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ENPARD: Support to Agriculture
and Rural Development

ENPARD I Pilot

Rural Development Projects

Implementing Organizations:

- People in Need (Kazbegi)
- CARE (Lagodekhi)
- Mercy Corps (Borjomi)

Partners:

- National Network of Local Action Groups in the Czech Republic
- Biological Farming Association Elkana
- ETEA Foundation (Spain)
- WWF, NALAG
- Borjomi Municipality & Angus Council (Scotland)





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Key Mechanisms:

1. Local Action Groups (LAG)
2. Local Development Strategy (LDS)
3. Development Grants



Local Action Group

- Members are invited through community mobilization activities, as well as individual presentations about the LAG and LEADER to business community, local authorities and CSOs
- LAG represents all three sectors: public, civil and business – minimum 51% of non-state actors
- Numbers of members varies depending on the region and community interest



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Local Action Group (cont.)

- LAG is trained on all aspects of LEADER approach and methodology, systems and tools, grant application processes, organizational development and fundraising
- Projects Appraisal Group trained on assessment processes, criteria & eligibility, examples and good practice. These skills were applied by LAG members during local initiatives selection process.





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Local Action Group (cont.)

- LAG elects Management Group (Management board, Chairperson, Executive director) and Project Appraisal Group (other management structures depending on the region and complexity)
- LAG members created network of all 3 pilot LAGs, participate in the workshops and share experience on regular basis
- LAG members benefit from study tours and experience exchange events within and outside of Georgia by learning about different aspects of LEADER programming in EU.





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Local Development Strategy

- Key instrument and output of the Rural Development Projects in the three municipalities.
- Based on consultations and field work with local population LDS consolidates wide spectrum of development priorities on the territorial entity.
- Supporting mechanism for effective implementation of grant components.
- Environmentally sustainable, gender sensitive long-term vision defining key priorities for municipal development.
- Approved and implemented by LAGs





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LDS Key Aspects

- General characteristics and statistics of the municipalities.
- Key priority spheres identified during the preparatory activities.
- Economic and social characteristics.
- Highlighting environmental and gender component.
- Aligned with regional and national strategies.
- Primary document for Investments and grant support.





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Development Grants

Grant mechanism open to a broad range of **actors**:

- Local Businesses
- Civil Society Organizations
- Local Authorities

Grant application should be in line with **priorities** of LDS:

- Economic/Business Development & Start-ups
- Innovative and more competitive agriculture (including diversification)
- Community infrastructure
- Culture, sport and recreation
- Environment protection, climate change adaptation and risk reduction
- Initiatives to support women, youth and people with disabilities



Lessons learned

- Limited knowledge of EU LEADER approach among stakeholders across Georgia.
- High potential to become a long term mechanism for strategic planning in territorial entities.
- LAG has a flexibility to cover cohesive geographic areas, which may not be the same as administrative borders.
- Achieving participation requires time and trust-building efforts with community.



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Lessons learned (cont.)

- Voluntary participation is limited by participants' time and access options.
- Special measures needed to ensure inclusion of vulnerable groups (people with disability, youth, women, minorities, remote communities).
- New LAG members should have capacity building opportunities.
- LAG sustainability mechanisms should be considered among key stakeholders.





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Lessons learned (cont.)

- Grant mechanism has capacitated local entrepreneurs to think in business planning regulations/standards (e.g. food safety) as well as from environmental and social perspective and encouraged the registration of business entities.
- Public-private partnerships can generate innovative solutions to local problems.
- Creation of National LAG Network will contribute to efficient implementation of EU LEADER approach in Georgia.
- LEADER approach is one of the mechanisms for Georgia's aligning with the EU.





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Thank you!

