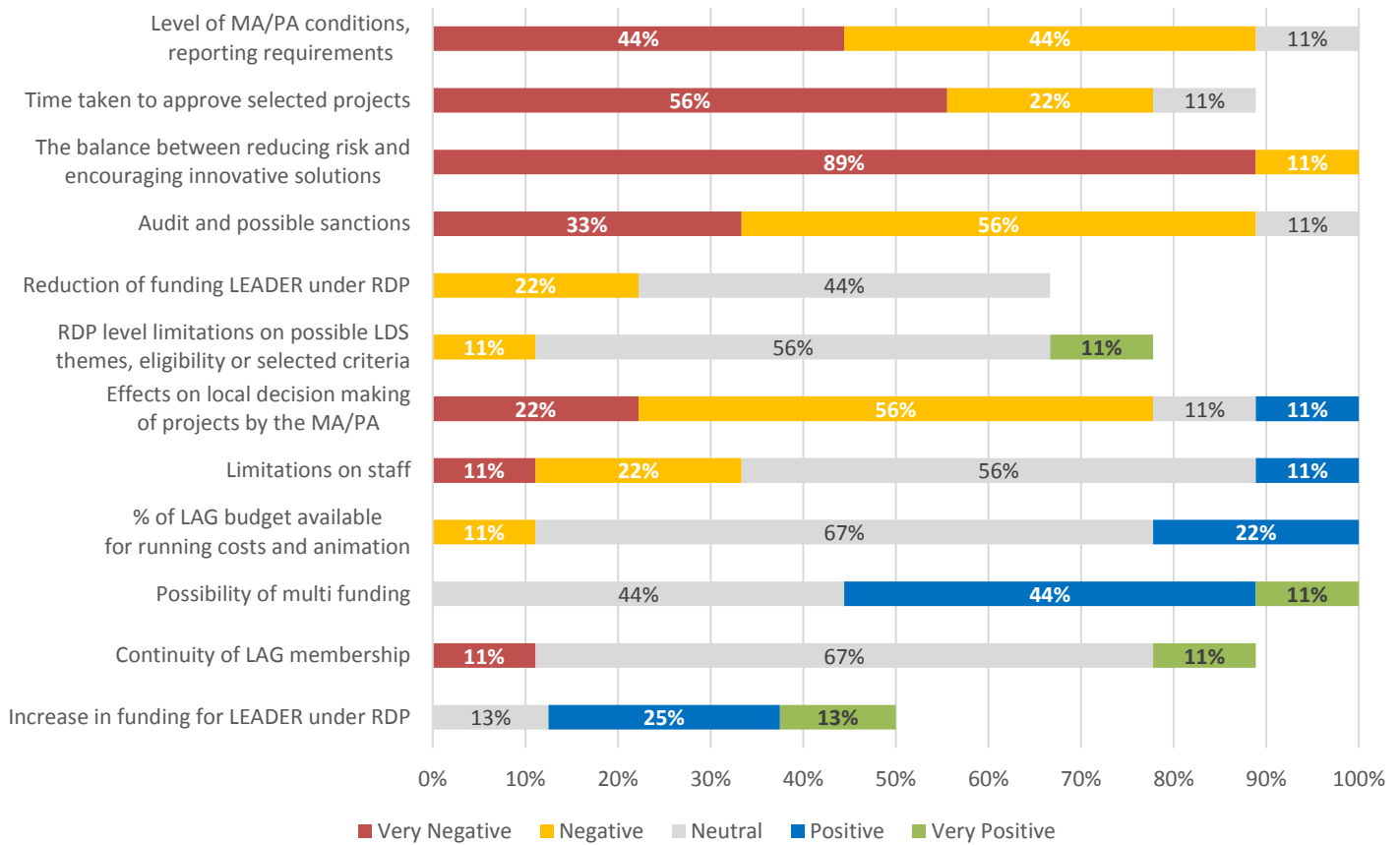
Question 17

What level of effect have the following factors had on the implementation of LEADER in your LAG territory? (for each option enter either 0 = not applicable, 1 = very negative, 2 = negative, 3 = neutral, 4 = positive, 5 = very positive)

- Reduction of funding for LEADER under the RDP.
- Increase in funding for LEADER under the RDP.
- RDP level limitations on possible Local Development Strategy themes, eligibility or selection criteria.
- Level of Managing Authority/Paying Agency conditions, reporting requirements.
- Time taken to approve selected projects.
- Audit and possible sanctions.
- The balance in implementation procedures effects between reducing risk and encouraging innovative solutions.
- Effects on local decision-making of final approval of projects by the managing authority or paying agency.
- Percentage of LAG budget available for running costs and animation.
- Limitations on staff (continuity, skills, number).
- Continuity of LAG membership.
- Possibility of multi funding.

Total Number of Responses 9

Level of Effects on LEADER Implementation



For the purposes of improving the clarity of the analysis the 'not applicable' responses have been removed from the chart.

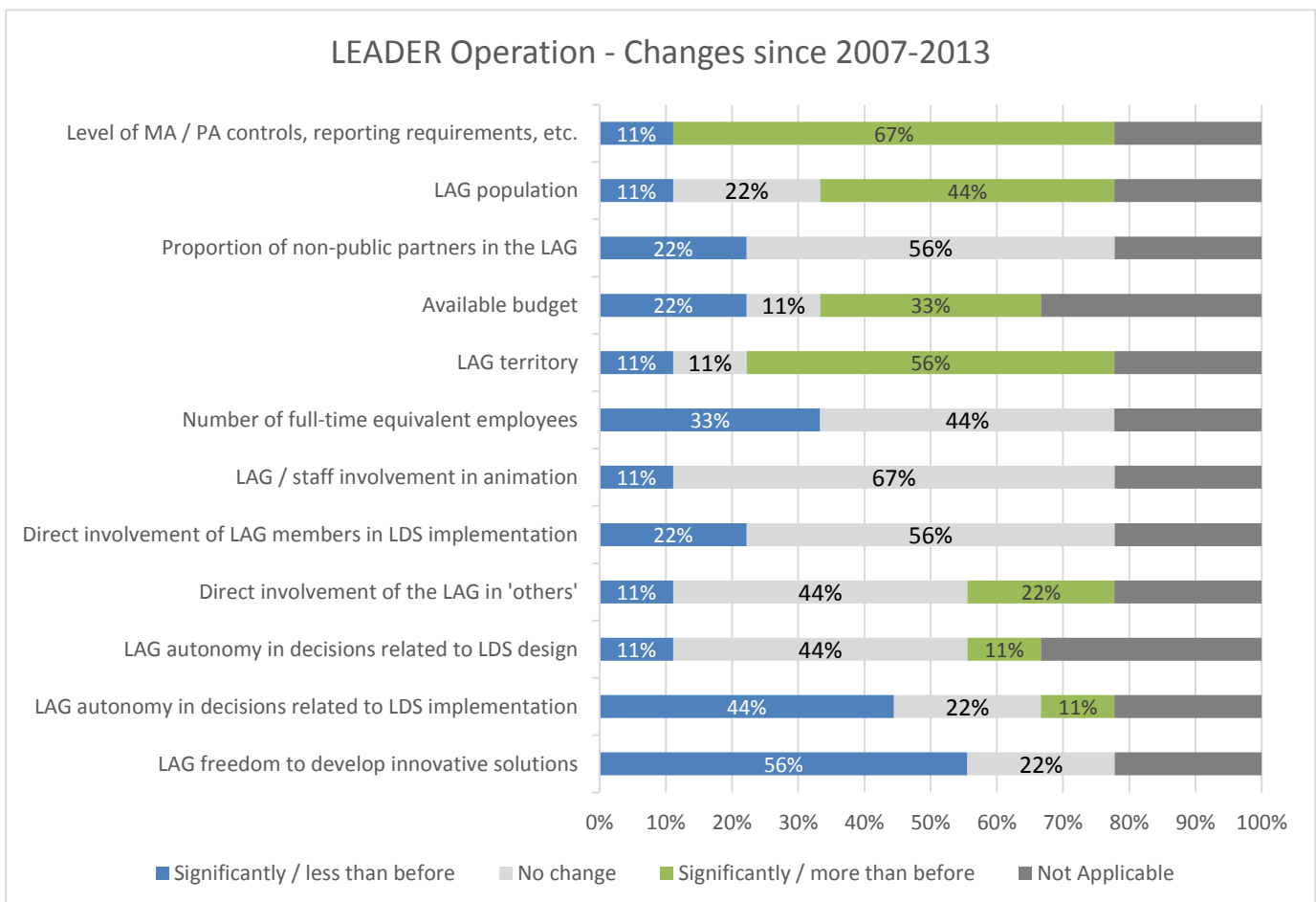
- The responses from the Swedish LAGs were quite different to the EU sample. Where their response very negative this tended to be higher than the EU average.
- For example. 89% of responding Swedish LAGs replied that the balance in implementation procedures effects between reducing risk and encouraging innovative solutions was very negative, compared to 34% in the EU sample.
- 78% of Swedish respondents are negative / very negative re the effects on local decision making of the MA / PA vs 45% overall.
- 89% of responding Swedish LAGs thought that audit and possible sanctions were negative or very negative, compared to 56% of the EU sample.
- 55% of responding Swedish LAGs were positive or very positive about the possibility of multi funding, compare to 38% in the EU sample. They were also less negative about the effects of funding reductions or running cost and animation budget.

Question 18

How have the following aspects changed for your LAG between the 2007 – 2013 and 2014-2020 Programming periods? (1 = significantly less than before, 2 = less than before, 3 = no change, 4 = more than before, 5 = significantly more than before) (routed for only those LAGs previously operational)

- Available budget.
- LAG territory.
- LAG population.
- Number of full-time equivalent employees.
- LAG / staff involvement in animation.
- LAG autonomy in decisions related to local development strategy design.
- LAG autonomy in decisions related to local development strategy implementation.
- Level of MA controls, reporting requirements etc.
- LAG freedom to develop innovative solutions.
- Proportion of non-public partners in the LAG.
- Direct involvement of LAG members in LDS implementation.
- Direct involvement of the LAG in other regional and territorial development actions or structures.

Total Number of Responses 9



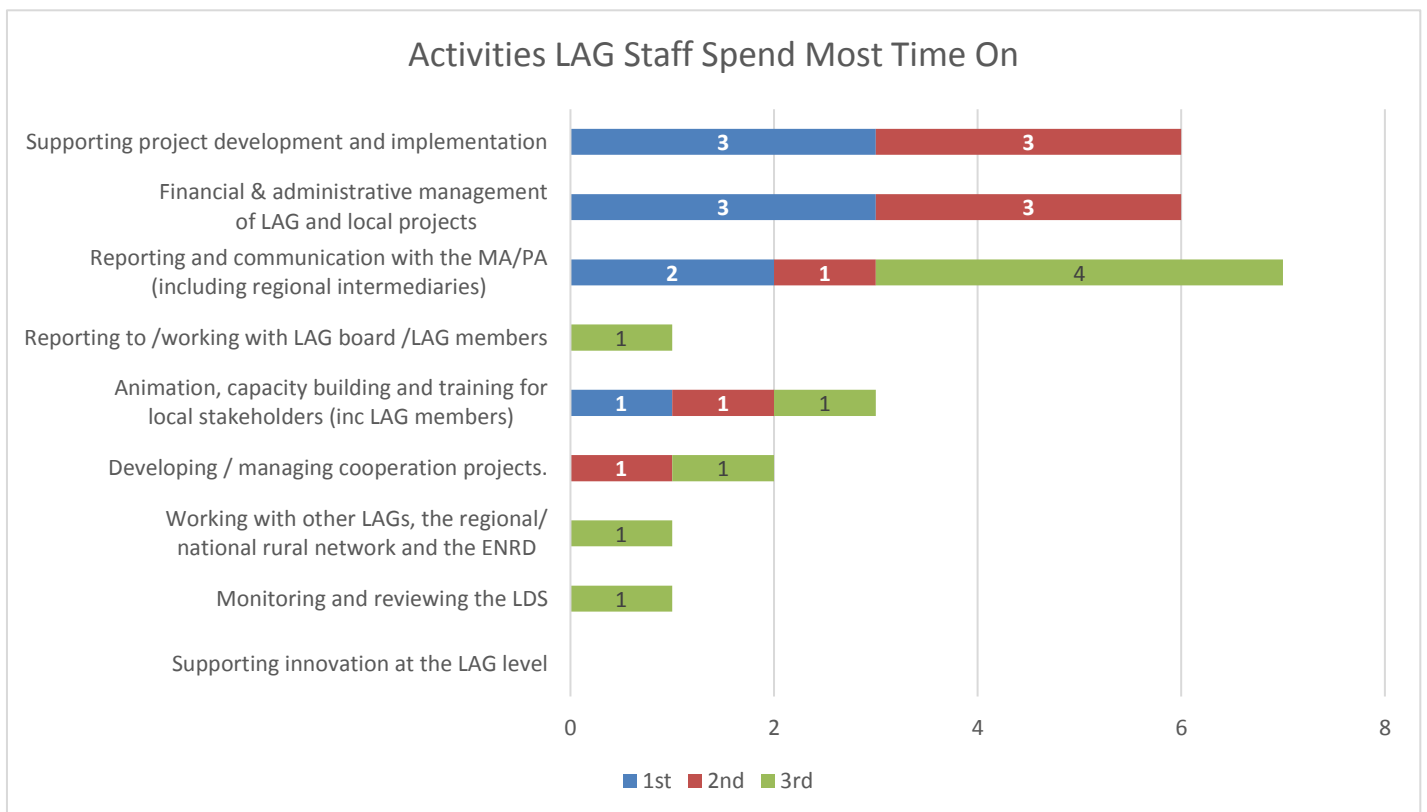
- The Swedish respondents' answers in respect of operations that were significantly/less than before were broadly similar to the EU sample. A significant exception is the level of LAG budget with a 22% significantly / less than before rating in Sweden and 43% overall.
- No Swedish LAGs responding indicated that there was increase in LAG freedom to develop innovative solutions, compared to 14% of the EU sample whilst 56% indicated that this was significantly/less than before, in comparison to 37% of LAGs in the EU sample.

Question 19

Please think about your day-to-day work in the LAG and rank the three types of activity which your LAG staff spend most time on overall on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most time spent.

- Reporting to /working with LAG board and members.
- Supporting project development and implementation.
- Financial and administrative management of LAG and local projects.
- Reporting and communication with the Managing Authority and Paying Agency (including regional intermediaries).
- Animation, capacity building and training of local stakeholders (inc LAG members).
- Supporting innovation at the local level.
- Monitoring and reviewing the local development strategy.
- Developing /managing cooperation projects.
- Working with other LAGs, the regional/national rural network and the ENRD.

Total Number of Responses 9



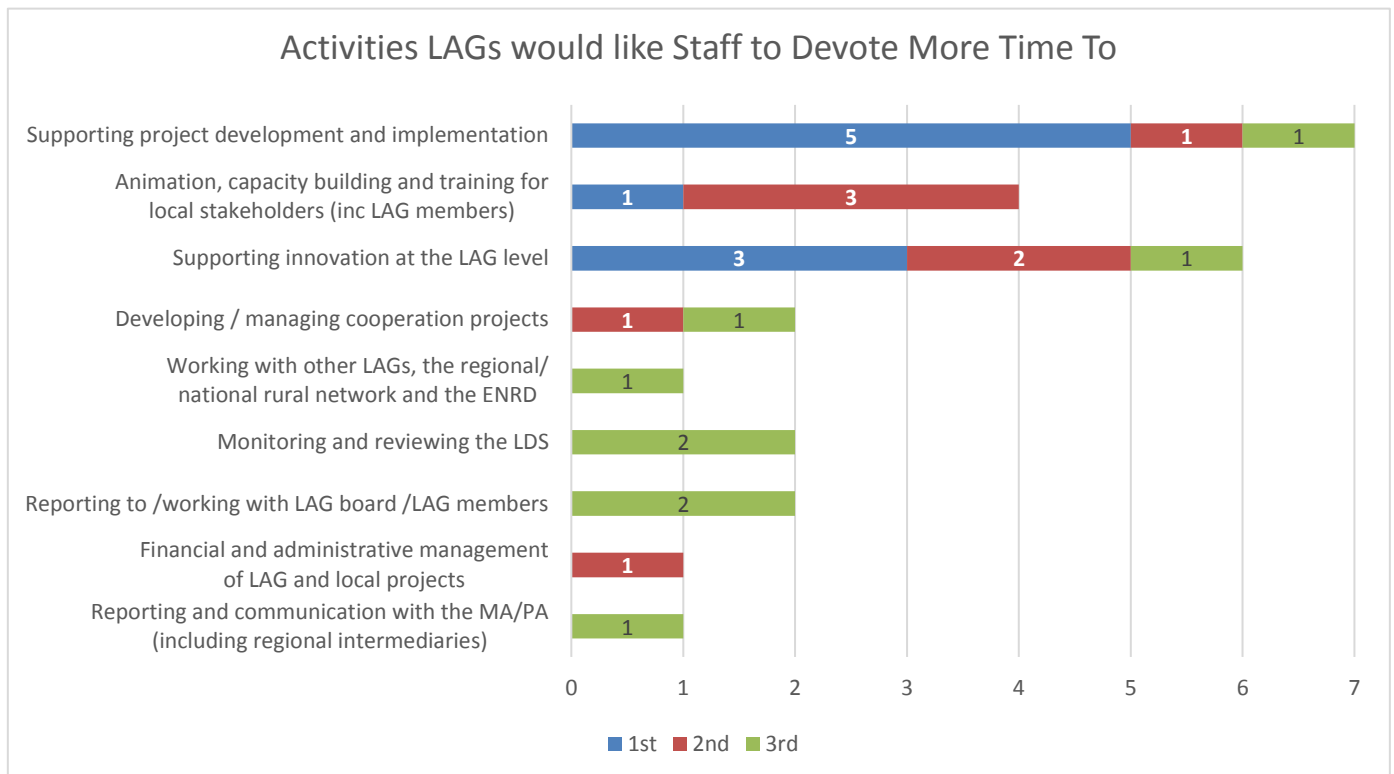
- The responding Swedish LAGs selected the same top three activities as the EU sample the responses, but in a different order.

Question 20

Where would you like to be able to devote more of your LAG team's time or resources in order to maximise the benefit of LEADER to your LAG territory? Please rank the three most important options below on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- Reporting to /working with LAG board /LAG members.
- Supporting project development and implementation.
- Financial and administrative management of LAG and local projects.
- Reporting and communication with the Managing Authority and Paying Agency (including regional intermediaries).
- Animation, capacity building and training of local stakeholders (inc LAG members).
- Supporting innovation at the local level.
- Monitoring and reviewing the local development strategy.
- Developing /managing cooperation projects.
- Working with other LAGs, the regional/national rural network and the ENRD.

Total Number of Responses 9



- The responding Swedish LAGs selected the same top three activities as the EU sample the responses, but in a different order with LAGs wanting to spend more time on supporting innovation at the LAG level than on animation, capacity building and training for local stakeholders, these priorities are reversed in the EU sample.

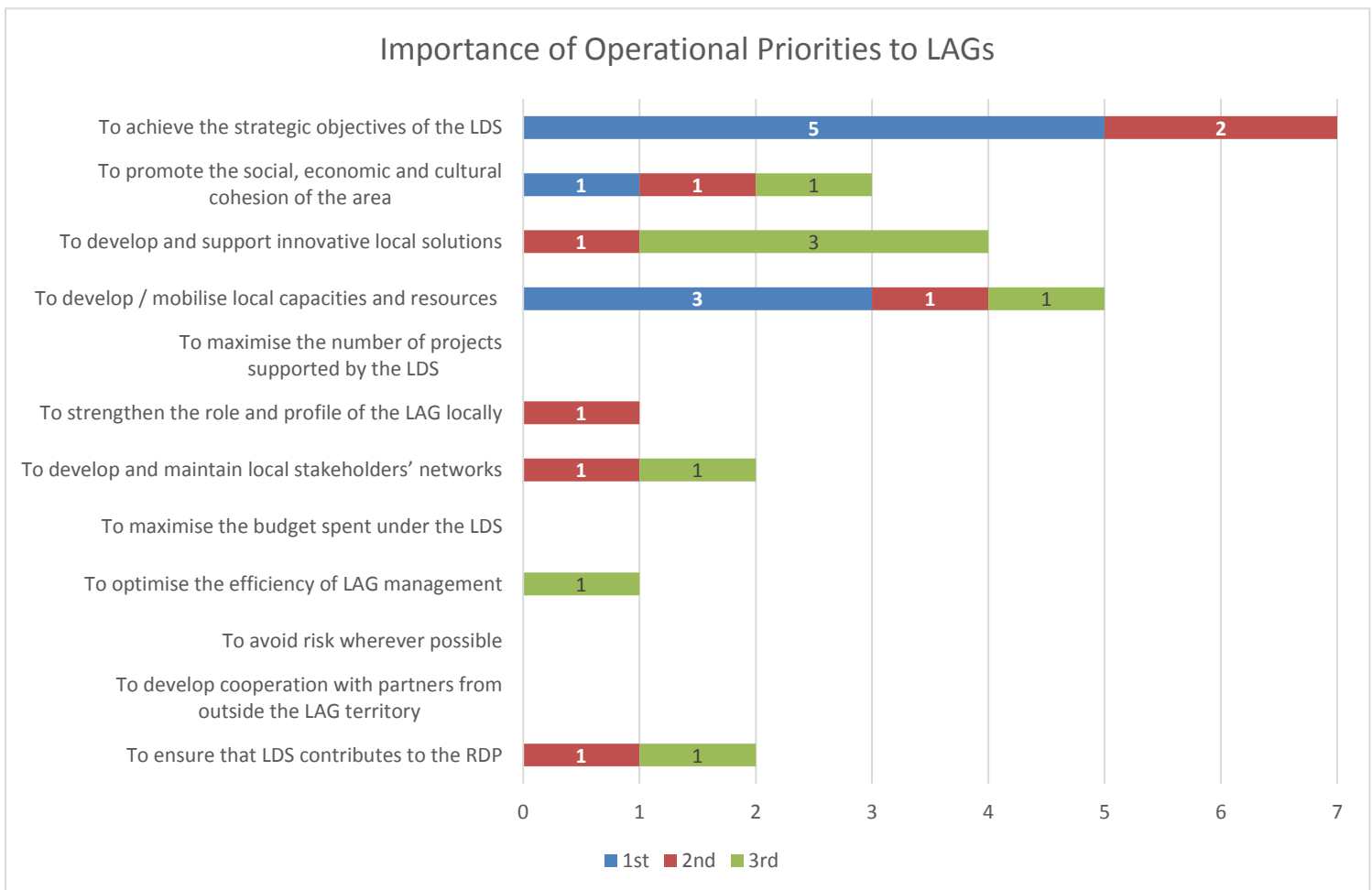
Question 21

How important are the following operational priorities to your LAG? Please select your top 3 most important options below in order of importance on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- To achieve the strategic objectives of the local development strategy (LDS).
- To maximise the number of projects supported by the LDS.
- To maximise the budget spent under the LDS.
- To ensure that LDS contributes to the RDP.
- To optimise the efficiency of LAG management.
- To strengthen the role and profile of the LAG locally.
- To promote the social, economic and cultural cohesion of the area.
- To develop and support innovative local solutions.
- To avoid risk wherever possible.
- To develop and maintain local stakeholders' networks.
- To develop cooperation with partners from outside the LAG territory.
- To develop / mobilise local capacities and resources (human, funding, knowledge, etc.)

Total Number of Responses 9

Importance of Operational Priorities to LAGs



- Overall the responses from Swedish LAGs were generally in line with those from the EU sample. The responding Swedish LAGs ranked to develop and mobilise local capacities and resources and to develop and support innovative local solutions proportionately higher than the LAGs in the EU sample.

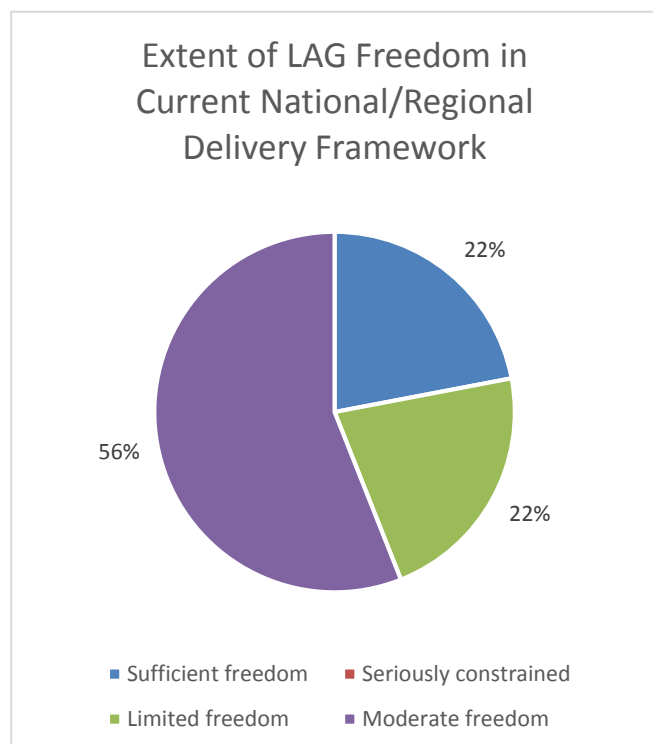
Question 22

To what extent does your national or regional LEADER delivery framework enable your LAG to pursue these operational priorities? Please select the option most appropriate to your LAG.

- The LAG has sufficient freedom to allow it to pursue its preferred priorities.
- The LAG has a moderate degree of freedom which allows it to partially address its priorities.
- The LAG has a limited degree of freedom which substantially compromises its freedom to address its priorities.
- The LAGs freedom to address its operational priorities is seriously constrained

Total Number of Responses 9

- Proportionately, more Swedish LAGs reported that they had moderate freedom, 56%, compared to the EU sample, 45%.
- No responding Swedish LAGs reported that they were 'seriously constrained', compared to the 11% of LAGs in the EU sample.

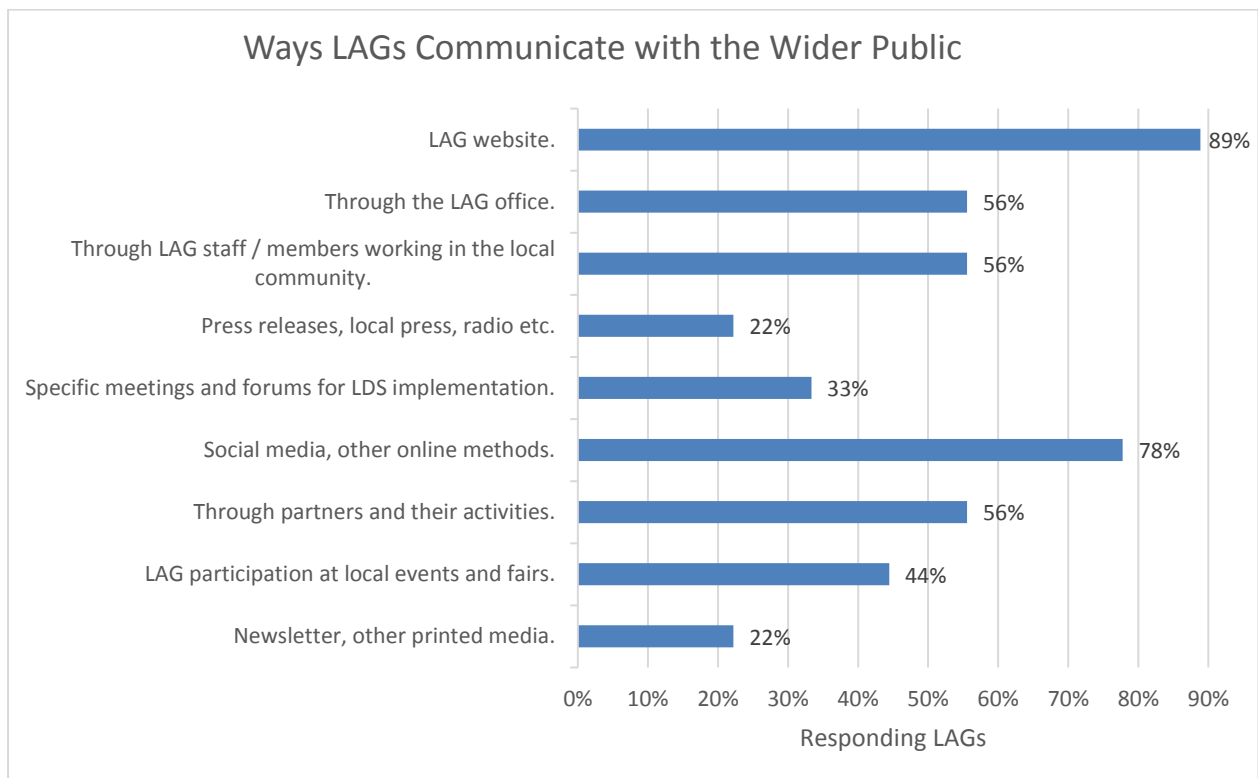


Question 23

What is the main way your LAG communicates with the wider public in your LAG Territory (including potential beneficiaries)? Please select those methods which your LAG uses.

- LAG website.
- Specific meetings and forums for LDS implementation.
- Through the LAG office.
- Through LAG staff / members working in the local community.
- LAG participation at local events and fairs.
- Press releases, local press, radio etc.
- Newsletter, other printed media.
- Social media, other online methods.
- Through partners and their activities.

Total Number of Responses 9



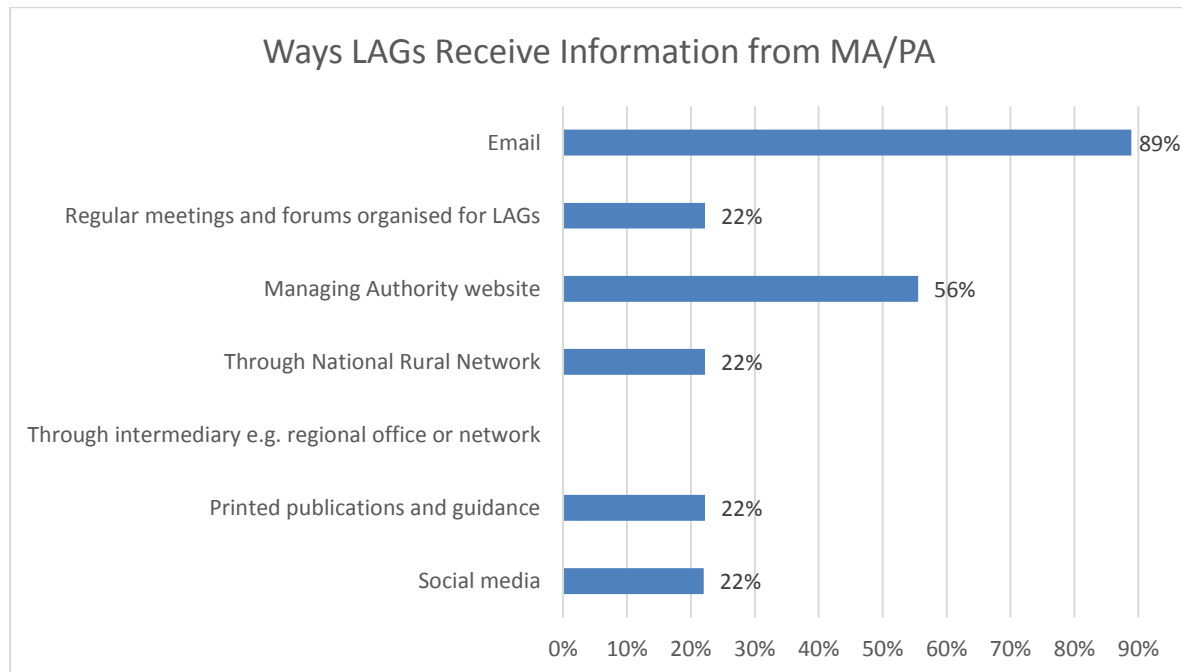
- A much higher proportion of Swedish LAGs reported using social media, other online methods (78%) in comparison to the EU sample (61%). Overall, they used the other communication channels less than the EU sample.
- Correspondingly, Swedish LAGs who responded did not use the press, local press, radio as much as the EU sample (22% vs 65%) or specific meeting and forums on LDS implementation (33% vs 62%).

Question 24

What are the main ways in which you receive information from the Managing Authority? Please select those methods which are most used

- Managing Authority website.
- Regular meetings and forums organised for LAGs.
- Through National Rural Network.
- Social media.
- Printed publications and guidance.
- Email.
- Through intermediary e.g. regional office or network.

Total Number of Responses 9



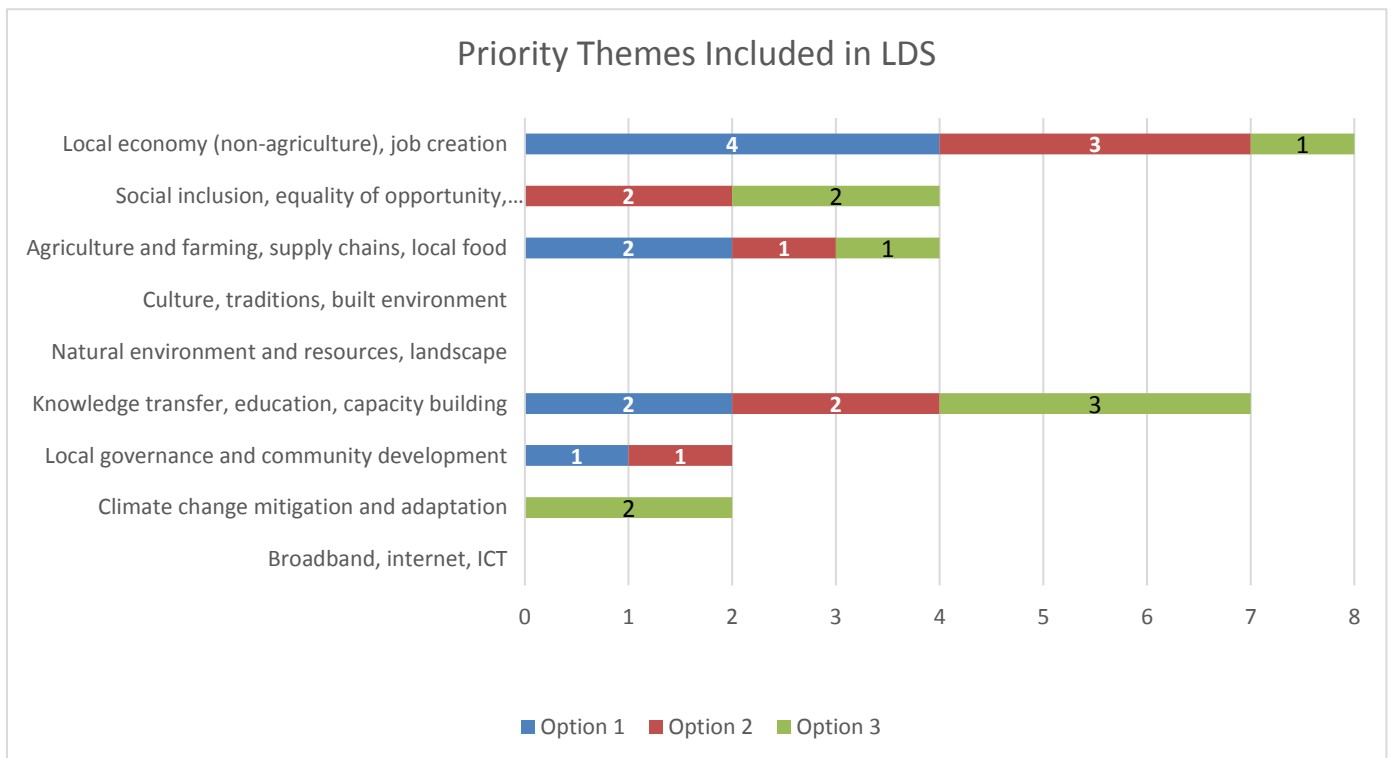
- Responding Swedish LAGs reported higher use of the MA website as a way of receiving information than the EU sample (56% vs 34%) and social media (22% vs 5%).
- Regular meeting and forums organised for LAGs were used much less in Sweden 22%, in comparison with 68% in the EU sample. None reported that information was received through intermediaries, compared to 22% in the EU sample.

Question 25

Which of the following priority themes relate most closely to your Local Development Strategy objectives? Please select (up to) the three most relevant ones from the options provided.

- Knowledge transfer, education, capacity building.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Agriculture and farming, supply chains, local food.
- Local economy (non-agriculture), job creation.
- Culture, traditions, built environment.
- Natural environment and resources, landscape.
- Social inclusion, equality of opportunity, cohesion, services.
- Local governance and community development.
- Broadband, internet, ICT.

Total Number of Responses 9



- Knowledge transfer is a proportionately higher priority theme with responding Swedish LAGs, than for the EU sample.

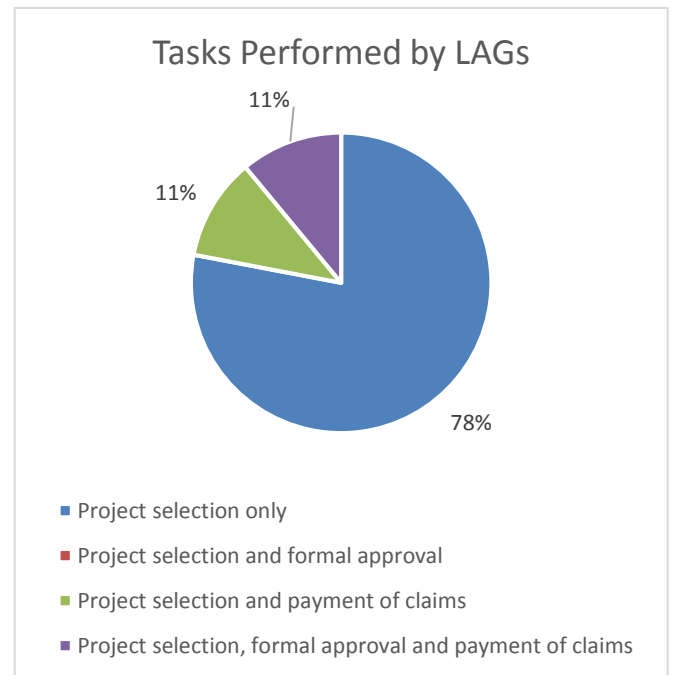
Question 26

What tasks does your LAG perform in relation to LEADER projects as part of your LDS implementation?
Please select one of the options.

- Project selection only
- Project selection and formal approval
- Project selection and payment of claims
- Project selection, formal approval and payment of claims

Total Number of Responses 9

- A larger percentage of Swedish LAGs (78%) reported that they are responsible for project selection only than in the EU sample where 48% of LAGs perform this task.
- A higher percentage (11%) carried out project selection and payment of claims than the EU sample (3%) but no responding Swedish LAGs reported carrying out project selection and formal approval, compared to 30% in the EU sample.



LEADER Improvements

Question 27

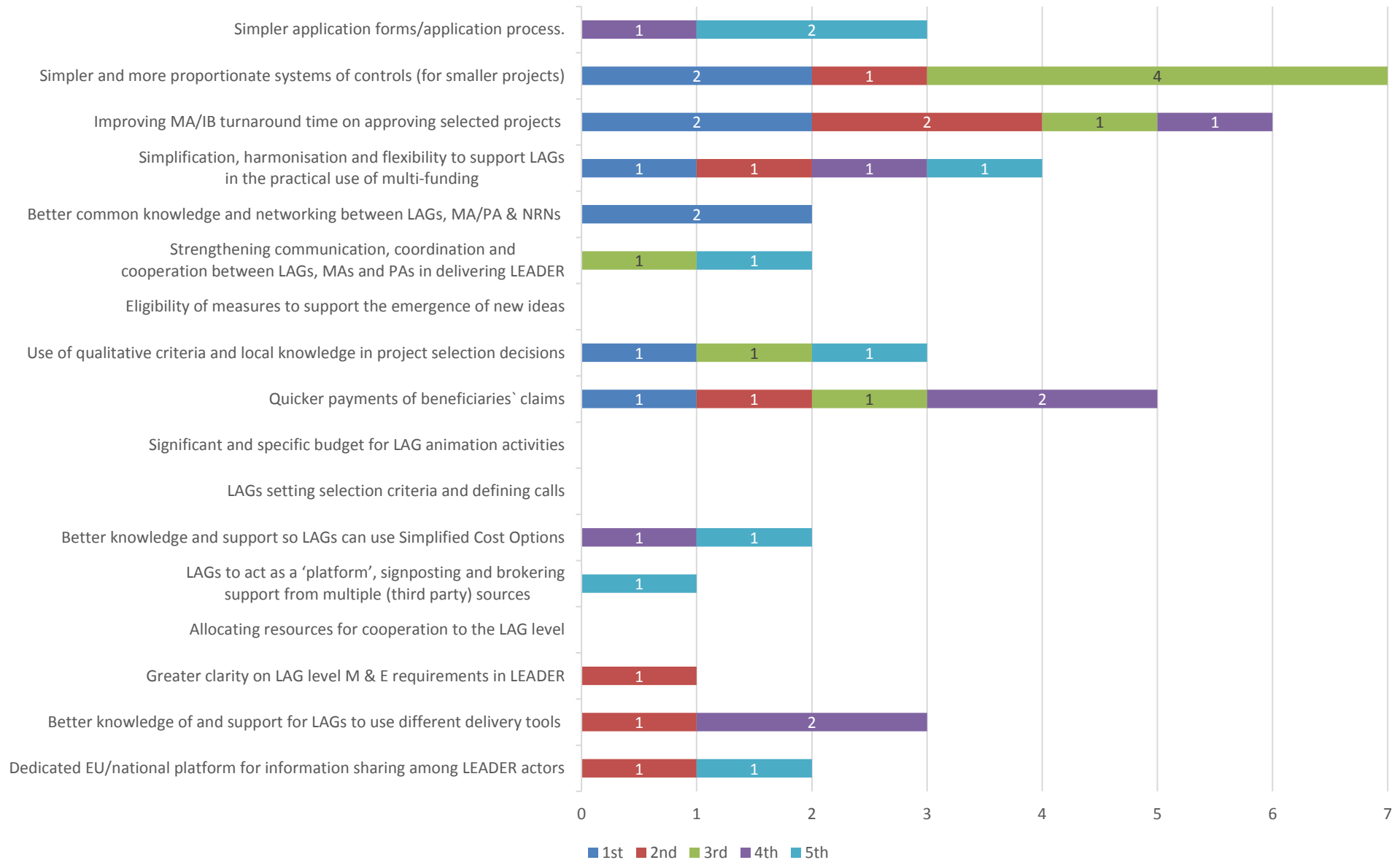
What is most important to address in helping LAGs to be effective in implementing LEADER now? Please select and rank your top five priorities from the following items in order of their importance in (where 1= highest importance and 5 = 5th most important)

- Better common knowledge and support through networking of LAGs, Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies and National Rural Networks and exchanges on transferable experience and practices
- The eligibility of measures to support the emergence of new ideas, e.g. the use of feasibility studies, LAG led projects, pilot projects, preparatory work etc. should be ensured from the EU level down.
- Setting aside a significant and specific budget for LAG animation activities.
- Allocating resources for cooperation to the LAG level.
- Ensuring better common knowledge of and support for LAGs to take advantage of using simplified cost options.
- LAGs setting selection criteria and defining calls
- LAGs using qualitative criteria and local knowledge to inform project selection decisions.
- Ensuring better common knowledge of and support for LAGs to take advantage of using different delivery tools e.g. 'Umbrella projects'.
- Improving MA or intermediary body turnaround time on approving selected projects.
- Improving timeliness of payments of beneficiaries' claims.
- Simpler and more proportionate systems of controls (for smaller projects?).
- Simplification, harmonisation and flexibility to support LAGs in the practical use of multi-funding.
- Greater clarity on LAG level monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements in LEADER.
- Strengthening communication, coordination and cooperation between LAGs, Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies in delivering LEADER.
- A dedicated EU/national platform for information sharing among LEADER actors.
- Simpler application forms/application process.
- Allowing LAGs to act as a 'platform', signposting and brokering support from multiple (third party) sources to further LDS objectives.

Total Number of Responses 9

- Quicker payments of beneficiaries' claims was the third most important change to improve implementation highlighted by responding Swedish LAGs, it came ninth in the EU sample.
- There was notably less emphasis placed on simpler application forms/ application processes by responding Swedish LAGs, the top priority improvement identified in the EU sample.

Most Important Changes to Improve Implementation Now

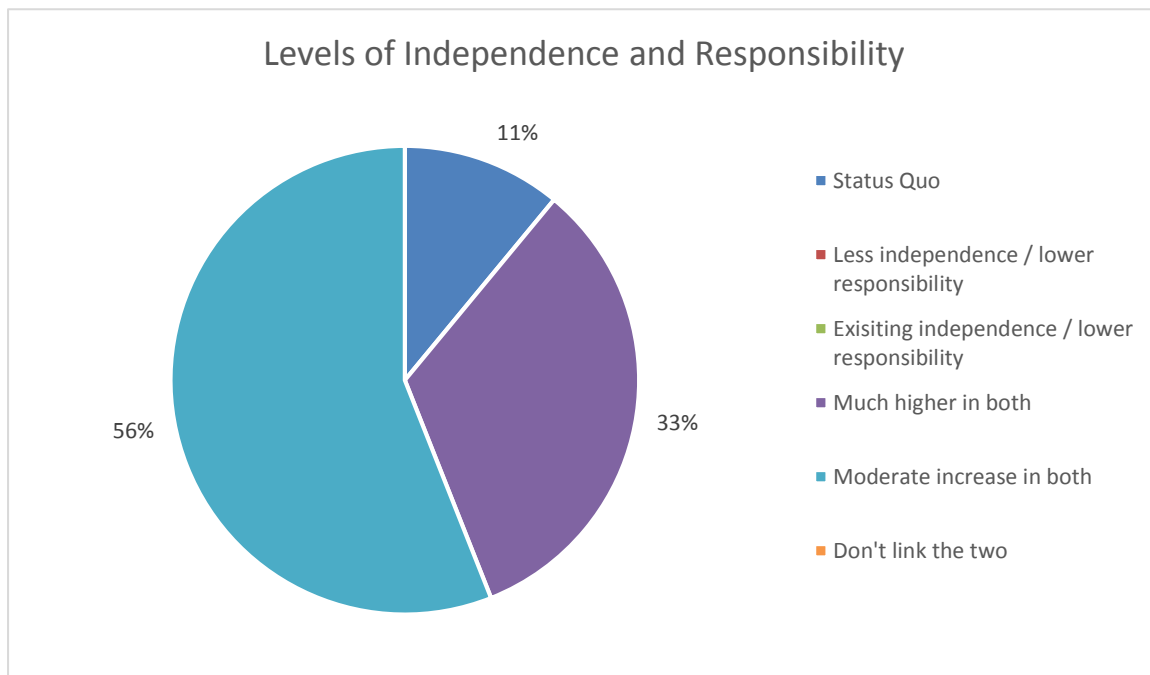


Question 28:

Some LAGs desire greater independence in their operations with more power and responsibility e.g. in project selection and approvals, project management, use of funds, managing risk etc. Which one of these statements best reflects your LAG's position?

- We are happy with the existing levels of responsibility, independence and accountability
- We prefer less independence with a lower level of direct LAG responsibility and financial accountability
- We prefer the existing level of independence with a lower level of direct LAG responsibility and financial accountability
- We prefer a much higher degree of independence and would be happy with a significantly higher degree of direct responsibility and financial accountability
- We prefer a moderate increase in independence with a moderate increase in direct responsibility and financial accountability
- Any increase in independence should not be linked to increased LAG responsibilities and accountability

Total number of responses – 9



- There was a much higher call for increased levels of independence and responsibility from responding Swedish than the EU sample with 56% calling for a moderate increase and 33% who wanted much higher in both, compared to 28% and 19% respectively in the EU sample.
- No responding Swedish LAGs wanted to reduce independence and responsibility at all.

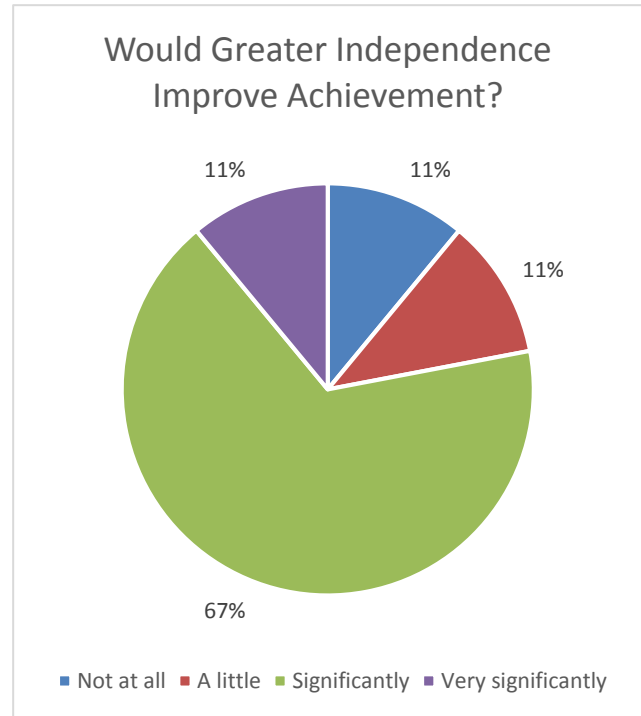
Question 29

To what extent would greater independence, power and responsibility for your LAGs improve what you are able to achieve? Please select one option.

- Not at all
- A little
- Significantly
- Very significantly

Total Number of Responses 9

- A larger proportion of Swedish than EU respondents indicated that greater independence would improve the achievement of LAGs significantly, (67% vs 42%).

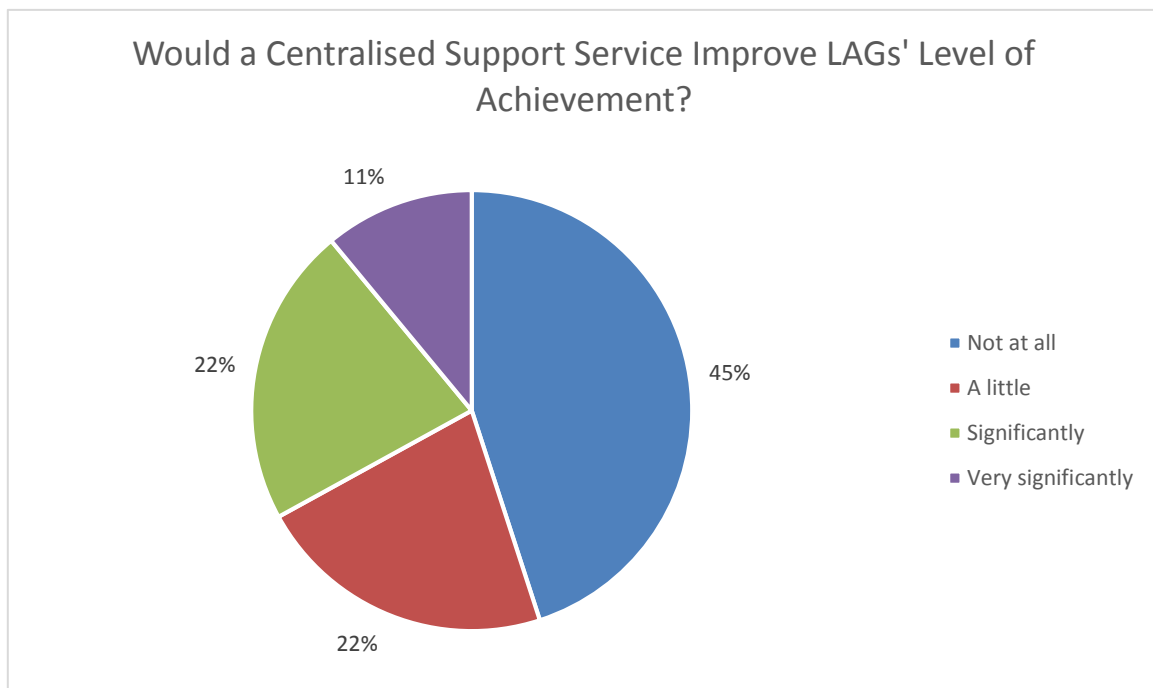


Question 30

If it was possible to reduce LAG administration through the provision of a centralised support service (e.g. shared and managed by multiple LAGs) to what extent would that improve your LAGs level of achievement?

- Not at all
- A little %
- Significantly
- Very significantly

Total Number of Responses 9



- Responding Swedish LAGs replied very similarly to the EU sample, with a higher percentage thinking that a centralised support service would not improve LAGs level of achievement at all in comparison with the EU sample (45% vs 36%).

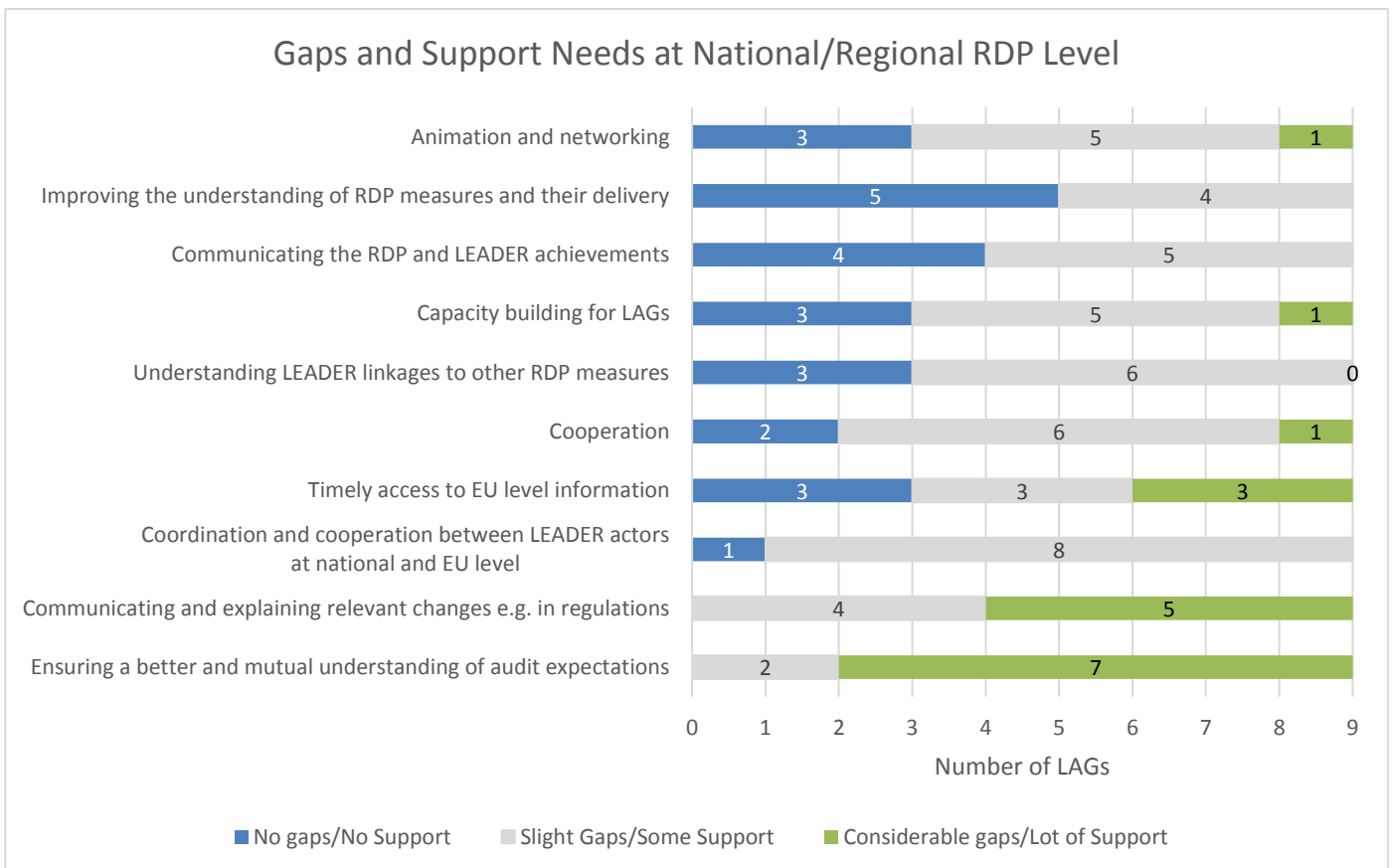
Question 31

To what extent does support from national and regional Rural Development Programme authorities (e.g. Managing Authority, Paying Agency) meet LAG needs and enhance LEADER implementation? Please, use the following scale to rank the provision against the specified needs:

- 1= no gaps in support – no support needed,
- 2 = slight gaps – some support needed,
- 3 = considerable gaps – lot of support needed.

- Improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery.
- Communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements.
- Understanding LEADER linkages to other RDP measures.
- Capacity building for LAGs.
- Animation and networking.
- Cooperation.
- Timely access to EU level information.
- Coordination and cooperation between LEADER actors at national and EU level.
- Communicating and explaining relevant changes e.g. in regulations.
- Ensuring a better and mutual understanding of audit expectations.

Total Number of Responses 9



- Responding Swedish LAGs highlighted two areas a greater proportion of them identified considerable gaps/lot of support needed; these were communicating and explaining relevant changes e.g. in regulations and in ensuring a better mutual understanding of audit expectations. This was further differentiated from the EU sample by their zero scores for no gaps/ support needs.
- In regard to improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery and communicating RDP and LEADER achievements a larger proportion of responding Swedish LAGs indicated no gaps/less support needed than the EU sample.

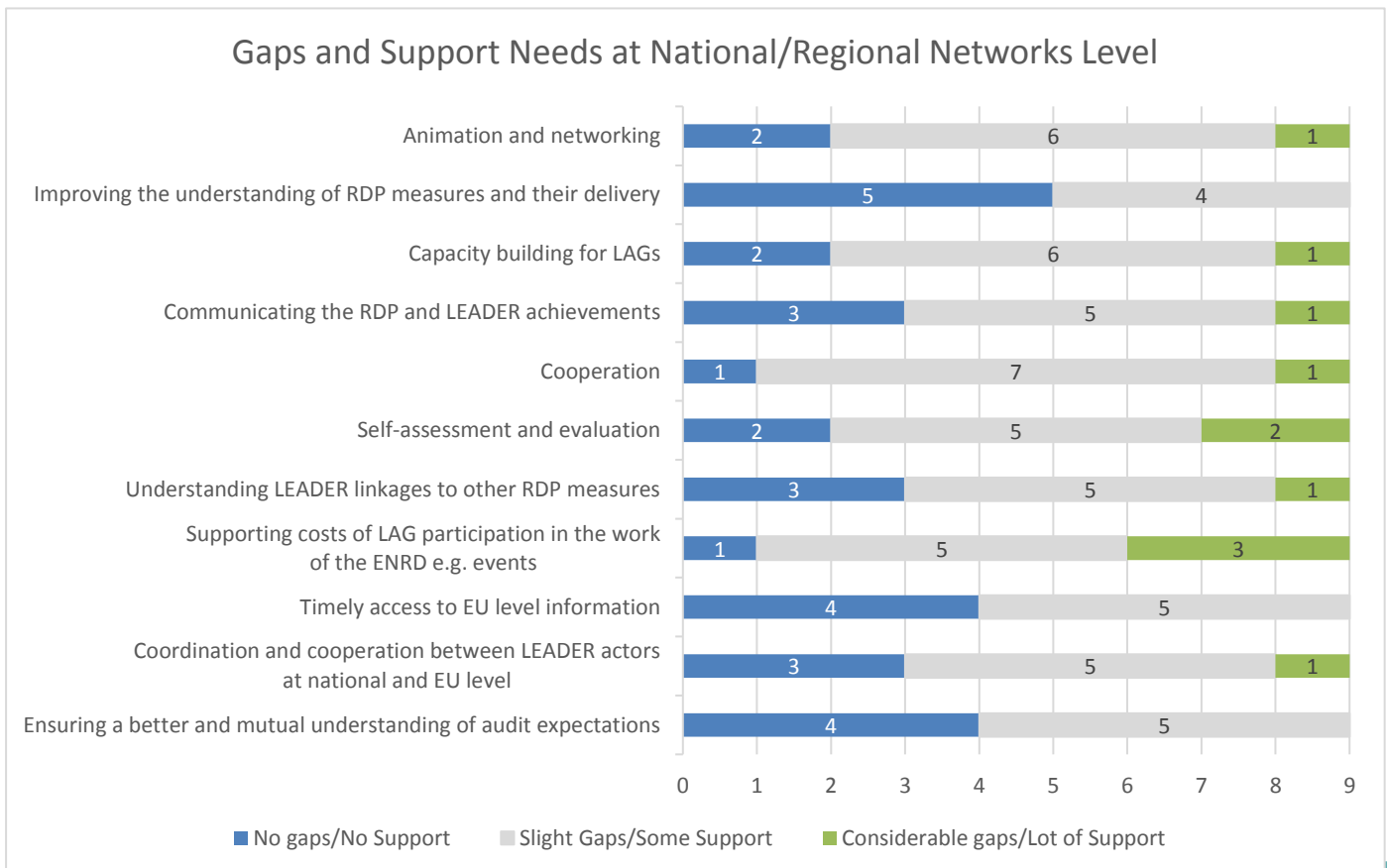
Question 32

To what extent does support from national and regional Rural Networks meet LAG needs and enhance LEADER implementation? Please, use the following scale to rank the provision against the specified needs:

- 1= no gaps in support – no support needed,
- 2 = slight gaps – some support needed,
- 3 = considerable gaps – lot of support needed.

- Improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery.
- Self-assessment and evaluation.
- Communicating the RDP and LEADER achievements.
- Understanding LEADER linkages to other RDP measures, e.g. EIP Operational Groups.
- Capacity building for LAGs.
- Animation and networking.
- Cooperation.
- Timely access to EU level information.
- Supporting costs of LAG participation in the work of the ENRD e.g. events
- Coordination and cooperation between LEADER actors at national and EU level.
- Ensuring a better and mutual understanding of audit expectations.

Total Number of Responses 9



- The responses from Swedish highlighted many fewer instances of considerable gaps/lot of support needed from the National/Regional network than the EU sample.
- No Swedish LAGs responded that there were considerable gaps/lot of support needed with regard to ensuring a better and mutual understanding of audit expectations, this was the largest gap identified in the EU sample.
- Improving the understanding of RDP measures and their delivery was the area of least gap/support need for Swedish LAGs whilst none identified considerable gaps or support needs.

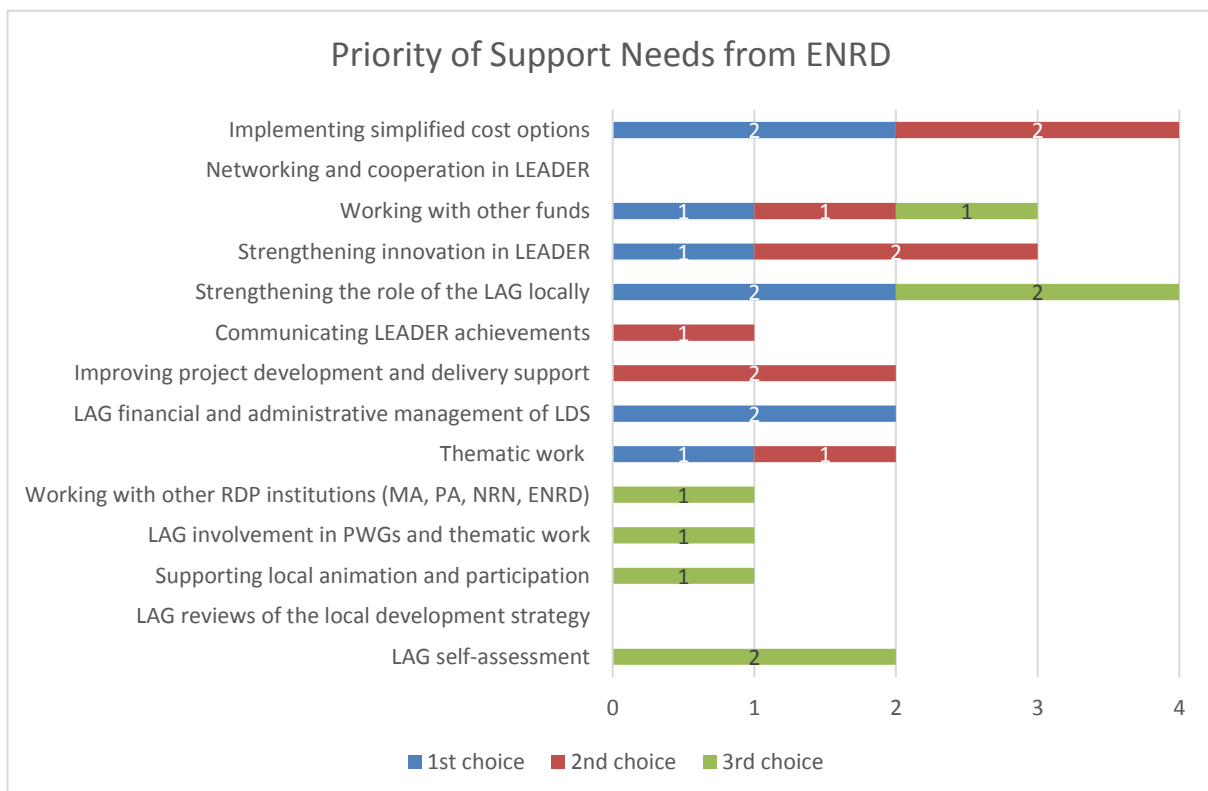
Question 33

Which of the following areas of your LAG's activity are the priorities which the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) should work on to help your LAG most?

Please rank the three most important options below on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- LAG reviews of the local development strategy.
- LAG financial and administrative management of local development strategy implementation.
- Improving project development and delivery support.
- Implementing simplified cost options.
- Networking and cooperation in LEADER.
- Communicating LEADER achievements.
- Strengthening innovation in LEADER.
- Strengthening the role of the LAG locally.
- Supporting local animation and participation.
- Thematic work (e.g. Greening the local economy, social innovation, ICT & broadband, smart villages, etc.).
- Working with other RDP institutions (MA, PA, NRN, ENRD).
- LAG self-assessment.
- Working with other funds.
- LAG involvement in practitioner-working groups and thematic work.

Total Number of Responses 9



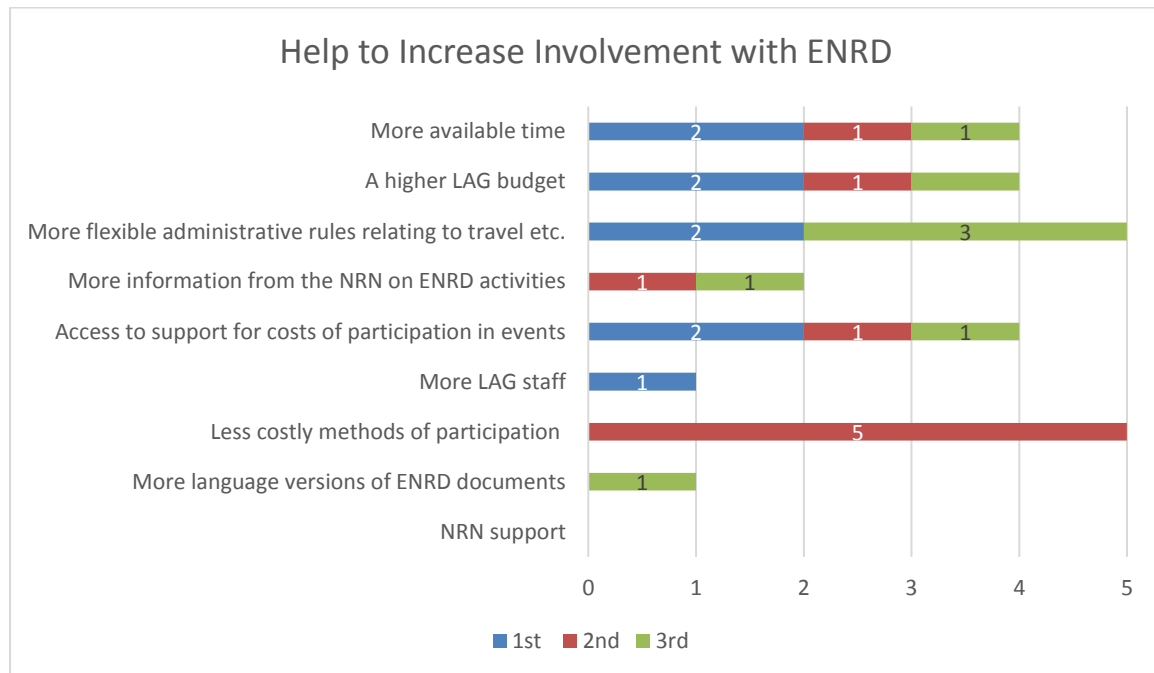
- Responding Swedish LAGs did not see support with networking and cooperation in LEADER as a priority from ENRD, in comparison to the EU sample where it was the second most requested need for support.

Question 34

What could help you get more involved in the work of the ENRD? You may select up to three of the options below. Please rank the three most important options below on a scale of 1 – 3 where 1 = most important.

- More flexible administrative rules relating to travel, participations in conferences etc.
- A higher LAG budget
- More available time
- More LAG staff
- More language versions of ENRD documents
- More information from the NRN on ENRD activities
- NRN support
- Less costly methods of participation (e.g. Online meetings)
- Access to support for costs of participation in events
- Other, please describe

Total Number of Responses 9



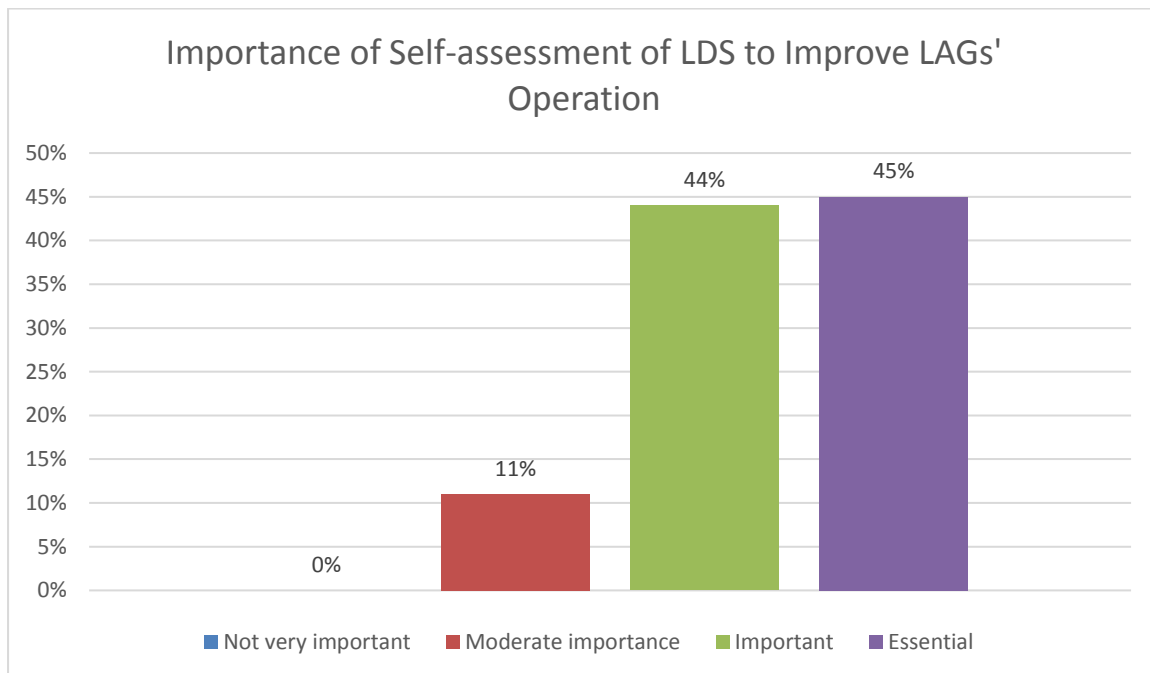
- The joint top request for help to increase involvement with the ENRD from responding Swedish LAGs was less costly methods of participation, which was the third bottom request in the EU sample.

Question 35

How important do you think self-assessment (internal review) of your own Local Development Strategy is to improving your LAG's operation?

- Not very important
- Moderate importance
- Important
- Essential

Total Number of Responses 9



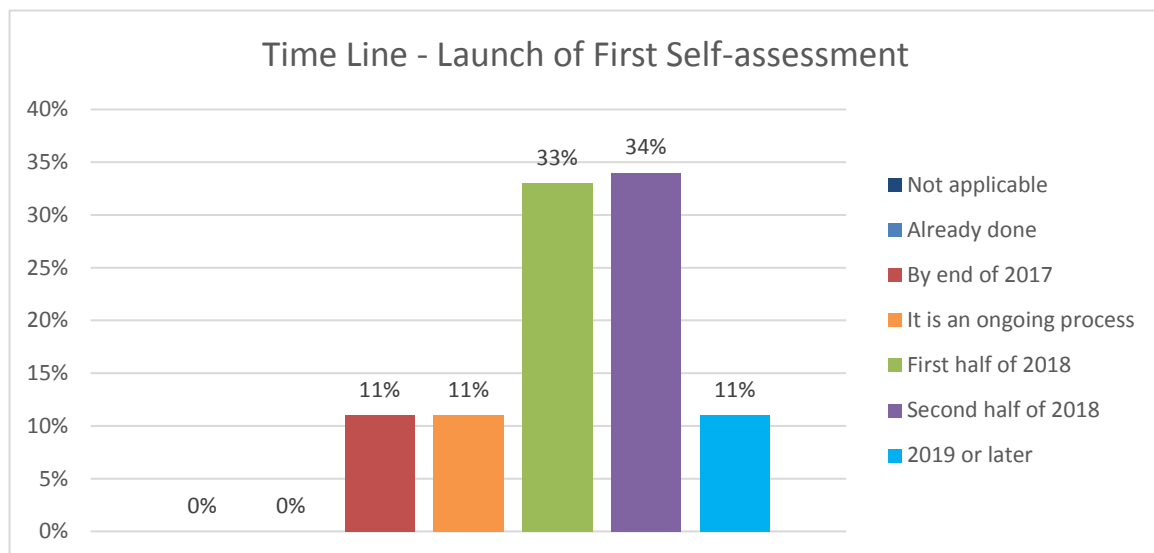
- 89% of responding Swedish LAGs considered self-assessment to be important or essential in comparison to 71% in the EU sample. The essential rating was notably higher at 45% vs 28%.

Question 36

When are you planning to launch your first self-assessment?

- Already done
- By end 2017
- First half of 2018
- Second half of 2018
- In 2019 or later
- It is an ongoing process
- Not applicable

Total Number of Responses 9



- For most responding Swedish LAGs (67%) the first self-assessment will take place in 2018, in comparison to 58% of the EU sample.
- A slightly higher percentage of responding Swedish LAGs indicated that self-assessment was to be carried out in 2017 (11% vs 6%) although none had completed their first self-assessment in comparison to 14% of the EU sample.

Question 37

Are you willing to participate in further LEADER work with the ENRD (e.g. a focus group, practitioner-working group, other forms)?

- Yes – 78%
- No – 22%

Total Number of Responses 9