

# LEADER TALKS

24–25 februarie 2022



## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

IRO TSIMPRI

Gen. Director-Coordinator of CLLD/LEADER  
of “ACHAIA-DEVELOPMENT AGENCY S.A.”  
- Greek LEADER Network



## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

In Greece, in the current period, it was decided that CLLD/LEADER can be funded through all four ESI Funds allowed, (EAFRD, EMFF, ESF and ERDF). However, the inclusion of ERDF was not operationalized.

| FUND                              | NUMBER OF STRATEGIES USING THIS FUND |             |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                   | MULTI-FUNDED                         | MONO-FUNDED |
| EAFRD                             | 36                                   | 14          |
| EMFF                              | 32                                   | 1           |
| ESF                               | 13                                   | 1           |
| ERDF                              | -                                    | -           |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STRATEGIES</b> | <b>36</b>                            | <b>16</b>   |

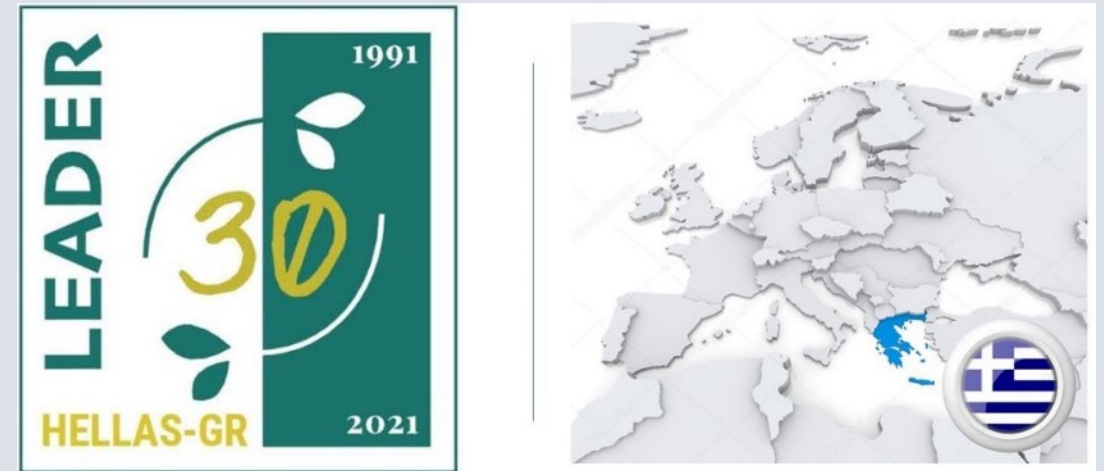
# MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (linking several Funds in one strategy)

The majority of Greek LAG/FLAGs implement multi-fund local development strategies (LDS) inter-linking priorities and objectives of the various Funds and national objectives.

The adopted combinations of Funds are:

- 1 mono-fund strategy (EMFF)
- 1 mono-fund strategy (ESF)
- 14 mono-fund strategies (EAFRD)
- 22 two-fund strategies (EAFRD-EMFF)
- 4 two-fund strategies (EAFRD-ESF)
- 10 three-fund strategies (EAFRD-EMFF-ESF)



## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE



Each LAG/FLAG is responsible for evaluating its LDS, for added value, delivery mechanism, indicators, and measured impact. The Managing Authorities issue once a year progress reports. Regarding the evaluation process, there's guidance between Local Action Groups and MA, using an online tool, where all the work done by the MA and the LAGs is published. This enables LAGs to present best practices and discuss their progress.



## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE



CLLD/LEADER is applied throughout Greece covering almost all the rural/coastal and insular areas.



Although the LAG/FLAG selection process was quite fast, the national administrative rules (due to different administrative philosophies of the different Funds) and insufficient knowledge about CLLD, among all the bodies involved in the IT management system and the Payments system, created serious bottlenecks, resulting in a major delay in the selection and payment of the projects.

The implementation process is expected to accelerate in 2022 and beyond. Payments have already started and are expected to increase.



## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

- The way the combination of different Funds is applied, presents LAG/FLAGs with major challenges. The LDSs have different objectives (regarding each Fund) therefore the LAG/FLAG management and strategy implementation systems have a high level of complexity due to the involvement of several uncoordinated Managing Authorities, several national or regional regulations and many IT systems.
- Getting multi-funded CLLD off the ground proved quite challenging at the beginning, and the need to deal with different and quite detailed rules relating to each Fund (“gold-plating” effect), remains problematic for most of the beneficiaries.



# MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

## Implementation by 31.12.2020

- *Total budget for LEADER: 384 m.euros*
- *89% committed Funds in 3.138 approved projects so far (in EARDF & EMFF).*
- *Added an apx 45% overbooking (EARDF primarily)*
- *Payments : 14,5% (for EAFRD 17,8%)*

## Evaluation:

- Each LAG is responsible to deliver an evaluation of its LDS, for a. added value, b. delivery mechanism, c Indices and measured impact.
- Managing Authority issues once a year a progress report.





## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

The Greek model is characterised by the following:

- **increased responsibility for LAG/FLAGs** with tasks ranging from planning, animating, supporting in implementation, paying project beneficiaries, to post implementation audits;
- **significant budget** per LDS – LAG/FLAG;
- LAGs/FLAGs as **substantial legal entities**;
- high level of **administrative complexity** and “gold plating”;
- high degree of **interaction and trust between stakeholders and potential beneficiaries**;
- strong role of the **Hellenic Network of LAG/FLAGs** .





## MULTIFUNDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

- + Despite the challenges of the CLLD implementation system, LAG/FLAGs have managed to support local stakeholders, by launching separate calls for each Fund, throughout the funding period. There has been a remarkable interest of potential beneficiaries, resulting in an average 45% oversubscription of the EAFRD part of CLLD/LEADER.
- + The most important role of the LAG/FLAGs in their area is animation and support. They act as levers in local development and buffers to the heavy administrative work that has been noticed to increase enormously from one period to the other.
- + The most significant achievement of the LEADER philosophy is the solid bond of trust between LAG/FLAGs and the local communities.
- + LEADER has proven its added value on social capital and resilience of local communities.



## CONCLUSIONS of MULTIFUNDED IMPLEMENTATION

1. Greater range of projects eligibility
2. Integrated local strategy
3. Expansion of intervention areas - Coastal Area Added (due to EMFF)
4. Selection without the population criteria (urban areas added)
5. Adaptability
6. Larger programs => Greater funding allocation to the regions
7. More categories of beneficiaries
8. Prospect of over-commitment - more than the initial distributions



## CONCLUSIONS of MULTIFUNDED IMPLEMENTATION

1. Bureaucracy - complicated procedures due to different funds => Different monitoring systems. Different management authorities. Different treatment of institutional – information (IT) systems.
2. In the current programming period, responsibilities were transferred from the Ministry's managing authority to the Region's managing authorities, this resulted to different speeds / different treatment of the issues
3. Different timetables. EMFF ends in 2023, whereas EAFRD ends in 2025.
4. Different payment authorities / Different management authorities



## PLANNING FOR THE NEXT PERIOD



### Transition period:

The LAGs will not be involved in the Transition Period.

### Next Generation:

The CAP Strategic Plan is being prepared by the NMA of the Rural Development Program and the Hellenic Network participates along with a representative from each of the 13 Regions. There is a public consultation going on in Greece on the new period and the recovery fund. The LAGs will need to prepare for the new strategies while implementing the current period.

### Constructing Strategies and LAGs:

LAGs are preparing for the new period by adapting their LDS. It is expected that there should be a call for the selection of LAGs in 2022. The Hellenic Network is accumulating information and diffusing it to its members.

We are expecting more substantial information for deliberation with the EAFRD MA.

There is no final info on the number of LAGs and the selection process. There is quite a lot of discussion on implementing MultiFund LDSs, but it seems we will have “stand-alone” mono fund CLLD/LEADER Programs mainly from EAFRD and EMFF



Thank you for your attention.

IRO TSIMPRI

Gen. Director-Coordinator of CLLD/LEADER of  
“ACHAIA-DEVELOPMENT AGENCY S.A.”  
/ “Greek LEADER Network”



Co – funded by Greece and the European Union



European Union  
European Structural  
and Investment Funds



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD

