



Ministarstvo poljoprivrede i ruralnog razvoja  
Crne Gore



Agricultural Policy Forum 2017

11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> October,  
Podgorica, Montenegro

SWG  
LEADER

# Sustainable rural development through the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans

11 – 12 October 2017  
Podgorica, Montenegro





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# Main Purpose of the WG

**Sustainable rural development  
through the LEADER approach in  
the Western Balkans**

*National policy about LEADER and needs  
to establish LEADER structure*

*How to animate local communities and  
ensure development rural areas in the  
Western Balkan*



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# Key Barriers and risks

1. Cooperation between EU and WB LAGs is currently not funded by EU
2. LAGs are not sustainable, they are donor driven
3. The regulatory framework for LEADER in WB countries it's not approved at national level
4. Lack of local stakeholders capacities for LAGs establishment
5. Decrease of enthusiasm of existing LAGs, due to lack of support for implementation of LEADER



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## Key Barriers and risks (2)

6. There is no political sense for LEADER
7. Transparent information about LEADER it's not available always
8. Promotion and implementation of LEADER on both levels (bottom-up and top down)
9. Influence of leading political parties on LAG management structure



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## Key Barriers and risks (3)

10. Ensuring Gender participation in LAG management structure, mostly in mountain areas of WB
11. Lack of trust between local stakeholders
12. Resistance to accept new approach in local communities
13. Difficulties to consolidate common stands of local stakeholders about priorities





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# Key Drivers and opportunities

1. Local communities should articulate their needs
2. Preparing LEADER friendly Guidelines based on the experience of local communities and official rules of LEADER and local approaches
3. Step by step work on the local level to establish LAGs
4. Promotion of success stories and good practices on the both way
5. LEADER is one approach among other local initiatives



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# Key Drivers and opportunities (2)

6. Making visible local knowledge and needs
7. Tradition as added value potential for revitalization (i.e. traditional houses)
8. Involved diaspora in rural development and investment
9. Experiences of other countries and local experiences
10. Dynamic of youth is driver



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## Key Drivers and opportunities (3)

11. Participative communication on both directions (bottom-up and top-down) to reflect interests
12. Participative horizontal communication between local partners
13. Added value reflecting (happiness, well being...)
14. Inclusion innovation and advisory institutions
15. Administration enhancing LEADER approach







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# Ways Forward

1. Involvement of local communities in solving of socio-economical problems
2. Capacity building of operating structure in relevant ministries
3. Need for promotion of LEADER
4. Development of trust on local level
5. Development of local leadership





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## Ways Forward (2)

6. Establishment of working group with regular meetings of institutions, CSO, donors and other stakeholders (synchronization of the activities)
7. Sharing of experience about managing LAGs and which skills (i.e. mediation) we using in specific cases
8. Transformation conflicts in to opportunities
9. Inclusive meetings between LAG initiative members from WB countries



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Thank you.

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