

How is CLLD moving forward in Europe?

Evidence from LDnet research and country profiles

Stefan Kah (European Policies Research Centre)

LDnet General Assembly

2 February 2022



LDnet CLLD country profiles

- Short summaries (2-3 pages) using a common template
- 21 CLLD country profiles published so far, remaining ones to follow
- Comparative research, e.g. on use of different funding sources, thematic priorities, implementation challenges
- See <https://ldnet.eu/category/resources/cldd-country-profile/>

CLLD country profile: Estonia



An overview of CLLD in Estonia in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main author: Triin Kallas | December 2020

CLLD country profile: Slovenia



An overview of CLLD in Slovenia in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main authors: Alina Cunk Perklič and Aleš Zidar, with contribution from Stefan Kah | November 2020

CLLD country profile: Sweden




An overview of CLLD in Sweden in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main author: Urszula Budzich-Tabor | June 2020

CLLD country profile: Poland



An overview of CLLD in Poland in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main author: Urszula Budzich-Tabor | Reviewer: Joanna Gierulska | November 2020



CLLD country profile: Czechia

1. Key messages about local development and CLLD in this country

The CLLD has made full use of the potential that has been built in Czechia since 2004 through the implementation of the LEADER method and the expanded geographic coverage of LAGs. The CLLD support area consists of municipalities with less than 25,000 inhabitants and currently only 5% of the population that could potentially be part of a LAG is outside a designated LAG area, i.e. is not covered by CLLD.

For the period 2014-2020, the management of the CLLD implementation is split between two ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for setting LAG standards according to the Partnership Agreement. However, the Ministry of Regional Development was already responsible for the process of approving the CLLD strategies. Both ministries are also the managing authorities of the operational programmes implemented under the CLLD. The Ministry of Agriculture implements the Rural Development Programme and the Ministry of Regional Development is the managing authority of the Integrated Regional OP.

The interests of the LAGs are defended by the bottom-up association National Network of LAGs of Czechia (169 out of 179 LAGs are members of the network). The main mission of the network is to bring together LAGs to: develop cooperation with other actors working for the countryside and its inhabitants; create conditions for expanding the influence and the role of the LAG in the administration of subsidies from funds; to promote and popularise the role of LAGs in community-led local development; and to organise lectures, training and briefings for more efficient working for rural areas.

Regional networks and regional associations of LAGs have also been established.

2. CLLD used in the following Funds

Fund	CLLD budget from the Fund (€)
EAFRD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	165 523 000
EMFF <input type="checkbox"/>	-
ESF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	66 428 000
ERDF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	436 927 000


Planned allocation at programme start

3. Possibility of multi-funding (linking several Funds in one strategy)

All LAGs combine the use of EAFRD and ERDF in one strategy. 85% of LAGs combine the application of three funds (ESF, EAFRD and ERDF). Most of the LAGs that do not use the ESF would have liked to so but were not allowed based on selected criteria established at the national level. The EMFF could not be used in Czechia.

4. Number of LAGs

Fund	Number of LAGs using this Fund	
	Multi-funded	Mono-funded
EAFRD	178	-
EMFF	-	-
ESF	156	-
ERDF	178	-
Total number of LAGs	178	-



CLLD country profile: Poland

Local development and CLLD in this country

Throughout the country under EAFRD and EMFF, and in two regions F, with multi-funded strategies combining several EU Funds. and fisheries CLLD from the previous funding period was used very features such as Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) for LAG projects, umbrella projects, widely accessible advance payments of CLLD implementation in Poland is positively assessed by but there are significant differences between Funds and regions. The complexities are occasionally observed, as well as diverging administrative authorities.

Linking Funds

CLLD budget from the Fund (€)
500,755,600
79,699,995
65,719,976
58,962,782

Linking (linking several Funds in one strategy)

Local Funds in one strategy, with the Lead Fund of multi-funded versus LAG running and animation costs for the whole strategy) ERDF, but in some cases EMFF and, for urban LAGs, also ESF. Linking EAFRD and EMFF are found in seven Polish regions (out of 16 regions). In two regions (Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Podlaskie) LAGs can be in their strategies, although in practice there is only one LAG (Iwnicka Lake District). In several other regions, LAGs and FLAGs do not use ESF funding by submitting applications to specific calls for projects that are not part of an integrated strategy.

Number of LAGs using this Fund

Number of LAGs using this Fund	
Multi-funded	Mono-funded
41	251
12	24
31	7
31	-
42	282

For which CLLD is used

CLLD is located in rural areas, and they work mainly on improving the many projects focusing on public investments in infrastructure), employment and diversification of local economies (with a strong focus on agriculture and fisheries, and on tourism). The LAGs using both rural and urban, are very active in the field of social inclusion,

30+ years of LEADER: evolution into CLLD

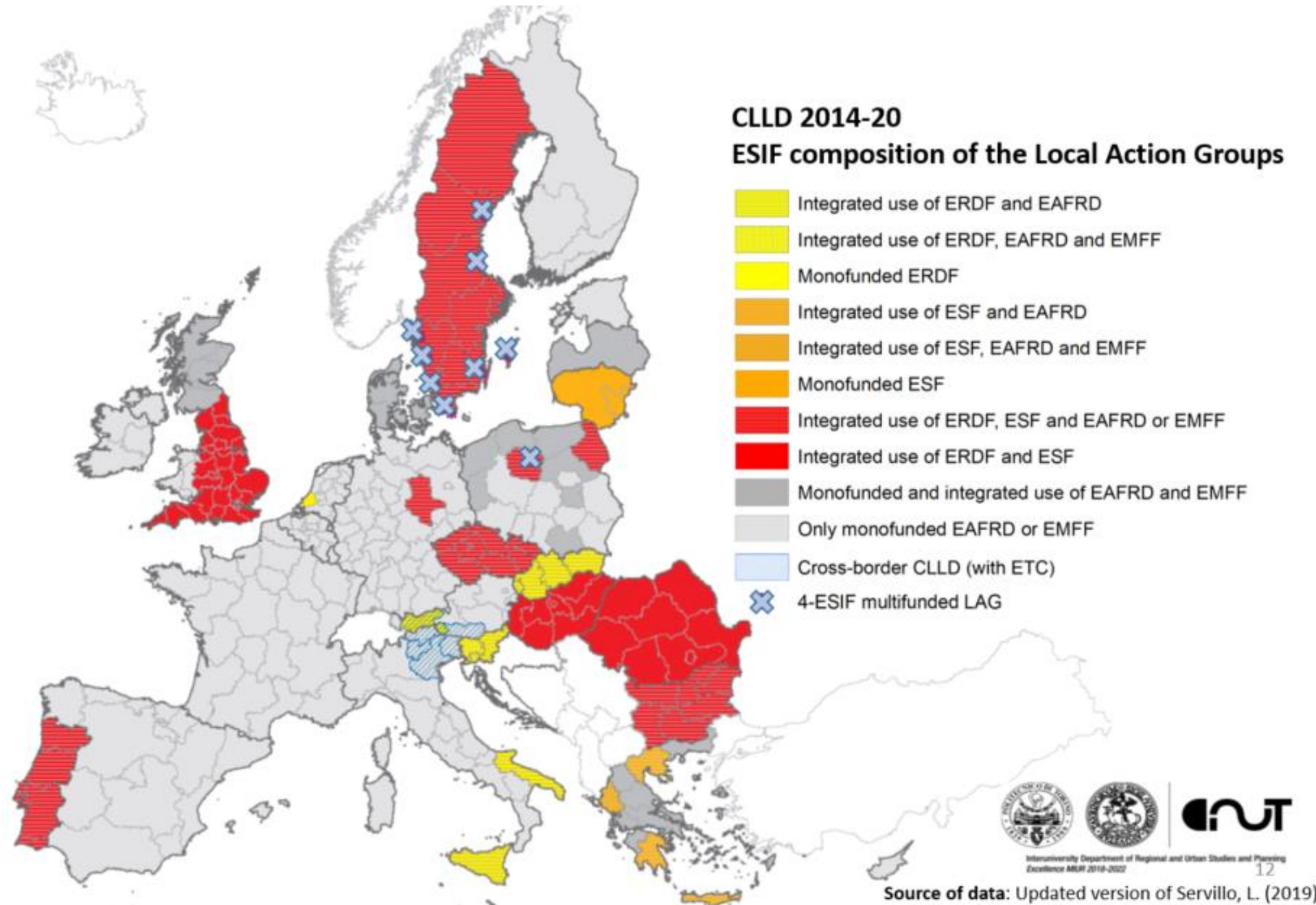
Stage	Period	Funds	No. of LAGs	
LEADER I	1991-93	EAGGF, ERDF, ESF	217	Community Initiative
LEADER II	1994-99	EAGGF, ERDF, ESF	821	
LEADER+	2000-06	EAGGF	1153	
LEADER axis	2007-13	EAFRD, EMFF	2200	"Mainstreaming" & Fisheries (FLAGS)
CLLD	2014-20	EAFRD, EMFF, ERDF, ESF	3335	CLLD as territorial instrument in Cohesion Policy All territories eligible (incl. urban)
CLLD/LEADER	2021-27	EAFRD, EMFAF, ERDF, ESF+	?	CLLD continues (can count into urban 8% ERDF) Separation (?) from LEADER

3335 LAGs across the EU in 2014-20

Country	Mono EAFRD	Mono EMFF	EAFRD-EMFF	Mono ERDF	Mono ESF	Mono ETC	EAFRD-ERDF	EAFRD-ESF	EMFF-ERDF	EMFF-ESF	ERDF-ESF	EAFRD-EMFF-ERDF	EAFRD-EMFF-ESF	EAFRD-ERDF-ESF	EMFF-ERDF-ESF	All 4	Total LAGs
Austria	69						8										77
Belgium	32																32
Bulgaria	25	9					4	6						29			73
Croatia	54	14															68
Cyprus	4																4
Czechia							27							151			178
Denmark	19	3	7														29
Estonia	26	8															34
Finland	54	10															64
France	330	23															353
Germany	298	29												23			350
Greece	14	1	22		2			4					10				53
Hungary	103										99						202
Ireland	29	7															36
Italy	168	44	9				23										244
Latvia	29		6														35
Lithuania	46	10	3		39												98
Luxembourg	5																5
Malta	3																3
Netherlands	20			1													21
Poland	251	24	11		7						1			29		1	324
Portugal	6	3									16			54	12		91
Romania	239	22									37						298
Slovakia							110										110
Slovenia							33					4					37
Spain	251	41															292
Sweden	2	4					3	2					1	28		8	48
UK	129	11	8								24						172
CBC AT-IT						4											4
TOTAL	2206	263	66	1	48	4	208	12	0	0	177	4	11	314	12	9	3335

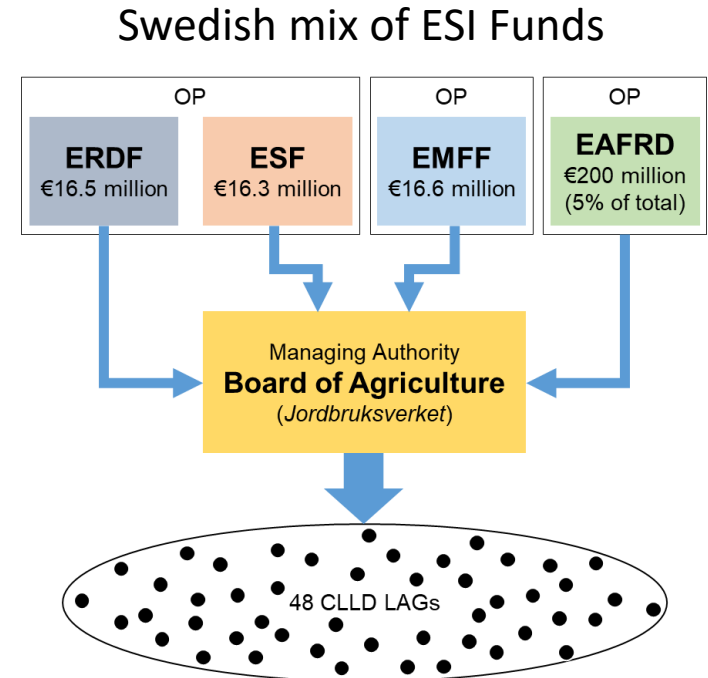
Last update: 2 February 2022

What type of CLLD and where?



Expansion: 1. Thematically

- Option to use 4 ESI Funds: EAFRD, EMFF, ERDF and ESF
- Range of **typical LEADER activities**: small business development, adding value to local products, territorial marketing, heritage & tourism, etc.
- But also, partly thanks to the appearance of other Funds, **relatively new themes**: mobility, social inclusion, environment and biodiversity, energy...
- Distinction between more **prescriptive vs. open models**:
 - The MA **predefines** what can be financed with CLLD (e.g. CZ, DE, HR, LT, PT, RO)
 - The **choice is left** to the LAGs (e.g. AT, FI, LU, SE)



Approaches to thematic focusing

Sector-focused vs. diversification-focused models

- Support is restricted (usually at programme level) to sectoral measures targeting agriculture (PT, BE Wallonie) or fisheries (FI, HR, IT, PL)
- Focus is on diversifying the local economy into other sectors (AT, CZ, GR, LT, RO, SE; also EE, IT, LV and PL but only for rural funding, fisheries funding in those countries is more sector-focused)

Private vs. public sector-focused models

In most countries both types of projects can be funded, still:

- some focus on **private investments** (EE, IT and partly GR)
- others focus on **public investments**, mainly infrastructure-related (CZ, LV, PL, RO and SI)

Expansion: 2. Territorially

Since 2014-20

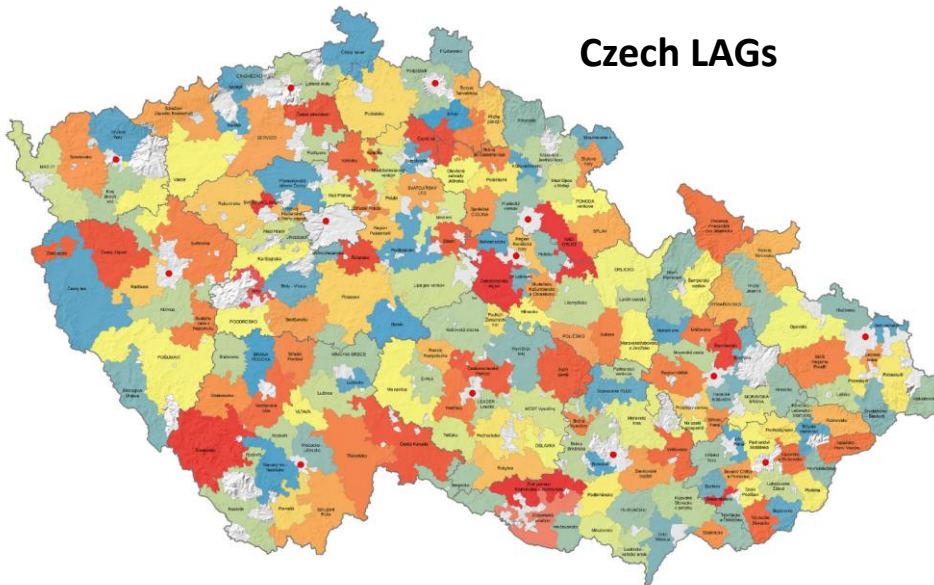
➤ **No limits to territorial coverage**

- Rural, coastal/fisheries + urban (new in 2014-20)
- Up to 100% coverage of municipalities, e.g. Kujawsko-Pomorskie (PL), Slovenia
- There are still gaps in LAG maps, but these are shrinking

German LAGs



Czech LAGs



Slovenian LAGs



Territorial expansion to urban territories

223 urban LAGs in 7 countries in 2014-20

Country	ERDF LAGs	ESF LAGs	ERDF-ESF LAGs
Hungary			99
Lithuania		39	
Netherlands	1		
Poland		7	
Portugal			16
Romania			37
UK (England)			24
TOTAL	1	46	176



Types of targeted territories

1. **Areas within cities** – districts
e.g. Lisbon, The Hague, Bucharest, Timișoara, Miskolc...
2. **Entire cities** – often smaller towns
e.g. in Hungary, Lithuania, Romania

also 3. not formally urban cases, e.g. Gothenburg, Slovenian cities (e.g. Ljubljana, Maribor).

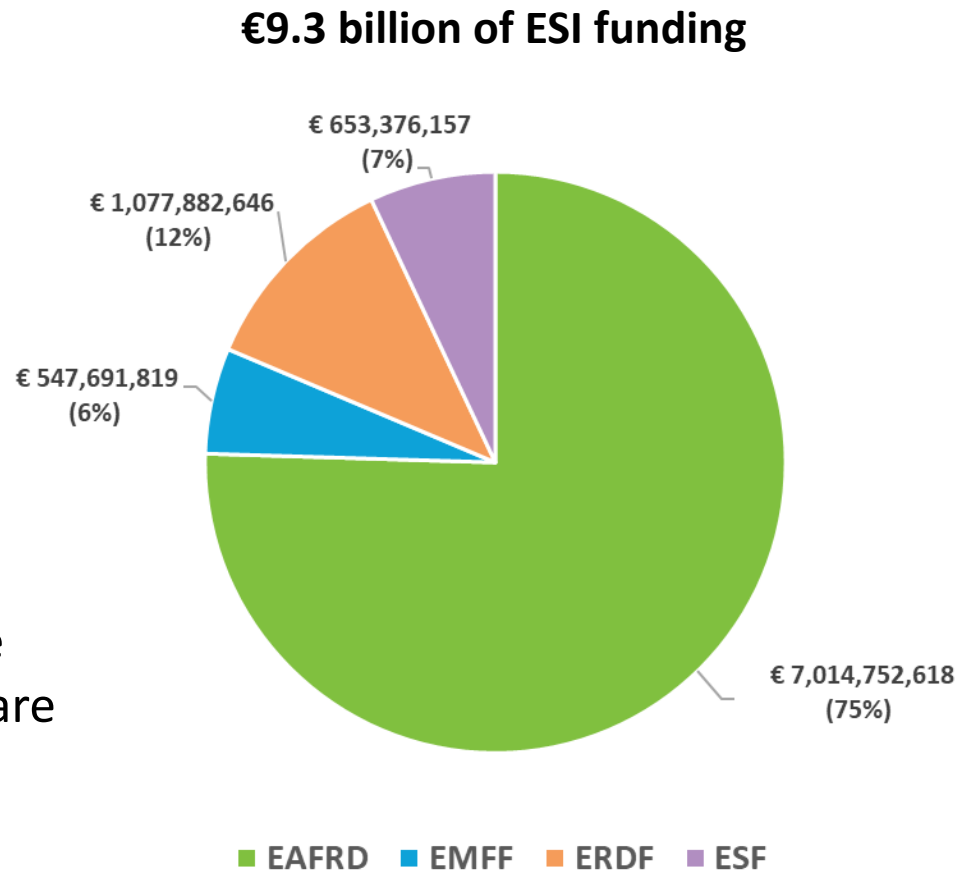
Territories within city boundaries, classified as rural

Urban LAGs are “mono-municipal” (vs. multi-municipality rural LAGs) -> balance of power?

LEADER and FLAGs remain the preferred models

Out of 3335 LAGs

- **2535 are LEADER LAGs or FLAGs (or both)**
 - **800 use (also) other funding, i.e. Cohesion Policy (ERDF, ESF)**
- Two thirds of all LAGs (2206) are traditional LEADER LAGs (EAFRD only)
- Only 6.9% of all LAGs (230) are not using EAFRD or EMFF, i.e. are “Cohesion Policy-only”



CLLD 2014-20: some key messages

There is no European “model” of CLLD implementation

- national contexts are crucial (democratic traditions, existing domestic local development models, community development movements etc.) as are often regional ones (BE, DE, IT, PL...)

Implementation experiences are often mixed and sometimes frustrating

- Teething problems and delays, not least with multi-Fund models
- Administrative burden and capacities are a key concern (no surprise...)

The number of LAGs is continuously increasing (also 2021-27?)

- Are there consequences for quality of strategies and interventions? (competitive selection procedures?)
- “No way back”: reducing coverage will be difficult
- Replacement for other EU- or domestic policies & funding? Is LEADER still innovative?

Suggested issues for discussion

1. How will CLLD change in 2021-27?

- Most countries will continue multi-Fund CLLD, but some will stop

2. Multi-Fund versus mono-Fund experiences

- What are the pros and cons?

3. Urban and social focus in CLLD

- Worth expanding/pursuing?

4. What role for some of the currently discussed innovative concepts?

- e.g. Smart Villages or participatory budgeting

Thank you for your attention!



Stefan Kah

kahstefan@gmail.com