



Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
"Local Development Network - LDnet"

Achieving social inclusion in Community-Led Local Development in the context of the results orientation of the ESI Fund



The Lesbos island experience

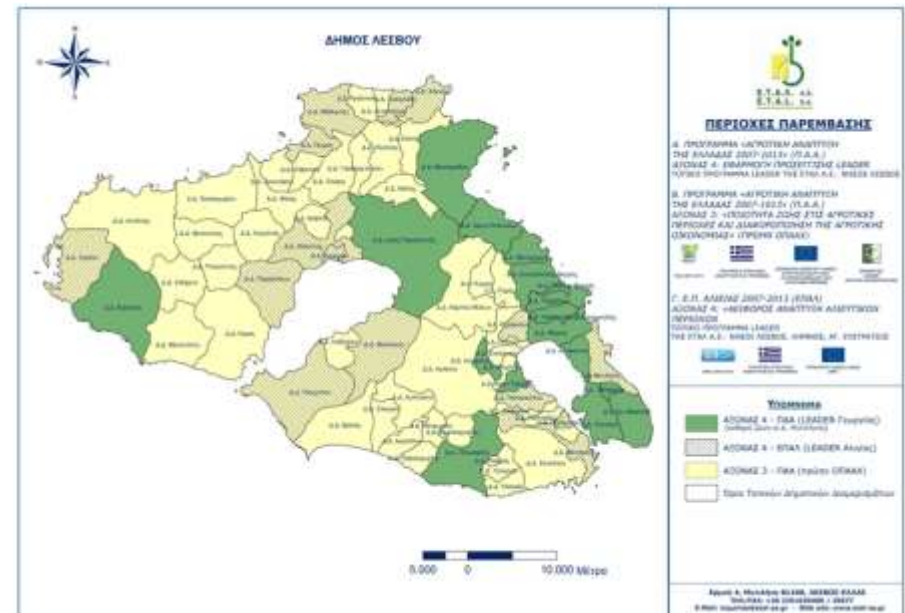
*LESVOS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY S.A. - [ ETAL S.A. ]*

*Island of Lesbos - GREECE*

*Anastasios M. Perimenis - Gen. Manager*

## LESVOS island

- ▶ Lesvos is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Greek Island, situated in the North East part of the Aegean Sea, Mytilini is the Capital.
- ▶ One Island, One Municipality
- ▶ It belongs to the Lesvos-Limnos-Ag. Eftratis Prefecture, part of the "NORTH AEGEAN REGION", 86.456 inhabitants in 1.632,82 km<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ A rural Economy, Ranks 172<sup>rd</sup> region of the 179 regions of Europe in terms of GNP per capita...(E.U. regional objective 1 area).
- ▶ Characteristics...Insular, remote, rural, unemployment (app. 21%), outmigration, transportation difficulties, not well advanced infrastructure...



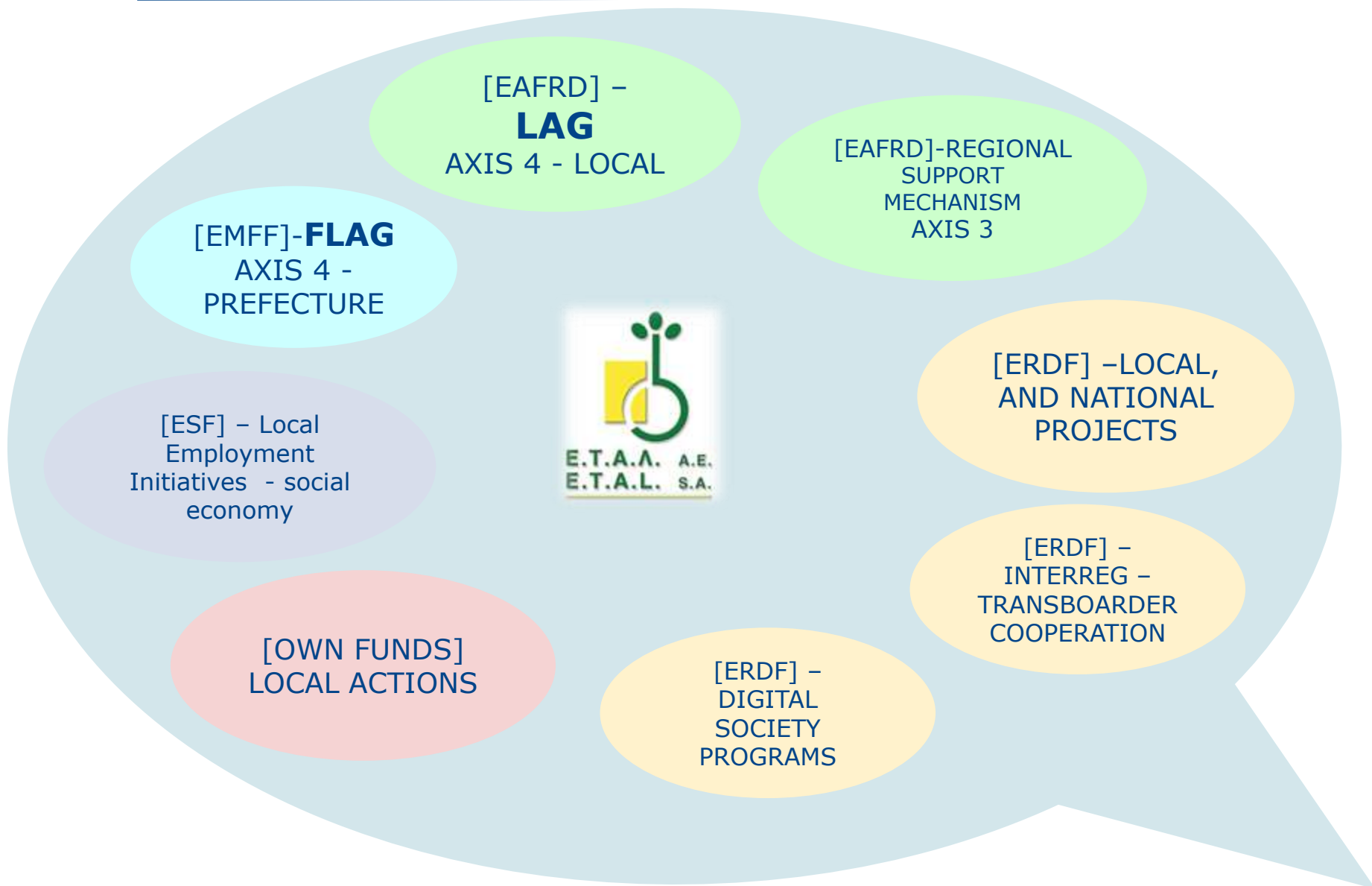
# LESVOS island



- ▶ An island of un-spoilt rural-agricultural environment...
- ▶ An Island of Culture, poets, musicians, artists...
- ▶ An island with maybe the largest olive grooves in Greece and excellent quality of olive oil...
- ▶ The origin of world famous OUZO, and Kalloni sardines...
- ▶ Quite pace in the rhythms of everyday life, emphasis in family, neighbor and community ties...



# What we are implementing.... Act Locally managing EU and National Policies under one central LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



## In the context of a National Financial Crisis, Social Cohesion Challenges, the Refugees-Migrant crisis

### Major priority now the issue of "Social Cohesion" ?

- Rapid decline in the standard of living
- Extreme unemployment especially for young people
- Fear for the future. How can we forecast and plan
- People leaving the island and the county
- Enterprises closing down
- Infrastructure becoming poorer

### How can a (F)-LAG intervene?

- The main role is to keep the animation process going
- We need to adjust to more realistic targets
- Keep track of real needs in a rapidly changing environment
- Become more realistic as far as the "Eligibility" term in actions is concerned

Work on the issue of people in an area and get them involved

# What we believe it takes among many other things

Using the Local resources, natural and cultural in order to make examples-pilot actions of how the island can achieve sustainable development based on the communities own needs and how there can be quality of life in its local communities.

- ✓ Listening to local needs, be close to local people
- ✓ Simple management systems
- ✓ Focus on Local Development Strategy
- ✓ Potential recognition, diversification
- ✓ Involvement of Communities and Stakeholders in governance
- ✓ Consultation, animation, empowerment
- ✓ Networking - cooperation



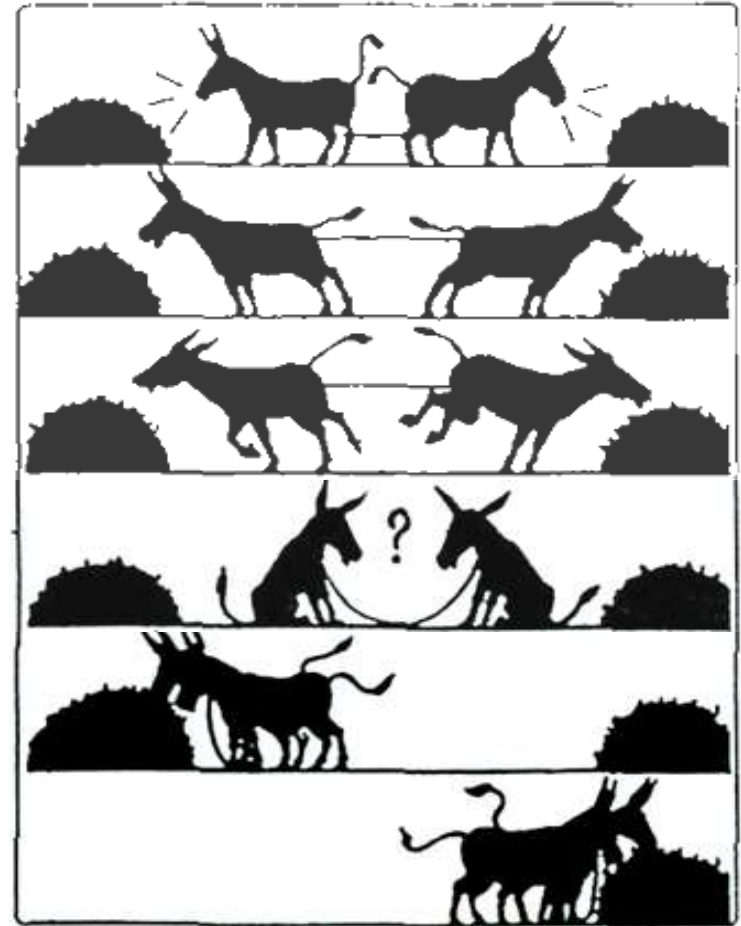
# COOPERATION between management systems, locally, national and EU levels

Different regulation and management systems can they work together?

"elaborate systems" create bitter taste and mistrust

MAs need to harmonize systems , simplify them and allocate responsibility.

People involved in MAs and auditory units should be some how more "down to earth" rather than just technical staff members who handle paper. The actually affect lives!



We need to work closer together and create TRUST.

## Results Oriented Strategies

*Yes, results is actually the best way to create trust*

? but Europe is the most diverse environment

*Results is the best way to prove success and funds are well spent,*

? but! is it possible that there is too much emphasis in the need to prove...

**Results can be measured in terms of numbers, rules, and regulation**

? but How can we measure community ties and adaptation to change

**Results can be achieved once we put priorities on target groups...**

? but what kind of priorities, those how can invest or those who need to invest

**Results can be demonstrated in a long and heavy technical report**

? But is it really true...is it enough to have "results" on a report or in real life?

**In my opinion we need to focus on INSPIRING people to create RESULTS**

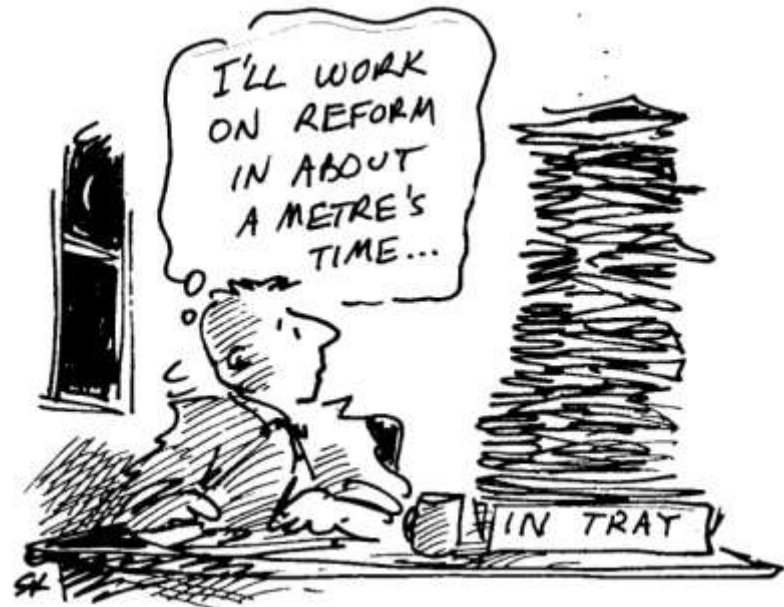


## Big Targets, bigger pile of work and more elaborate problems to solve...



Unaccountable power,  
inequality of power,  
Bureaucracy as a tool  
for Domination

- Intense and voluminous paperwork.
- Variance in procedures - a crazy melting pot of rules!
- Legal Framework
- Financial Problems - sources of Funds - Banking system
- Lack of trust... "ownership of the LDS"



# what we have dealt with and still deal with as LAG/FLAG...

## Bottom-Up feature -

*Are LAGS/FLAGs really allowed to implement the Leader approach in ways that achieve the potential for added value and mainly in Social Inclusion ?*

## Priorities and Target Groups

It is important to realize once you want to keep the Leader features you need to address to the most difficult target groups. Fishermen, Farmers, people without skills, marginalized youth that cannot enter the working force, especially when they are well educated but apparently too educated to stay in the island due to lack of opportunities. A program is meant for few?

## Territorial Approach

How can one achieve the best LDS as far as area based planning is concerned when national regulations divide the areas according to just measurable criteria or lines on a map? Or the need to achieve numbers of results on report files? Do we really answer to local needs this way?

## Accountability.

*There must be clearly defined simple criteria, the LDS must be the determining factor with few and simple criteria that show if an area is worth living in. Subjective vs Objective...*

## Evaluating Performance.

*How can we implement evaluation tools in order to learn from problems and even take corrective actions in time. common feeling, how “invasive” and “pervasive” the program is in peoples.*

Finally, it all starts from the place “topos”, the needs of people, the changing conditions



It is imperative for us to work for locality, needs of people, and care for the changing conditions

