

The 'Leader' approach is a form of partnership working developed by the EU to administer rural development funding. The 'Leader' approach is built on the principle of "bottom up" governance, in particular the recognition that rural communities understand their needs and can work together to achieve real and lasting change at the local level. Central to this is the Local Action Group (LAG) - a partnership of local professionals from the private, public and voluntary sector with an interest in their area. The LAG is responsible for animating the Leader approach by using the local knowledge and expertise of its members to identify local projects to support that address needs identified within a local development strategy. For more information on the Leader approach and the EU's Rural Development Policy please use visit http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm