



VIETOS VEIKLOS GRUPIŲ TINKLAS

# Local action groups in Lithuania

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**CHAIRMAN OF LITHUANIAN LOCAL ACTION GROUPS**

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**Brussels**

# GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LITHUANIA



**Population:** 2,9 mill.

**Ethnic composition:** Lithuanians: 84.1%, Poles: 6.6%, Russians: 5.8%, Belorussians: 1.2%, other: 2.3%.

**Area:** 65,3 thous. sq. km

**Largest cities according to the population (thous.):**

Vilnius (553,200),  
Kaunas (373,700),  
Klaipėda (191,600),  
Šiauliai (132,700),  
Panevėžys (118,800).

**Administrative division:**

60 municipalities,  
546 elderships.

**Language:** Lithuanian

**Independence:**

declared: 16 February 1918

restored: 11 March 1990

**Political system:** Parliamentary democracy;

**Currency:** Euro

**Membership:** EU, NATO

**Lithuania joined:**

*NATO - 29 March 2004;*

*EU 1 May 2004.*

# Local Action Group



- ✓ **Association;**
- ✓ Activities based on a **partnership** between three sectors – NGO, local enterprises and local authorities;
- ✓ **Open** for new members;
- ✓ **Transparent** and free of corruption;
- ✓ **Innovative;**
- ✓ **Responsible;**
- ✓ **Connecting people and organization**

# Board of LAG in 2014–2020 programming period

**Local authorities**  
(up to 25 % LAG board member)

**NGO's**  
(not less than 35 % and not more than 49 % LAG board members)

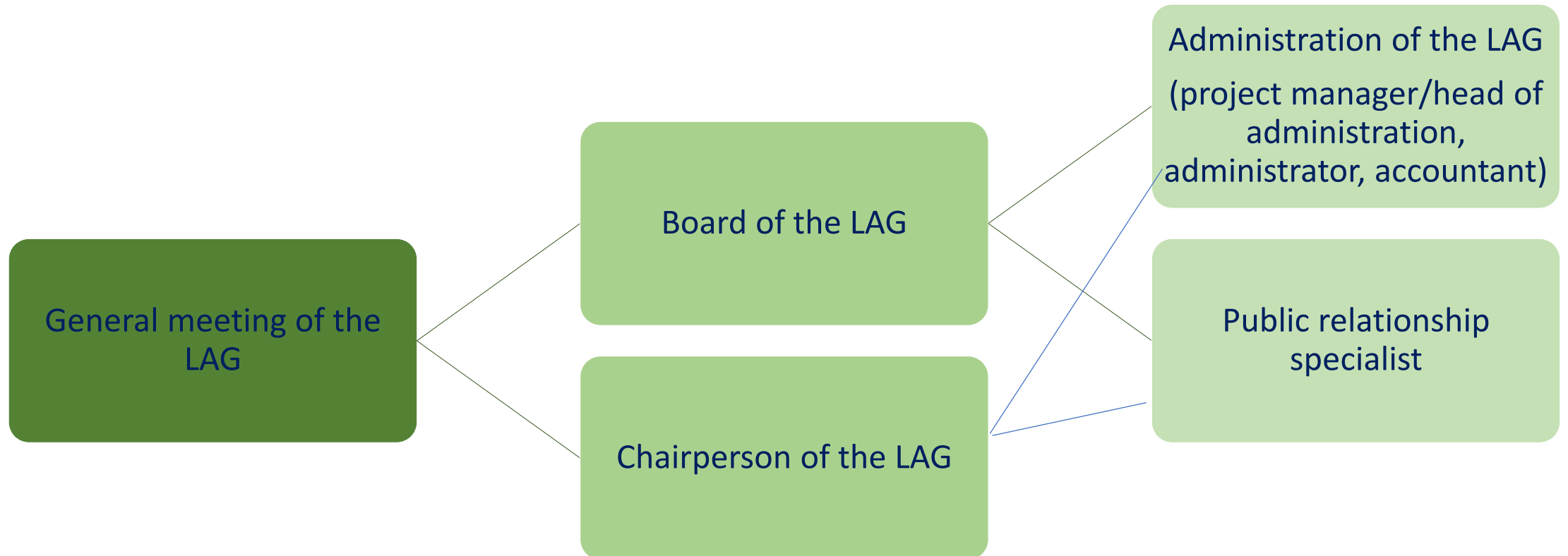
**Local enterprises**  
(up to 35 % LAG board members)



**Not less than 35 % persons up to 40 years old !!!!!!**

**Gender balance 40:60 % !!!!!!**

# MANAGEMENT





# LEADER HISTORY



**Start in LT in 2004.**  
**M€ 2,7 from EAGF.**

**M€ 134 from EAFRD**  
**+ M€ 9 from EMMF**

**M€ 114 from EAFRD**  
**(rural areas)**  
**+ M€ 12 from EMMF (fishery**  
**regions)**  
**+ M€ 14 from ESF (cities)**

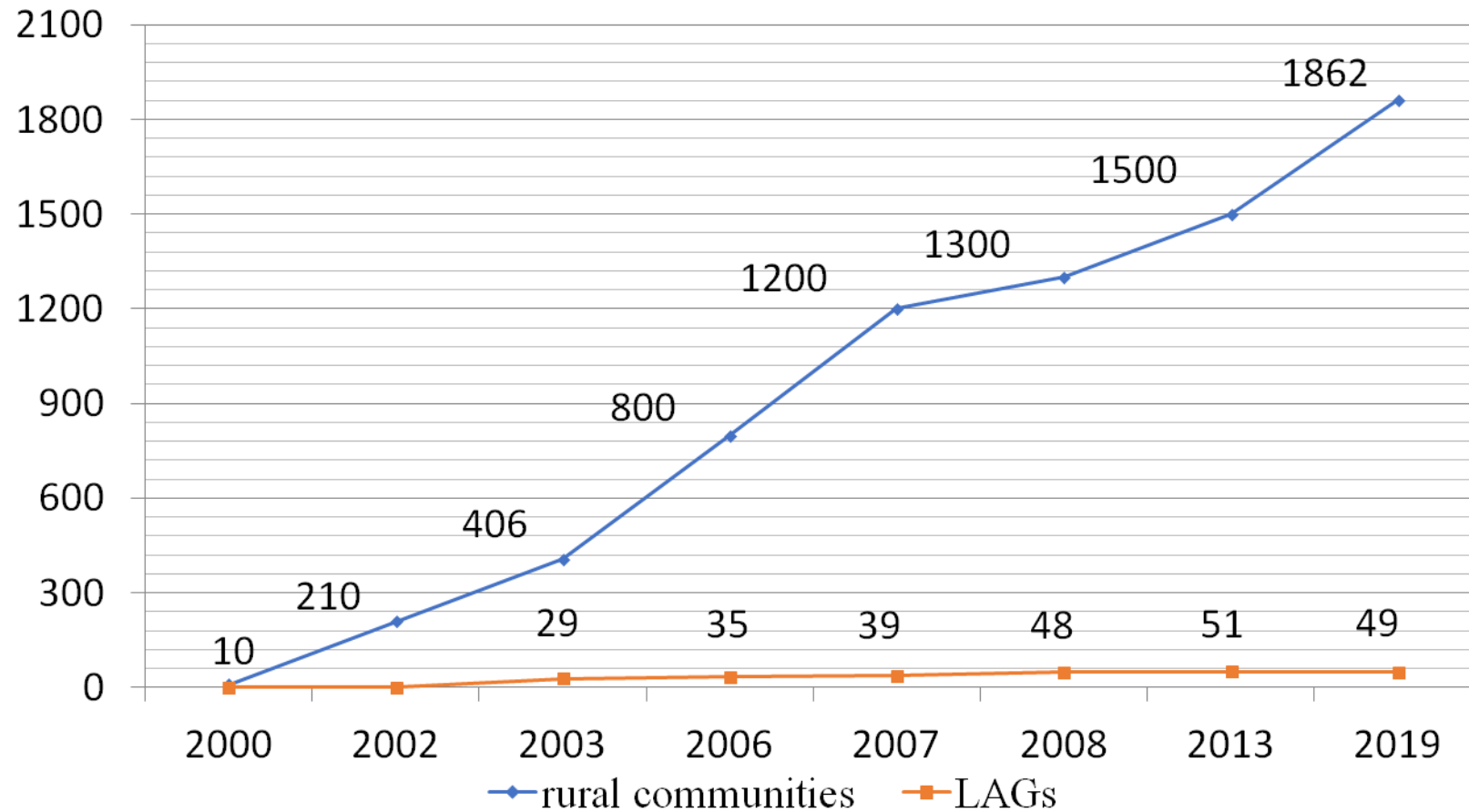
## LEADER TERRITORIES IN 2014–2020

- Rural area – **villages, small towns and towns up to 6000 inhabitants** (centers of municipalities are not recognized as rural area).
- Rural area takes **97 % of the territory of Lithuania.**
- Rural area has **31 % of Lithuania inhabitants.**



# LAGs AND RURAL COMMUNITIES IN LITHUANIA

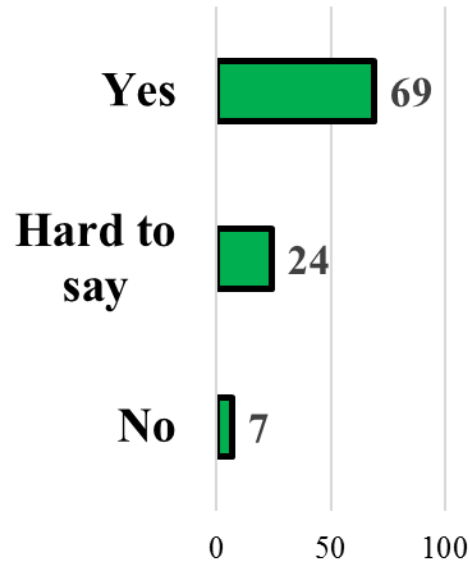
The growth of rural communities and LAGs 2000–2019





## ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF LAGs' ACTIVITIES

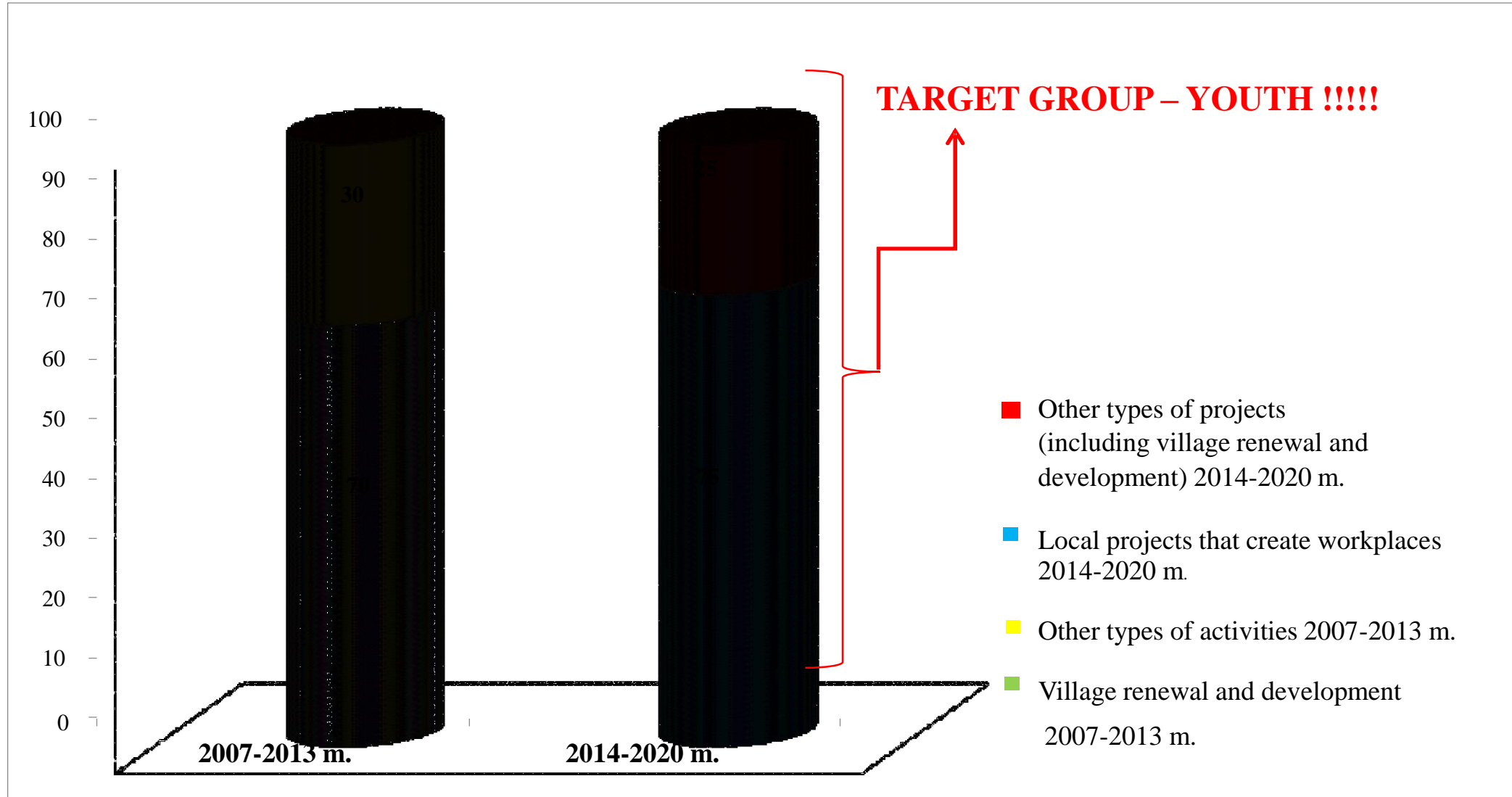
**Did LAGs activities contribute to the improvement of image of rural areas and rural inhabitants?\***



- ✓ Rural inhabitants acquired **better skills and knowledge**;
- ✓ **Better rural infrastructure**;
- ✓ **More new services** in rural areas;
- ✓ **Higher sense of sociality**;
- ✓ Rural inhabitants became **more positive**, minded to **share good experiences**;
- ✓ **Voice of rural inhabitants became more important and well heard by public authorities.**

\* Respondents who do not participate in LAGs' activities (%)

# Themes of integrated local development strategies



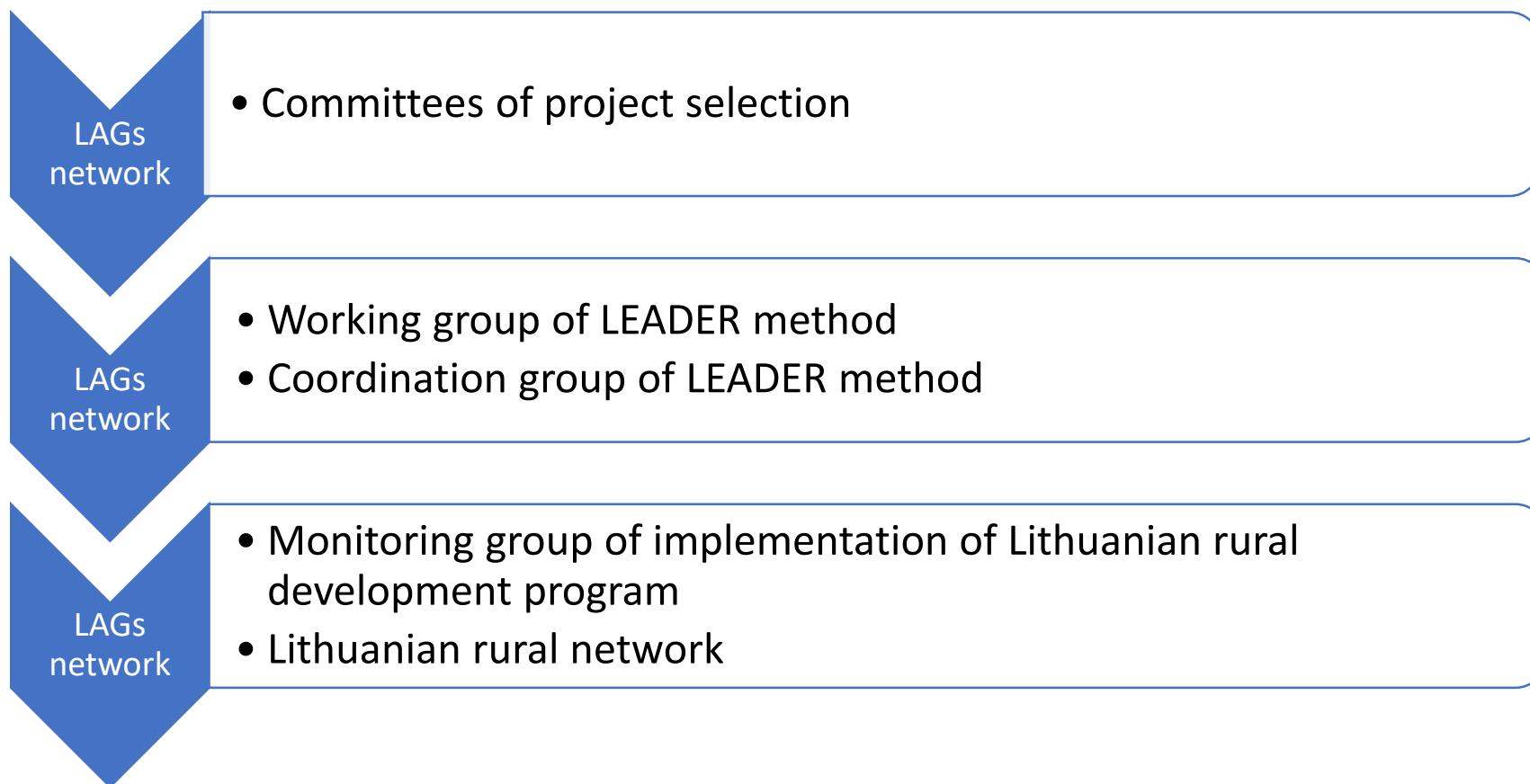
Statistical information about local development strategies implementation  
(until 19 of March 2019)

Projects that are eligible for funding, Units	Requested amount, mln. Eur	Signed contracts, Units	Amount of signed contracts, mln. Eur
<b>855</b>	<b>29.88 (out of 88.37)</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>7,92</b>
310 – private (small) business projects, with at least 350 jobs planned;	15.30		
418 – NGO projects (community and social business, etc.)	9.63		
71 – project by municipal institutions (to manage the infrastructure of schools, museums, cultural centers, etc.)	2.1		
56 – municipal projects (sports and leisure public infrastructure, social infrastructure, public space management, etc.)	2.85		



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## COOPERATION WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE





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## **THE COORDINATION OF *LEADER* METHOD IMPLEMENTATION**

### **The members of coordination group:**

- ❖ 16 LAGs members;
- ❖ 2 social – economic partners;
- ❖ 1 representative of National Paying agency;
- ❖ 1 representative of *LEADER* centre;
- ❖ 4 representatives of The Ministry of Agriculture;
- ❖ Other experts and specialists could be invited if needed.

### **The activities of the coordinating group:**

- ❖ To analyze the projects of legal acts on rural development and administrative questions related to the programme of rural development.



# Difficulties and problems on behalf of strategies implementation

Brief description of problems	Solutions
VAT is invalid cost for community and NGO social business projects	Solution solving process began in 2016 and finished only in 2019. 1. To get permission from European Commission change Rural Development program (due to the risk of double funding agreement failed); 2. The financing of VAT from the National budget (politics didn't agree and solution failed); 3. To increase the finance intensity from 80% to 95% (The European Commission allowed and it is currently applicable).
Possibilities for local communities to get salary and to cover other project running costs (travel , communication expenses, etc.)	Problem raised during 2007-2013 financial period, but started to solve only now. Awaiting European Commission approval to the Rural Development program amendment

# Difficulties and problems on behalf of strategies implementation

Brief description of problems	Solutions
<p>Long time evaluation of local projects at the National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture</p>	<p>The model for implementing local development strategies has been changed, and local project evaluation has been transferred to local action groups. Progress is evident.</p>
<p>In the draft regulations for the new period, the LEADER measure is obligatory, so it will certainly remain, and it must be stated that the LEADER instrument will have to be allocated at least 5% of Rural Development Program. Providing only the minimum required percentage. The amount allocated to the LEADER instrument would be lower about 50 mln as the overall RDP budget is reduced.</p>	<p>Lithuanian government, European Parliament members and all MA must lobby more to increase funding; All “LEADER” institutions and LEADER people must promote LEADER method more and be a representative persons; to encourage all institutions to promote the added value of the Leader approach in rural areas;</p>

THE END

will never come for LEADER!