

LEADER Network Croatia

in partnership with
Slovenian Rural Development Network

and

Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences; Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek; Croatia
International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies- Institute of Montpellier
(CIHEAM IAM), France

Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO); Croatia

Croatian Society of Agricultural Economists (HAED), Croatia

Balkan Environmental Association (B.E.N.A), Greece

European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD)

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South Eastern Europe, North
Macedonia

with a kind support of:

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia, National Rural Network

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia, National Rural Network

and Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana; Slovenia

Invite you to

SEE LEADER

**1st International conference on practical and theoretical implications of the LEADER/CLLD
in South-East Europe**

in Opatija (Croatia), November 20/22, 2019.

SEE LEADER aims to recognize the uniqueness of the community-led local development approach for integrated territorial development in South-East Europe, demonstrating the results of past years of implementation and proactively looking at its future.

SEE LEADER objectives are to provide scholars and practitioners overview and contribution to the implementation of LEADER/CLLD in South Eastern Europe, so as to:

- Further foster, strengthen and catalyse awareness of local development stakeholders, local action groups, experts and decision-makers (managing and implementing bodies).
- Demonstrate that the development of LEADER/CLLD should be based on local communities innovation and resources.
- Emphasize the need to embed it in the contributions and recommendations stemming from academic research and hands on experience of LEADER communities.

Contribute to a creation of a common framework for LEADER/CLLD implementation for the next programming period by taking into account: historical context of LEADER and the countries it is being implemented in, benefit to the local communities in the examples of good practices and European Commission's guidelines for the post-2020 period.

Themes of the 1st SEE LEADER conference are as follow:

1. Alternative management of LEADER/CLLD - why, for whom and by whom
2. LEADER/CLLD as a territorially embedded private-public policy tool
3. Role of actors in LEADER/CLLD implementation
4. Social capital of LEADER/CLLD
5. The innovation in LEADER/CLLD
6. LEADER/CLLD fostering (dis)empowerment
7. The issue of scalar governance and geopolitics in LEADER/CLLD
8. LEADER/CLLD as development based on local area features and oriented to expected results (process vs. projects)
9. Financial models and instruments for LEADER/CLLD implementation
10. Networking and Collaboration of LAGs and other actors in sustainable integrated local development

The practical aspects of the LEADER in the new financial framework of the EU – what it brings to Central and South-Eastern European States and what is needed

In the past decades a lot of experience has been gained in the implementation of the LEADER. Extensive research on the LEADER programme underlines its success and its failures. Its evolution from a community initiative towards one of the measures of not only the Rural Development Programme but also the social and convergence programmes of the EU tells us that there is an understanding of the potential of LEADER to truly “democratize rural development” and “empower” the grassroots to manage the territory in a sustainable and climate change resilient way.

However, to date the question of LEADER evaluation remains to be a point of debate among the practitioners and the academics. What perspective do we take when valorising so many intangible aspects of LEADER (first and foremost being its production of social capital). What set of methodologies and measures do we evoke and develop so as to show its tangible effect? How do we approach its processual nature, constantly in flux and prone to regression as well as to evolution? How do we defend or attack this process always defined and framed by the actors that make part of it?

With this conference we call for contributions from the practitioners of the LEADER programme at all scales, European, national and the territorial to provide us with practice abstracts showcasing their examples of achievements, but also the failures of LEADER implementation.

We aim to provide more empirical and theoretical contributions around the following questions:

- Is LEADER truly promoting neo-endogenous development of rural territories harnessing the potential of an area and its local resources, or merely another formalized grassroots strategy delivering financial subsidies to disadvantaged areas.
- How does LEADER change and or (dis/en/)volve when faced with financial, managerial and societal challenges thought its unfolding on European, national, regional and local level.

We encourage papers from various disciplines and a plurality of perspectives.

The theoretical underpinnings of the LEADER – making practice theoretical

Scholars have analyzed LEADER from various perspectives. As a new European policy based on integrated rural development that is to bring about endogenous, territorial approaches to rural development based on network relations. As a pan EU laboratory of rural development that will be effective at building on local assets and promoting local cooperation and innovation. As successful in providing a blueprint for its urban counterpart. Others have questioned whether it is an inclusive bottom up programme or it just blurs and neglects inequalities that exist on the local level by further empowering the hegemony from the public, private and the civil sector on the local level. As research has informed us it is multifaceted. In its quest to answer to the needs of a given territory it represents an integrated

territorial approach; One that aims to respond to the totality of social and environmental challenges given territory faces. It is in this complexity that we invite scholars to provide new outlooks on LEADER.

We invite scholars to provide contributions that can help practitioners – Local Action Groups, Managing Authorities and Implementing Bodies answer to the existing challenges in LEADER framing; shaping and implementation process. Whereby aiming to provide further insight into identifying the causes or roots of the major challenges LEADER poses to practitioners on daily basis. In the hope to offer solutions we call for scientific evidence and academic rigor to help us shed light on whether LEADER is, has been or has potential to foster successful sustainable development of local communities.

We kindly ask you to send your title of the paper and abstract (up to 1500 letters) by September 1st 2019. You will be informed if your abstract is accepted by September 15th 2019.

Full paper should be sent by November 1st 2019.

Papers should be written in font 12, line spacing option 1,5 (Microsoft Word Program, Times New Roman) up to 22 pages. Along with the paper, summary in English must be enclosed (up to 700 words) with a maximum of five key words.

Poster should be sent by October 1st 2019.

Abstract, Paper and Poster should be prepared using a Word templates and Guidelines, downloaded from web address www.see-leader.eu. (For Authors).

In the hope and belief that you will respond to our invitation we kindly greet you

Scientific Committee Chairperson:

Assoc.Prof. Snježana Tolić, PhD, Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences; Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Croatia

Scientific Committee Members:

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