

# The LEADER ADDED VALUE

## How LEADER builds Social Capital

**WORKSHOP FOR LAGS.  
Implementation 2021-2027 and  
preparation for 2028-2034.**

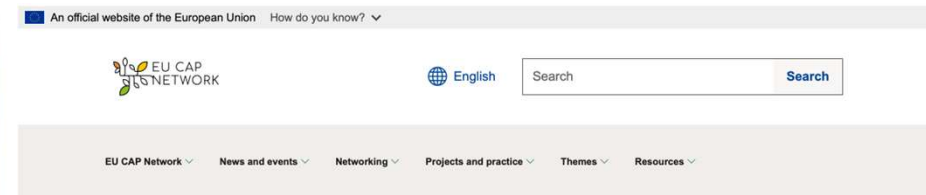
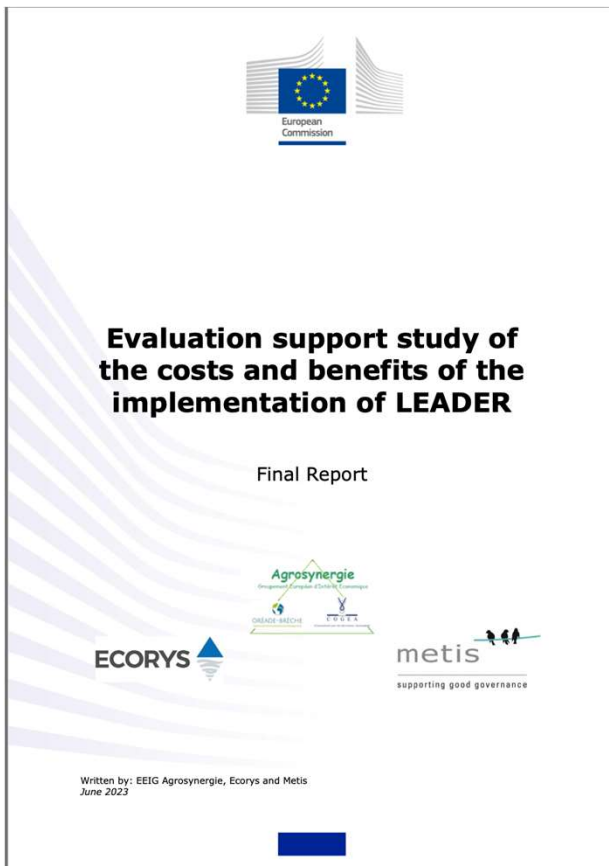
Rabac, 19.05.2026

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Organizers: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of Croatia, National CAP Network in cooperation with the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development



# EU CAP Network



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PUBLICATION - BRIEFINGS | 18 FEB 2026

## From local networks to lasting impact: how LEADER builds social capital



CAP Implementation > LEADER >

Programming period: 2023-2027

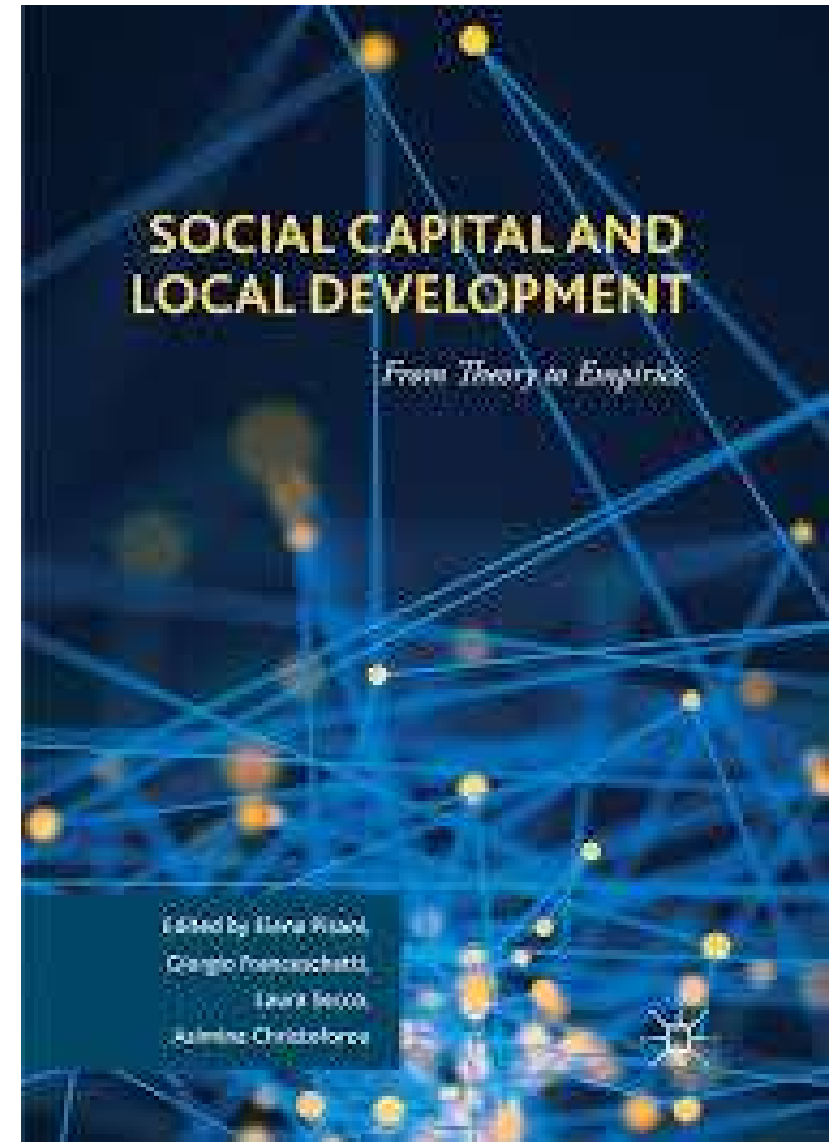
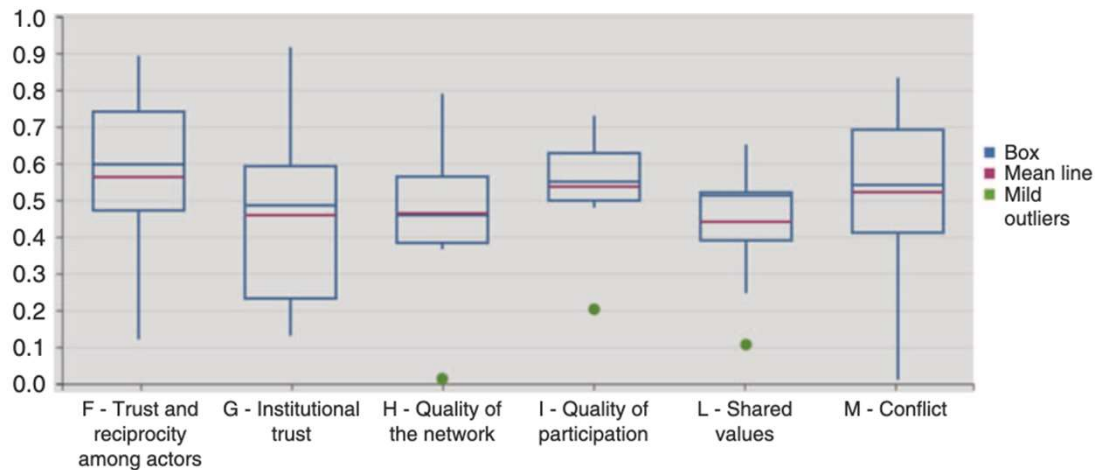
Drawing on academic research and practical experience, this Briefing offers a clear and accessible overview of social capital in the LEADER framework and helps LEADER stakeholders - particularly Local Action Groups - strengthen the added value of LEADER within their organisations and territories.

**Table 11.1** Composite indices of structural social capital, normative-cognitive social capital and governance for the selected Italian LAGs, 2012–2013

LAG	Structural SC	LAG	Cognitive SC	LAG	Governance
Ternano	0.70	Ternano	0.64	Sulcis	0.68
Valle Umbra e Sibillini	0.68	Bassa Padovana	0.61	COSVEL	0.62
Prealpi e Dolomiti	0.58	Basento Camastra	0.60	Basento Camastra	0.61
Bassa Padovana	0.53	COSVEL	0.56	Ternano	0.60
COSVEL	0.49	Sulcis	0.52	Valle Umbra e Sibillini	0.58
Basento Camastra	0.42	Prealpi e Dolomiti	0.51	Prealpi e Dolomiti	0.51
Sulcis	0.42	Valle Umbra e Sibillini	0.49	Bassa Padovana	0.49
Gargano	0.40	Meridaunia	0.48	Meridaunia	0.35
Meridaunia	0.14	Gargano	0.10	Gargano	0.32

Notes: According to the NUTS regional classification system of the EU, the LAGs Bassa Padovana and Prealpi e Dolomiti are in Veneto in the North, while the LAGs Valle Umbra e Sibillini and Ternano are in Umbria, in the Centre. The LAGs Gargano and Meridaunia are in Apulia and the LAGs COSVEL and Basento-Camastra in Basilicata, which are located in the South. Finally, the LAG Sulcis, Iglesias, Capoterra, Campidano di Cagliari (Sulcis) is located in Sardinia (one of the islands of Italy)

Source: Own elaboration



# Why do some rural communities flourish? (and some others not...)

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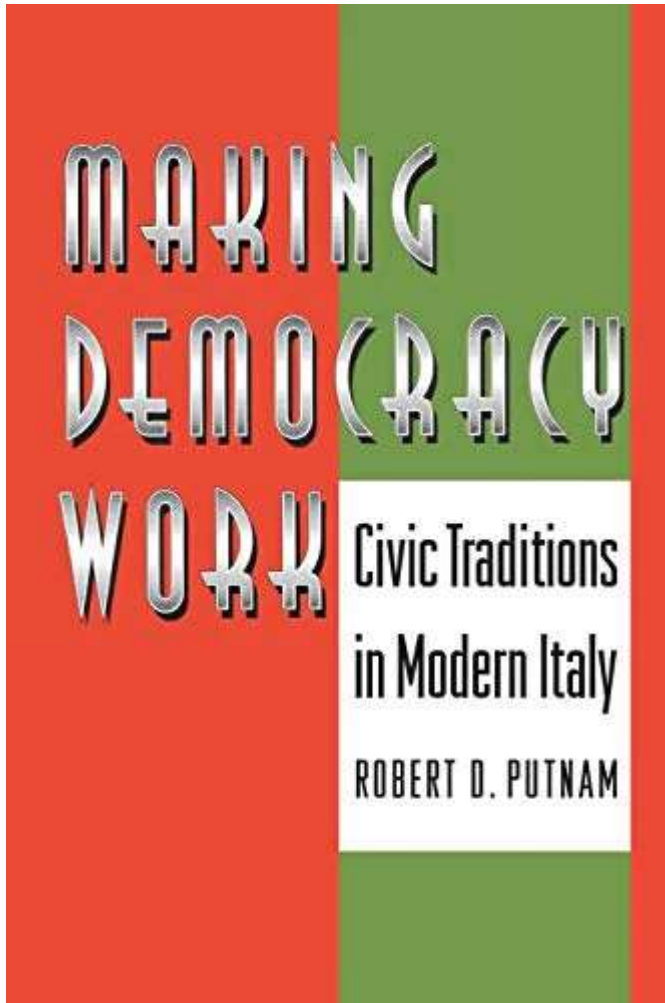
- Why do some rural territories adapt better to **crises**?
- Why do some local projects **continue after funding** ends?
- Why do some communities **cooperate more effectively than others**?



**Financial  
resources  
alone do  
not explain  
territorial  
success**

- Research in **regional development** has repeatedly shown that territories with **stronger networks of trust and cooperation** are often better able to **coordinate collective action** and **adapt to change**.

# Putnam's comparative study of Italian regions

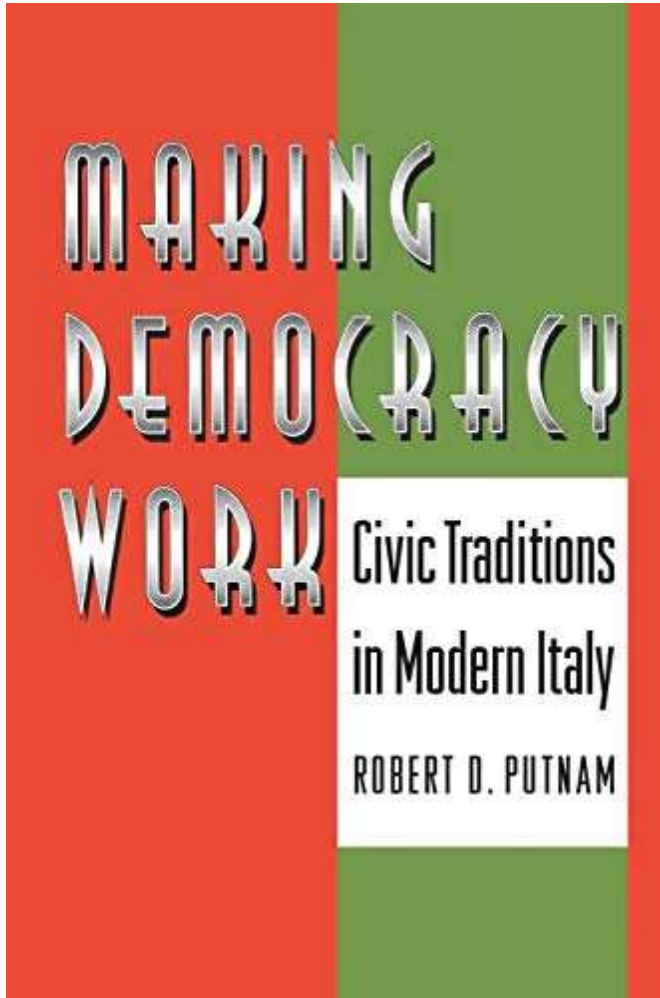


## THE ITALY STUDY (1993)

Putnam studied Italy's regions, which share the same history, culture, language and national institutions, but perform differently.



# Putnam's comparative study of Italian regions



## HOW SOCIAL CAPITAL MAKES A DIFFERENCE

High social capital leads to a virtuous circle of development.



# Elinor Ostrom's work on Commons

Examples	
	Forests
	Fisheries
	Water systems
	Pastures
	Wildlife

**THE BIG IDEA**

Communities are capable of governing shared resources sustainably when they have the right conditions to cooperate.

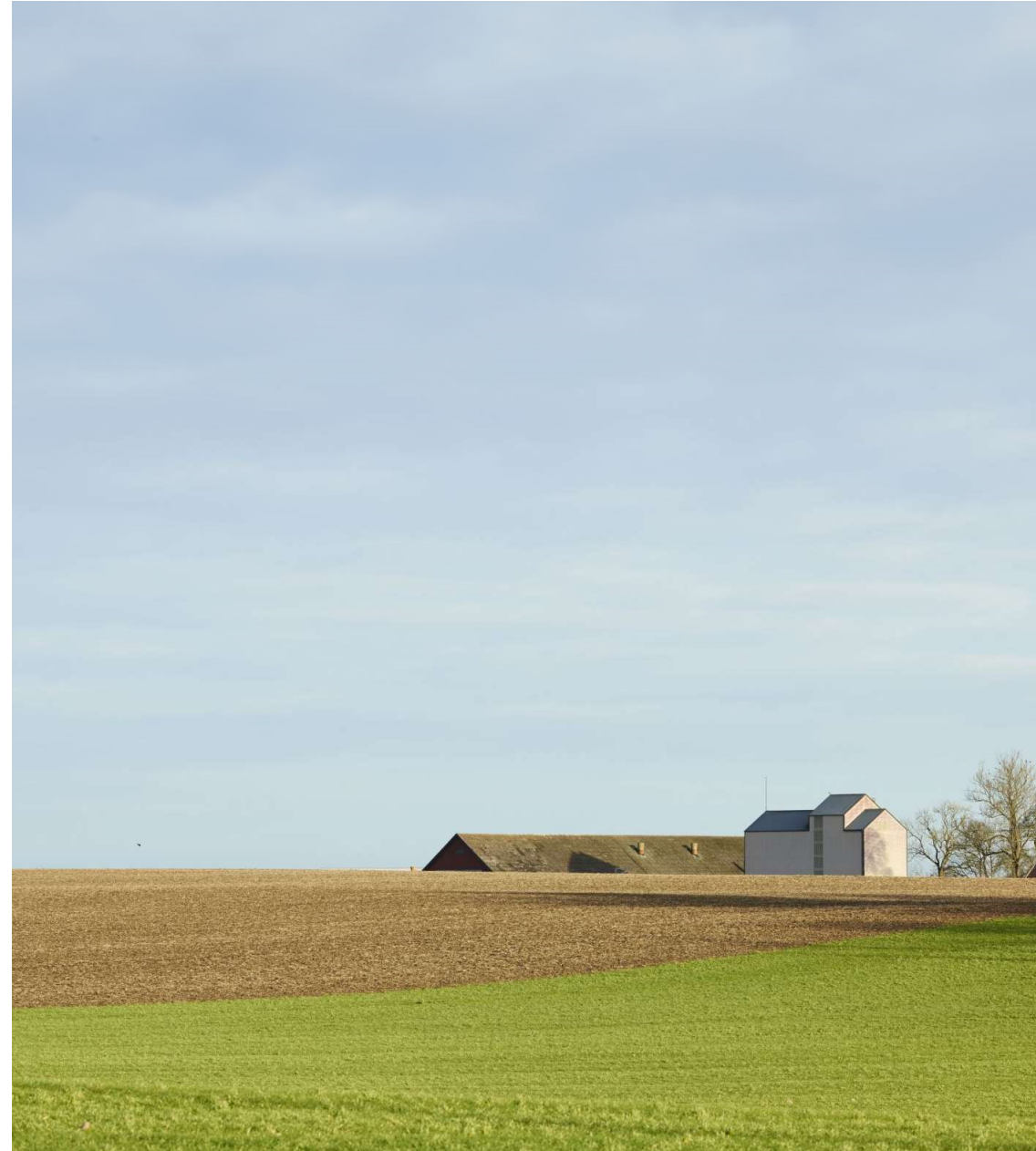


- **Elinor Ostrom's work** also demonstrated that communities are often capable of managing **common resources** effectively when **trust, communication, and shared norms** are present.



## How can these studies help us now?

- Rural areas are not facing a single challenge.
- They are facing **overlapping transitions.**





## CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE

- More extreme weather events
- Droughts, floods, wildfires
- Biodiversity loss
- Pressure on natural resources

2023 was the hottest year on record globally, with severe impacts on ecosystems and rural livelihoods. (Copernicus, 2023)



### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION GAP

- Limited broadband access
- Low digital skills
- Risk of exclusion from services
- Missed opportunities for innovation

22% of rural households in the EU still lack fixed high-speed broadband access. (Eurostat, 2023)



## DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE

- Out-migration of young people
- Ageing population
- Loss of human capital
- Shrinking local communities

EU rural areas are home to 137 million people, 31% of the EU population, but continue to lose young people. (EU, 2023)



## SOCIAL FRAGMENTATION & INEQUALITY

- Growing inequalities
- Risk of poverty and exclusion
- Weak social cohesion
- Reduced trust in institutions

Poverty risk is higher in rural areas for several groups, including youth, elderly and single-parent families. (OECD, 2023)



## ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

- Rising costs and inflation
- Unstable markets
- Difficulty for local businesses
- Limited access to finance

High inflation continues to pressure households and businesses, especially in energy and food. (World Bank, 2024)



## DISINFORMATION & TRUST CRISIS

- Spread of false information
- Polarisation and social tension
- Declining trust in institutions
- Challenges for democratic participation

Misinformation is rising: 68% of Europeans are concerned about its impact on society. (Eurobarometer, 2023)



## GEOPOLITICAL INSTABILITY

- Wars and conflicts
- Energy price shocks
- Disrupted supply chains
- Uncertain global outlook

The war in Ukraine continues to affect energy prices, food security and market stability worldwide. (UN, 2024)

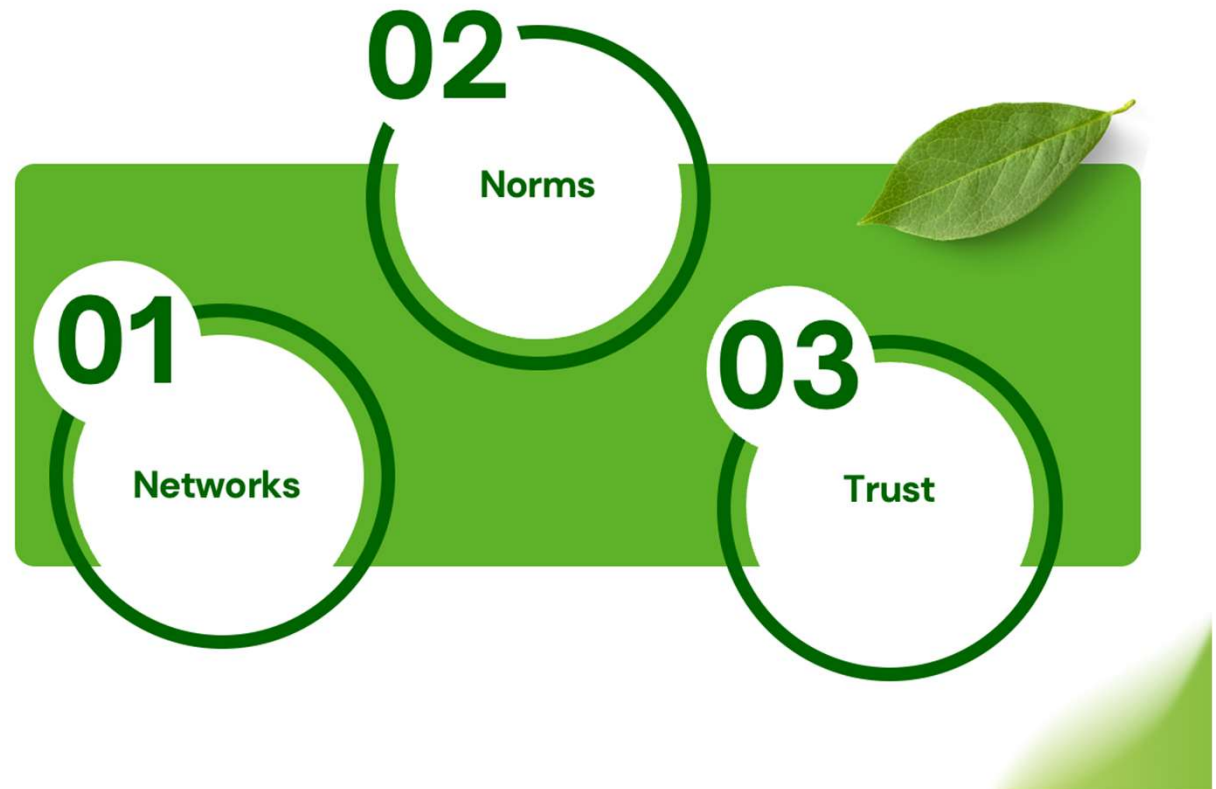
**What can you do at the local level to face these recurrent crises?**

# What is social capital?

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In simple terms, **social capital** describes how people and organisations are connected and work together.

These connections are shaped by **trust** among local actors, **shared views** of local priorities, and **a willingness to cooperate**, creating the social conditions that make local development possible in rural areas.



# Why social capital is important now?

Resilient and dynamic rural communities are characterised by high levels of social capital, reflected in **effective information flows, collective learning, local experimentation**, and the **capacity to adapt to change**.



# Structural dimension of social capital => How are we connected?



NETWORKS:



ORGANISATIONS



PARTICIPATION  
SPACES



FREQUENCY OF  
INTERACTION

# Normative dimension => How do we cooperate?

Trust

Reciprocity

Shared rules

Mutual support

# Trust



RURAL OBSERVATORY

## Trust in EU rural areas

JRC Working Papers on Territorial Modelling and Analysis  
No 11/2025

Hormigos Fellu, C.  
Dijkstra, L.



Figure 2. Trust in the EU by degree of urbanisation in EU Member States during the 2015-2024 period.

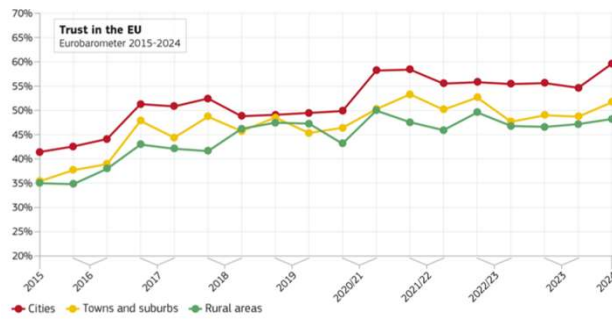


Figure 3. Trust in the national (nationality) government by degree of urbanisation in EU Member States during the 2015-2024 period.

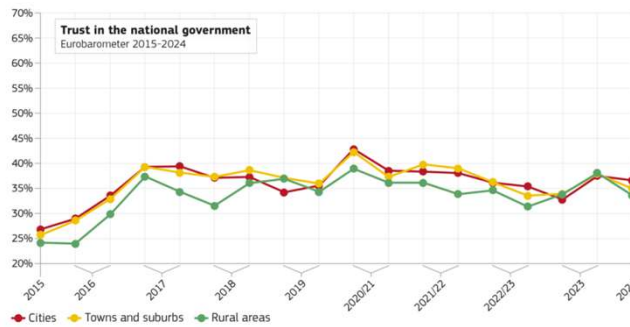


Figure 4. Trust in regional or local public authorities by degree of urbanisation in EU Member States during the 2015-2024 period.

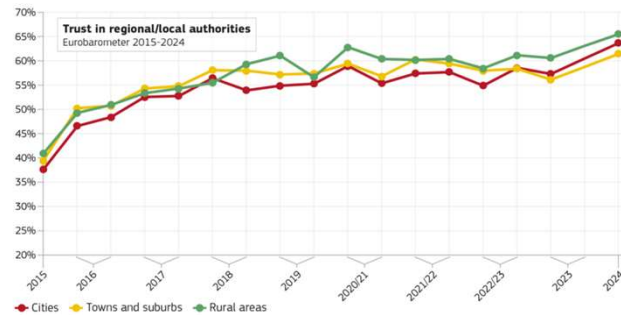
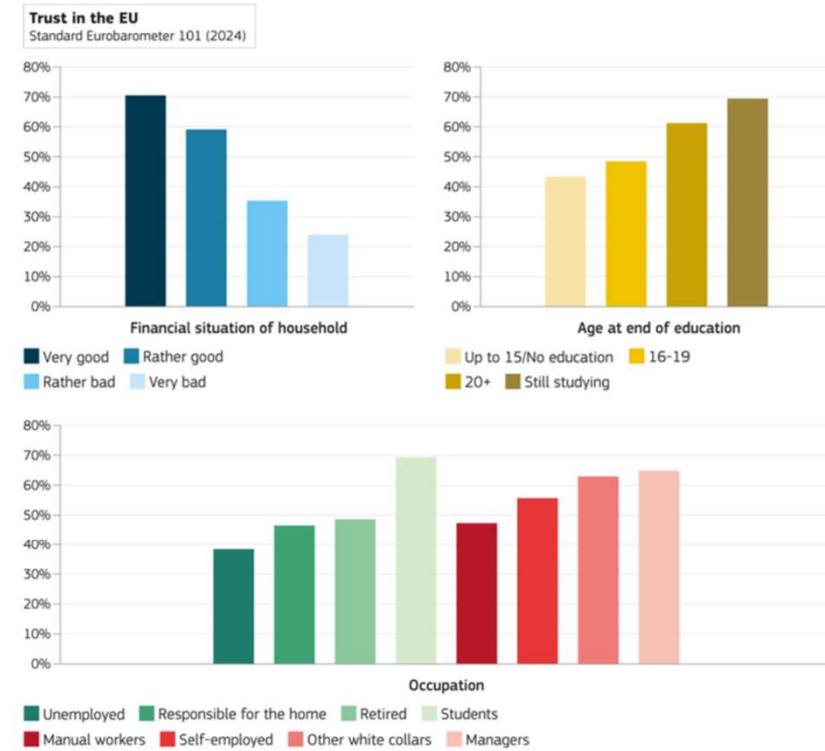
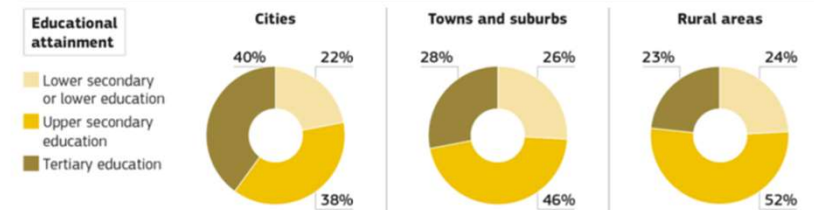


Figure 12. Trust in the EU by financial situation of the household, age at the end of education and occupation.




Source: Own elaboration from Standard Eurobarometer 101 (spring 2024) individual records.

Figure 13. Share of population aged 15-64 by educational attainment level in cities, towns and suburbs and rural areas in 2024.



Source: Own elaboration from Eurostat (eda\_t\_lfs\_9913).



Cognitive  
dimension  
=> How we  
think  
together?

shared visions

common priorities

collective identity

territorial narratives

# Why LEADER is different from traditional rural development policy?

Traditional programmes fund projects

LEADER:

- builds relationships
- creates cooperation
- produces governance capacity
- generates trust



# Social capital is not “a nice extra”

Social capital is a core element of how LEADER creates added value in rural areas.

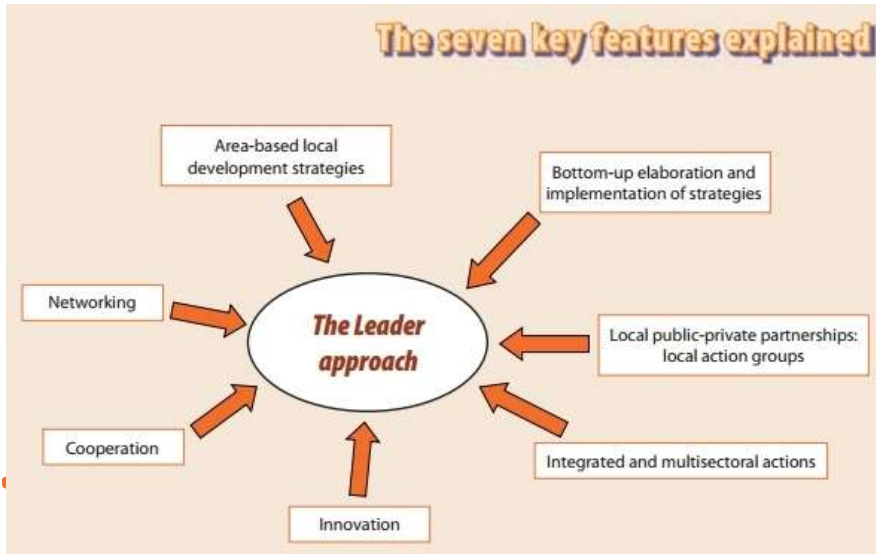
Strong relationships, trust and cooperation among local actors improve quality of life, strengthen social resilience – including the ability to respond to crises – and support local economic opportunities.

This is how bottom-up approaches like LEADER deliver lasting results.



## 2. THE VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF LEADER





- When the seven principles of LEADER are applied correctly, LEADER increases the social capital of a community and thus contribute to....

### Introduction

The following is based on the outputs from the CAP Implementation Contact Point Thematic Group, "Making the seven LEADER principles work in practice for all LAGs under the CAP Strategic Plans". (January - June 2022). Thematic Group members also contributed to a review process of the first working draft version of this document.

This paper sets out key considerations (with brief examples from Members States) for enabling the successful implementation of the seven LEADER principles (as outlined under Articles 31 and 33 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060).

The document is divided into seven sections, one for each of the following LEADER principles:

1. Bottom-up approach.....	1
2. Cooperation.....	2
3. Innovative elements in the local context.....	3
4. Local strategies.....	4
5. Networking.....	5
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### 1 Bottom-up approach

Implementing the bottom-up approach remains an important element because local stakeholders that participate in the implementation of the local strategy, either as a project holder or as part of the decision-making body of the LAG, are then able to drive the development of the territory according to their needs.

# 1. Creating long-lasting networks



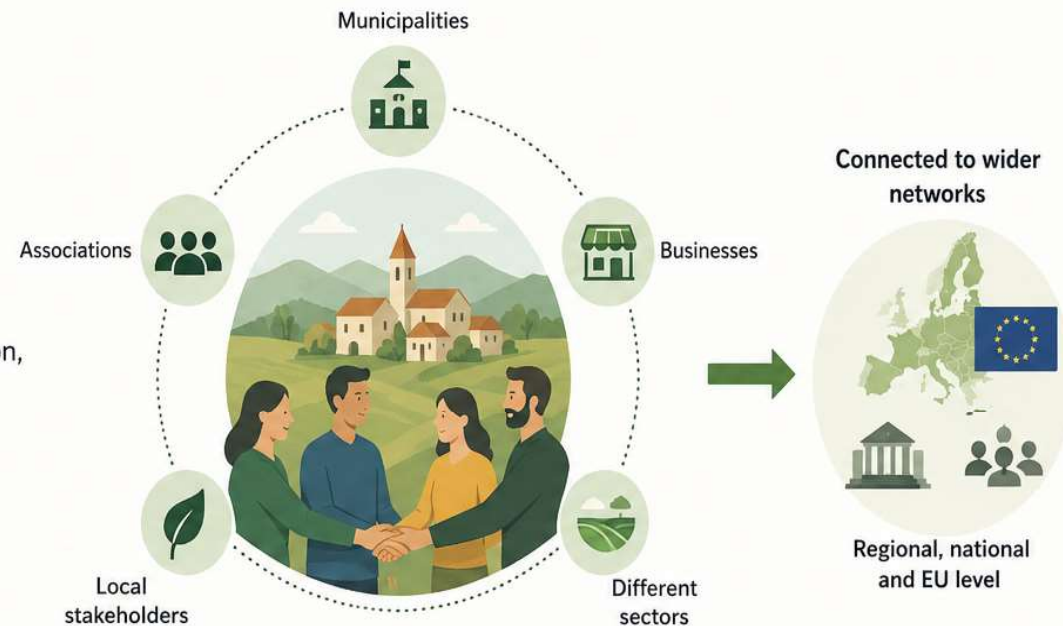
LEADER builds **cooperation** across municipalities, associations, businesses, and local stakeholders from different sectors.



It fosters **shared norms and values**, encouraging new habits of collaboration, trust, and shared responsibility within and beyond the local level.



It connects local partnerships to **wider networks of cooperation** at regional, national, and EU level, linking local initiatives with broader resources, policies, and learning.



“

*The members told me that they have found themselves well and that no one ever felt unheard, there was never any envy or jealousy between representatives of different sector, they immediately created a positive community. They have worked very well, individuating concrete projects while never losing sight of the objectives they had set themselves.”*



LAG Manager, Italy

**Source:** Autonomous Province of Bolzano, 'Ricerca valutativa - l'approccio LEADER nella programmazione 2014-2022 del PSR' (2023)

## 2.

# Transforming individual beneficiaries into community-level actors

When citizens, farmers, SMEs and local associations cooperate, they build **social capital** that strengthens communities and drives change.



### Cognitive social capital

Shared visions, common identity, common understanding.



### Structural social capital

New connections and stronger relationships.



**Stronger communities driving local development**

“

LEADER has always viewed local people as the main asset of rural areas, and the distinctive characteristic of LEADER projects was the reliance placed on the people who live in rural areas and on their ability to discover what best suit their environment ... Networking structures should bring people together to exchange experience and knowledge, inform and promote rural development actions, find project partners and make people feel stronger because they are part of a larger unit.”



Source: EU project FUSIONS (2016)

3.

## MAKING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MORE EFFICIENT THROUGH TRUST AND COOPERATION



Trust and stable relationships help reduce conflicts, **delays, coordination and monitoring costs**, as well as **information asymmetries**.

This is particularly important in rural areas, where resources are limited and cooperation is often necessary to achieve critical mass.



# 4.

## TURNING ISOLATED IDEAS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS OR INSTITUTIONS INTO COHERENT TERRITORIAL STRATEGIES



**MORE COLLABORATION**



**BETTER INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS**



**MORE CONSISTENT WITH TERRITORIAL NEEDS**



**MORE SUSTAINABLE IN THE LONG TERM**



**MORE LIKELY TO GENERATE SPILLOVERS**  
(tourism, local products, cultural activities)

Because LEADER actors collaborate more, projects tend to be better integrated across sectors, more consistent with territorial needs, more sustainable in the long term, and more likely to generate spillovers (tourism, local products, cultural activities).



### WHY IT MATTERS



LEADER often produces more **innovative and community-rooted** interventions...



...because it **connects diverse actors** and brings together different skills and ideas.



...leading to **coherent territorial strategies** that respond to real local priorities.



...and creating positive, **long-lasting impacts** for the whole territory.

## 5. IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE, NOT JUST FUNDING DELIVERY

The LAG partnership creates transparent decision-making, checks and balances between public, private and civil actors, more accountable local institutions, and conflict-resolution mechanisms.

These governance improvements extend beyond the LAG membership itself, stimulating better local democracy.



### HOW LAGS STRENGTHEN LOCAL GOVERNANCE



#### TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING

Open processes and clear criteria build trust and legitimacy.



#### CHECKS AND BALANCES

Balanced representation of public, private and civil actors ensures fair decisions.



#### MORE ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS

Local institutions become more responsive, responsible and result-oriented.



#### CONFLICT-RESOLUTION MECHANISMS

Dialogue and mediation help prevent and resolve conflicts constructively.



#### BETTER LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Active participation and inclusion strengthen citizen voice and community cohesion.

### LAG AS A MEDIATOR

NATIONAL / REGIONAL  
AUTHORITIES



EU REQUIREMENTS  
AND REGULATIONS



LAG  
MEDIATOR

✓ TRANSLATES  
RULES INTO  
LOCAL REALITY

✓ LOWERS BARRIERS  
TO PARTICIPATION

✓ ACTIVATES  
WORKING GROUPS  
AND DIALOGUE

✓ PROMOTES  
COMMUNICATION  
AND INVOLVEMENT



CITIZENS AND  
LOCAL COMMUNITY

## 6. BUILDING TERRITORIAL CAPACITY TO CONNECT BEYOND LOCAL BORDERS

Networking and cooperation and relations with regional/national and EU institutions make it easier to **exchange good practices**, **collaborate** with other LAGs, and **rejoin EU networks** and participate in **transnational projects**.



### HOW CONNECTIONS BUILD TERRITORIAL CAPACITY



#### EXCHANGE GOOD PRACTICES

Learn from others' experiences and adapt innovative solutions.



#### COLLABORATE WITH OTHER LAGS

Share resources, ideas and expertise to deliver stronger projects.



#### REJOIN EU NETWORKS

Be part of wider EU rural development communities and platforms.



#### PARTICIPATE IN TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS

Work across borders to tackle common challenges and seize new opportunities.



### CONNECTING LOCALLY, IMPACTING WIDELY



# 7.

## CREATING LONG-LASTING TERRITORIAL CAPACITY, NOT ONLY TEMPORARY OUTPUTS



**Investments may depreciate, but relationships do not.**

In the long term, LEADER territories report stronger local networks, more collaboration, improved local leadership and higher resilience during crises (economic, demographic, climate).

### INVESTMENTS DEPRECIATE



Physical assets wear out.  
Infrastructure becomes obsolete.  
Financial value decreases over time.

### RELATIONSHIPS APPRECIATE



Trust grows.  
Networks get stronger.  
Knowledge is shared.  
Cooperation creates new opportunities.

VS

### STRONGER RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF...



#### ECONOMIC CRISIS

Local networks and cooperation help businesses and communities adapt and find new solutions.



#### DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Social ties and local initiatives attract and retain people, including young generations.



#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Collective action and shared knowledge support adaptation and environmental stewardship.



#### UNEXPECTED SHOCKS

Stronger communities can respond faster, support each other and recover better.



**LEADER DOESN'T JUST DELIVER PROJECTS. IT BUILDS CAPACITY THAT LASTS.**

Long after projects end, the relationships, skills and trust created through LEADER continue to generate value for the territory.





English

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PUBLICATION - BRIEFINGS | 18 FEB 2026

# From local networks to lasting impact: how LEADER builds social capital

- CAP Implementation >
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Programming period: 2023-2027



Drawing on academic research and practical experience, this Briefing offers a clear and accessible overview of social capital in the LEADER framework and helps LEADER stakeholders - particularly Local Action Groups - strengthen the added value of LEADER within their organisations and territories.

## Introduction

**Defining social capital and why it is relevant to LEADER**


**The power of social capital in LEADER**

## Introduction

Drawing on academic research and practical experience, this briefing offers a clear and accessible overview of social capital in the LEADER framework, enriched by insights from stakeholders across Europe. It is designed to support LEADER stakeholders – particularly Local Action Group (LAG)

[https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/publications/local-networks-lasting-impact-how-leader-builds-social-capital\\_en](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/publications/local-networks-lasting-impact-how-leader-builds-social-capital_en)

## How LAGs can produce social capital

LAGs can build social capital in eight main areas ([Pisani et al., 2017](#) ). For each of them, the activities can be tailored to five types of target groups: potential beneficiaries, actual beneficiaries, other local stakeholders (e.g. local businesses, farmers, schools, local institutions), regional or national authorities and EU institutions.

### Clear communication and accessible information

#### With potential beneficiaries

- › Organise open days and information meetings to explain LEADER opportunities and procedures using non-technical language.
- › Publish short guides, videos and infographics explaining how to apply, common mistakes and key requirements.
- › Provide a single, clearly identifiable and user-friendly entry point (online and/or physical) where potential beneficiaries can easily access all key information on LEADER opportunities, including contacts, office hours, FAQs, call calendars and application forms.

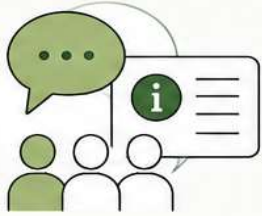
#### With actual beneficiaries

#### With other local stakeholders

#### With regional or national authorities

[https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/publications/local-networks-lasting-impact-how-leader-builds-social-capital\\_en](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/publications/local-networks-lasting-impact-how-leader-builds-social-capital_en)

# 8 WAYS LAGS BUILD SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THEIR EVERYDAY PRACTICE



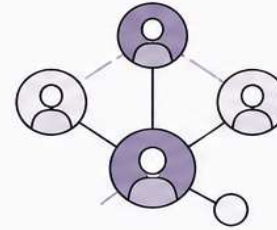
## 1 Clear communication and accessible information

Keep information clear, timely and easy to access for everyone.



## 2 Supportive services for project development and training

Offer guidance, tools and training to help turn ideas into strong projects.



## 3 Networking and collaboration opportunities

Create spaces to meet, connect and work together across sectors and areas.



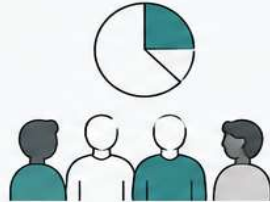
## 4 Trust and conflict-resolution mechanisms

Build trust and address differences through dialogue and fair, constructive processes.



## 5 Shared values of solidarity and territorial identity

Strengthen a sense of belonging and pride in the territory, promoting solidarity and common purpose.



## 6 Inclusive, transparent and representative LAG governance

Ensure diverse representation, transparency and accountability in decision-making.



## 7 Innovation and learning capacity

Encourage new ideas, learn from experience and adapt to create better solutions.



## 8 Monitoring, accountability and responsiveness

Monitor results, be accountable and respond to community needs and feedback.

# Different indications for different stakeholders



1

Potential  
beneficiary



2

Actual  
beneficiary



3

Local  
stakeholders



4

Regional and  
national authorities



5

EU  
institutions



## 1 Clear communication and accessible information

Keep information clear, timely and easy to access for everyone.



## 1 Potential beneficiary

### With potential beneficiaries

Publish short guides, videos, and infographics explaining how to apply, common mistakes, and key requirements.

Provide a single, clearly identifiable and user-friendly entry point (online and/or physical) where potential beneficiaries can easily access all key information on LEADER opportunities, including contacts, office hours, FAQs, call calendars, and application forms.



## 3 Local stakeholders

### With other local stakeholders

Publish regular LAG newsletters and social media communications with good practices and examples of local projects financed and implemented, with direct interviews with beneficiaries. Present the LDS and calls in locations and fora where local actors are already active (municipalities, associations, networks).

Make information on funded projects publicly available to increase transparency and awareness of LEADER actions in the territory. A repository of project descriptions should be included in the LAG website, for local stakeholders to get inspired.



**2** Supportive services for project development and training

Offer guidance, tools and training to help turn ideas into strong projects.



**2**

Actual beneficiary

### With actual beneficiaries

Provide technical assistance and coaching to address implementation challenges.

Promote peer learning among beneficiaries by facilitating exchanges of experience and good practices (i.e., successful applicants mentor newcomers).



**4**

Regional and national authorities

### With regional or national authorities

Clarify recurrent administrative or regulatory issues to regional or national authorities.

Share feedback with regional or national authorities on recurring capacity gaps among applicants, based on support activities carried out by the LAG.



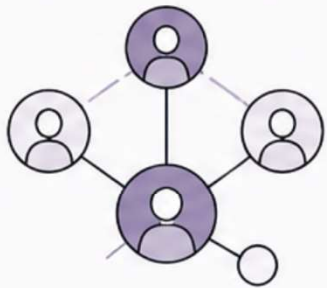
**5**

EU institutions

### With EU institutions

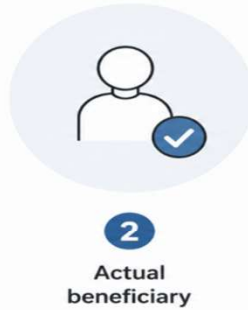
Support the uptake of EU-level guidance via National Rural Networks by signposting relevant resources locally.

Use EU-level exchanges as opportunities for peer learning and trust-building, without adding burdens.



### 3 Networking and collaboration opportunities

Create spaces to meet, connect and work together across sectors and areas.



2  
Actual beneficiary

## With actual beneficiaries

Facilitate thematic working groups or networks among beneficiaries operating in similar fields (e.g., cultural heritage, short food supply chains, rural tourism).

Encourage cooperation between beneficiaries to enhance complementarities and territorial impact.



5  
EU institutions

## With EU institutions

Act as a light local entry point for EU-level networking opportunities by signposting relevant calls, events, or initiatives.

Facilitate access to selected EU-level opportunities on a case-by-case basis, considering language and resource constraints.

Provide reliable information spaces that help local actors understand EU cooperation opportunities.



4

#### Trust and conflict-resolution mechanisms

Build trust and address differences through dialogue and fair, constructive processes.



1

Potential beneficiary

### With potential beneficiaries

Use practical examples (“what works / what does not”) alongside formal rules.

Ensure transparency of selection criteria and evaluation procedures.

Clearly explain decisions, including reasons for rejection where relevant.



2

Actual beneficiary

### With actual beneficiaries

Establish clear and accessible procedures for handling complaints and requests for clarification.

Respond promptly and consistently to beneficiaries’ questions or concerns.

Apply conflict-of-interest rules and ensure traceability of decisions throughout the project cycle. Ensure the rotation of members in the LAG’s decision body.



## 5 Shared values of solidarity and territorial identity

Strengthen a sense of belonging and pride in the territory, promoting solidarity and common purpose.



3  
Local stakeholders



5  
EU institutions

### With other local stakeholders

Co-create a 'Territorial Charter of Values' outlining commitments to sustainability, cooperation, integrity and community benefit.

Boost the culture of monitoring and evaluation as a shared value for learning.

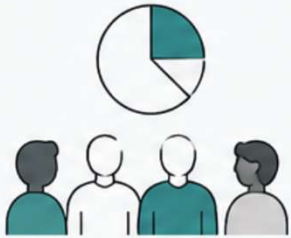
Organise exchanges reflecting on local identity and lessons from other European territories.

### With EU institutions

Encourage projects to reflect shared European values through concrete practices, not abstract statements.

Use EU themes (e.g. cohesion, participation, transparency, science-based policy) as contextual framing where relevant.

Present local identity as part of Europe's territorial diversity.



## 6 Inclusive, transparent and representative LAG governance

Ensure diverse representation, transparency and accountability in decision-making.



2  
Actual  
beneficiary

### With actual beneficiaries

- › Engage beneficiaries in consultative and thematic groups to improve future calls.
- › Collect structured feedback from beneficiaries on governance and implementation processes.
- › Use beneficiary input to adjust procedures and improve inclusiveness.



5  
EU  
institutions

### With EU institutions

- › Introduce moments of self-assessment inspired by EU monitoring and evaluation practices.
- › Share good practices locally and, where appropriate, through national or EU CAP networks.
- › Encourage continuous feedback throughout the project cycle, treating it as a learning tool.



## 7 Innovation and learning capacity

Encourage new ideas, learn from experience and adapt to create better solutions.



2

Actual beneficiary

### With actual beneficiaries

- › Support experimentation (pilot actions, prototypes, test phases).
- › Offer coaching on digitalisation, circular economy or new business models.
- › Disseminate lessons learned from innovative projects within the territory.
- › Offer capacity building in digital literacy and awareness raising on disinformation.



4

Regional and national authorities

### With regional or national authorities

- › Share innovative project models that could be scaled up regionally or nationally.
- › Participate in regional and national innovation clusters.
- › Contribute to discussions on digitalisation, innovation and skills development, including the role of digital literacy in addressing disinformation and strengthening informed engagement with public policies.



8

### Monitoring, accountability and responsiveness

Monitor results, be accountable and respond to community needs and feedback.



1

Potential beneficiary

### With potential beneficiaries

Make monitoring requirements proportionate and understandable.

Publish annual reports showing how funds were used and who benefited.

Ask applicants to explain how project results contribute to the LDS.



3

Local stakeholders

### With other local stakeholders

- > Share information on the overall progress and results of the local development strategy.
- > Involve stakeholders in discussions on monitoring results and strategic adjustments.
- > Share and discuss monitoring results with local stakeholders using indicators.

**Social capital in the words of  
LEADER stakeholders ...**

# [...] A productive asset based on networking, skills and participation

*It is time to cash the coupon on social capital by reinvesting it, without hesitation, in community-based initiatives.*

**Matteo Aguanno, Director of LAG Prealpi e Dolomiti (Italy)**

*We strengthen networks – regionally and across borders. Key people engage in our decision-making and working groups and put their skills to work. In this way, social capital becomes a supporting foundation for sustainable economic development.*

**LAG Zeitkultur Oststeirisches Kernland, Austria**

# [...] A legacy of local collaborations and networks

*The LEADER method seeks to strengthen social capital in rural territories, improve local governance and optimise the results and impacts of public policies compared with traditional development approaches without local participation.*

**Comunidad de Madrid, Spain**

*This is something we have done together [...] It was important for us to stay together even after the project. Today we meet twice a year, brainstorm ideas and collaborate on a number of different issues. And we have an editor who keeps the website and our social media going.*

**Benny Jansson, Archipelago Kingdom Torsö, Sweden**

# Thank you for your attention

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