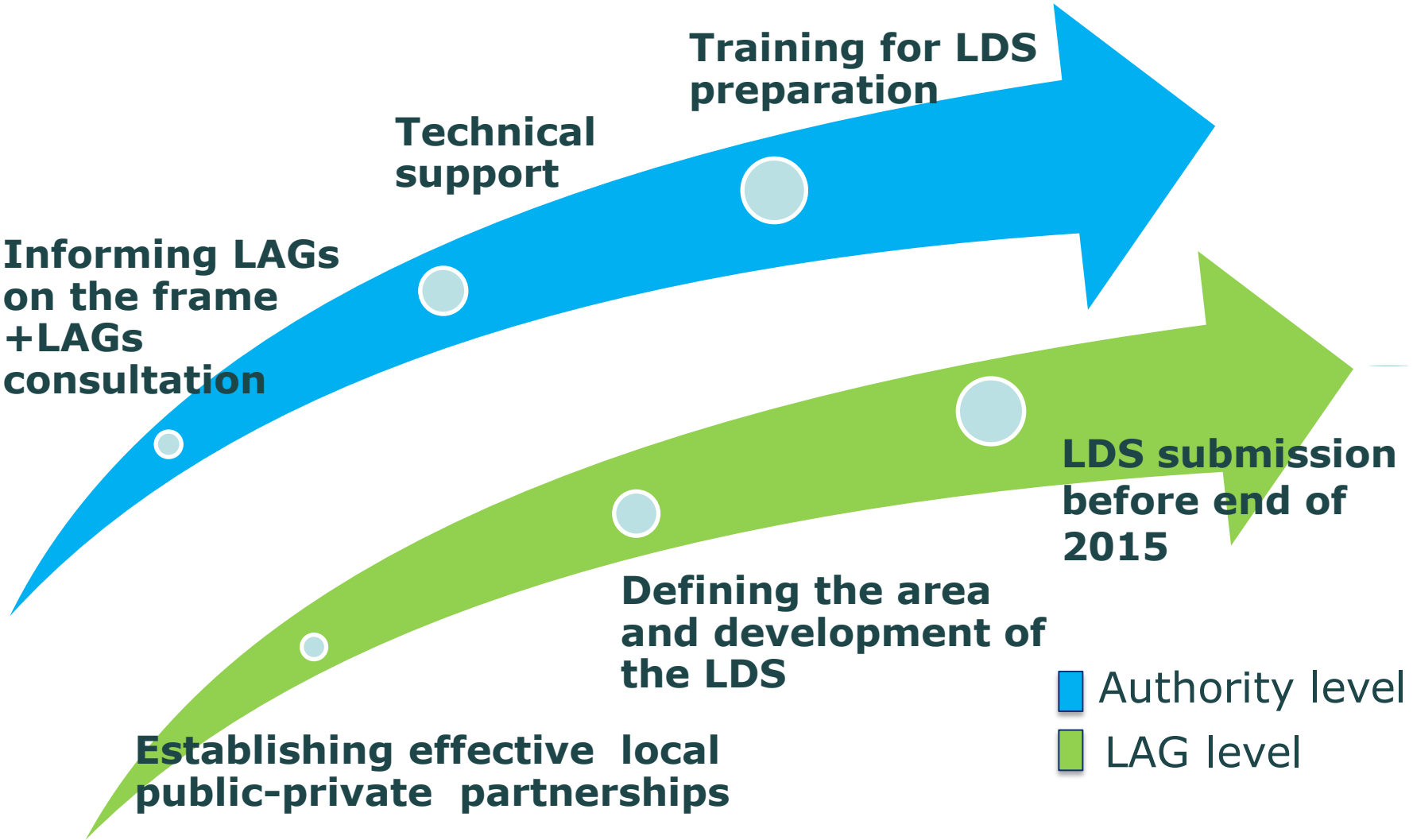
How to better prepare potential LAGs for the future?

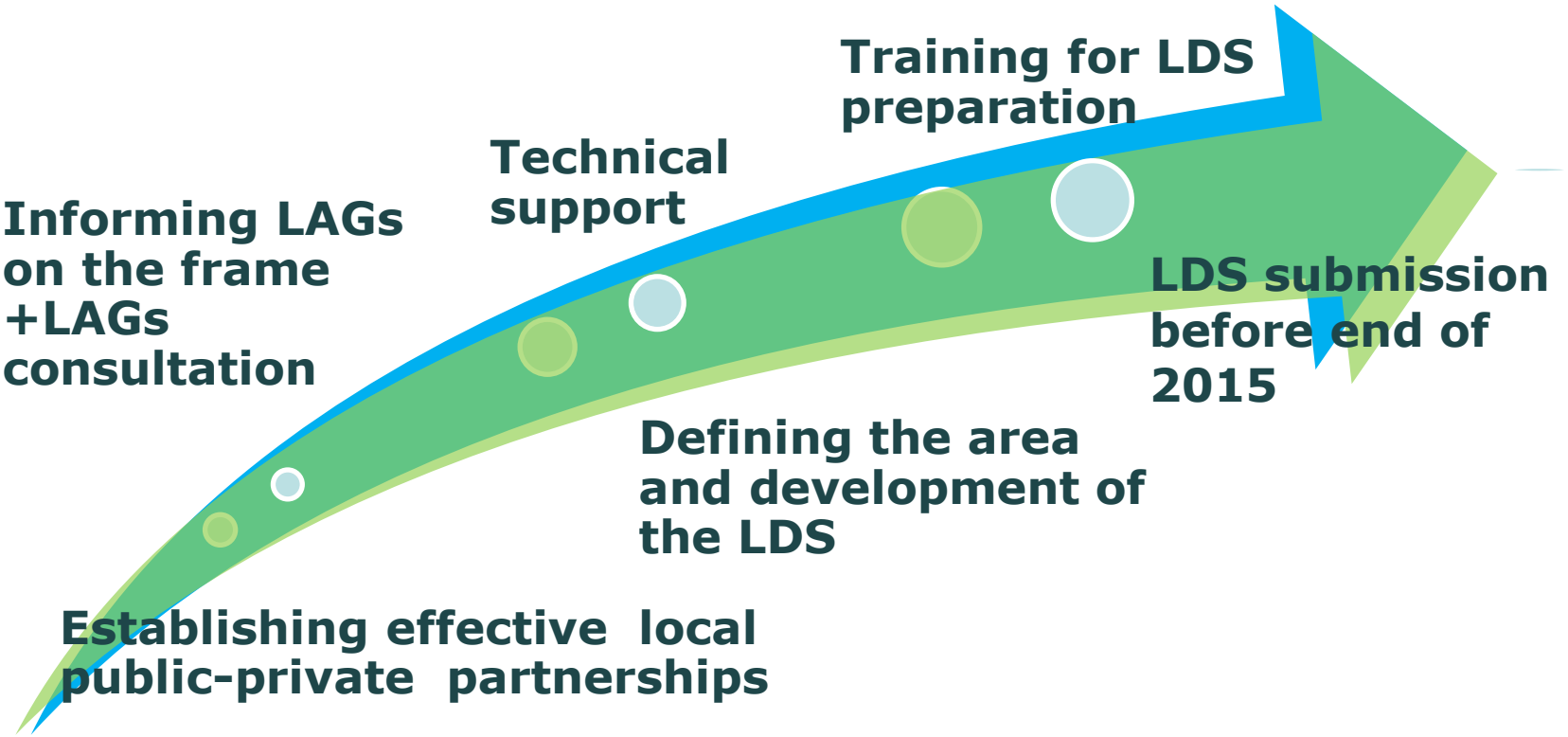
Based on Focus Group 4 findings

Jean-Michel Courades
DG AGRI-G3
LEADER Sub-Committee
22 November 2012

LDS Development Process (LAG needs and support from RDPs)



LDS Development Process (LAG needs and support from RDPs)



Preparation work at LAG level

- Establishing an effective **partnership** (consolidating the existing LAG or building a new LAG)
- Defining the **area** which the strategy will cover
- Defining a **LDS**

Establishing effective partnerships

Start the process early at local level

- Within the transition period under the current programming period
- In the absence of an existing partnership, start the building of a new partnership early
- Mapping of local stakeholders to allow different groups of stakeholders and practitioners to contribute effectively to consultations and involve them into structured discussions

Establishing effective partnerships

- **To acquire additional LAG capacity**
  - Technical competence related to new LDS themes
  - Management capacity incl. self-evaluation capacity

- **Multi-fund approach**
  - How to structure integrated partnerships (representative composition, different decision making bodies for each Fund?)

Establishing effective partnerships

Potential options for national authorities under the current RDPs

- Use 2007-2013 technical assistance for the preparation of LDS (collective actions)
- Existing LAGs: use of measure 431 for LDS ex-post evaluation

Establishing effective partnerships

What is needed from national authorities in relation to the future RDP?

- Provide **clear indications** on which Fund(s) can be used (**Partnership contract**) for what to facilitate planning and ensure more clarity for LAGs
- Provide **operational support** from the start of the RDP eligibility period
  - **Preparatory support** including LEADER start-up kit for groups who did not implement LEADER in the 2007-2013 programming period or new territories without established groups

Defining the area

- **Who defines the area ?**
  - The partnership should have an autonomy to define the area within given parameters
- **Delimitation criteria**
  - Areas can be functional and do not have to be confined to existing administrative boundaries
  - If multi-fund LDS, what does the area mean in this context? One common delimitation or Fund specific programming areas partially overlapping?

Defining the area

What is needed from national authorities?

- Clarification on the type of territoires (partnership contract defining the type of territories – rural areas, urban areas, areas with mixed rural/urban components – fishery areas)
- RDP possible prioritisation (e.g. areas with higher development needs)

Developing the LDS

- **Start early**
- For existing LAGs **learn from the previous programme periods** (2007-2013 LDS evaluation under measure 431)
- For new LAGs **learn from experienced LAGs** (mentoring schemes, LAGs exchanges of experience)
- **Define the thematic scope, priorities** - importance given to innovation

Developing the LDS in an RDP where multi-fund approach is possible

According to the LDS scope and envisaged projects is a multi-fund approach needed?

- Choice of the Funds to be included in that strategy;
- If the Lead Fund option is opened, which Fund should be the Lead Fund.

Developing the LDS

What is needed from national authorities?

- **Define the role of CLLD** in the partnership contract (multi-funding? thematic focus, innovation…..)
- **Prior information** to LAGs before the RDP approval (clarification on rules, degree of LAG autonomy, process, timetable and support available to LAGs to prepare LDS, size of the budget provided by each Fund)

Developing the LDS

- **What is needed from national authorities?**
- **Technical assistance**

  - LAG training needs assessment based on a dialogue MA-LAGs is required (diverging needs of LAG)

  - Guidance on LDS format (focus/priority should be given to innovation, LDS monitoring system, evaluation plan and LDS revision procedure)

  - Training actions by the NRN

Preparatory support for developing the LDS

Type and duration of support: initial operational support for local consultation and LDS drafting - LAG staff resources, consultancy, mentoring and exchange of experience between LAGs

-support duration: at least 5 months for existing LAGs and more for new LAGs;

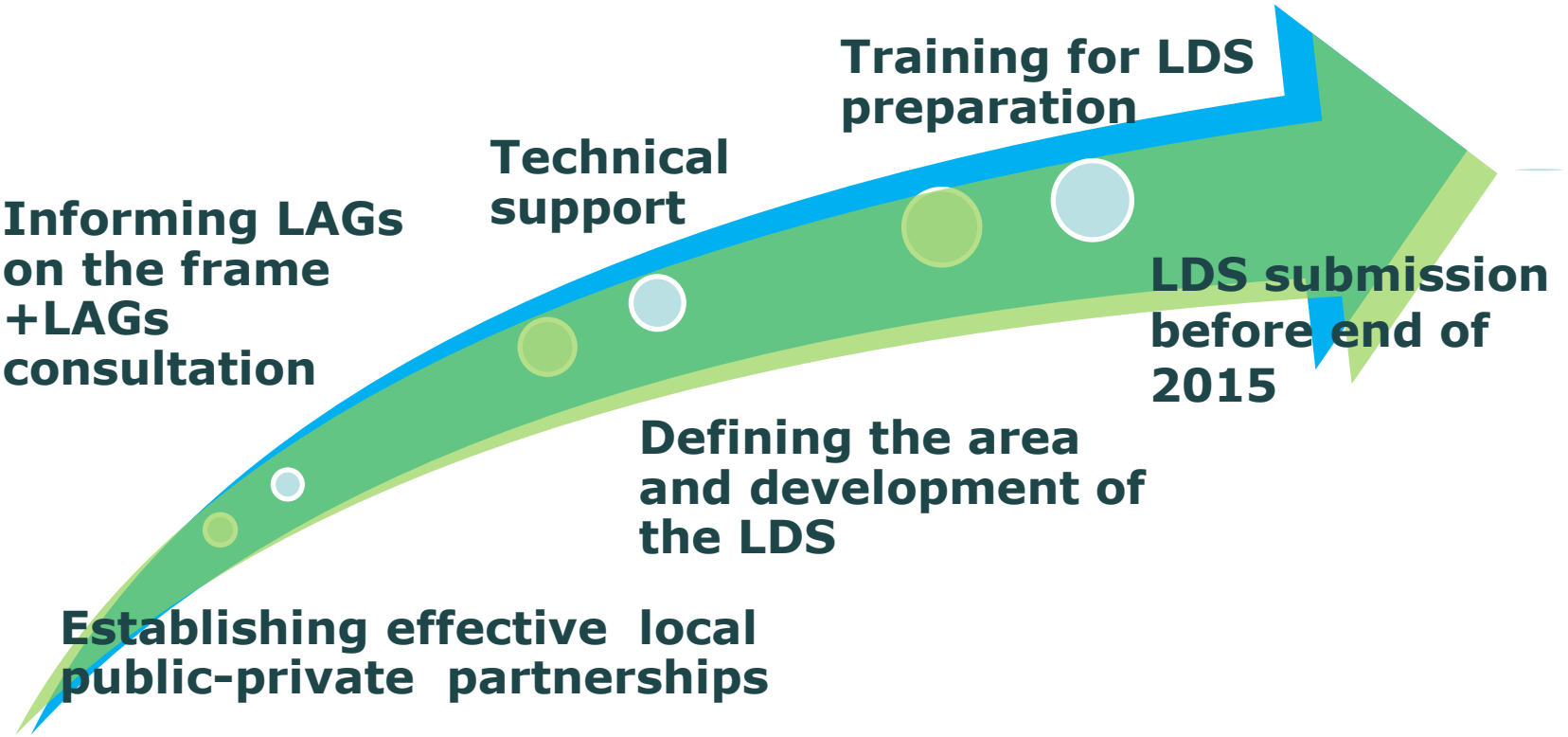
Content of training:

- LEADER approach
- LDS design process
- Administrative and regulatory aspects including LDS format (LDS quality criteria - innovation, LDS monitoring system, evaluation plan, skills development and LDS revision procedure)

Summary: first steps recommended by the Focus Group 4

1. Prior general information on orientations taken to allow potential LAGs to start the process

2. Preparatory support available under the current programme (ensure continuity)

3. LAG training needs assessment (improve the LAG training)

LDS Development Process (LAG needs and support from RDPs)