

# The story of LEADER

*unfolding of LEADER from its beginning  
and some challenges for the future*

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The European Association for Information on Local Development “*AEIDL*”

# BACK TO THE FUTURE



A COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE



28 YEARS WITH  
LEADER : WHAT HAVE  
WE LEARNED?



6 CHALLENGES FOR  
TODAY AND THE  
FUTURE

# 19 MARCH 1991

## Notice to Member States (91/C 73/14)

Guidelines for integral global grants for which the Member States are invited to submit proposals in the framework of a

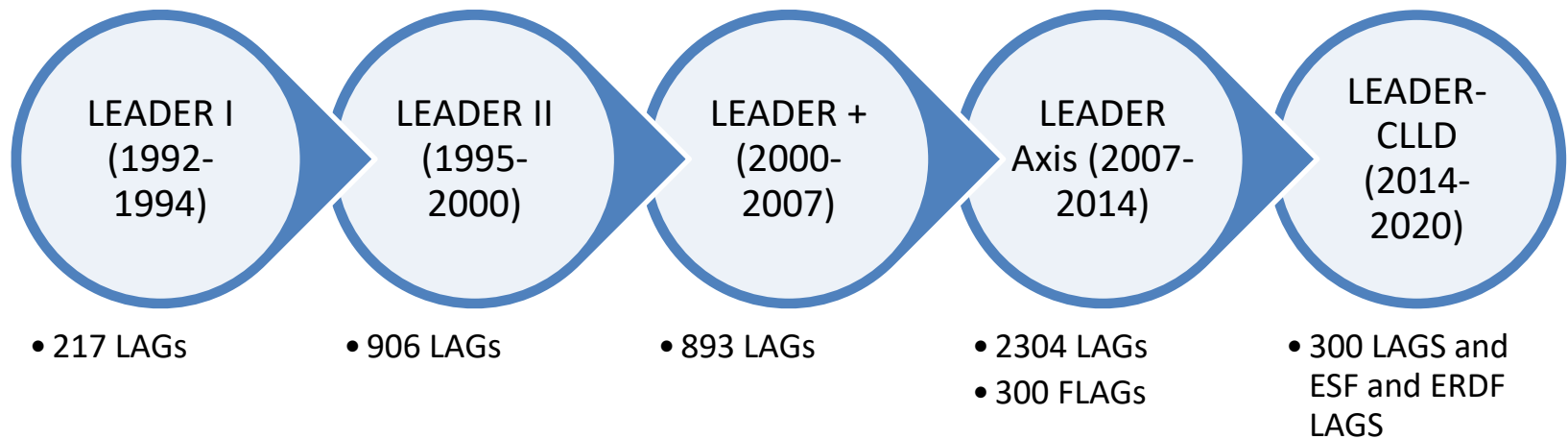
- **Community initiative** for rural development set up hereinafter referred to as:



LEADER

- (*Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale — Links between actions for the development of the ruraleconomy*).

# The path followed



# LEADER 1 (1992-1994)

## 217 LAGs



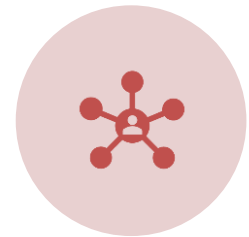
A DISRUPTIVE  
INNOVATION



AREA-BASED



LOCALLY  
MANAGED

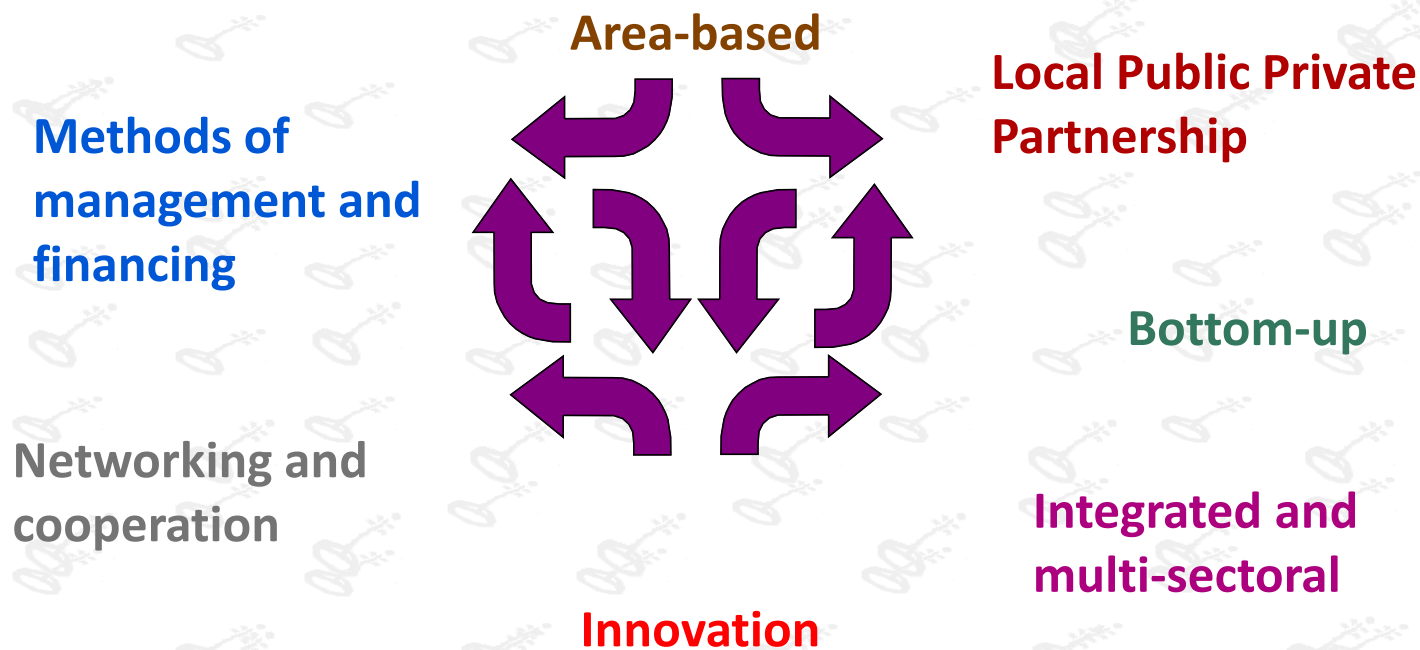


AROUND A  
NETWORK

LEADER II (1995-2000)

906 LAGs

The seven «features»



# CORK DECLARATION A LIVING COUNTRYSIDE

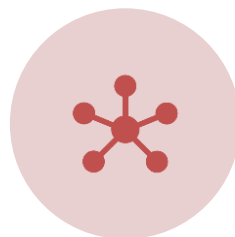
Towards an integrated rural development policy  
November, 1996



CLEAR TERRITORIAL  
APPROACH



MULTI-SECTORIAL



INTEGRATED

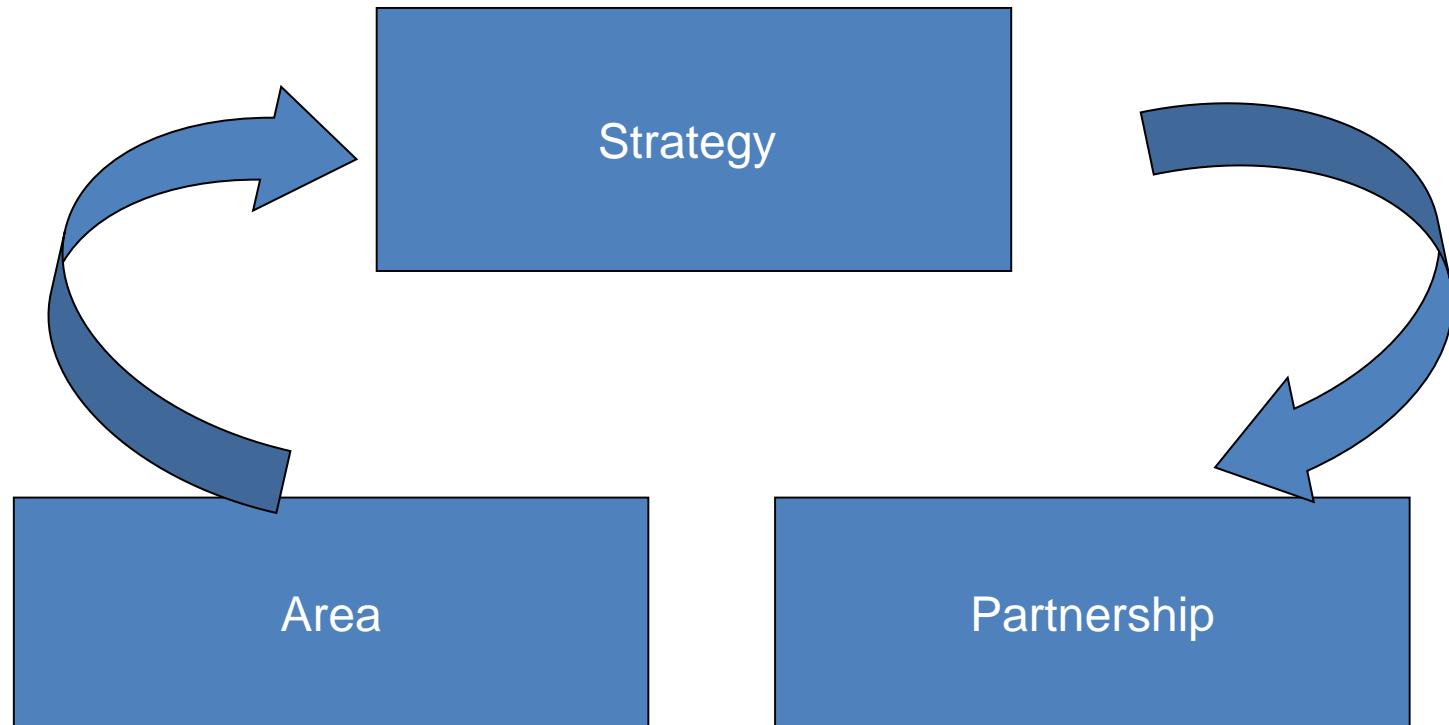


« *LEADERIZE* » *THE*  
« *MAINSTREAM* »

LEADER + (2000-2007)

893 LAGs

PILOT STRATEGY AROUND A STRONG THEME/SPECIFIC KNOW-HOW OR  
RESOURCES





LEADER Axis (2007-2014), 2304 LAGS, 300 FLAGS

## THE CHALLENGE OF MAINSTREAMING



# EUROPEAN COURTS OF AUDITORS (5/2010)

*‘LAGS implemented the Leader approach in ways that limited the potentiel for added value in terms of the “LEADER features”*

# European court of auditors (5/2010)



*“Local strategies should be at the heart of the Leader approach....*

*In practice , these strategies were almost irrelevant and served as little more than an application to the managing authority for funding...”*

# Current State of Play (more than 3000 local groups)



The LEADER Method is generally acknowledged (CLLD)



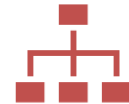
Acknowledgement of the importance of animation, technical assistance and cooperation, but not always enough time to do it



Increasing role of networks (regional, national and EU level)



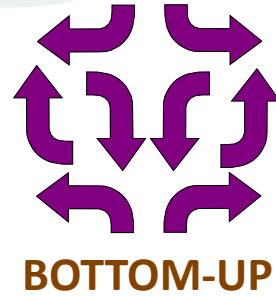
Very important delays on implementation



High level of complexity and administrative duties

# CHALLENGE 1

## The democratic challenge



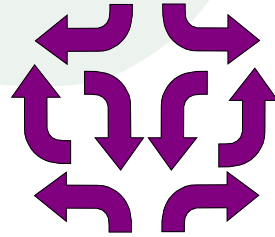
*“Our bottom-up approach is not only important to activate the rural population and allow them to start thinking about their own future. It also has a lot to do with the quality of democracy”*

*Franz Fischler, Cork 2.0 conference, sept 2016*



# CHALLENGE 1

## THE LAG – think tank of the area



### Partnership

How to strengthen the role of the LAGs

as an open place for debate to frame and supervise the strategies and reorient them towards new perspectives?

How to open participation to new partners

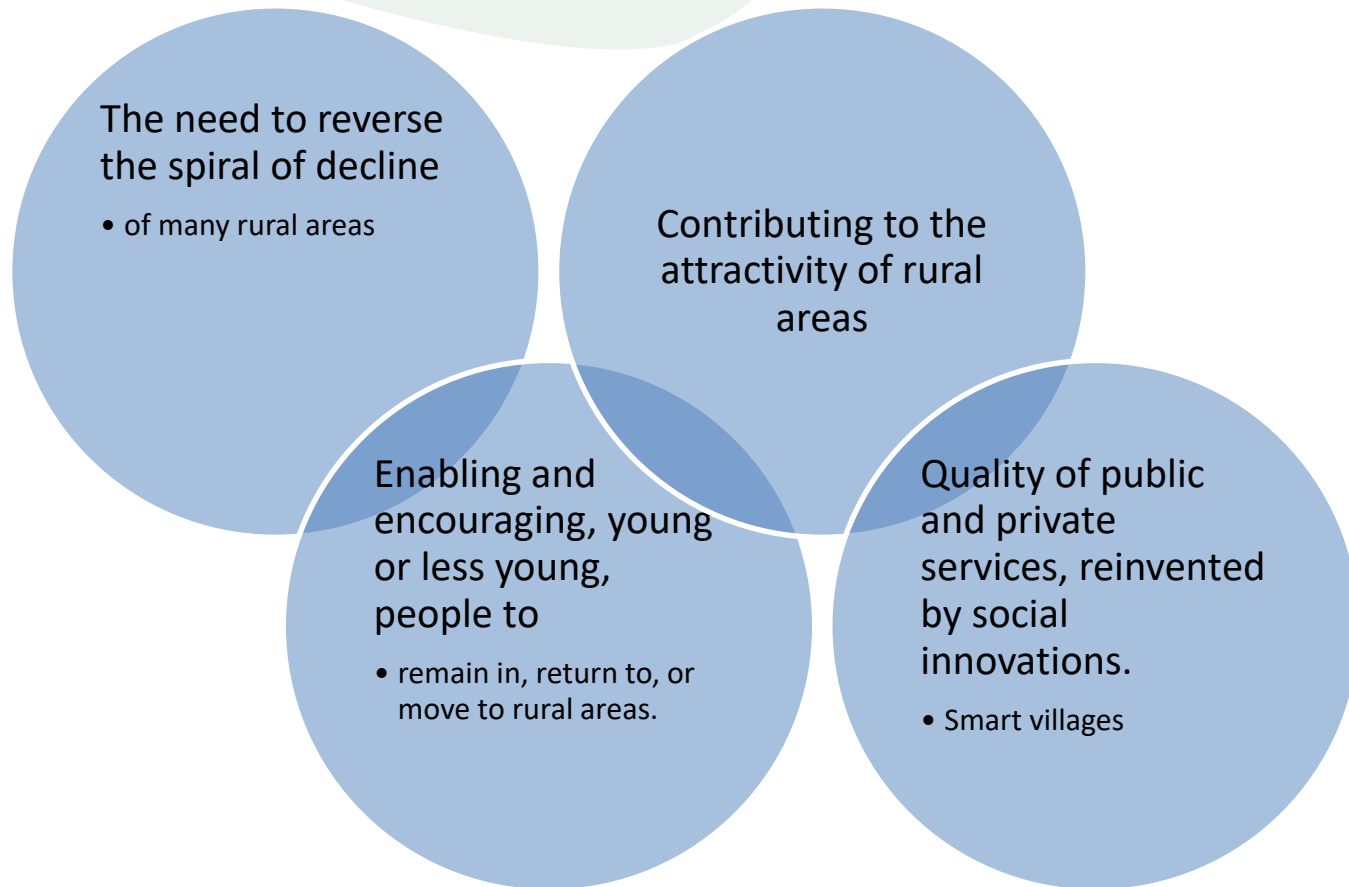
that enable to enhance the visions and perspectives?

How to better represent the diversities

of people, communities, activities, driving forces?

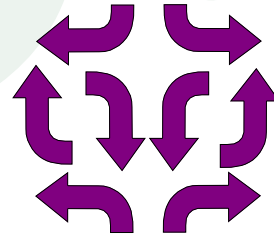
# CHALLENGE 2

## The demographical challenge



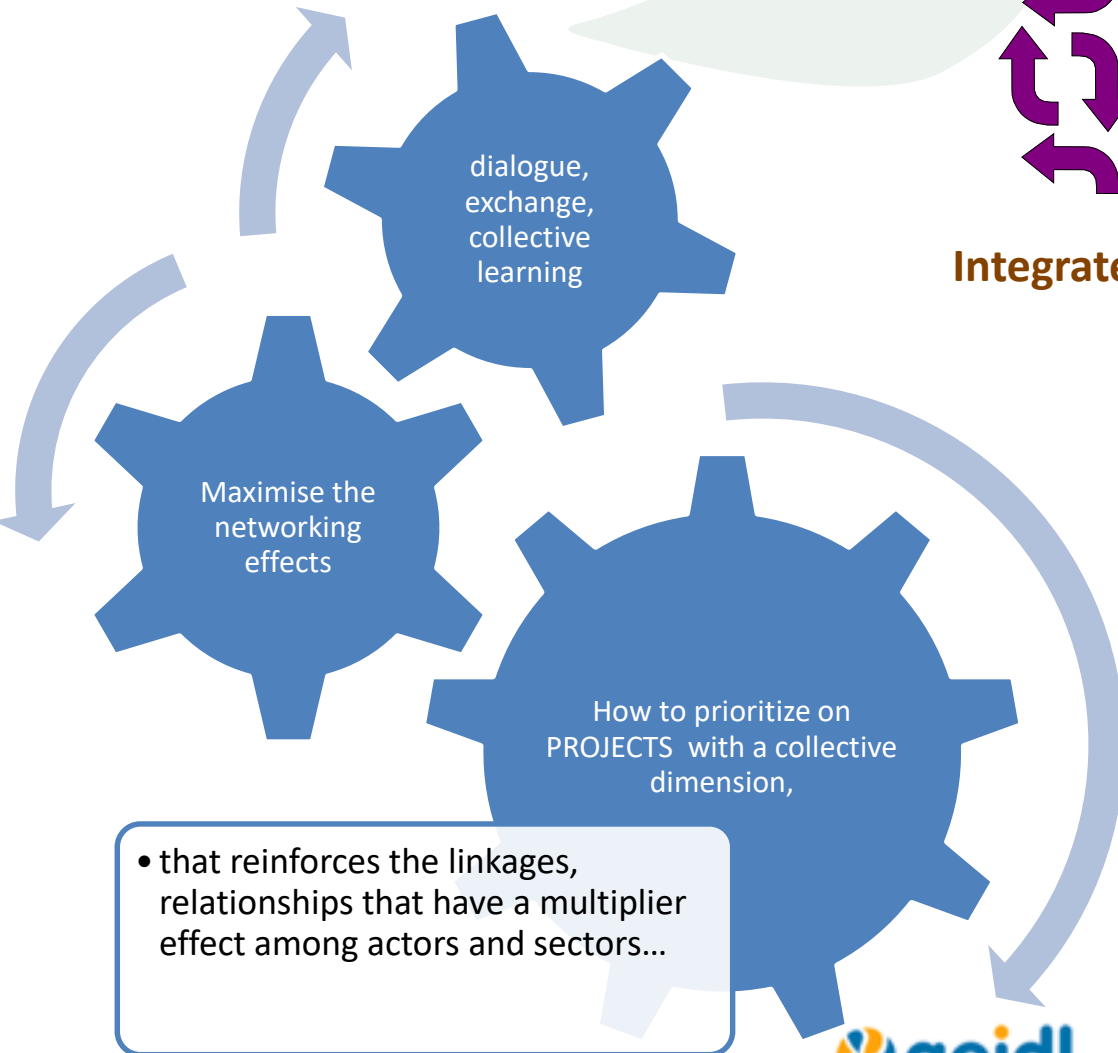
# CHALLENGE 3

## Multiply the linkages



Integrated approach

**LEADER is  
NOT a one stop-  
shop!**





## CHALLENGE 4

### Laboratory of innovations for transitions



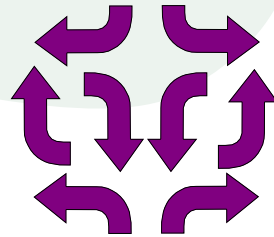
How to foster and support new citizen initiatives

- Crowdfunding
- Sharing economy
- Transition to a green economy
- social innovation to improve public and private services...etc.

What are the new “employment niches” where the local products and rural tourism have reached their maximum potential and limits?

## CHALLENGE 5

### Simplification



**Local management and funding**

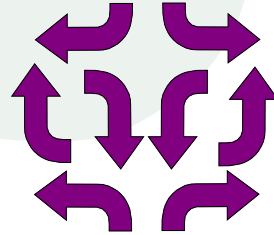
Simplification,  
more  
simplification,  
and  
**TRANSPARENCY**

A very important  
work done by  
ENRD and the  
Commission with  
all the  
stakeholders

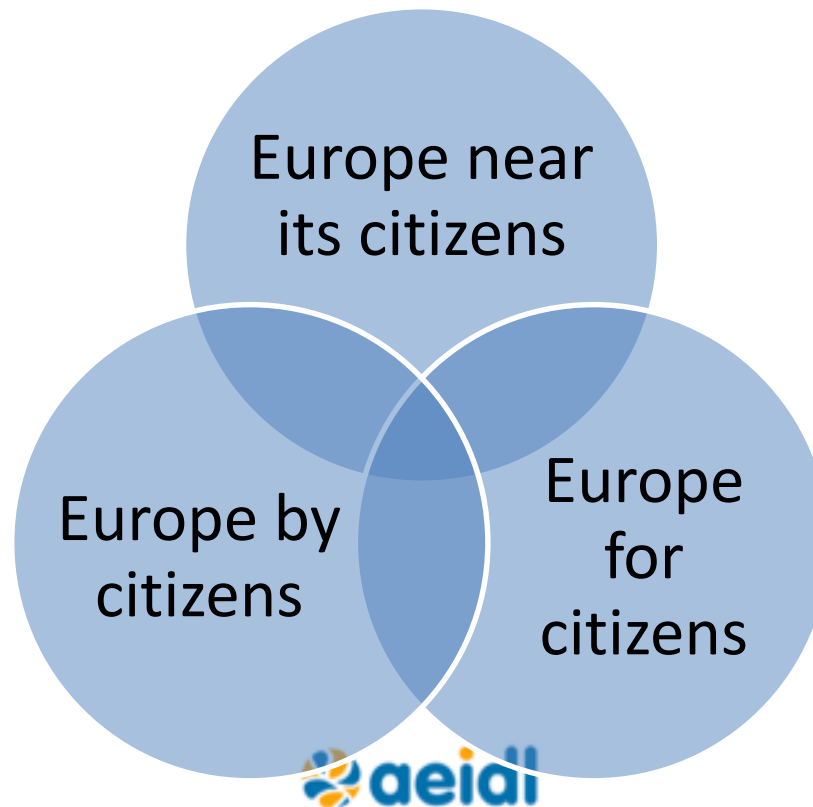
Importance of  
the quality of  
relations  
between  
managing  
authorities,  
networks and  
LAGs

# CHALLENGE 5

## “Local initiative reinvent Europe”



**NETWORKING AND COOPERATION**



# Thank you for your attention!

Yves Champetier

