



LEADER principles in non-rural territories: urban CLLD

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From LEADER to CLLD

Stage	Period	Funds	Type	No. of LAGs
LEADER I	1991-93	EAGGF, ERDF, ESF	Rural	217
LEADER II	1994-99	EAGGF, ERDF, ESF	Rural	821
LEADER+	2000-06	EAGGF	Rural	1,153
LEADER axis	2007-13	EAFRD, EMFF	Rural, fisheries	2,200
CLLD	2014-20	EAFRD, EMFF, ERDF, ESF	Rural, fisheries, urban	3,333
CLLD/LEADER	2021-27	EAFRD, EMFAF, ERDF, ESF+	Rural, fisheries, urban	?

Key features of urban CLLD

Key characteristics

- **Community-led** local development in **area not eligible for EAFRD funding** (= urban)
- Translating the **LEADER method** into non-rural territories



Territories

- Coverage of a **single municipality** – while multiple municipalities in rural LAGs or FLAGs
- Two main types of territorial focus of LAGs
 - sub-municipal level: city **district or neighbourhood**
 - entire municipality: usually **smaller towns**



Funding

- Use of **Cohesion Policy Funds (ERDF/ESF) only** – in the urban part of the municipality
- In practice, almost all urban LAGs use the **ESF**



Themes

- **no “agricultural bias”** – thematically as open as ERDF/ESF allow
- LAGs started from a “blank slate” – lack of up to 30 years' experience and legacy



Urban CLLD as key territorial innovation in 2014-20

221 urban LAGs in 7 countries

- Romania – continued + expanded
- Poland – continued + expanded
- Lithuania – continued + expanded
- Netherlands – continued + expanded
- Hungary – abandoned
- Portugal – formally abandoned (?)
- United Kingdom – Brexit

Urban LAGs in 2014-20

	ERDF		ERDF	Total
		ESF	ESF	
HU			99	99
LT		39		39
NL	1			1
PL		7		7
PT			16	16
RO			35	35
UK			24	24
Total	1	46	174	221

Example of urban LAG activities - Romania

ERDF

- social housing, health and educational **infrastructure**
- upgrading **public spaces and utilities**

ESF

- **education** (e.g. reducing early school leavers)
- accessing & remaining in **employment** (e.g. apprenticeships)
- integrated **services** (multi-functional centres, social services)
- fostering **entrepreneurship** both in the mainstream and social economy



Federation of urban LAGs

Urban CLLD in 2021-27

4 countries are continuing (and expanding)

- **Romania**: 40 LAGs (ERDF + ESF+)
- **Lithuania**: 60 LAGs (ESF+ only)
- **Poland**: 9 LAGs – 8 in Kujawsko-Pomorskie (2 in Bydgoszcz alone) and 1 LAG in Lubuskie
- **Netherlands**: 3 LAGs (ERDF) in The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam

2 countries are starting

- **Germany** (Saxony-Anhalt): 3 LAGs (Magdeburg, Halle, Dessau)
- **Czechia**: likely 12 LAGs (e.g. Tábor)

(Also – although formally discontinued – Portugal: c. 16 LAGs, but no pre-allocated budget anymore)

Rural-urban LAG Magdeburg (Saxony-Anhalt, DE) 2023-27

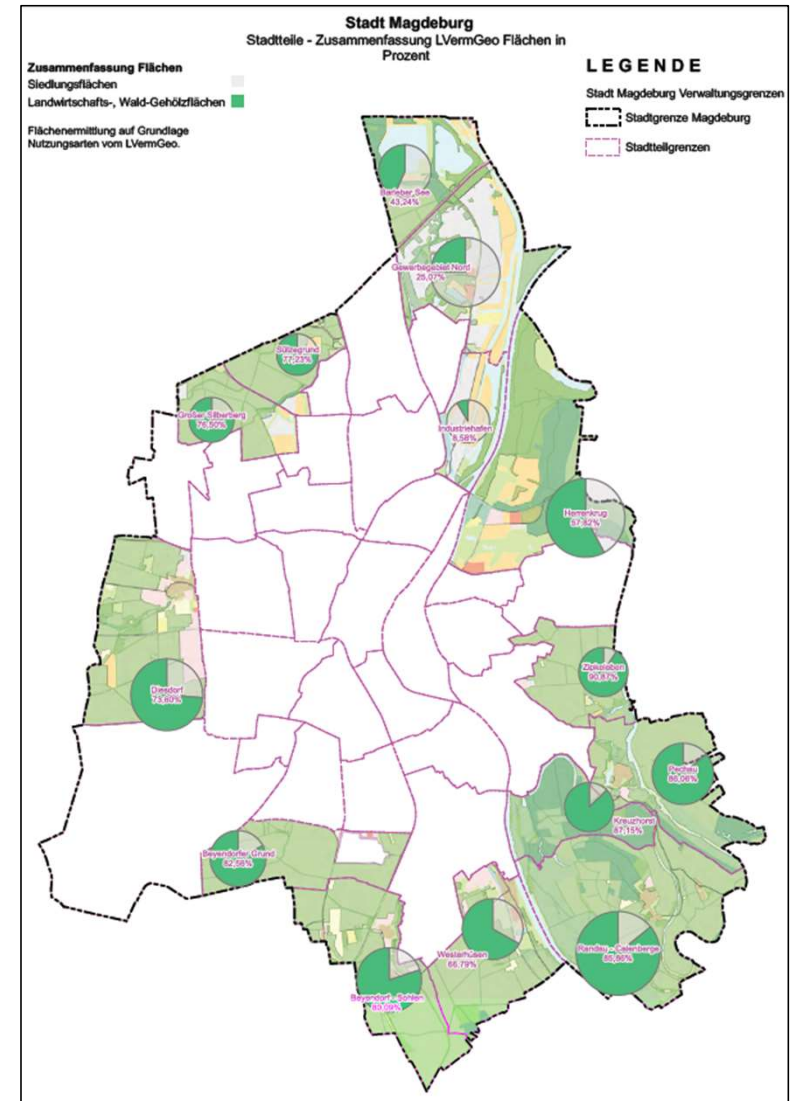
- 240,000 inhabitants
- Surrounded by multi-funded LAGs 2014-20
- But no LEADER/CLLD coverage in 2014-20

3 EU Funds 2023-27:

- ERDF: €3.97 million – entire territory
- ESF+: €0.93 million – entire territory
- EAFRD: €5.97 million – only for defined rural territory

3 fields of action (each using all 3 Funds)

- Spaces for development spaces
- Spaces for meeting each other
- Human-nature habitat



Source: Magdeburg LDS 2023-27

Another way to work with towns: “Privileged Functional Partnerships” in Austria 2023-27

To qualify for PFPs, the towns need to:

- Have a **maximum of 110,000 inhabitants**
- “complete the **geographical area** of the LEADER territory”
- bring economic and social **added value** to the LEADER territory
- pass a local council resolution for a cooperation agreement with the LAG and **contribute financially** (at least €50,000)
- show proof of at least 3 years of **previous partnership cooperation** with at least some of the LAG municipalities


What is (sufficiently) urban? What is rural enough?

Rural LAGs include **settlements with “urban” character** – but maximum size of municipality to be eligible for EAFRD varies, e.g.:

- 20,000 inhabitants (Poland, Romania)
- 25,000 inhabitants (Czechia)
- 30,000 inhabitants (Austria)

Urban LAGs can sometimes be found in **small towns with limited urban character:**

- Câmpulung (12,000 inhabitants), Romania
- Pagėgiai (1,900 inhabitants), Lithuania

 In the end, size doesn't matter, but the management and implementation model and process – not “where” CLLD is implemented, but “how”