



# 10 YEARS OF LEADER IN BULGARIA

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Department

11 October 2017  
Pravets



# Overview of LEADER implementation in Bulgaria

2005 - 2006 – 11 pilot Local Action Groups financed by UNDP

2007 – Bulgaria joins the European Union

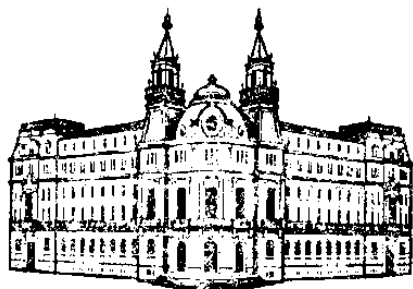
2008 – 2011 – preparatory activities to implement LEADER approach

2011 – 2015 – implementation of Local Development Strategies of 35 Local Action Groups

2016 – implementation of Community Led Local Development Strategies of 40 Local Action Groups

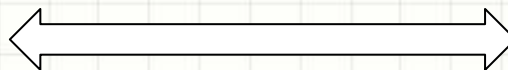
2017 – implementation of Community Led Local Development Strategies of ~65 Local Action Groups

# Overall LEADER structure in Bulgaria 2007 - 2013



## Managing Authority

RDP Directorate 70  
employees  
LEADER 15  
employees



## Paying Agency

RDP Directorates  
~250 employees  
LEADER 10  
employees



**LAGs** ~100  
35 financed  
151 employees  
~65 not financed

# Preparatory sub-measure 431-2

Projects  
implemented

90

Municipalities  
covered

137

People  
trained

11446

Area  
covered

64000  
sq. km.

Population  
covered

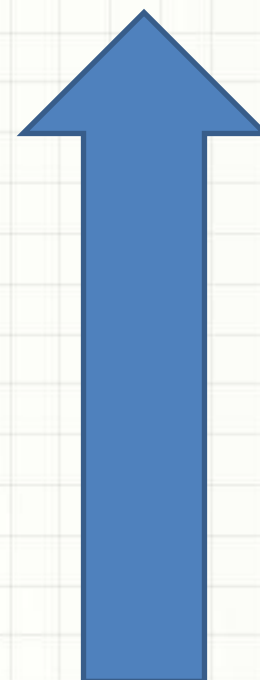
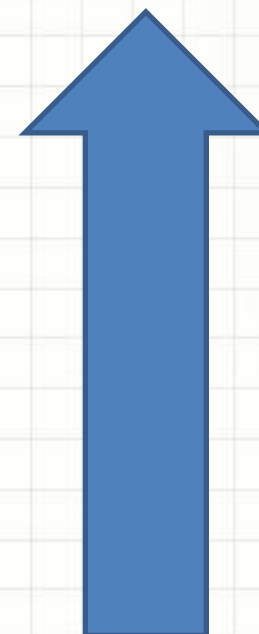
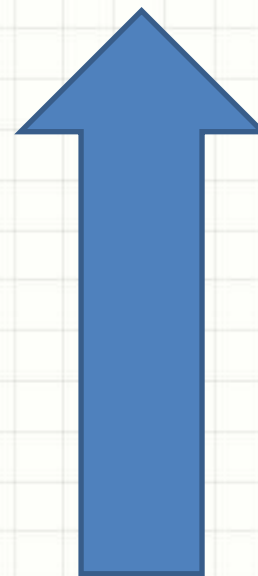
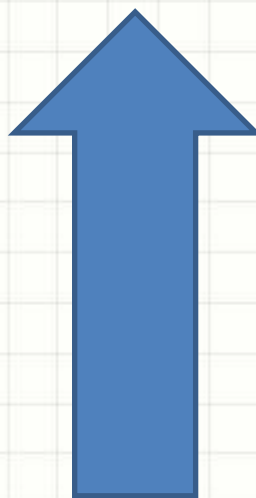
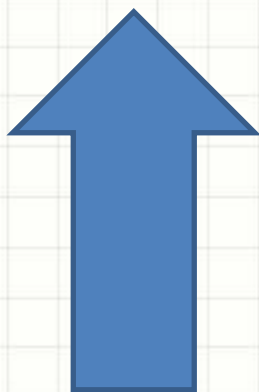
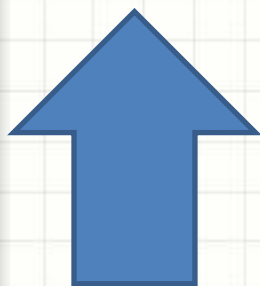
2,2  
mln people

Reimbursed  
amount

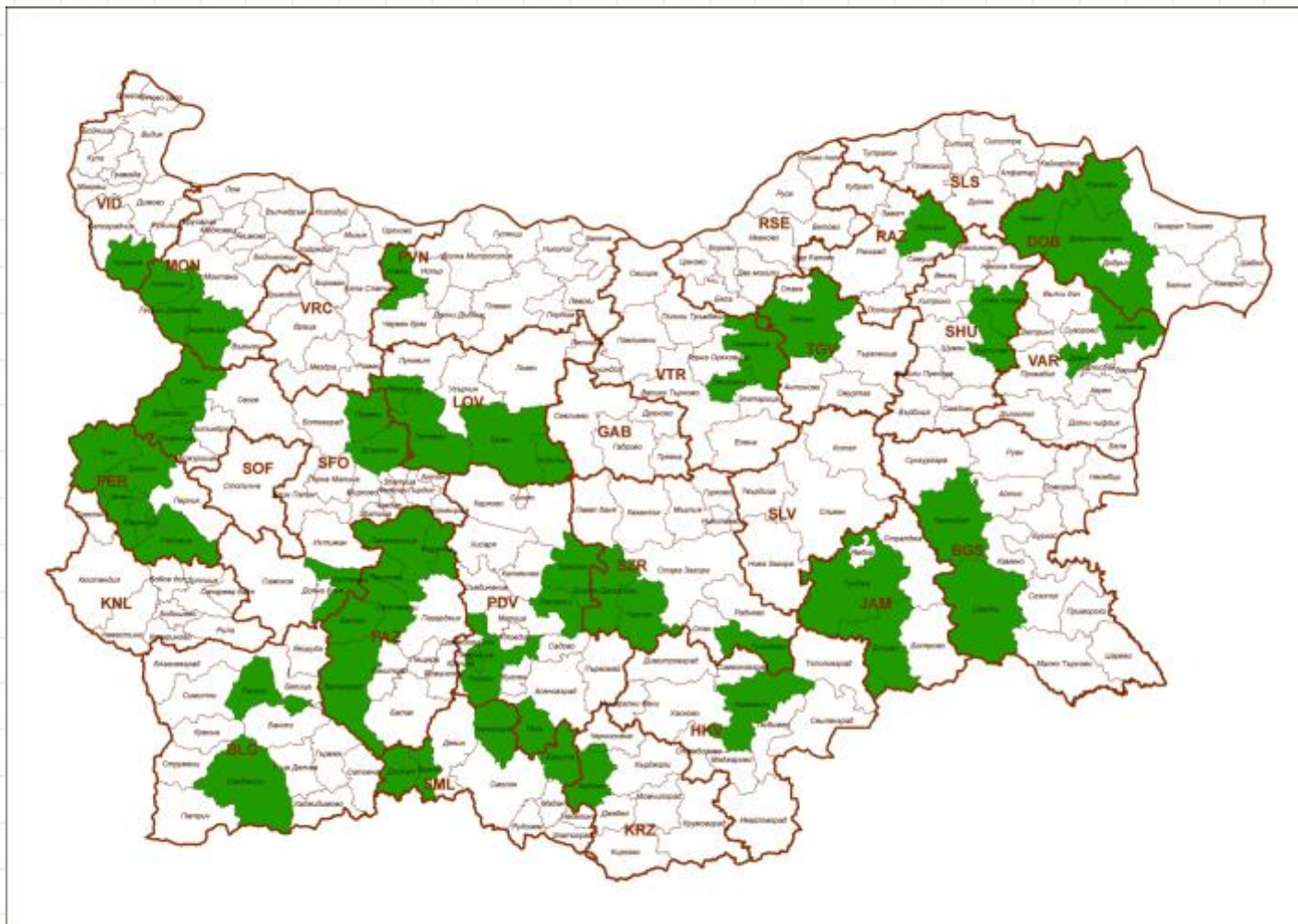
4,8  
MEUR

60 %

of rural  
municipalities



# Implementation of LDSs 2007 - 2013



Map of LAGs 2007 - 2013

# Implementation of LDSs 2007 - 2013

LAGs

35

Municipalities  
covered

57

Area  
covered

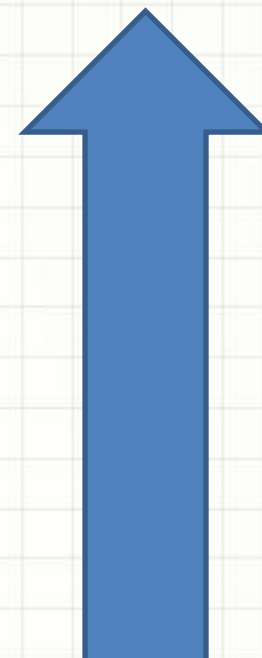
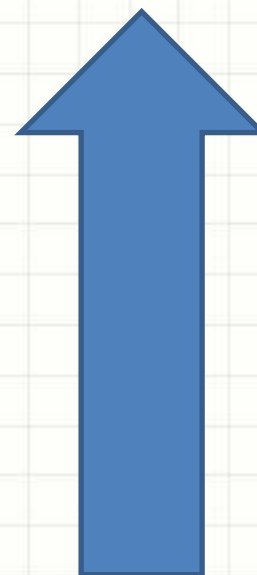
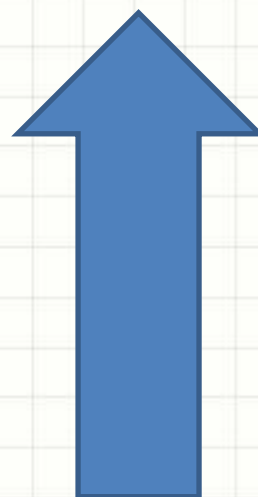
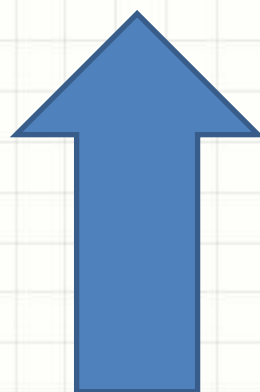
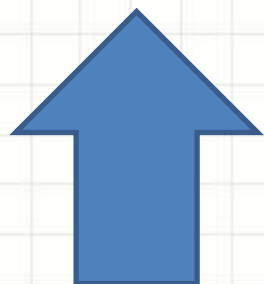
25800  
sq. km.

Population  
covered

0,8  
mln people

Contracted  
amount

71  
MEUR



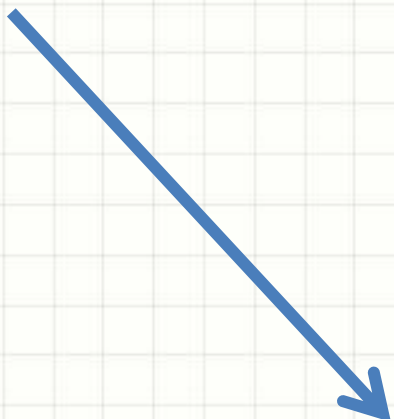
# Implementation of LDSs 2007 - 2013

LAGs implemented  
Preparatory measure

90

Approved  
LAGs

35



Bottleneck effect



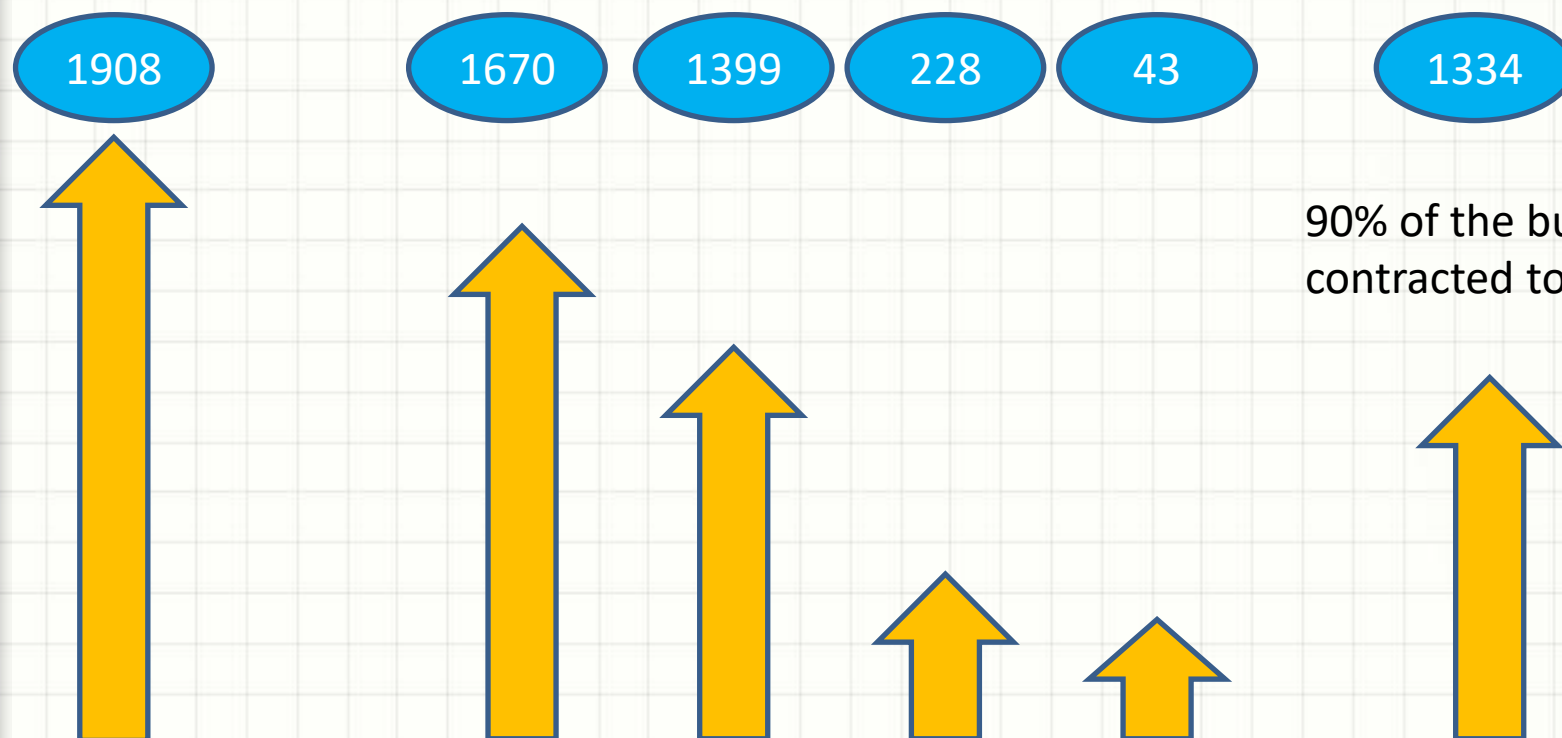
- Disappointment of the population in areas initially covered by SM 431-2 and subsequently not covered by M 41 and SM 431-1 of LEADER;
- Loss of administrative capacity on the territories implemented preparatory measure and not selected for implementation of Local Development Strategies.

# Implementation of LDSs 2007 - 2013

Projects

Contracts

Beneficiaries From LAG – PA Approved Rejected Withdrawn  
to LAG



# Implementation of LDSs 2007 - 2013

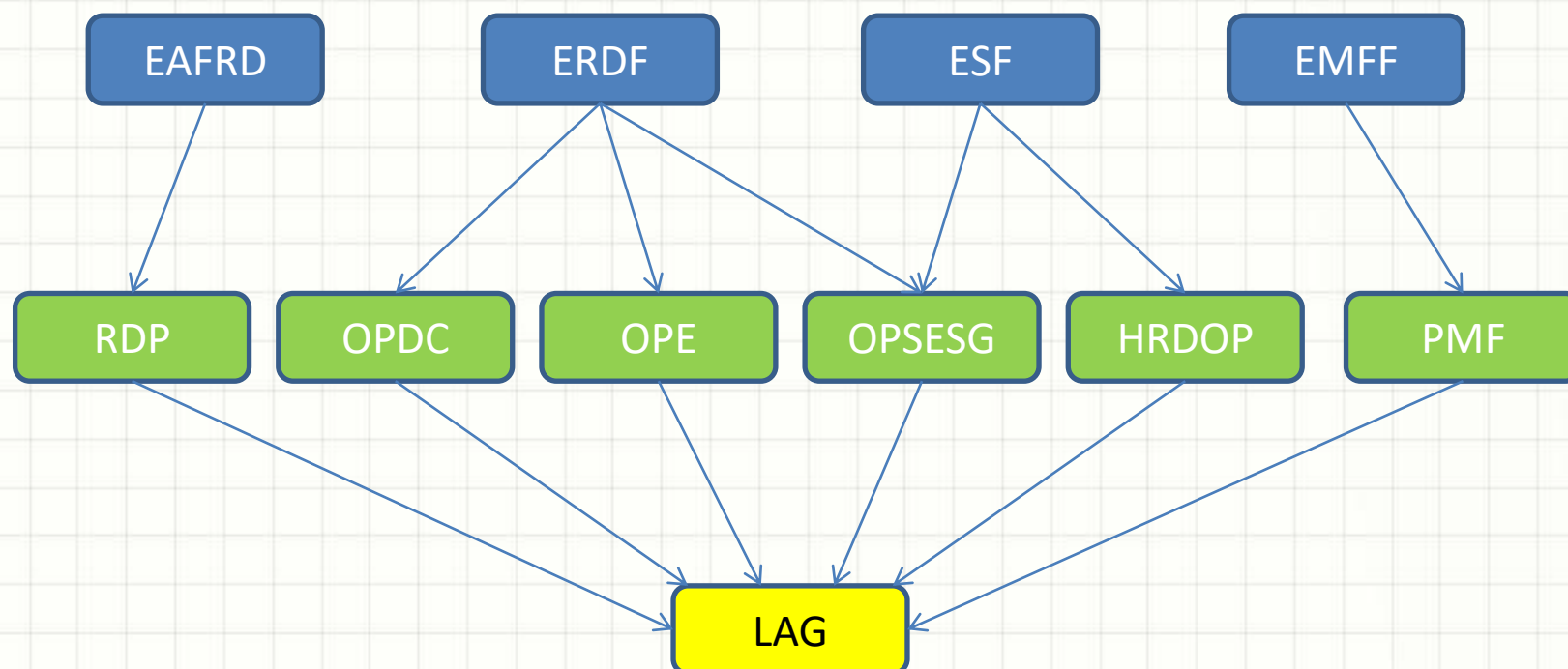


- Low level of cooperation between MA, PA and LAGs
- Complicated procedures for implementation of LDSs developed by LAGs
- Late contracting of the projects
  - small amount of the projects (no priority for PA)
  - LAG procedures were not workable

Fluctuation of LAGs staff is in direct connection with the successful Implementation of the LDSs.

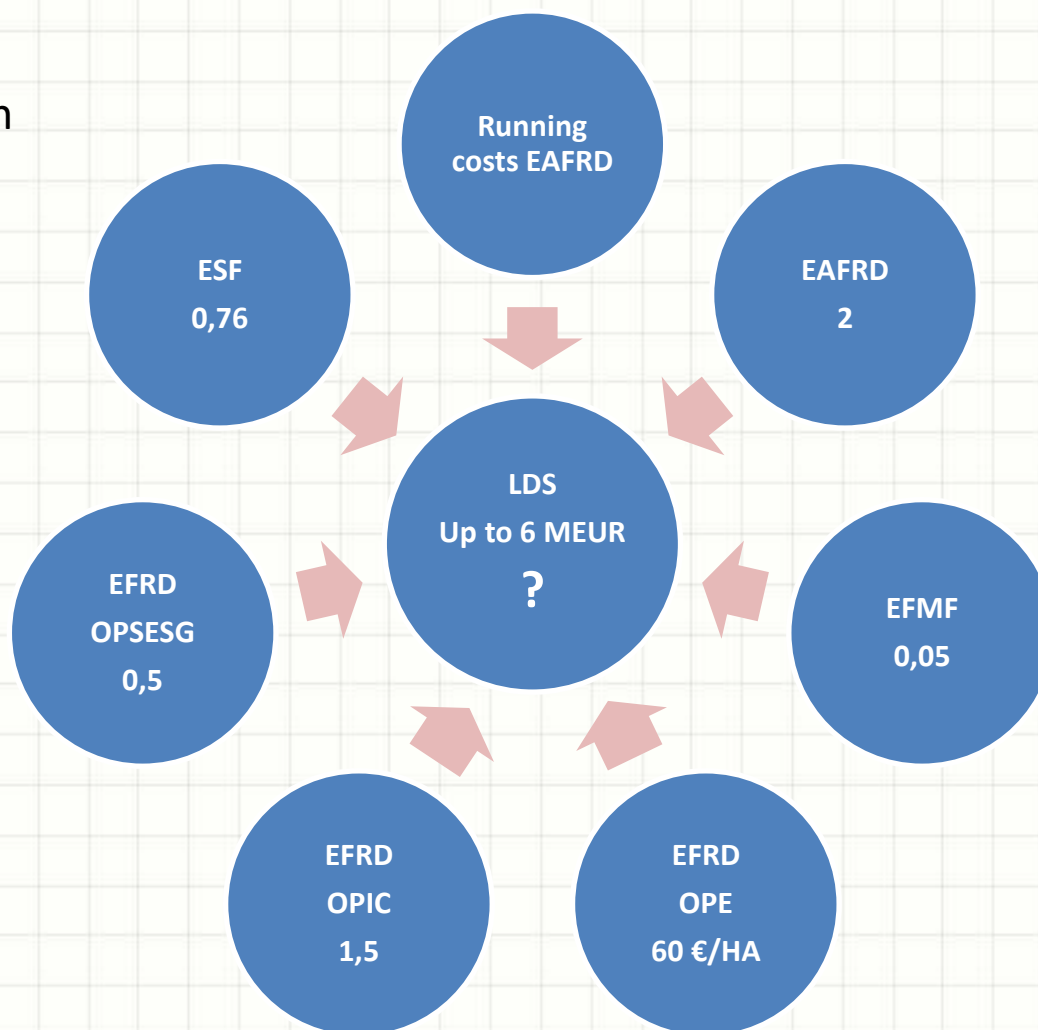


# Multi-funded CLLD 2014 - 2020 in accordance with the Partnership Agreement



# Multifund financing of CLLD 2014 – 2020

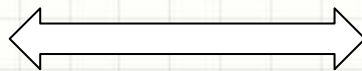
Budget of LDS in  
MEUR



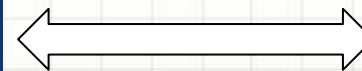
# Overall LEADER structure in Bulgaria 2014 - 2020



**Leading Managing Authority**  
RDP Directorate 70 employees  
LEADER 15 employees



Central coordination Unit  
within the Council of Ministers



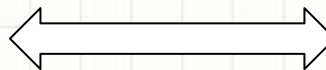
**Managing Authorities:**

- Operational Program Innovations and Competitiveness
- Operational Program Environment
- Operational Program Human Resources
- Operational Program Science and Education for Smart Growth
- Maritime and Fisheries Program



**LAGs** ~100  
70 financed  
~ 300 employees  
~30 not financed

**Paying Agency**  
RDP Directorates ~250 employees  
LEADER 10 employees



# Preparatory sub-measure 19.1

Projects  
implemented

101

Municipalities  
covered

180

78 %

of rural  
municipalities

Events  
organized

1100

Area  
covered

74433

sq. km.

Population  
covered

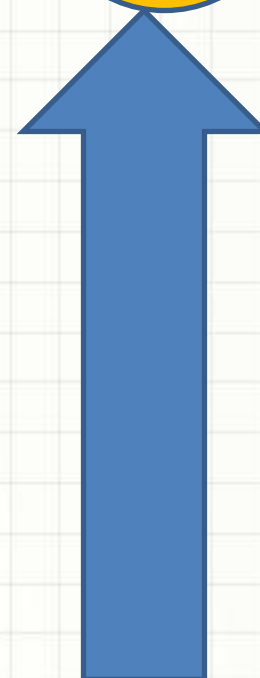
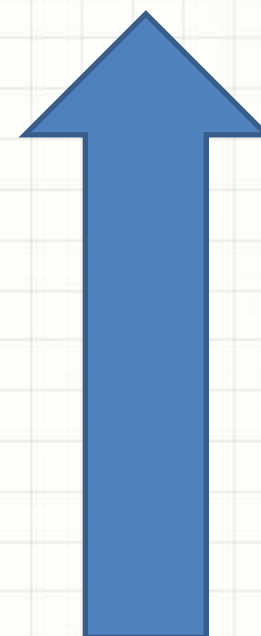
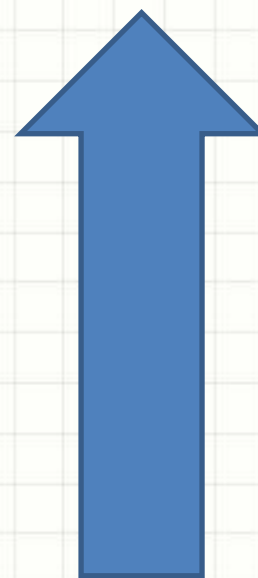
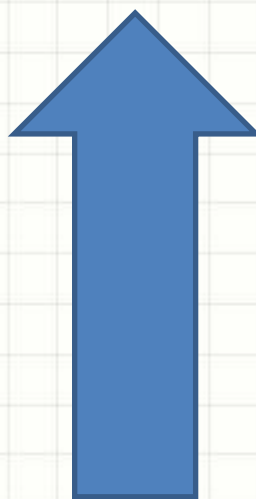
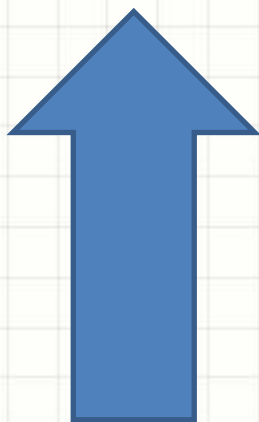
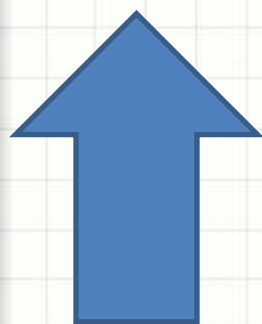
2,3

mln people

Contracted  
amount

2,6

MEUR



# Implementation of LDSs 2014 - 2020

LAGs

40

Municipalities  
covered

74

Area  
covered

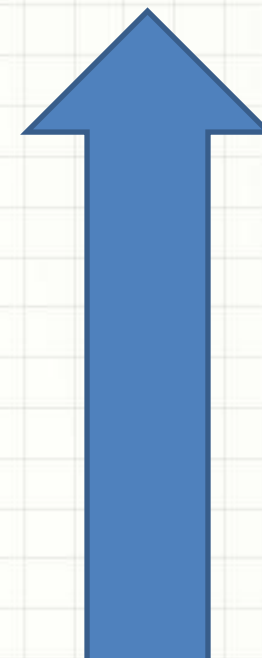
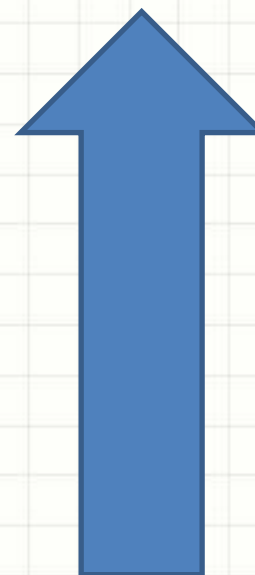
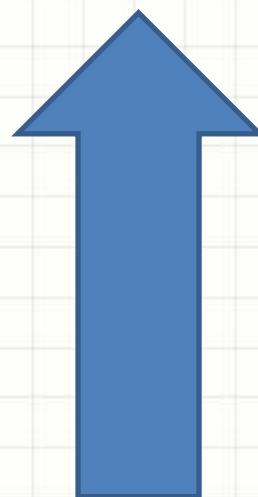
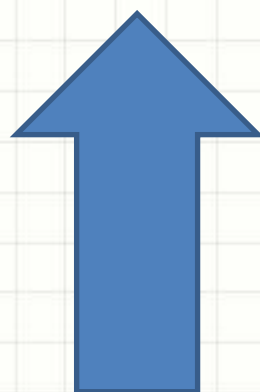
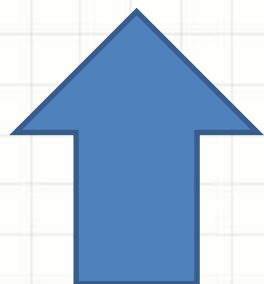
32326  
sq. km.

Population  
covered

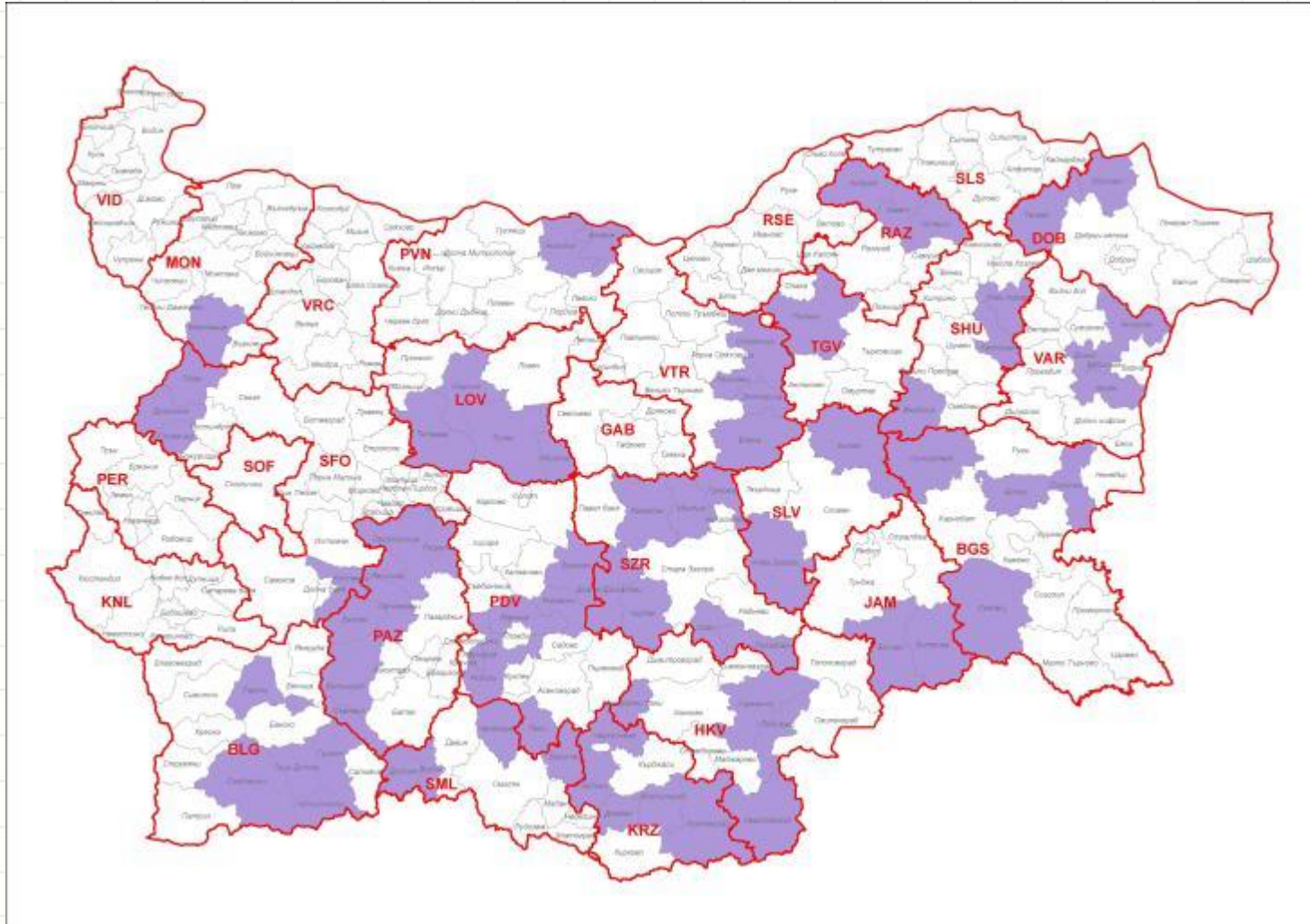
1,05  
mln people

Contracted  
amount

104  
MEUR

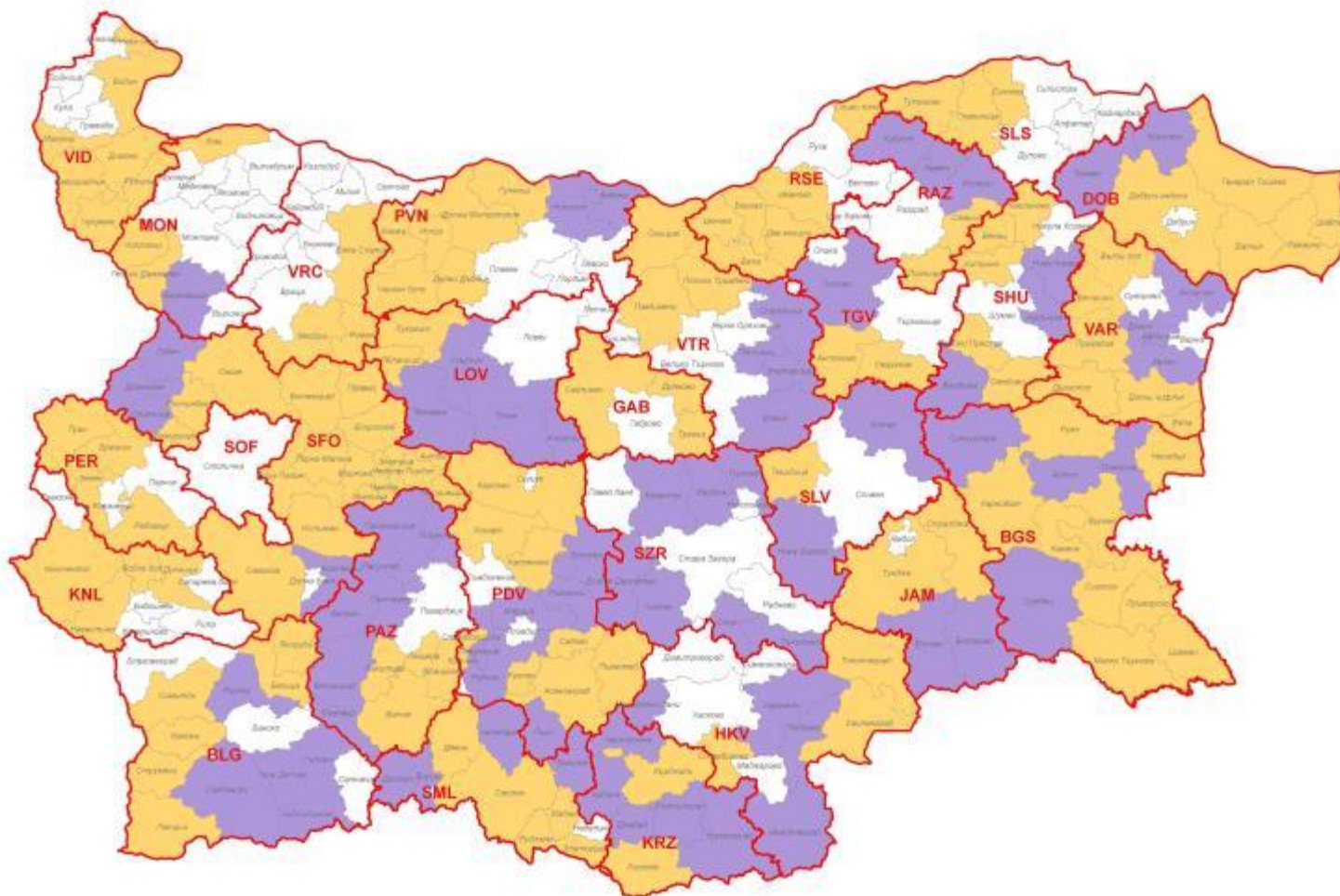


# Implementation of LDSs 2014 - 2020



Map of LAGs 2014 – 2020 after 1<sup>st</sup> call

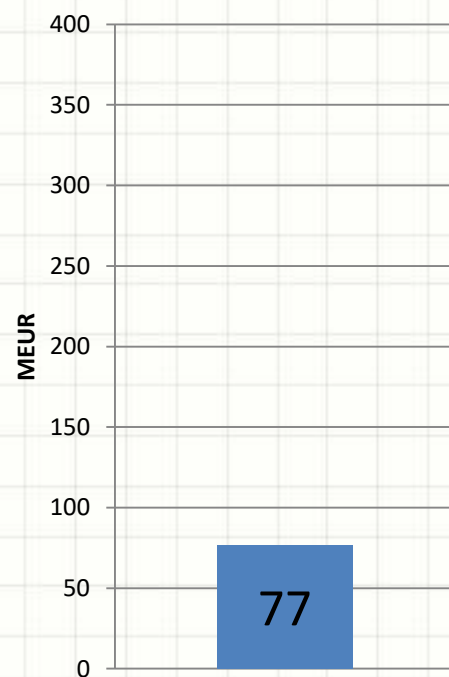
# Implementation of LDSs 2014 - 2020



Map of approved LAGs 2014 – 2020 and candidates on 2nd call

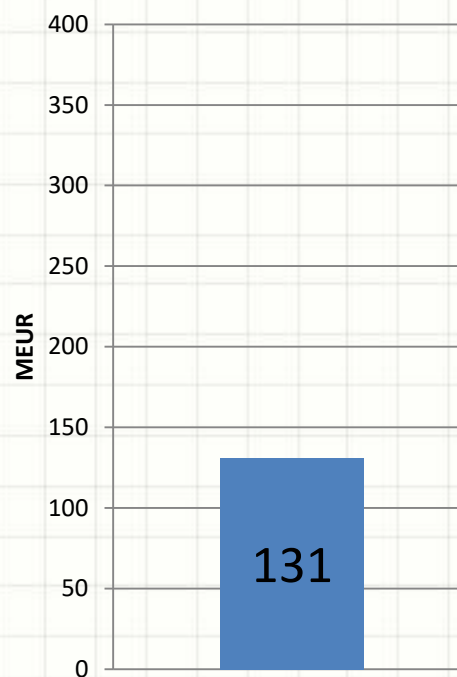
# 2007 – 2013 v 2014 – 2020

period 2007 - 2013



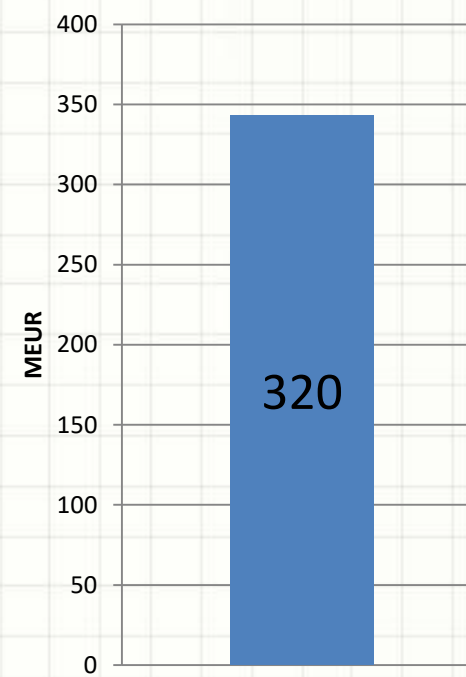
EAFRD

period 2014 - 2020



EAFRD

period 2014 - 2020



EAFRD +  
ESIF

# 2007 – 2013 v 2014 – 2020

No of LAGs

35

~70

Max budget per  
LAG, MEUR

2

6

No of municipalities  
per LAG

1,4

2

Area covered,  
thousands sq. km.

25,8

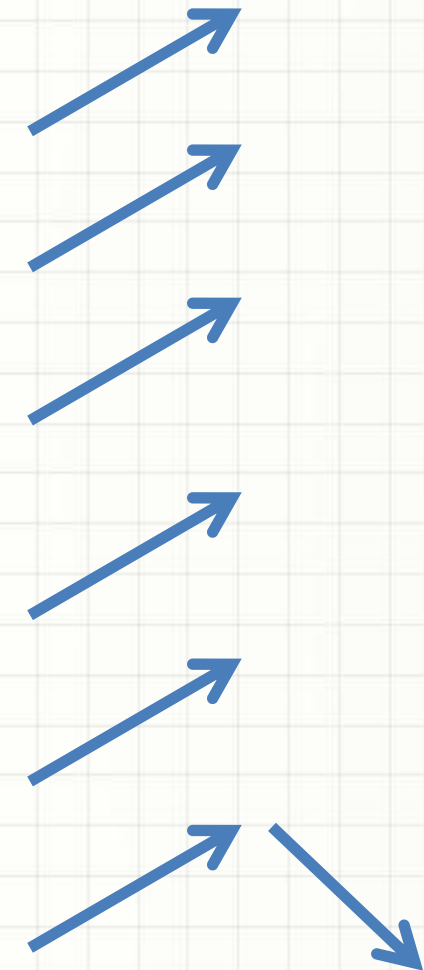
~60

Population  
covered, mln.

0,8

1,5

Simplification of the administrative  
procedures



Multifunded LDSs

# LEADER implementation in EU, findings

- Special report on LEADER of the Court of Auditors
- European Network of Rural Areas Focus Groups

Findings	Relevance with BG
LAG members have been the main project promoters	✓
Decision making dominated by local authorities	✓
Only few LAGs have been innovative and had multisectoral strategies and projects	✓
There was no monitoring and evaluation on LAG level to measure the impact of the local strategies	✓

# LEADER implementation in EU, findings

- Special report on LEADER of the Court of Auditors
- European Network of Rural Areas Focus Groups

Findings	Relevance with BG
There was no monitoring and evaluation on LAG level to measure the impact of the local strategies	✓
Rules on conflict of interests were not respected	✓
Funding of projects which had already started or were finished	
Absorption of funds more important than quality aspects	✓
Unflexible and long administrative procedures despite additional funding (running costs)	

# LEADER implementation in EU, findings

- Special report on LEADER of the Court of Auditors
- European Network of Rural Areas Focus Groups

Findings	Relevance with BG
MS have de facto created a top-down system	✓
Member States have selected „weak“ strategies	✓
Commission and Member States were „undemanding“ as regards RDP architecture and LAG selection	✓

# Thank you for your attention!

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**Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

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