

LEADER implementation in the Western Balkan and Turkey – under IPARD State of play – way forward

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IPARD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE via the Managing Authority

LEADER publicity, publications,
training to potential LAGs, help for
creating LAGs and Local
Development Strategies,
networking of LAGs, websites

In Turkey, North Macedonia and
recently Serbia and Albania;
Montenegro: in preparation

But the projects in question
effectively only in Turkey

**Many open opportunities
here now**



IMPORTANT

IPARD LEADER Measure

Funding to LAGs for
implementation of Local
Development Strategies

Running costs, small projects,
animation and capacity building

Only in Turkey

Significant LEADER assets already in the Western Balkans



Serbia:

- 25 potential LAGs – national support
- IPARD Technical Assistance started
- LEADER measure in preparation – still under IPARD II?

North Macedonia

- 13 LAGs – national support launched in 2020
- IPARD TA measure is implemented
- LEADER measure in preparation

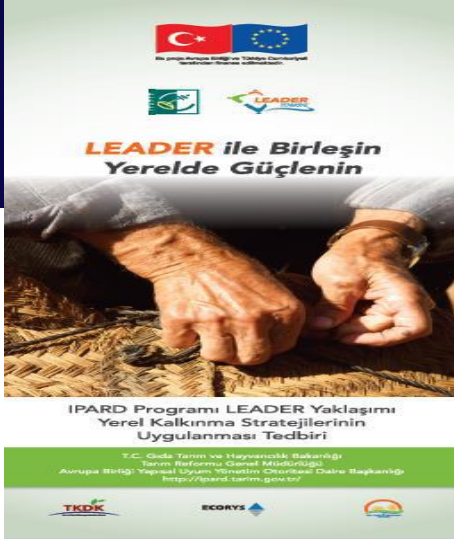
Albania

- 11 LAGs existing
- IPARD TA about to start
- IPARD measure – in preparation (for IPARD III?)

Montenegro

- Some potential LAGs
- Rural Networks in all the countries





Example: Support of LEADER under IPARD Technical Assistance - Turkey

- Publicity, information, logo, brochures on LEADER approach
- Study tours in Turkey and to the EU member states
- Support to establishment of 20 LAGs (1 large project, clear methodology, involvement of animators trained previously)
- Support to the creation of 20 Local Development Strategies (1 project, clear methodology with emphasis on public consultation, experts support)
- National Rural Development Network – LEADER working group, LEADER fair
- Training for Local Action Groups on LEADER measure (partly online now)
- Internet platform for online sales of products - considered



IPARD LEADER measure in Turkey

- Implementation in Turkey (entrustment in Feb 2019, call open till Dec 2019, contracting of selected LAGs from July 2020)
- 23 LAGs supported via IPARD Technical Assistance but 53 applied and 50 got selected – some new LAGs got established itself – others from a split of bigger ones
- The details of the model of LEADER for IPARD worked out by Turkey in cooperation with European Commission
- Commission's Guidelines on LEADER measure expected shortly

LEADER under IPARD

– 6 broad priorities



- Development of **short supply chains** and added value products including **quality products, crafts**, and other activities for **economic diversification** of rural economy
- Development of **rural tourism products** based on the use of local, natural, and cultural resources;
- Boosting the **cultural and social life** of the community and supporting **collective local organisations**, associations and NGOs (incl. women's groups);
- Improvement of **public spaces** in villages
- Improvement of **environmental standards** in the area and promotion of **renewable energy** use by community;
- **Networking of Local Action Groups**, best practice exchange, dissemination of IPARD programme and learning new approaches to rural development.



Scope of LEADER measure in IPARD

- **Running costs** (office costs, staff costs etc)
- **Animation, capacity building** (training, publicity, animation of the territory etc)
- **Small projects** (projects of collective nature developed by LAGs, related to the priorities in the Local Development Strategy, IPARD grant up to 5,000 EUR per project)

Details: in each national IPARD programme

From Local development strategy to ...payment on LAG's account



Local development strategy

Annex to the contract for grant, has a general plan of activities



Annual Action Plan

Detailed plan of projects corresponding to the priorities/activities in the strategy



Payment claim

Each invoice is linked to a project in the annual action plan

And now?



- Support and develop current LAGs – substantial potential is already on the ground
- Use IPARD Technical Assistance for LEADER
- Create a coordinating mechanism for LEADER (Local Action Groups – Managing Authority – IPARD Agency)
- Encourage LAGs to network nationally and with ENRD -online
- Involve LAGs in promoting new opportunities from the Covid crisis and new IPARD openings : increased demand for short food supply, local food and online sales; online training; producer organisations and collective investments

And? Listening to your voice now...

