



#MyRuralFuture

A strong voice for community-led approaches: ELARD petition on LEADER/CLLD as a pillar for EU development

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Priorities 2024-2029

- **Support for people, a strong society and the European social model** - social justice and solidarity and equal opportunities for all citizens.
- **Protecting democracy and European values** - how to empower citizens to actively participate in democratic life and shape the future of the European Union.



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To fully harness the potential of participatory rural development, we call on the European Commission to:

1. Make participatory rural development tools mandatory across all EU member states in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), ensuring that **LEADER/CLLD** remains a core pillar of EU territorial policies.
2. Integrate **LEADER/CLLD** into multiple EU policies and protect its budgetary allocation with earmarking, including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Cohesion Policy, recognizing that rural development extends beyond agriculture.



3. Strengthen and recognize the role of Local Action Groups (LAGs) as key facilitators of EU policies at the local level, and as key stakeholders in preventing and fighting disinformation, making them recognized partners in governance and European integration efforts.
4. Simplify access to funding by reducing administrative burdens and ensuring multi-fund mechanisms support efficient, community-led initiatives, along with the EU's commitment to reducing red tape from member states and enhancing local governance capacity.
5. Increase funding for LEADER-CLLD, at a level that matches its proven impact and expanded role in tackling rural challenges.