

*LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE OF
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN
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The contribution of LEADER to networking and collective action in rural communities

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PREPARE Gathering, Ohrid, Macedonia 2010

1) Collective action and coordination problems – A economists` point of view

2) Collective action and the LEADER programme

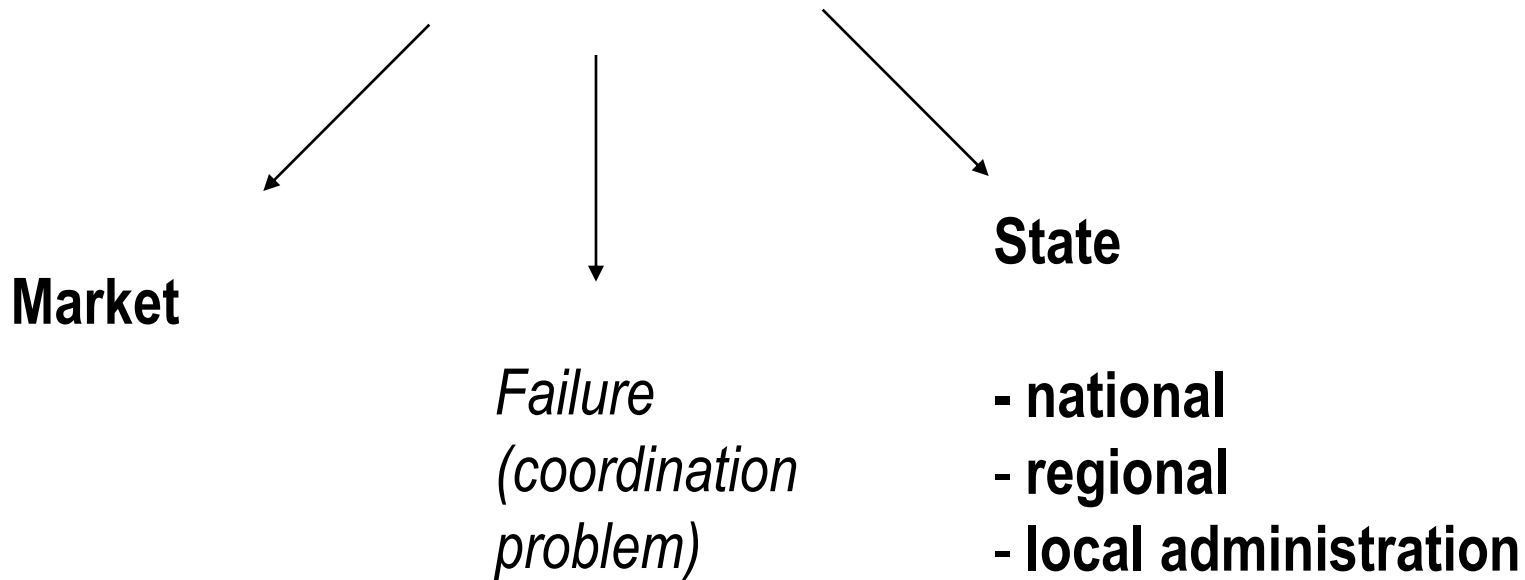
- Background on LEADER and the New rural paradigm
- Two major steps in the functioning mechanism of LEADER

3) The Pilot Programme LEADER+ in Poland - some lessons learned

1) Collective Action in rural communities – a economists` point of view



Management of natural resources and provision of „public goods“







Nobel prize in economics in 2010

-> local
communities
(often) manage
ressources best by
themselves

-> local communities (often) manage resources and solve development problems best by themselves

Findings & research:

-> under which conditions do people in communities cooperate successfully to achieve their goals (-> collective action theory)

-> when do such communities survive on the long term (-> design principles)

When do communities manage their resources successfully and when do they survive on the long term?

Face-to-face communication

Good collective-choice rules (how do we coordinate and work together), which fit the situation

Shared understanding of goals and shared values

Where necessary good sanctioning mechanisms

Linkages to other levels and networks

(Ostrom 1998 and Fleischman et. al. 2010)

2) LEADER and Collective Action



The „new rural paradigm“

Publication by the OECD in 2006

Focus on regions, the people and their potential

Importance of ‚bottom-up rural development‘

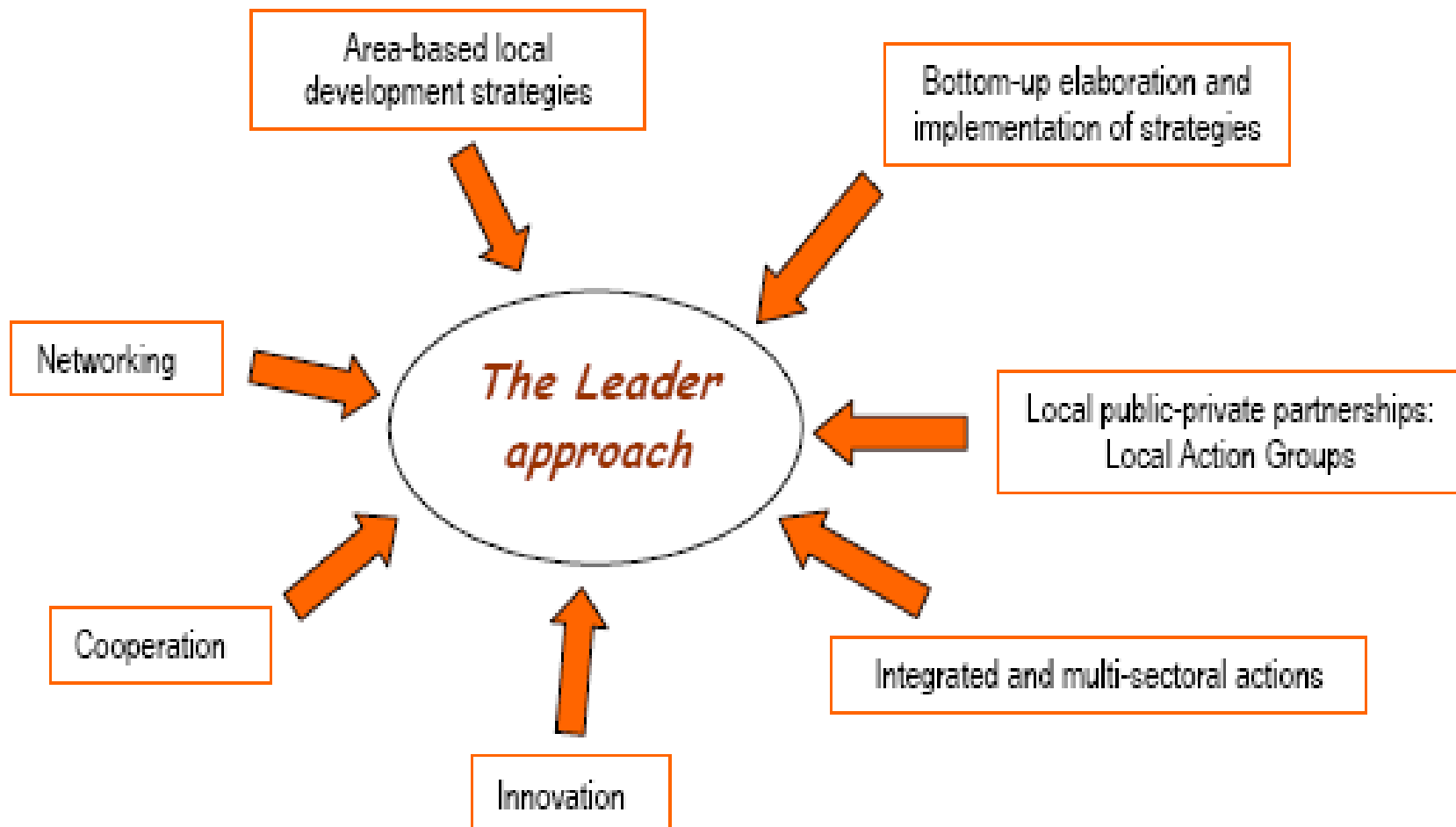
LEADER

In the EU-15 since 1991

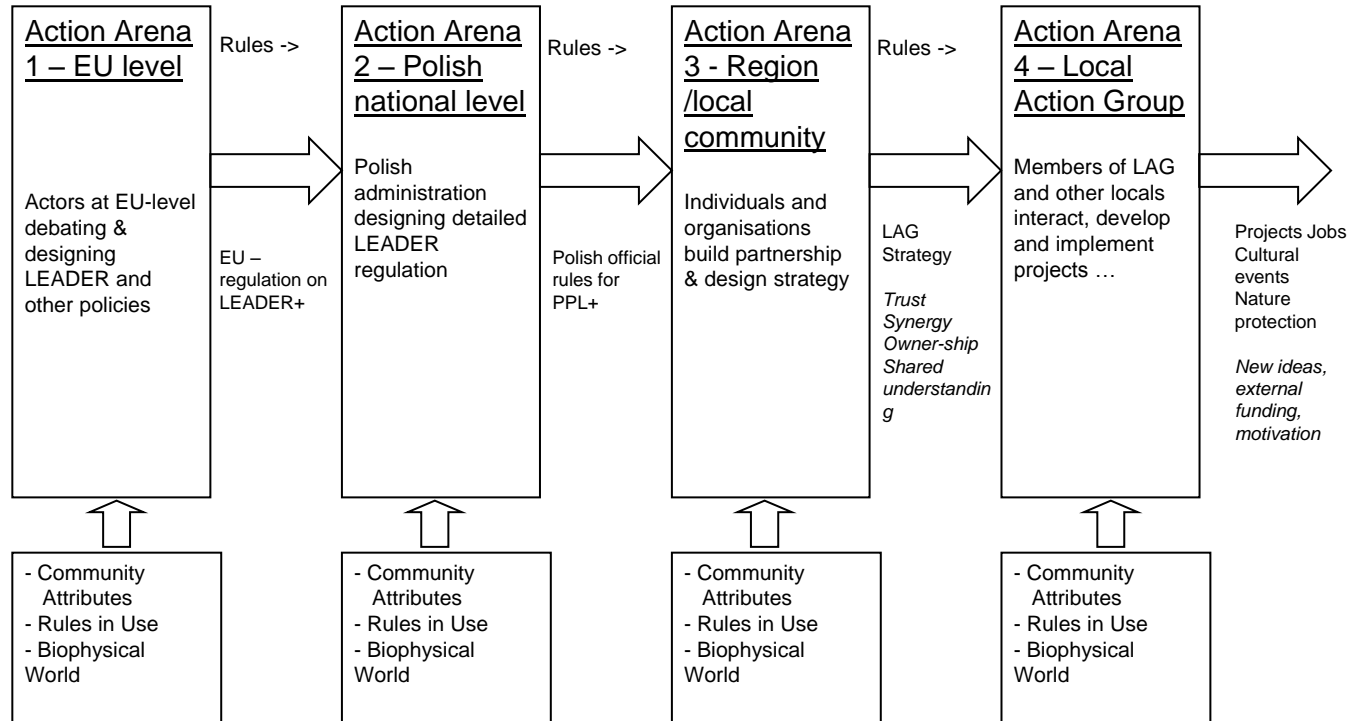
In some new member states implemented since 2004

Since 2007: mainstreamed in the EU as the fourth axis of the EAFRD

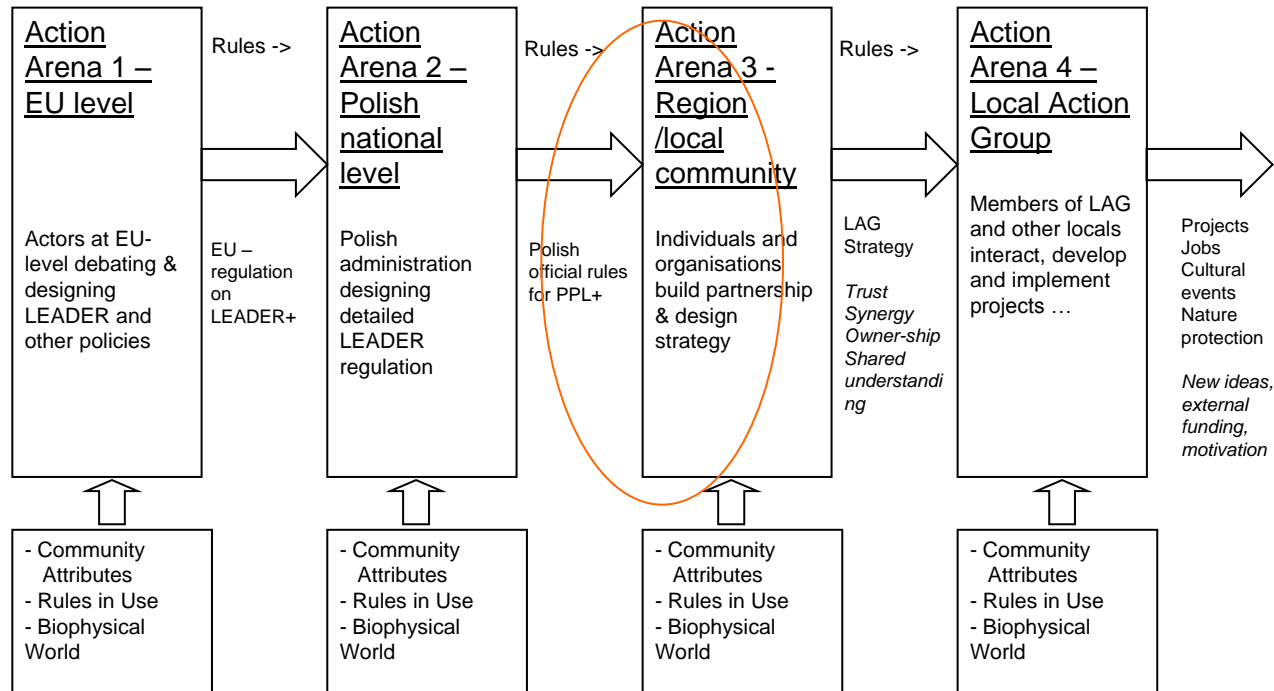
The seven key features of Leader



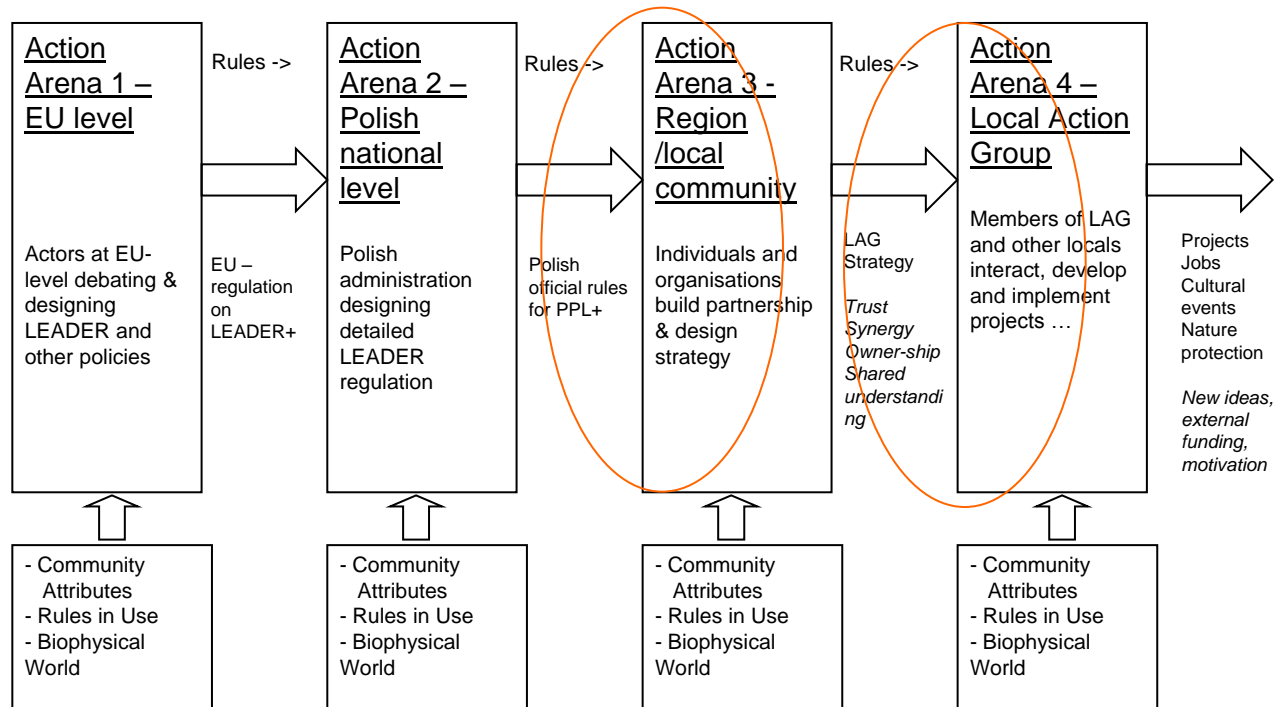
Source: European Commission: The LEADER Approach: a basic guide



Source: Own depiction, based on IAD-framework (Ostrom 2005)



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Analysing the LEADER programme: Different levels in implementation and analysis

**Adequate design of rules by EU and national administration
important for success**

Two major steps of functioning of LEADER in the region

**1) collective action + coordination -> 2) concrete projects +
activities**

**Coordination of goals and activities with broad participation of
local actors is the major first step to make the programme
work.**

3) The Pilot Programme LEADER+ in Poland – some lessons learned



It's possible to implement LEADER with good results, even in regions with little experiences

**Decisive for success are people who want to engage in the programme and understand the idea
(-> support common engagement in the community)**

Information about experiences with the programme or similar activities (potential benefits!) are an important motivating factor

Very important role of training of animators by FAOW -> spreading the understanding of LEADER as bottom-up programme

Important to involve stakeholders (especially potential beneficiaries + experts) from rural areas into the design of detailed regulations for LEADER

Especially in the first phase: broad spreading of information to rural inhabitants (independently of animator) would enhance success

Challenge: Domination by local administration

-> undermining the functioning mechanism of the programme

Targeting the right people and a careful design of rules is more important than a high amount of money (?)

Is there a ‚pigmalion effect‘?

-> Are formal partnerships without much engagement developing engagement, participation and synergies in a later step?

- > Programmes like LEADER can help to get the people „at one table“ and encourage them to coordinate common goals and activities. This can allow for synergies and the use of common potential of a region.
- > participation of diverse local actors is vital!
- > collective action takes time, but it pays ! -> have some patience, if it seems slow or difficult in some phases

Thank you for your attention!

I'm looking forward to questions and a discussion of the topic!