

# Austrian experience CLLD multifund implementation

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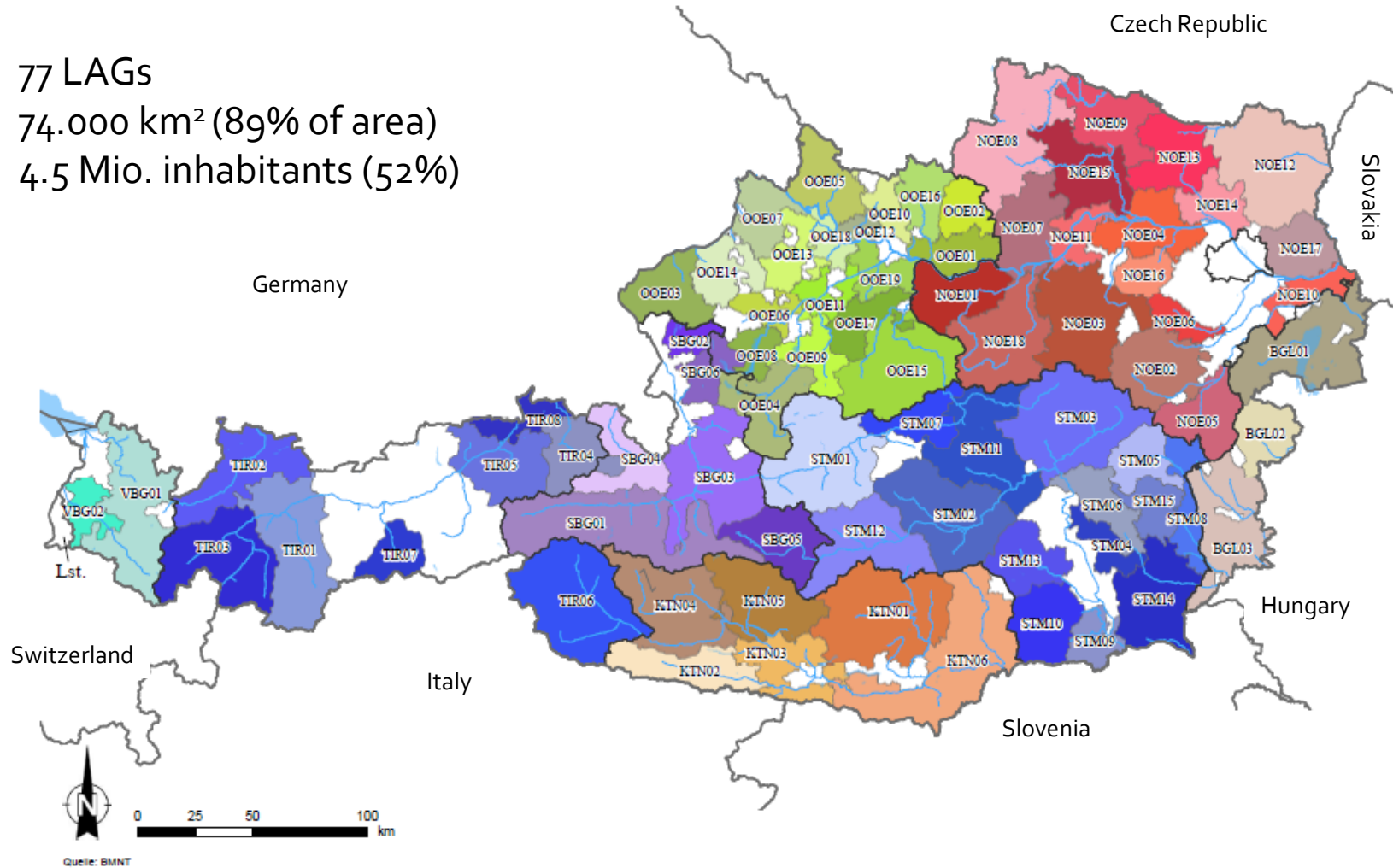
## LEADER



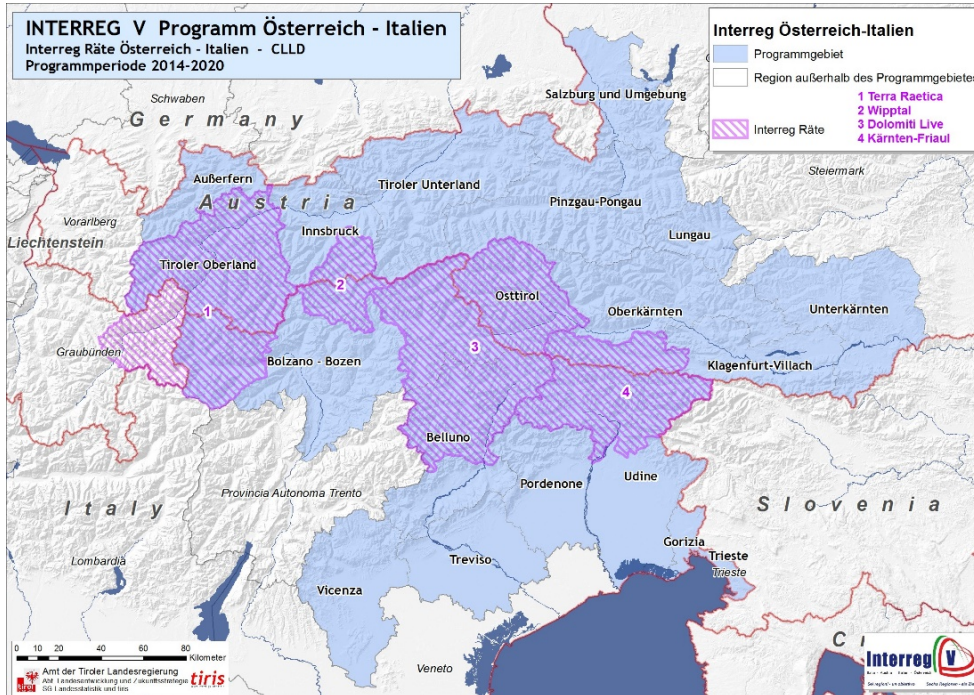
- Austrian Programme for Rural Development 2014-2020:
  - 5% of EAFRD → 247 Mio. €
  - In rural areas
  - CLLD/ multi-funded approach with ERDF is possible

## Austrian Programme for Rural Development 2014 – 2020:

77 LAGs  
74.000 km<sup>2</sup> (89% of area)  
4.5 Mio. inhabitants (52%)



# CLLD/ Multi-funded in Austria



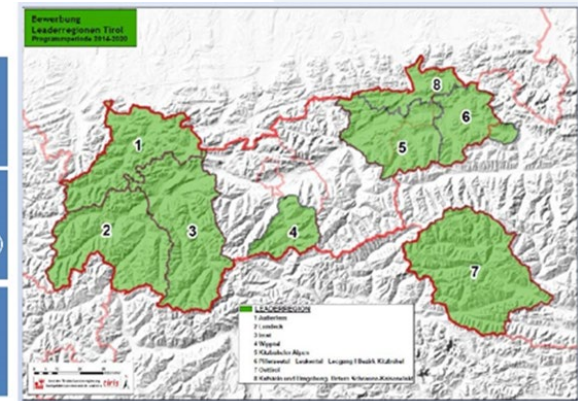
- Multi-funded - additional to EAFRD: ERDF-Programmes
- 4 LAGs with IGJ (Tyrol)
- 4 LAGs with ETC and IGJ (Tyrol)
- 1 LAG with ETC (Carinthia)

## Funding for CLLD

ERDF –  
c.€7.8 million

ETC ERDF –  
€4.5 million  
(share for Tirol)

EAFRD –  
c.€26 million



## Budget

- LEADER: Average approximately 3 Mio. € / LAG (EAFRD+ national co-financing)
  - 9 multi-funded LAGs (ERDF + national cofinancing):
    - + 8 Mio. € ERDF IGJ
    - + 5 Mio. € ETC
  - + Additional national budget (federal province) in Tyrol:
    - + 2 Mio. € for volunteer platform
    - + 19 Mio. € for regional economy support
- + 1.5 Mio. € average/LAG
- An average of 7.5 Mio. € grants per region managed directly by region over 7 years

## Projects approved

November 2019:

	Total public funds (Mio. EUR)	Projects approved
EARDF	248,9	2.900
ERDF/IGJ	7,76	67
ERDF/ECT	5,58	44

No mixed funded projects!

- EARD (80%)+ national co-funding (20%)
- ERDF IGJ (71%) + national co-funding (29%)
- ERDF ECT (85%) + national co-funding (15%)

## Implementation

- **One call** for all funds/program in 2014
  - Requirements of the topics and general conditions per region
  - separate strategic chapter for each program/fund in LDS
- **selection committee with all relevant MAs**
- **One joint official letter of approval** to selected LAGs
  - Allocation of EAFRD and ERDF (Investment for growth and jobs)
  - But: Allocation of ETC-Funds by the competent managing authority after selection of INTERREG Regions
- **EAFRD is lead fund** and supports running costs and animation

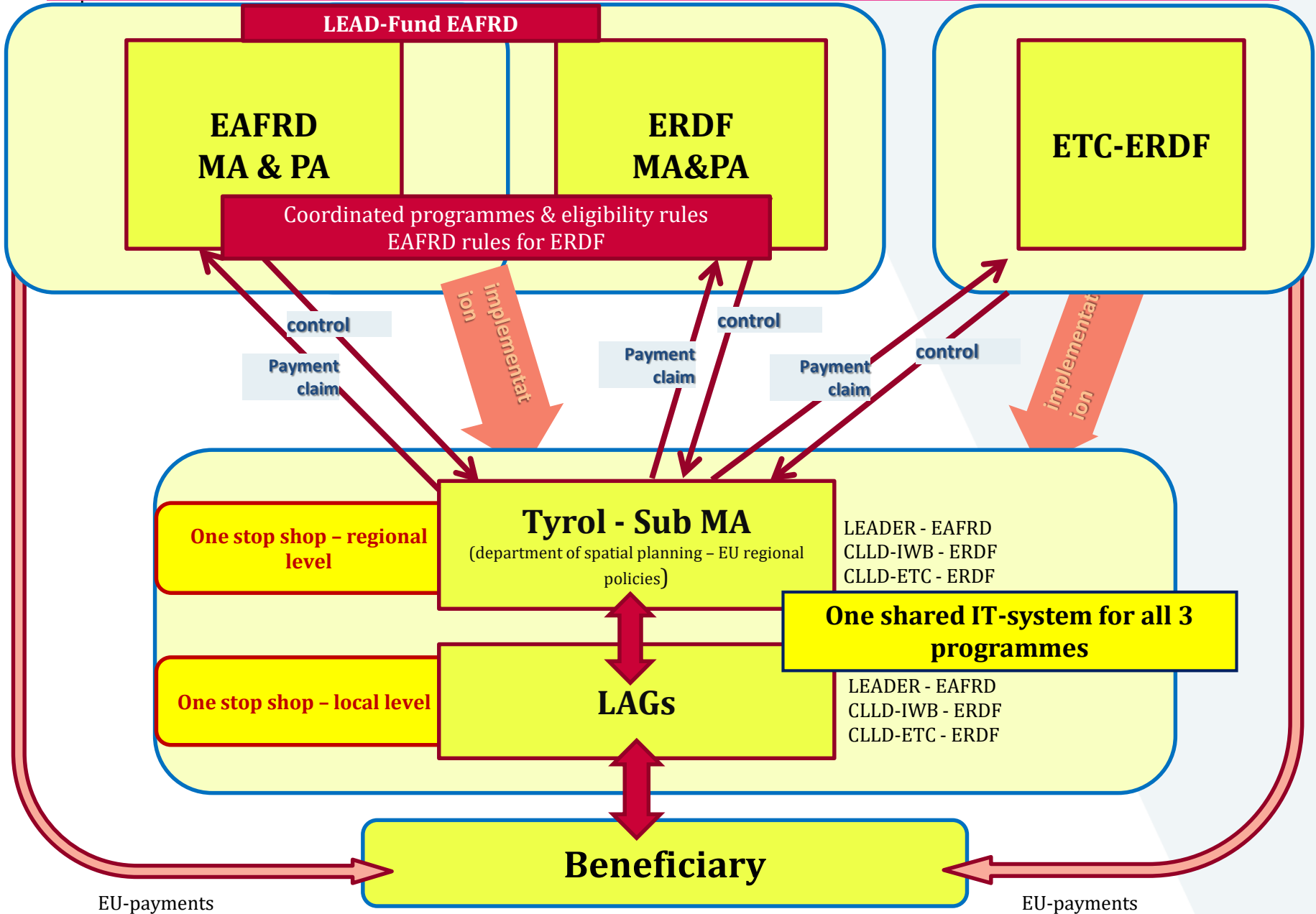


## Implementation of CLLD/multi-funded

- **administrative regime of EAFRD (bigger part)**, one stop shop at administrative level (applications, payment claims)
  - Important: discussions with the paying agencies (EARDF +ERDF)
- **common monitoring system**: central recording of projects in a (federal province level)
- **MA EARDF: Lead in the coordination** e.g. selection committee, approval letter
  
- Both MA (EARDF+ ERDF) in the same ministry, same directorate
  - same in Tyrol on the federal province level – even same department

# LEADER CLLD model in Tyrol

at



## Evaluation results (ERDF IGJ AT 14-20)

- Evaluation on: Urban and territorial dimension, including CLLD Tyrol
- Main results for CLLD Tyrol:
  - Strengthening of the regional level as a driving force
  - New actors bring new networking potential
  - Supporting participation at regional level
  - LEADER: New forward-looking topics through IWB / EFRE and the involvement of new actors (e.g. companies)
  - LEADER: Qualitative positive spill-over effects
  - Better use of limited funds of ERDF IGJ for Tyrol: Allowing impulses and innovation in the region

## Challenges

- Different fund-specific regulations
  - e.g. information and publicity measures
  - some accounting specifications for personnel and administrative expenses
  - different monitoring and indicator needs
- Coordination effort grows: many involved institutions, MAs, PAs, stakeholder...
- ETC more difficult than IGJ: other MS involved
- Necessary stronger engagement at regional level for cross-border cooperation programs (increased self-initiatives to overcome language barriers)

# Cooperation and Communication at all levels are key factors!

- Regular meetings with all stakeholders (including LAG representative)
- Information transparency
- Pragmatic approach – good will

## LEADER/CLLD post 2020 in Austria

- Lead fund option in the CPR regulation; potential of further simplification

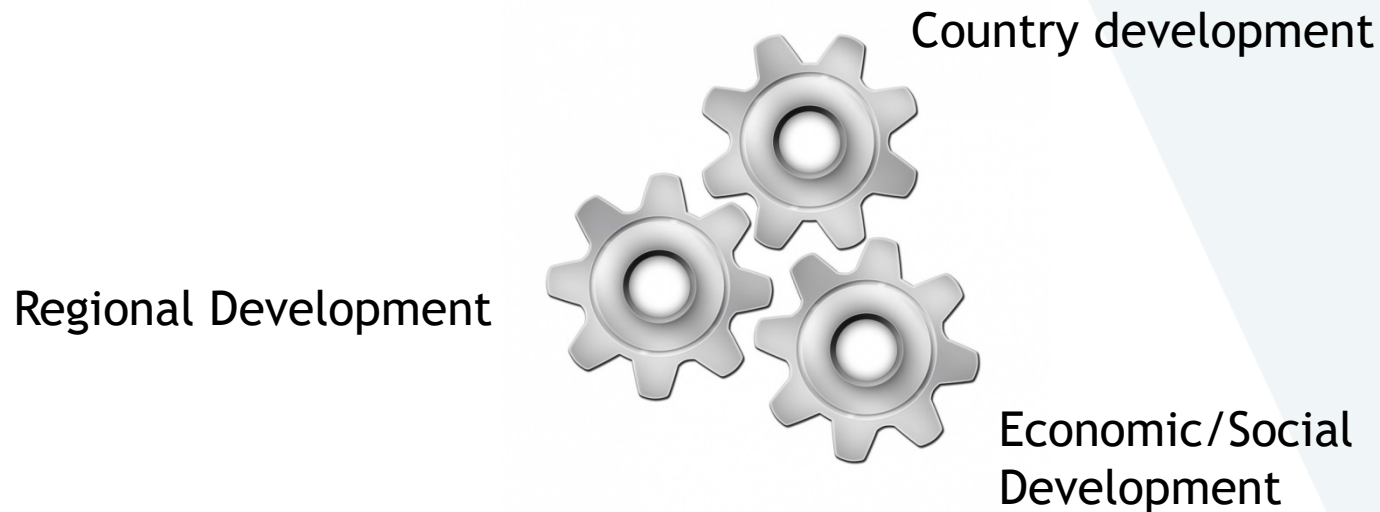
*"While respecting the scope and the eligibility rules of each fund involved in supporting the strategy, the rules of the Lead Fund shall apply to that strategy. The authorities of other funds shall rely on decisions and management verifications made by the competent Lead Fund authority."*

- But some clarification needed: what does this mean in practise?
- As MA for EARDF we are open for an extension of the CLLD-multi-funded approach:
  - discussions are ongoing with ERDF and federal provinces
  - Some talks with ESF+; a possible topic for a CLLD contribution by the ESF+ could be "social innovation" – still very uncertain

## LEADER/CLLD post 2020 in Austria

- Challenge:
  - delayed start of EARDF/CSP – 1(2?) years
  - n+2 rule in ERDF
- SCOs for LAG-management: flat rate of up to 40 % of eligible direct staff costs
- (?) SCOs for small/medium scale projects: lump sum calculated by draft budget
- Adaptation and extension: topics climate/ energy/ sustainability
- We want a higher strategic focus in future LDS!

# The LAG perspective on CLLD



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President LEADER-forum Austria  
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**One Region - One Strategy - One Structure**  
(implementation started in 2006)



## Thematic structure in LDS - EAFRD part

- **Added value**
  - Agriculture and forestry
  - Tourism, Economy, SME, commerce
  - Energy production
- **Natural resources and cultural heritage**
  - Nature and ecosystems
  - Culture
  - craftsmanship
- **Common welfare**
  - Basic services, local supply
  - local learning, participation



## Thematic structure in LDS - ERDF part

- **IJG: 6 possible thematic local points (Tyrol):**
  - Innovation
  - Small and Medium Enterprises
  - Renewable Energy/ Climate
  - Urban-Rural –Interface and Cooperation
  - Equal Opportunities and Gender Mainstreaming
  - Tourism and visitor management

## Implementation scheme on local level

- **1 LDS** (with separate action fields)
- **1 (professional) management** at regional level (70% financed by Lead-Fonds EAFRD, 30% financed by the region itself with membership fees);
- As the Lead-fund is the EAFRD, **all CLLD projects** are selected by the rules of this fund:
  - transparent project selection + independent project selection committee (according CLLD/LEADER rules, 1/3 women)
  - Funding quota (40/60/80) according to the individual LDS
- For the project applicant it is hardly visible, in which fund the project is implemented – and it is not necessary for him to know
- Joint annual report of LAGs to EAFRD-managing authority (finances, projects, outcomes)

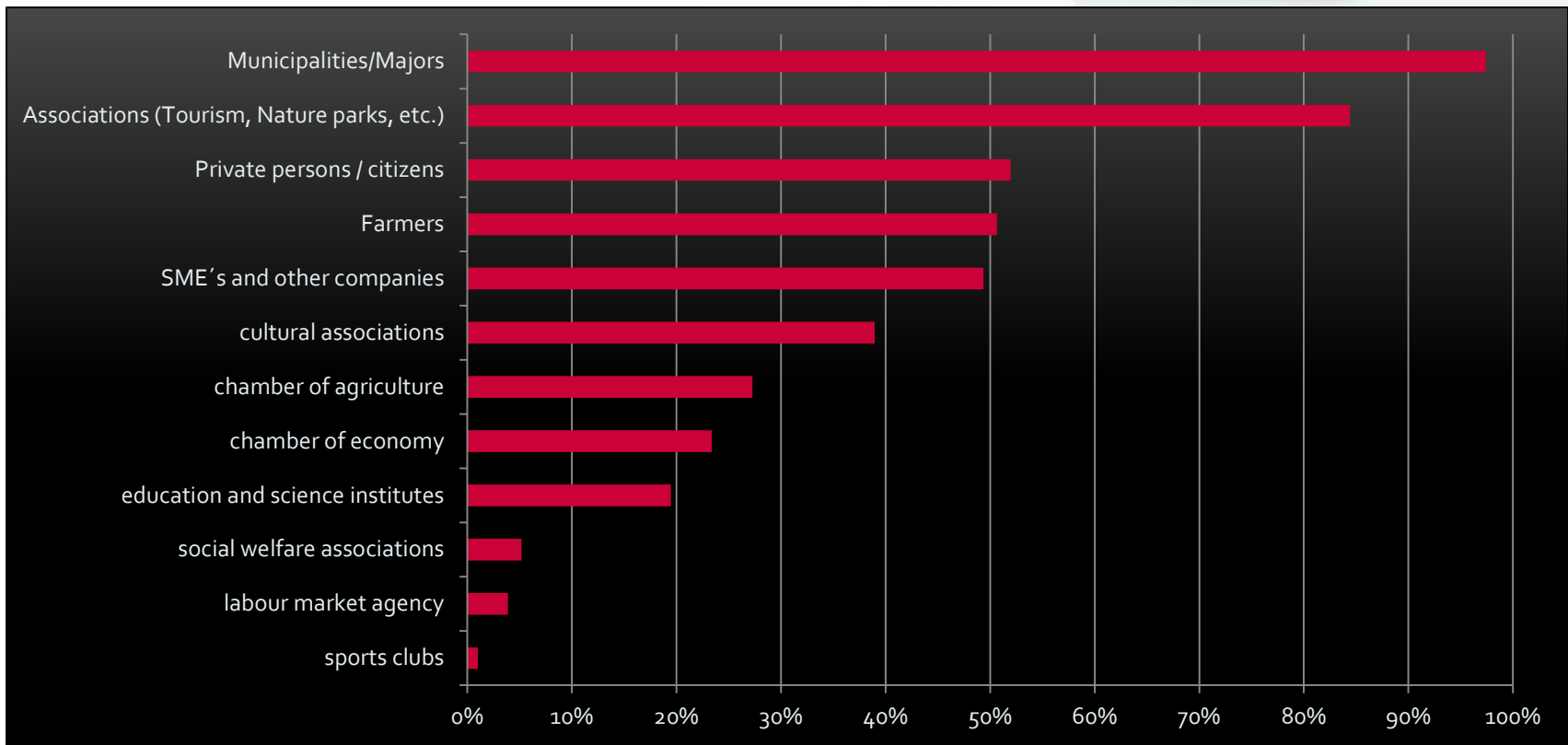
## Implementation - Summary

- One local development strategy
- One common logo-type for publicity
- One common application paper
- One common impact analysis & monitoring
- One common accounting paper
- One common project selection
- One common data interface for the LAG and the MA

Less work on LAG level, but **higher communication and harmonisation work** on the level of the Managing Authority and Payment Agency

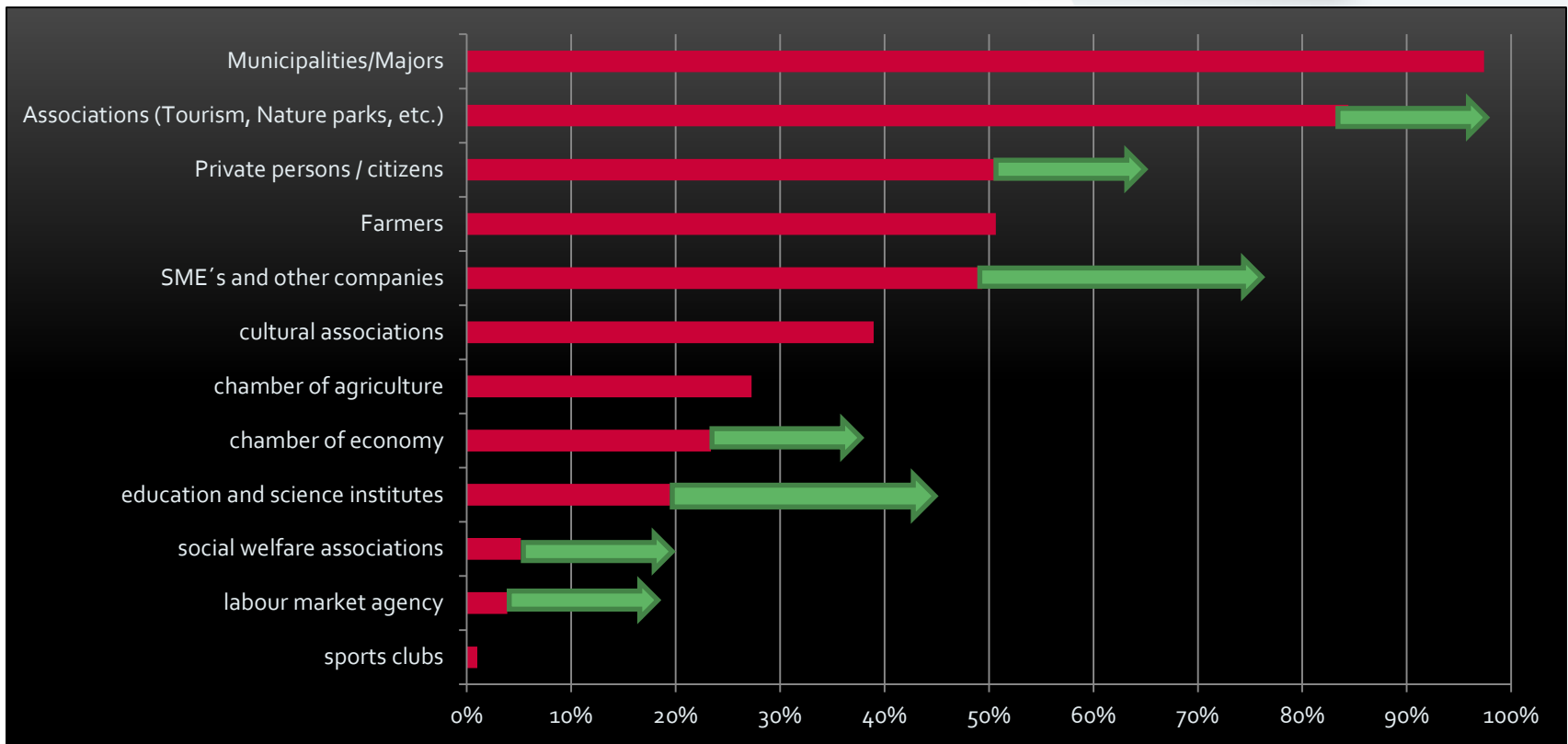
Especially at the implementation/programming period!

## Who was participating only in LEADER (1995-2013)



Who are your top 3 stakeholders? Survey by all 77 Austrian LAGs made 2014

# Who is participating since CLLD?



## Positive experiences

- CLLD is good to combine top-down interests with bottom up initiatives
- Reduction of administration (for LAG, beneficiaries) but higher budget for the LAGs (if the LAG was working on different funds already)
- One stop shop at local level - avoiding double structures
- Easier access for beneficiaries to different grants and much better compatibility to other (national/EU) funds
- Increasing acceptance at local level by more visibility and
- Higher networking activities (LAGs, Province, MA)
- Additional (long-term) topics for regional development (climate, innovation, SMEs, urban-rural cooperation) were brought up
- The organisation LAG: Development step from mono-funded funding broker to a broadly recognized regional „social entrepreneur“

## Some examples

- Region of Innovation
- Climate- and Energy Modelregion
- Analysis of the regional purchasing power and local supply
- Public Mobility officer
- ProFIT



# Questions?

