

IV EUROPA FORUM

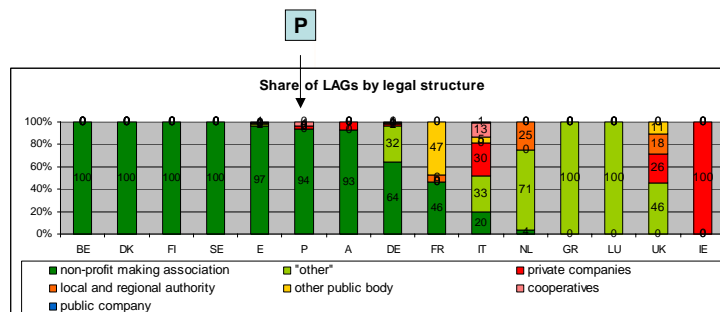
Ponte de Lima, Portugal, 9th September 2006



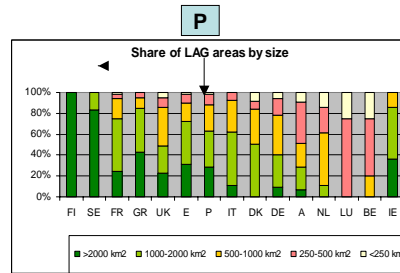
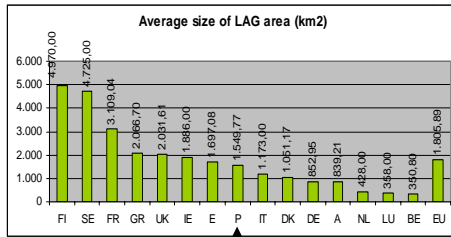
**LEADER AND
EU RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY
IN THE PERIOD 2007-2013**

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DG AGRI, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

LAGs characteristics – legal structure

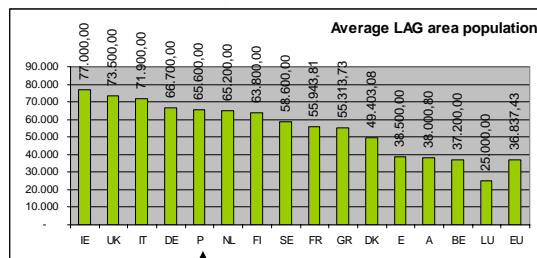


LAGs characteristics - area



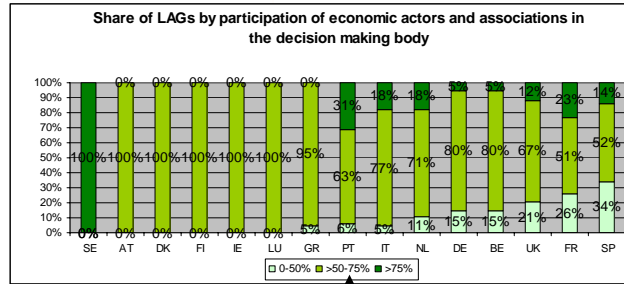
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LAGs characteristics - population



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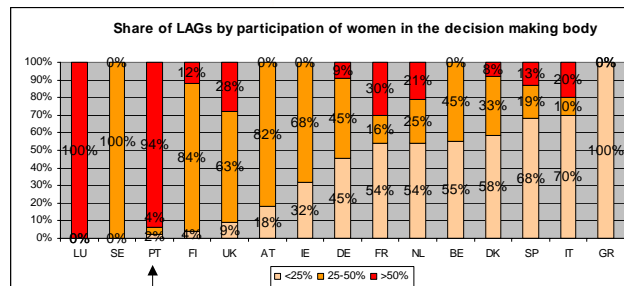
LAGs characteristics – decision making



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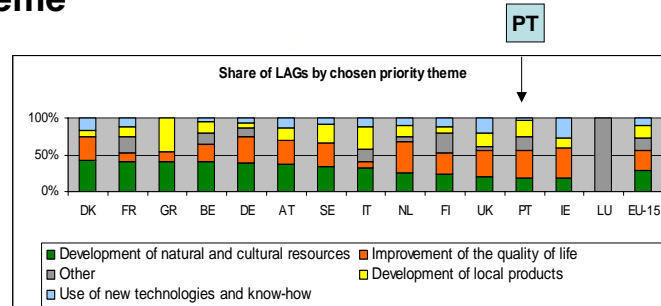
LAGs characteristics – gender balance in decision making



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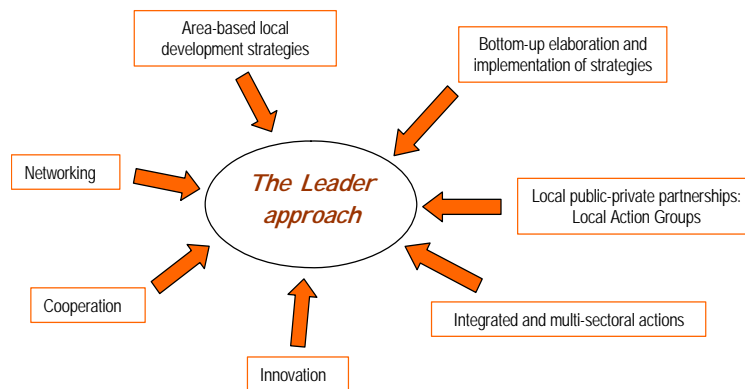
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Distribution of LAGs by chosen priority theme



7

The seven key features of Leader



8



Leader advantages

- Adaptable to different situations
- Brings together social and economic actors in partnership
- Promote local governance
- Links bottom-up with top-down; local needs and objectives with horizontal objectives
- Laboratory

9



EU Rural Development in Perspective:

From Cork to Salzburg and to the three thematic axes:

- Competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
- Environment and sustainable land management
- Diversification and quality of life in rural areas

10



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Extended Impact Assessment for the new Rural Development Policies 2007-2013 some important conclusions

- **Need for extensive simplification**
- **Need to avoid deadweight**
- **Need for better targeting to improve the effectiveness of certain measures**
- **Need for a more strategic approach**

11

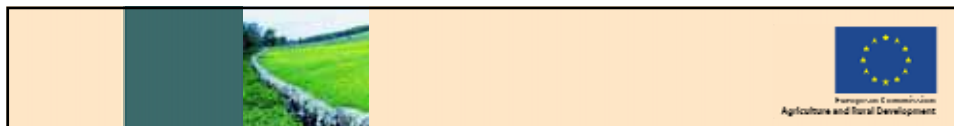



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

New Programming Period 2007-2013: some important elements

- **A more strategic approach: broad-based objectives, sub-objectives and common indicators**

12






European Commission
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New Programming Period 2007-2013: some important elements

- **A set of Community Strategic Guidelines (CSGs) to maximize value and to make the link with Lisbon and Göteborg objectives (growth, employment and sustainable development)**

13




European Commission
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New Programming Period 2007-2013: some important elements

- **Mainstreaming of LEADER: the role of Local Action Groups now and in the future**

14



Community Strategic Guidelines for Axis 4

The EU priorities:

- Use the Leader approach for introducing innovation in axis 1, 2 and 3
 - better governance at the local level
 - endogenous development (local resources for growth and jobs)

Key actions: local capacity building, public-private partnerships, networking and cooperation, mutually supportive actions between agriculture, the environment and the wider rural economy and population, sustainability

15



Mainstreaming of Leader: field of application

The LEADER method is applicable and useful to the whole range of development measures from both the territorial and the sectorial viewpoint:

- Territorial: training, agri-environment, forestry, diversification, village renewal...
- Sectorial: training, marketing and processing, forestry, diversification, infrastructures, farm investments, ...

But:

The Leader method requires permanent support structures for capacity building, networking and administrative cross-coordination.

16



Leader axis: implementation steps

- Acquisition of skills for new LAGs or existing LAGs
- Selection of local development strategy
- Contractualization with LAGs
- Implementation of local development strategy

17



Delivery system: actions eligible for support

- a) Implementing local development strategies to achieve the objectives of one or more of the 3 axes
- b) Co-operation
- c) Running the local action group, acquisition of skills and animating the territory

18



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THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR YOUR ATTENTION !