



Solidarity Fund PL
in Moldova



LEADER approach in Moldova

08.07.2020



LEADER in Moldova – development process



Phase 1: LEADER pilot (2016-2018)

- pilot LAGs incl. practical experience of functioning
- pilot local **LEADER** methodology

Phase 2: LEADER multiplication (2018-2020)

- open equal dialogue with stakeholders (Ministry)
- multiplying local experience (new LAGs)
- methodology consolidation

Phase 3: LEADER streaming (2019-.....)

- national legal framework (law amendments)
- **LEADER** movement & LAG profesionalization

continues support for LAGs

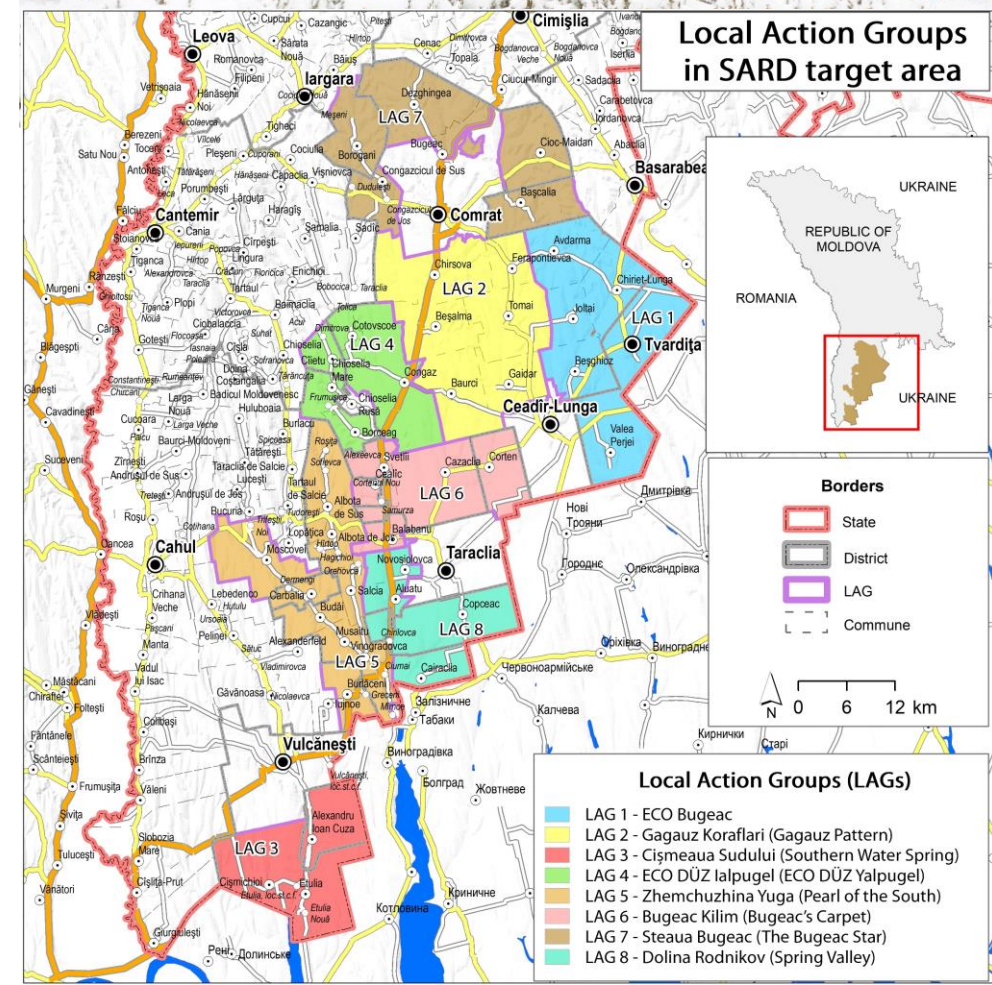
Phase 1: LEADER pilot (2016-2018)

Key elements:

- Local LEADER Implementation Team (community facilitators & local development experts);
- local practical LEADER experience – LAG creation & functioning (LAG managers);
- small budget but **ENTRUSTED** (tangible results) to the local people.

Results:

- Locally-tailored **LEADER** methodology;
- 8 pilot LAGs;
- approx. 100 projects implemented (2018).



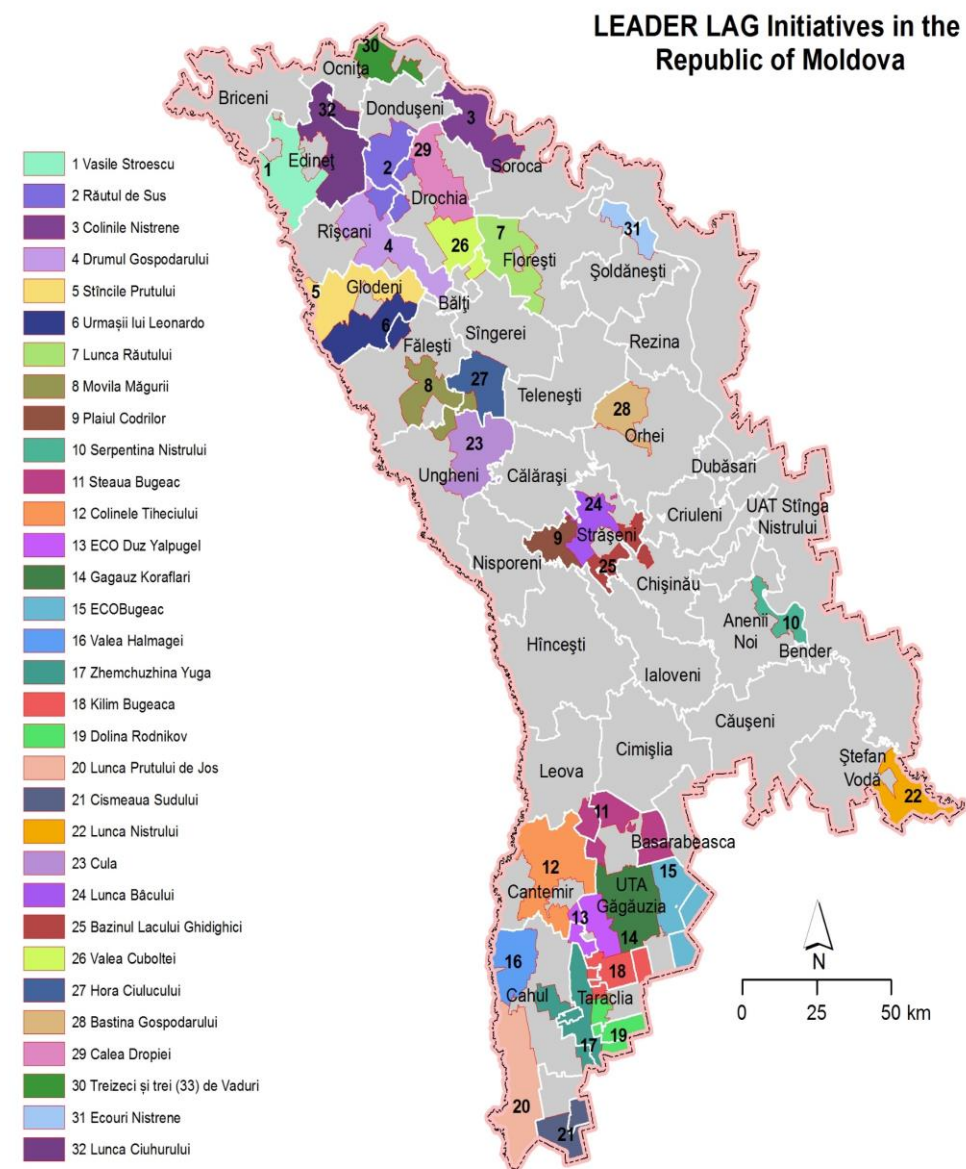
Phase 2: LEADER multiplication (2019-2020)

Key elements:

- open & equal dialogue with stakeholders (national partnership & needs): Ministry and all LEADER facilitator organizations;
- multiplication of **pilot experience**;
- continues support for existing LAGs.

Results:

- **32 LAGs** and critical mass (35% of rural areas);
- **ownership** of stakeholders (national & local);
- **National LEADER Network** formalised (LAGs & LEADER facilitators);
- approx. **225 projects** implemented (2019)



Phase 3: LEADER streaming (2019-.....)

Key elements:

- strengthening **National LEADER Network**;
- **dialogue & cooperation** with the Ministry;
- continues **support** for existing **LAGs** and support in creation new LAGs;
- advocacy for LEADER among development partners (incl. EU);

and



Phase 3: LEADER streaming (2019-.....)

National LEADER framework

- **law amendments:** (i) law no. 276/2016 on the **subsidy principles** for agriculture and rural development (up to 5% of the National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development for LEADER measure (entered into force 14.04.2020);
- **law amendments:** (ii) law no. 436/2006 on **Local Public Authorities** to allow LPAs to create LAGs and allocate money for LAGs (entered into force 14.04.2020);
- **Special Law on Local Action Groups** elaborated (internal consultation in the Government);
- **implementation framework** to be developed (2020-2021).



Phase 3: LEADER streaming (2019-.....)

Expected results:

- coherence between **cooperation for development** and **national funds** – ensuring sustainability & better results for local development;
- LAG **professionalisation** and new financial opportunities – quality of the projects & bigger funds for LAGs (EU LEADER FUND);
- **innovation for local development** through LAGs – capital of trust and local management: match-funding, crowd-lending, rural tourism, cooperatives & group of producers;
- strenghtening of the **National LEADER Network**.

.... and maybe Phase 4: ☺



Locally-tailored LEADER methodology – Stage 1 (Year 1)

Key elements:

- **Local Implementation Team:** community facilitator & local development expert;
- facilitating the process of **creation partnership**;
- community **mobilization**;
- strategic planning;
- **confidence building**.

Results:

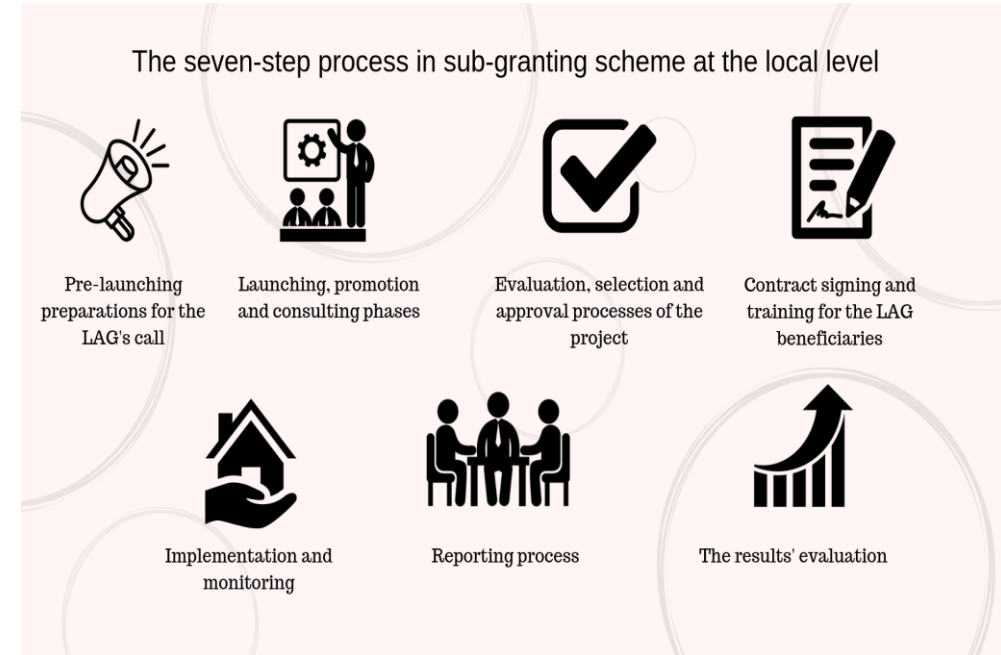
- **Local Development Strategy** elaborated & approved;
- Partnership **created & formalised** (Partnership Agreement & LAG relevant bodies).



Locally-tailored LEADER methodology – Stage 2 (Year 2)

Key elements:

- **Local Implementation Team:** community coaching;
- **LAG functionality:** LAG bodies start to function and take decisions;
- **managing LAG local development call:** rules, info-campaign, project selection, contracting, monitoring & evaluating.



Results:

- LAG gains practical experience.

**PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE
CREATES LAG**



Locally-tailored LEADER methodology – Stage 3 (3-5 years)

Key elements:

- capacity building & community development mentoring;
- LAGs profesionalisation (institutional development & innovation & bigger investments);
- adaptation to the **National LEADER Programme**;
- synergy of different funds: National Fund & Development Partners (EU).

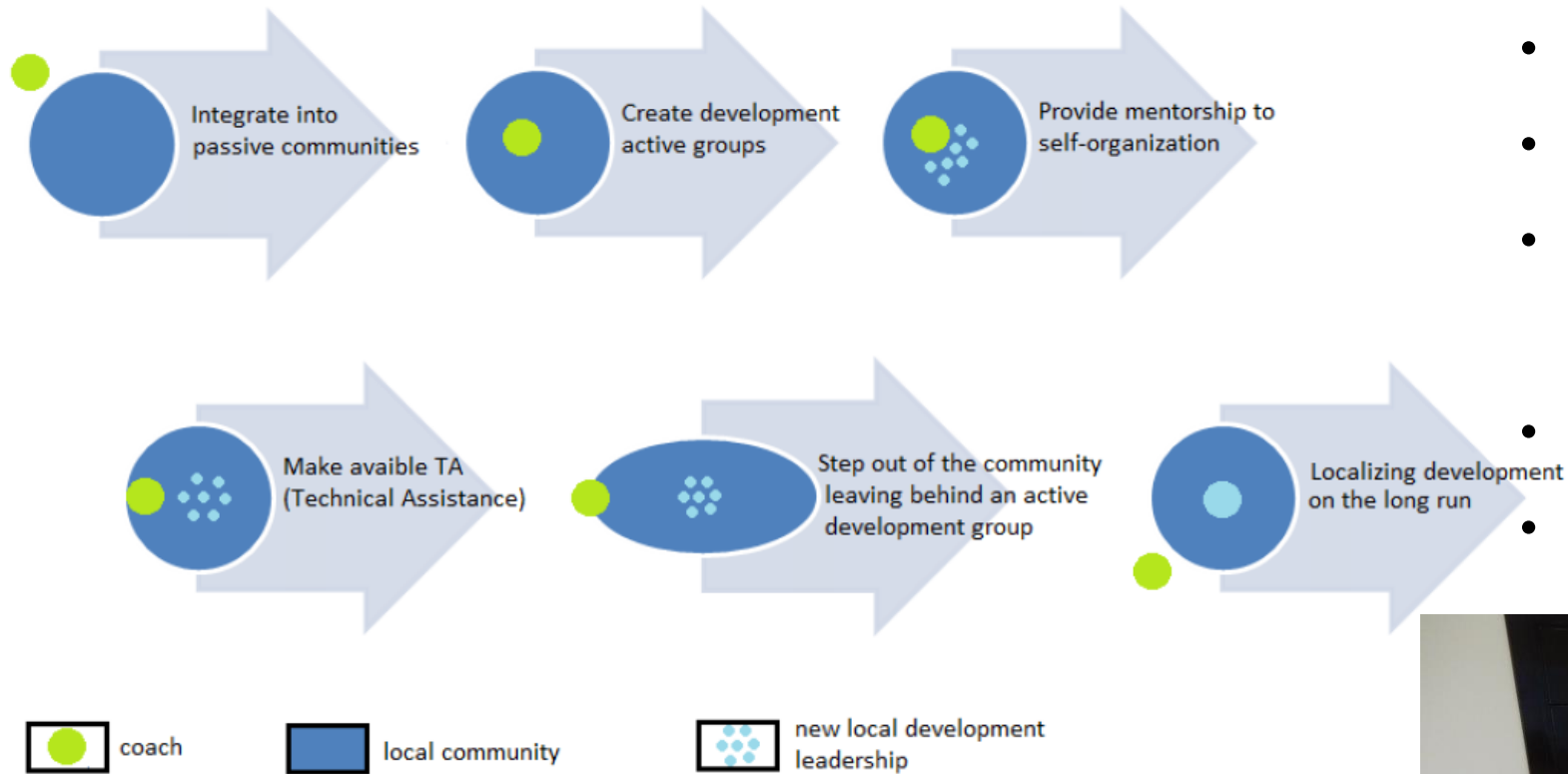
Results:

-



Community coaching proces & Local LEADER Implementation Team

COMMUNITY COACHING PROCESS



Key elements:

- empowering local people;
- local ownership;
- entrusting funds;
- local decisions respected (mistakes are possible)
- learning proces;
- facilitating – coaching - mentoring



LEADER in Moldova – key numbers

Budget for LEADER:

2018:

0,3 mln EUR for TA & new LAGs
0,4 mln EUR for LAGs (150 projects through LAGs)

2019:

0,3 mln EUR for TA & new LAGs
0,5 mln EUR for LAGs (225 projects through LAGs)

2020:

0,3 mln EUR for TA & new LAGs
1,15 mln EUR for LAGs (...)



Key Numbers (2020):

32 LAGs

approx. 2,000 LAG members
approx. 400 projects implemented

300 rural mayoralties

650,000 rural people
35% of rural areas

LEADER local development impact

- the **budget of local investments was tripled**, thanks to the co-financing ensured by final beneficiaries (50% in average) and in-kind contribution thus **1 EUR invested by LAG** – brings **3 EUR** actual local investment ;
- the survey of **47 entrepreneurs** – **LAG beneficiaries** conducted so far shows the following tendencies:
 - **77%** of the beneficiaries have **increased their income** (by an average of **7%**);
 - **60%** of the beneficiaries have **created new jobs** thanks to project implementation (**54 permanent** and **97 seasonal**);
 - **15%** of the beneficiaries have **officially registered** a business to apply for a grant to the LAG (or to sign a grant-contract);
 - **97%** of the beneficiaries **were satisfied** with collaboration with LAG, and **84% would like to continue** collaboration with LAG in 2020;
 - **55%** of the beneficiaries are **not LAG members**;
 - **67%** have started their **official business activity recently** (2017-2019);
 - **women** constitute **34% of beneficiaries**;
 - and average **age is around 42** (39 for men and 46 for women).



**MAIN
LESSON
THAT WE
HAVE
LEARNED IS ...**

Main lessons that we have learned

- partnership within stakeholders & **UNIFIED** common **LOCAL** methodology;
- LEADER is NOT a theory it is a **PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE**;
- local **OWNERSHIP** empowered by **COMMUNITY COACHING** process;
- LAGs are not NGOs;
- LEADER is about **DEVELOPMENT** (CBM dimension / experience in RM);
- **STATE** involvement;
- increase the **EFFICIENCY OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT** (tangible results & close to the people);
- pilot of **NEW APPROACH** in EU-delivery system;
- **COMMON** development PROCESS.

Common Development Process



Ecouri Nistrene



MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII,
DEZVOLTĂRII REGIONALE
ȘI MEDIULUI



Valea
Cuboltei





Many thanks to our special guests Galina Petrachi, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Iva Stamenova, EU Delegation Representative, Ranaelito Petrus, Rural Development Expert to MADRM (TA EMPARD) and Marta Marcisz, Expert of the SARD Pilot Program in implementing the LEADER approach.

Your presence, support and all your encouraging words were a confirmation that LEADER approach in Moldova is on the right path!

THANK YOU!

Marina Albu

National LEADER Network from the Republic of Moldova

// Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova

Tomasz Horbowski

Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova