

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

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LEADER IN IPARD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEASURE (TA)

Funding via the Managing Authority eg for LEADER publicity, awareness rising, support to establishment of Local Action Groups and of Local Development Strategies; Rural Networks

Measure active in Turkey, North Macedonia, and recently Serbia; Albania: conditional entrustment; Montenegro: in preparation

But the projects in question effectively only in Turkey

Opportunity – define your needs and get the project in the Annual TA Plan via IPARD Monitoring Committee



IPARD LEADER MEASURE: IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Funding for LAGs for implementation of Local Development Strategies

Operating in Turkey only

Serbia:

- 25 potential LAGs at of which -22 applied for national support in late 2019
- IPARD TA just lauched – opportunities
- LEADER measure in preparation – still under IPARD II?

North Macedonia

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

Albania

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



Montenegro

- Some potential LAGs



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)



IPARD measure: implementation of Local Development Strategies

- Implementation in Turkey (entrustment in Feb 2019, call open till Dec 2019, contracting of selected LAGs: 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
- New 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



National Rural Development Network



- Eligible under IPARD Technical Assistance but so far supported only in Turkey (under IPARD);
- LEADER as a crucial part of networks – sharing ideas, best practices, training, guidance etc.;
- Future: new areas based on the EU strategies such as Farm to Fork, the Green Deal and Biodiversity Strategy – short supply chains, collective investments, renewable energy, biodiversity and environment, circular economy, etc – awareness and knowledge.



Transnational cooperation

- Under IPARD – when the LAGs get experience and maturity
- Under EU rural development – potentially more flexible post 2020
 - Can start from the first year of implementation
 - Can be decided by LAGs (not Managing Authorities)
 - Can cover not only cooperation between LAGs but also with other partners (eg. research institutes etc)
 - Eligible for advance payments