

## Transnational cooperation with third countries – LEADER state of play and contacts

### Introduction

According to Article 44 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 local action groups from EU Member States can implement “...co-operation projects between territories in several Member States or *with territories in third countries* (transnational co-operation)” and cooperate with local action groups and “...apart from other local action groups, the partners of a local action group under the EAFRD may be (a) a group of local public and private partners in a rural territory that is implementing a local development strategy within *or outside the Union*.”

This document presents sources of basic information on contacts of local action groups (or groups of local public and private partners in a rural territory that are implementing a local development strategy outside the European Union). It aims to facilitate exchanges between local action groups in EU Member States and non-EU countries.

The information presented here is limited to certain IPARD<sup>1</sup> and ENPARD<sup>2</sup> supported countries with ongoing LEADER initiatives/projects. It has been collected from relevant national ministries (responsible for agriculture/rural development), national rural networks or other relevant sources and will be updated regularly.

**This document does not in any way represent a substitute for relevant official sources of information.**

### Country information

Country	EU-funded programme	State of play – LEADER	Availability of contacts for local action groups
Turkey	IPARD	<p>Turkey has activated the IPARD measure “Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER approach” and has selected the first 50 LAGs.</p> <p>Descriptions of projects developed by Turkish LAGs are available at this link:  <a href="https://tkdk.gov.tr/Projelslemleri/LEADERUygulamaOrnekleri?lang=en">https://tkdk.gov.tr/Projelslemleri/LEADERUygulamaOrnekleri?lang=en</a></p>	<p>The selected LAGs are in the process of developing a web presence, information on some of them can already be found here:  <a href="https://ipard.tarim.gov.tr/LeaderEn">https://ipard.tarim.gov.tr/LeaderEn</a>            (under the tab « LAGs of Turkey »)</p> <p>More information can be obtained from the IPARD Managing Authority, which also runs the National Rural Development Network:  <a href="https://ipard.tarim.gov.tr/Default-en">https://ipard.tarim.gov.tr/Default-en</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> IPARD is the Instrument for pre-accession assistance in rural development ([https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/international-cooperation/enlargement/pre-accession-assistance\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/international-cooperation/enlargement/pre-accession-assistance_en))

<sup>2</sup> ENPARD is the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (<https://www.euneighbours.eu/en>)

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Albania	IPARD	<p>The IPARD measure “Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER approach” has not been activated yet. However, Albania has a very active rural network and 11 existing LAGs.</p> <p>The Albanian Rural Network prepared a Policy document that provides an overview of the dynamics and progress of the introduction and implementation of the LEADER approach as an instrument of rural development in Albania. The approach may further spread its wings, resulting in some new LAGs, as the LEADER measure will be introduced in the Albanian IPARD III programme for 2021-2027. The <a href="#">paper</a> delivers also a list of existing LAGs, ready for cooperation with LAGs from the Member States.</p>	<p>Albanian Network for Rural Development: <a href="https://anrd.al/en">https://anrd.al/en</a></p>
Serbia	IPARD	<p>The IPARD measure “Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER approach” has not been activated yet. However, Serbia supports 22 existing LAGs from the national budget.</p>	<p>The Ministry: <a href="http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/ipard-program-2014-2020/">http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/ipard-program-2014-2020/</a></p> <p>The Network for rural development: <a href="http://www.ruralsrbija.rs/">http://www.ruralsrbija.rs/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact: <a href="mailto:rogandr@mts.rs">rogandr@mts.rs</a></li> <li>• LEADER information: <a href="http://www.ruralsrbija.rs/en/page/leader-approach-and-local-action-groups-lags">http://www.ruralsrbija.rs/en/page/leader-approach-and-local-action-groups-lags</a></li> </ul>
North Macedonia	IPARD	<p>The IPARD measure “Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER approach” has not been activated yet. However, North Macedonia supports 13 existing LAGs from the national budget.</p>	<p>IPARD Website (Ministry) : <a href="http://ipard.gov.mk/en/ipard-2014-2020/">http://ipard.gov.mk/en/ipard-2014-2020/</a></p> <p>The Rural Development Network of the Republic of North Macedonia : <a href="http://ruralnet.mk/en/">http://ruralnet.mk/en/</a></p>

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Georgia	ENPARD	<p>Through ENPARD, the EU has been introducing the LEADER approach in Georgia since 2015 in selected municipalities. At first, eight Local Action Groups were created in the municipalities of Borjomi, Lagodekhi, Kazbebi, Dedoplistskaro, Tetrtskaro, Akhalkalaki, Keda and Khulo, which, in collaboration with the EU partner organizations, have successfully implemented rural development projects. About 400 initiatives have already been funded by the EU through their direct involvement country-wide. As a result, over 1000 rural households in Georgia have access to better employment and over 10,000 rural population have improved their living conditions. Starting from 2019, the EU's LEADER methodology has been introduced to new LAGs in the four additional municipalities of Akhmeta, Tsalka, Tskaltubo and Mestia. In 2018, an Association of Local Action Groups of Georgia (GALAG) was founded, to support and promote the LEADER approach as a model for local development, cooperation of LAGs, implementation of joint projects, sharing of gained knowledge between the association members and advocacy/lobbying for rural development at local and national levels.</p>	<p>The websites of all 12 active LAGs in Georgia can be accessed via ENPARD's official website: <a href="http://enpard.ge/en/local-action-groups">http://enpard.ge/en/local-action-groups</a></p> <p>GALAG website: <a href="http://www.galag.ge">http://www.galag.ge</a></p>
Moldova	ENPARD	<p>Moldova made its first steps in the implementation of the LEADER method in 2015. The first Moldovan LAGs were launched in 2017/2018. Currently, Moldova has 32 LAG initiatives, covering approximately 30% of rural areas. As a result of the cooperation and continuous dialogue between public institutions, development partners and local people, and following a recent amendment of the relevant legislation, the LEADER approach is now eligible for financing from the state budget (up to 5% of the National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development).</p>	<p>The National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova: <a href="https://leaderin.md/en/gal-uri-moldova/">https://leaderin.md/en/gal-uri-moldova/</a></p>