

ELARD on the road to the 2014-20

Petri Rinne
ELARD President
<http://www.elard.eu>

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ELARD before and today

International non-profit organization founded in 1999 by 5 European national informal LEADER networks:

1. *French LEADER Network - LEADER France*
2. *Greek LEADER Network - Ελληνικό Δίκτυο LEADER*
3. *Irish LEADER Network - Comhar LEADER na hEireann*
4. *Italian LEADER Network - AssoLEADER*
5. *Spanish LEADER Network – REDR*

Today, ELARD is representing more than 700 LAGs (from some 2300 in total) through voluntary networks in 23 countries:

- ***Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, North Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden + Croatia & Macedonia***
- In contact with Rural Networks in ***Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany***



ELARD aims

One of the most important aims of ELARD is to:

"represent the interests of the so called wider rural economy (as defined by the OECD's New Rural Policy Paradigm) in the EU's policy making".

The association aims also to:

"campaign to spread the philosophy, principles and reach of the LEADER method grounded in the seven specific features in order to achieve sustainable rural development across Europe".



The Finnish Presidency aims

1. Strengthen and spread the LEADER methodology

- CLLD working groups, FARNET, Balkan area candidate countries, LEADER Dissemination seminar in Finland in June 2011, Africa, Russia, Latin America, consultancy process with the DG Development and Cooperation

2. Improve the LEADER implementation environment

- EN RD LEADER Sub-Committee and Coordination Committee, DG Agri Advisory Group for Agriculture and Rural Development, EN RD Focus Group on Improving the Quality of Local Development Plans, one-to-one meetings with Mr Ciolos, his cabinet members, MEPs, DG Agri officials

3. Extend ELARD membership

- 7 new member countries: Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Macedonia, Scotland, Slovakia, Sweden

4. Support Transnational Cooperation

- annual ELARD gatherings launched in cooperation with member networks, EN RD and other key partners
- LAG staff exchange program introduced
- website renewal and TNC partner search promotion (www.elard.eu)

5. Produce good quality Report on the Presidency Activities

- on the way!



LEADER – a European success story

Stage	Duration	Funds	Budget (EUR)	LAGs
Leader I	1991– 1993	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	450 million	217
Leader II	1994- 1999	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	1.7 billion	821 ELARD was born
Leader+	2000- 2006	EAGGF- Guidance	2.1 billion	893 in EU-15 (+ 250 in the Leader+type measure 2004- 2006) in 6 MS
„Leader axis“	2007- 2013	EAFRD	5.5 billion → 6% of the EAFRD funding	2 300 in EU-27 + 300 FLAGS
CLLD	2014- 2020	CSF Funds	Min. 5% of EAFRD + ???	3 000? Rural, fisheries, urban



Why LEADER? To involve everyone!

1. LEADER is able **to mobilise, empower and involve the whole rural economy**: from a traditional farm to a high-tech processing company. In rural context, where human and other resources are scarce, this is particularly important. LEADER is a non-political, transparent and open for everyone tool to re-shape the rural future.



Why LEADER? To be cost-effective!

2. LEADER is a cost-effective way of renewing, diversifying and developing the rural economy.

In my own LAG territory in South-West part of Finland, with the population of 45 000, we have been supporting the generation of 200 new jobs during the current programming period, most of which are in the services sector where we have been lagging behind. The 150 business and community development projects launched are funded 60% by the EU, state and local municipalities public funds and 40% by the private stakeholders' own funds. In addition there is an extensive amount of local enthusiasm and voluntary work powering LEADER free of charge.



Why LEADER?

To change the mind-set!

3. LEADER **is able to change the traditional top-down local development mindset to bottom-up.** People on the ground start doing those things themselves that they were earlier blaming public civil servants and politicians not to do. LEADER also **brings in the long-term strategic thinking** through the Local Development Strategies that collect the individual projects under an umbrella and bigger territorial vision.



Potential issues 2014-20

1. In spite of the CSF, CAP and Cohesion Policy still remain strongly separated – and the CLLD is somewhere in between (e.g. 3 % payments sanction rule set by the Horizontal Regulation badly fits to the CLLD)
2. The CLLD plays "a leftover role" in the CAP and is considered non-agricultural – even though the LAGs involve local farmers and would be eager to support agricultural innovation and job creation (LAGs should have full potential to implement all six RDP priorities)



Potential issues 2014-20

3. EN RD Focus Group 4 on Improving the Quality of LAGs' Local Development Strategies (LDS): 2/3 of the replied LAGs considered their budget was inadequate to fully reach their LDS goals
- Adequate RURAL CLLD funding is crucial, multi-fund approach mostly benefits the URBAN CLLD



Potential Successes

1. CLLD dissemination to urban areas → counterparts to rural LAGs for better rural-urban links and cooperation (see e.g. URBACT report on CLLD, Paul Soto & al., Feb 2012)
2. Start-up Kit for CLLD, provisions for capacity building, transnational and overseas cooperation made simpler (hopefully resulting in more transfers between the OMS and NMS, old LAGs and new LAGs, EU and Developing Nations)



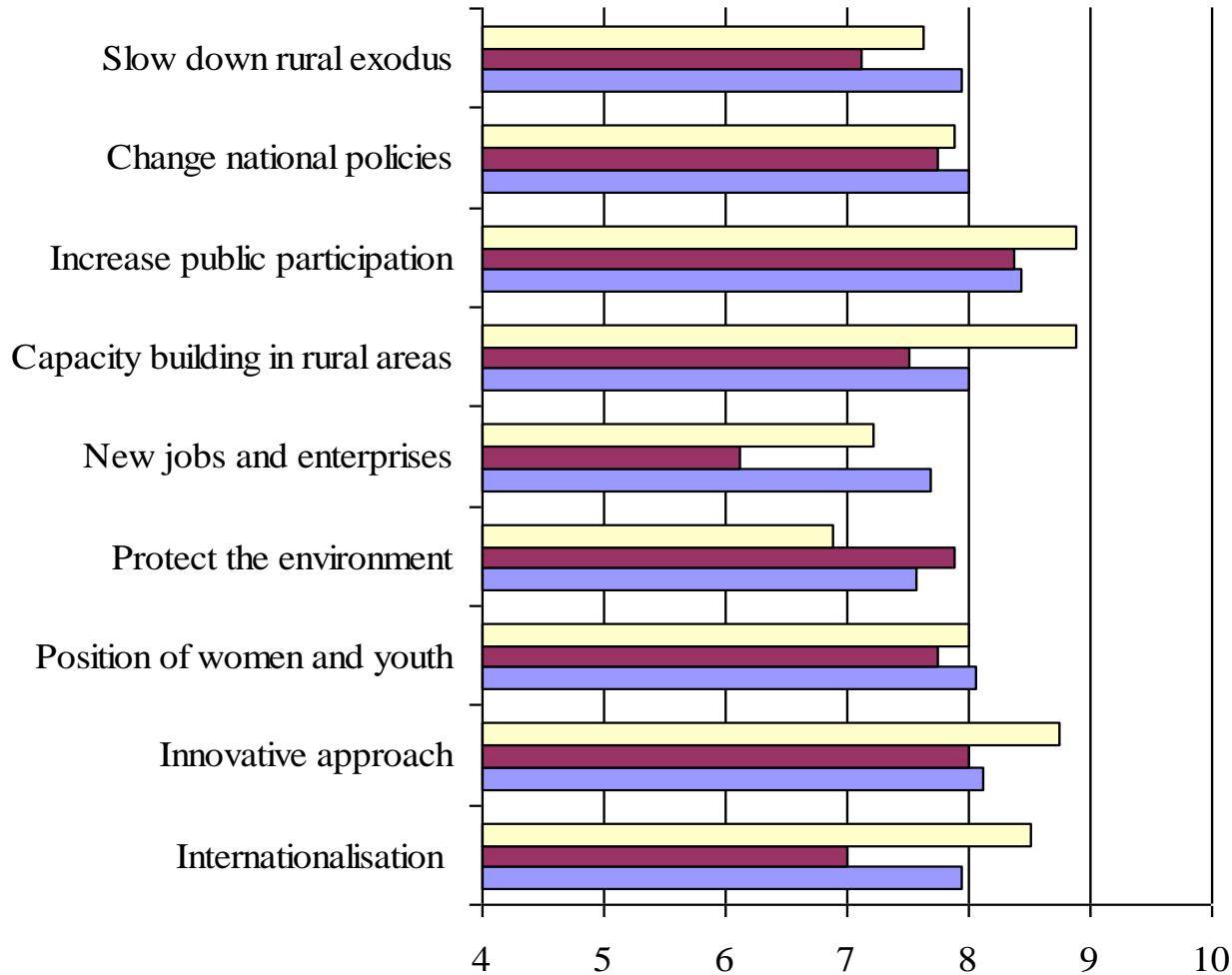
Potential Successes

3. Administrative simplifications such as flat rate and lump sums payments procedure introduced from the Cohesion policy side
→ Committee of Regions: "Back to the dynamism of LEADER II!"



LEADER impact evolution

(A LEADER Dissemination Guide Book)

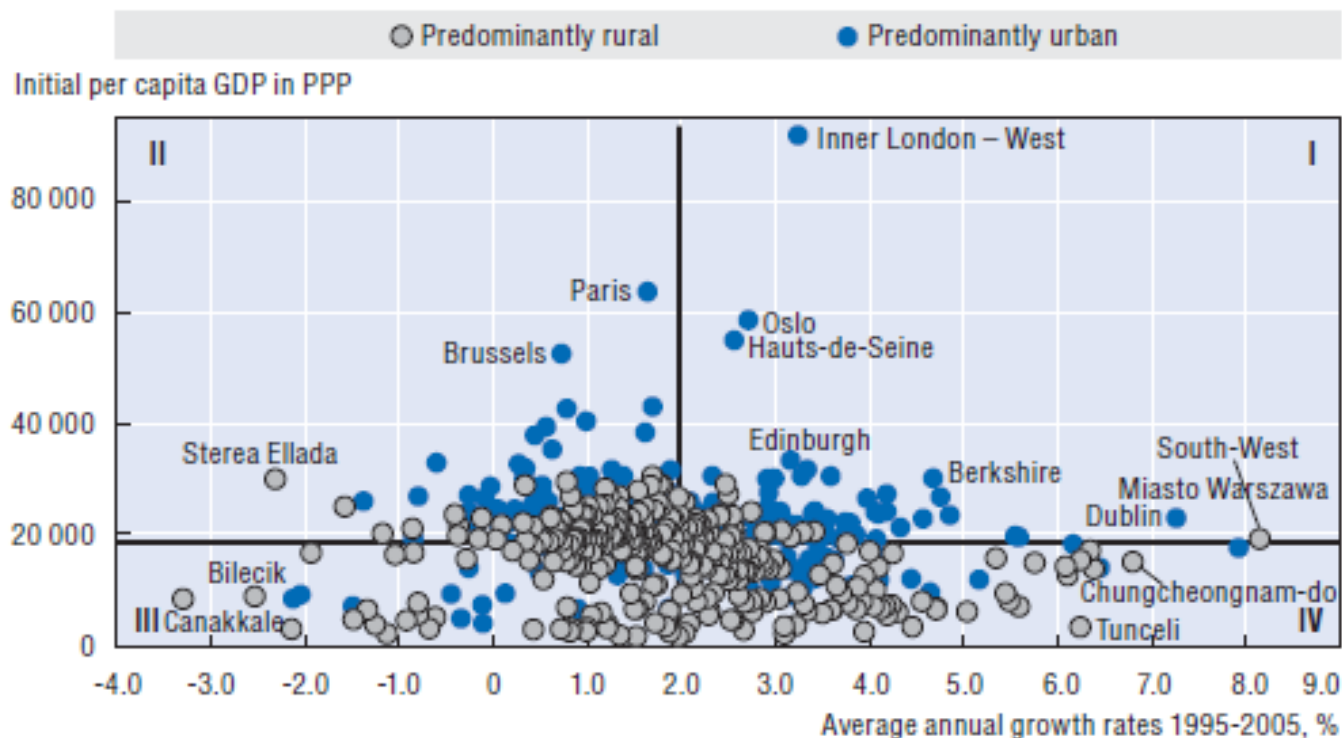


LEADER started

- 1991 in Ireland
- 1997 in Finland
- 2004 in Czech Rep.

IRE
CZK
FIN

EU 2020 needs us!



- 2/3 of the EU's GDP growth takes place outside of the metropole areas
- In more than one out of three OECD countries, the region with the highest rate of employment creation during 1995-2005 was a rural region

Together we are stronger!

petri.rinne@elard.eu

<http://www.elard.eu>

European LEADER Association
for Rural Development (ELARD)

Rue de Saint-Laurent 36-38
B-1000 Brussels

