



# Thematic Working Group no. 3

## Guidelines

### Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD

**Jela Tvrdonova**, Evaluation Manager  
**Hannes Wimmer**, Team Leader

11th meeting of the Expert Group on Monitoring and  
Evaluating the CAP 2014-2020, Brussels, 10 May 2017

POWERED BY



# Outline



- CLLD – new policy instrument in 2014-2020
- Legal requirements
- Concept and focus of evaluation of LEADER/CLLD
- Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD – RDP level
- Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD – LAG level





## CLLD – What's new?



A new policy instrument to support territorial cohesion in 2014-2020, built on LEADER principles !

Focus on specific sub-regional area

Public-private partnership/local action group (LAG)

Area based and multisector local development strategy

Innovation

Networking

Cooperation



# What's the legal framework for LEADER/CLLD evaluation at RDP level?

## Managing Authorities shall...

(Reg. 808/2014)

**Programme LEADER/CLLD in the RDP intervention logic** under Focus Area 6B "Fostering local development in rural areas (6A in UK-Eng)

### **Specify in the RDP evaluation plan:**

- **Evaluation topics and activities** linked to the contribution of LEADER/CLLD strategies; and
- **Support** for evaluation to be provided to LAGs

### **Ensure evaluation**, i.e.

- Assess **LEADER/CLLD contributions to RD objectives**
- Provide **answers to evaluation questions**
- Assess **contribution to Union strategy** for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth







# What's the legal framework for LEADER/CLLD evaluation at LAG level?

(Article 34 of Reg. 1303/2013)

LAGs shall...



**Monitor** the implementation of the community-led local development strategy and the operations supported

**Carry out specific evaluation activities** linked to that strategy

NEW

(Article 33 & 35 of Reg. 1303/2013)

**The CLLD strategy** shall include a description of:

- Strategy's **hierarchy of objectives** and measurable targets for outputs or results
- Description of **monitoring arrangements** of the strategy and specific **arrangements for evaluation**
- Allocation of **running costs dedicated to monitoring & evaluation**

# Which evaluation activities can LAGs choose?

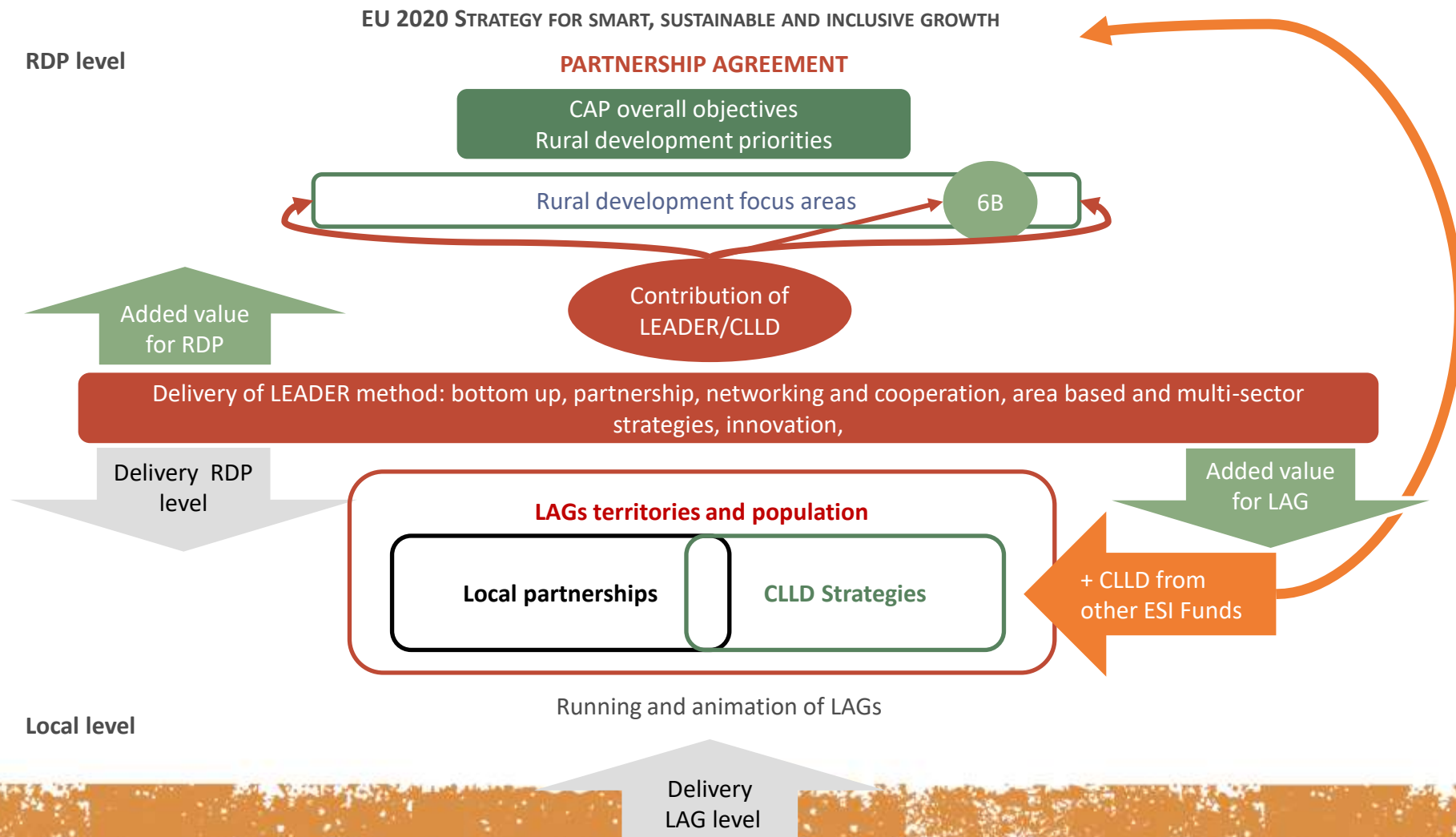


LAGs may opt for an independent evaluation and/or a self-assessment

	Self-assessment	Evaluation
Why?	Demonstrate achievements of the CLLD strategy and outcomes of other LAG activities Foster the learning process to better design and implement LEADER/CLLD at local level	
By whom?	LAG bodies which are involved/responsible for the design, approval and implementation of the CLLD strategy and of other LAG activities	Independent bodies not involved/responsible for the design, approval and implementation of CLLD strategy or of any other LAG activities
What?	Assess the achievements of CLLD strategy and other LAG activities, the delivery of LEADER method and the added value which LEADER/CLLD is generating	
On what basis?	Monitoring data and findings from mainly participatory qualitative assessments	Monitoring and other quantitative data (statistics), information from qualitative research
Outcome?	Self - reflection on the LAG's own performance, and achievements	Independent findings on achievements of the CLLD strategy and other LAG activities

In case LAGs opt for independent evaluation they have to comply with **public procurement** requirements

# What is the concept behind the LEADER-CLLD?





# Who are the stakeholders involved in evaluation of LEADER/CLLD?

**Managing Authority** has overall responsibility for evaluation at RDP level!

*Other involved stakeholders: PA, NRN, evaluators, LAGs, MC, etc.*

Support

**LAG** has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation activities at local level”

*Other involved stakeholders: MA, PA, NRN, evaluators, other LAGs, MC, etc.*

**NRN** provide capacity building for LAGs & disseminate M&E findings (1305/2013, Art. 54.3)

*Optionally, NRN can take a more proactive role in developing and supporting a harmonized approach to the M&E of the local development strategies.*



# LEADER/CLLD evaluation at RDP level

# What needs to be evaluated at RDP level?

Assess at least LEADER/CLLD as a measure but... consider more aspects!

## Mandatory

Assessment of LEADER / CLLD as a measure

- Has the measure been effective & efficient?
- What have been its contributions to RDP objectives, EU2020 and PA?

## Recommended

Assessment of the delivery mechanism in ensuring the LEADER method

- How have LEADER/CLLD rules and procedures ensured that the LEADER method has been applied?

Assessment of the added value of LEADER/CLLD

- What has been generated in terms of social capital, governance, enhanced RDP results and impacts?



# How to assess the LEADER/CLLD at RDP level?



Use the following steps....



1. Check consistency of evaluation elements with intervention logic

2. Develop programme specific evaluation elements

3. Identify and select evaluation methods and approaches

4. Collect data and information

5. Analyse information and answer Evaluation Questions



# What to consider in the assessment of LEADER/CLLD as a measure?

## FOCUS OF THE EVALUATION

1. Assessment of LEADER/CLLD **primary and secondary contributions** to RDP focus areas and their **effectiveness and efficiency**
2. **Contributions to the Union Strategy** for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

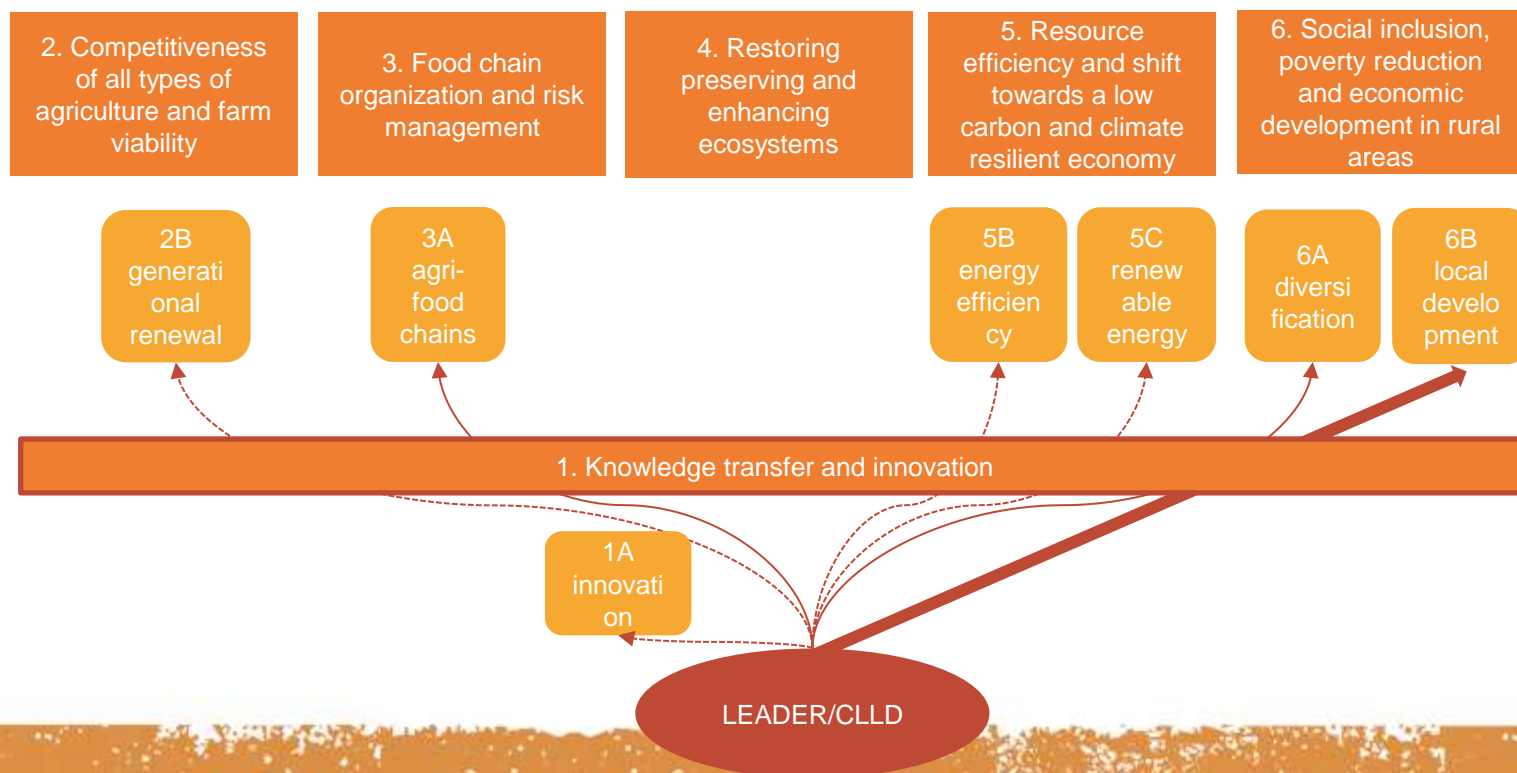
- With common, additional and programme-specific result indicators
- Answer Focus Area related common evaluation questions

- Calculate net contributions to changes in the CAP impact indicators
- Answer common evaluation questions related to EU level objectives



# What's the difference between primary and secondary contributions?

Primary are only those to the focus area under which LEADER/CLLD is programmed! (FA 6B)







# What to consider in the assessment of the delivery mechanism? (recommended)

## If it has ensured the LEADER method!

### LEADER method

Bottom-up  
Public-private partnership  
Area-based strategies  
Multi-sector strategies  
Innovation  
Networking  
Cooperation

To what extent has the delivery mechanism ensured the application of the **LEADER method**?

### LEADER/CLLD delivery mechanism – examples

(stages at RDP level, under control of MA)

#### Design of measure inside of RDP

- Eligibility of actions
- Eligibility of beneficiaries
- Budget allocation
- Expected number of projects
- Expected outputs
- Expected results
- ...

#### LAG and CLLD strategy selection

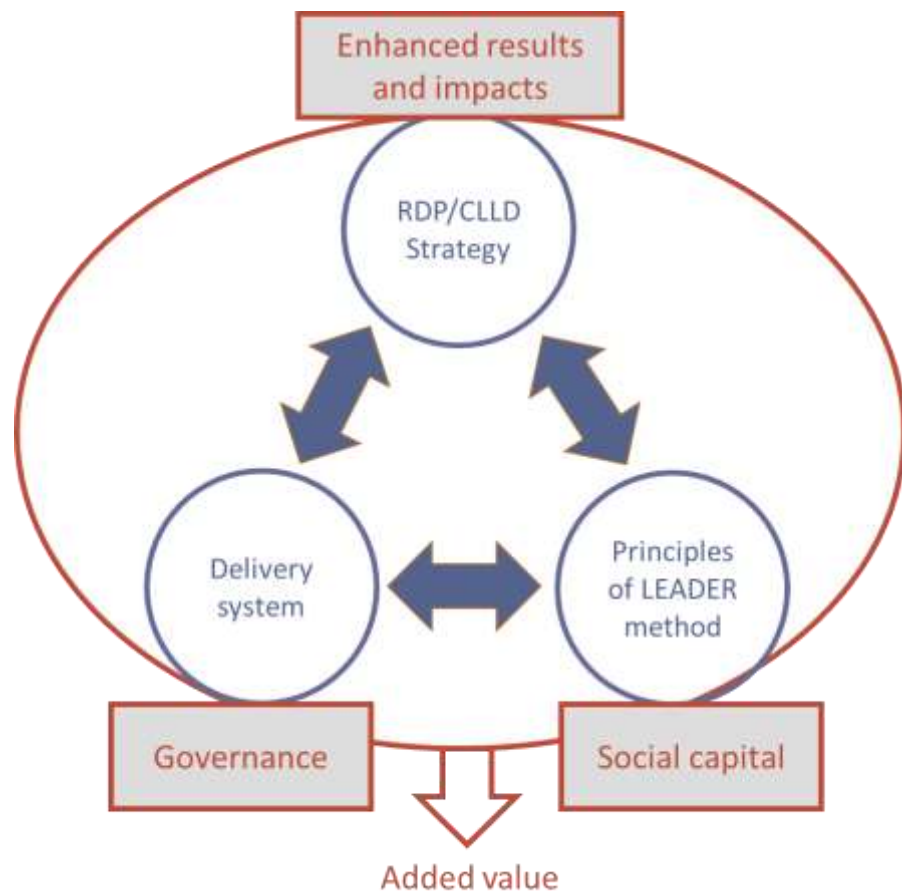
- Rules for LAG application and selection
- Selection criteria and procedures for CLLD strategies
- ...

#### Support provided to LAGs for

- Strategy design and implementation
- Monitoring
- Self-assessment / evaluation
- Animation and running of LAG
- ...



# What to consider in the assessment of the added value? (recommended)



What benefits has LEADER/CLLD created through the proper application of the LEADER method in comparison to the benefits that would have been achieved without applying this method.





# How to report on the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD?

Use the SFC template for EU-level reporting,  
and consider also other formats!



- **Reporting in the SFC template** for the annual implementation report (AIR)
  - *Answers to the common evaluation questions in the AIRs submitted in 2017 and 2019*
  - *Answers to programme specific evaluation questions in AIR 2017 and 2019*
  - *Reporting in the standard AIR*
- Reporting in the context of the RDP ex post evaluation
- Optional reporting formats, e.g.:
  - Self-standing evaluation report on LEADER/CLLD
  - Various formats informing on evaluation findings for general public

# Leader evaluation at LAG level



# What needs to be evaluated at local level?



## The CLLD strategy and... more!



### Mandatory

Legal requirements.

- Provision of the monitoring and evaluation arrangements in the CLLD strategy
- Local Action Groups monitor and carry on the evaluation activities with regards to the CLLD strategy in accordance with Article 33 and 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

### Recommended

Assessment of LAG activities, such as

- CLLD strategy achievements, result and impacts
- Achievements of the LEADER/CLLD cooperation projects
- Outcomes of animation activities

Assessment of the LEADER/CLLD delivery mechanism in safeguarding the application of the LEADER method and its principles

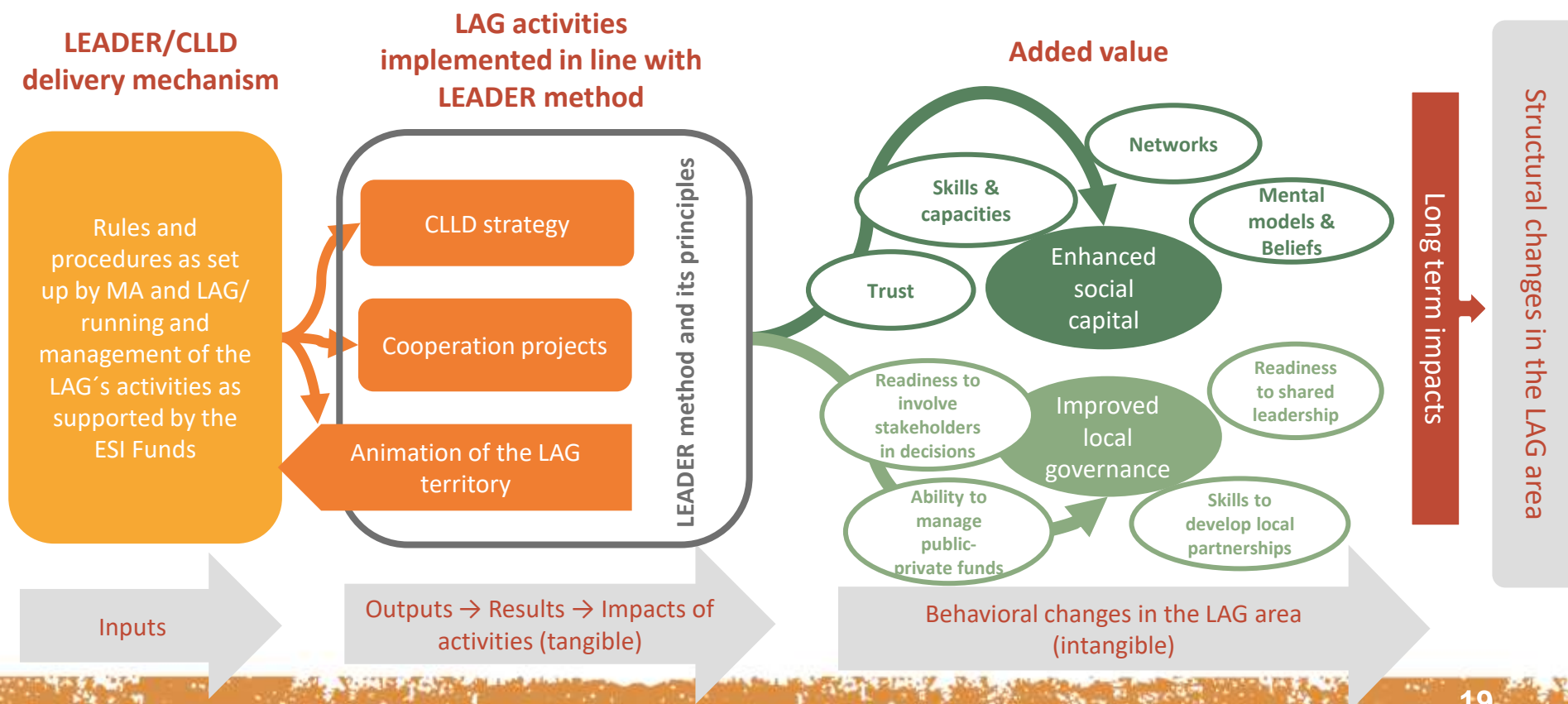
Assessment of the added value of LEADER/CLLD





# What is the relation between LAG activities, delivery mechanism and added value?

They are all linked through the LEADER method!





What evaluation elements are available to assess LEADER/CLLD at the local level?

LAGs develop their own evaluation questions, judgement criteria and indicators to assess the LAG activities, delivery mechanism and added value



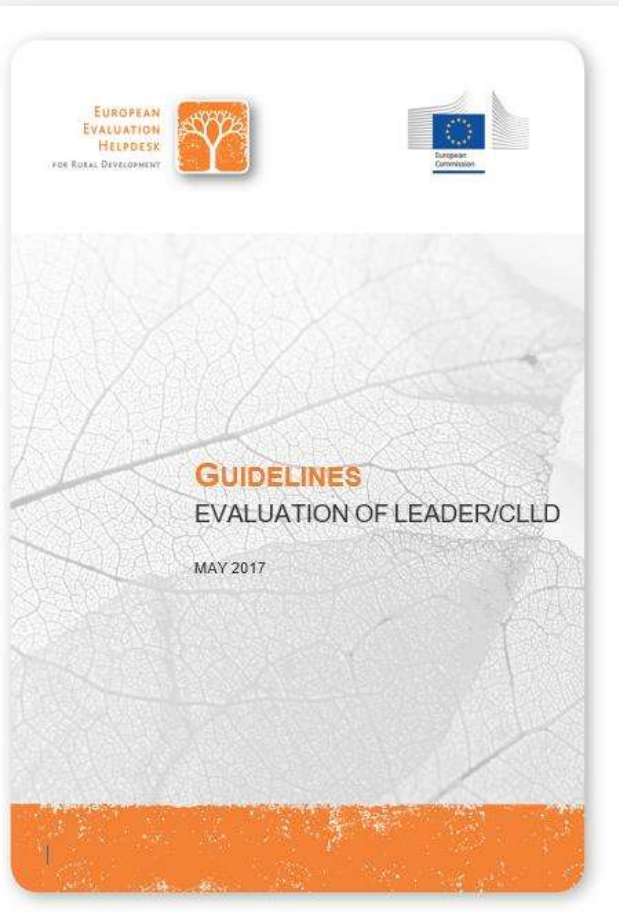
# Which support is available for the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD?

Non-binding guidelines  
for Managing Authorities,  
LAGs, Evaluators and  
National Rural Networks

To be published  
soon on our Website!

&

Specific sections on  
LEADER/CLLD in  
Guidelines for AIR 2017





Great, I've got it.  
Everything clear now!

Thanks for your questions!



European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development  
Boulevard Saint Michel 77-79  
B-1040 Brussels  
Tel. +32 2 7375130  
E-mail [info@ruralevaluation.eu](mailto:info@ruralevaluation.eu)  
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation>