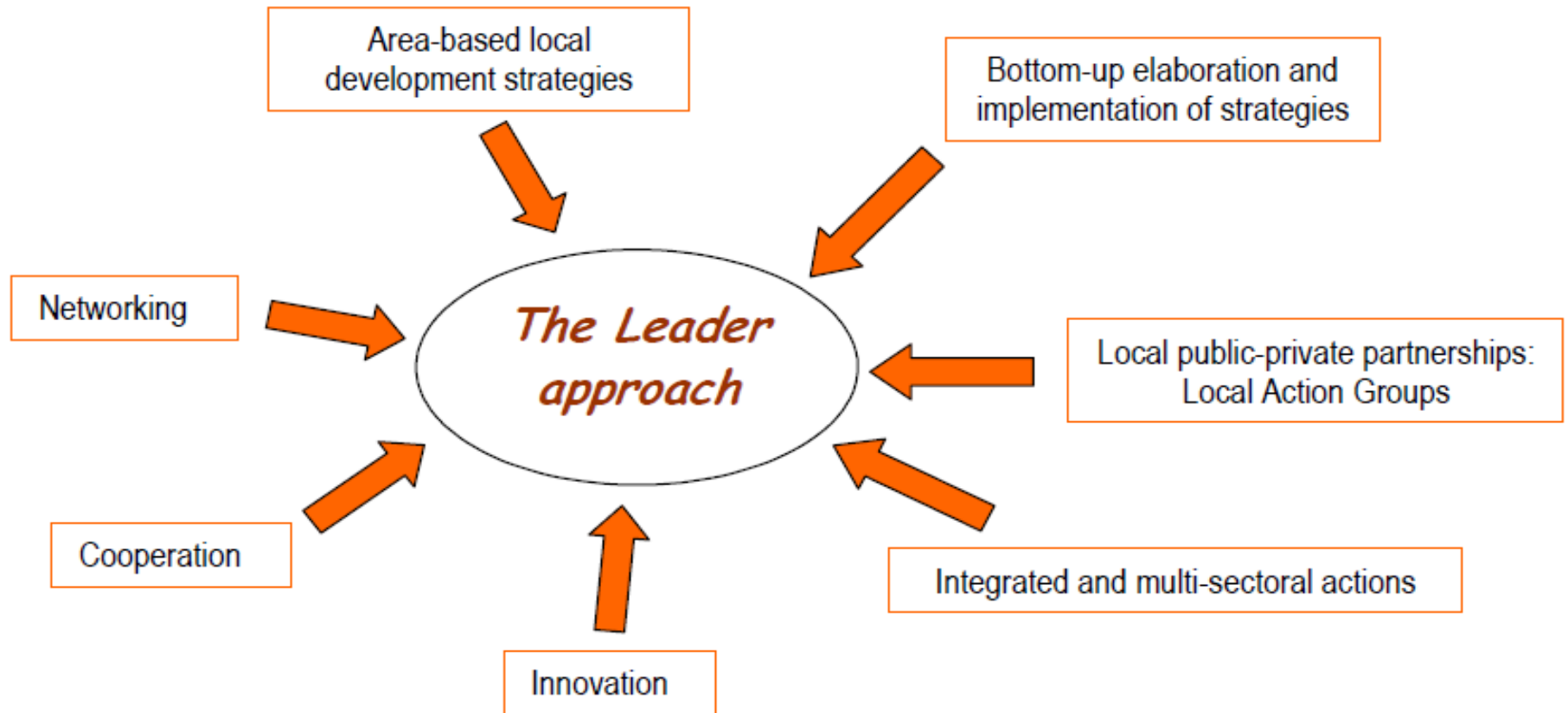


# LEADER as a driver for rural development

Thematic Working Group 1 at  
PREPARE Gathering  
2011

# UNIFIED APPROACH: The 7 key features of Leader



## DIVERSE IMPLEMENTATION

Exchange of experiences and opinions  
(RS, BA, MK, CZ, LV, LT, EST, FIN):

- Size of LAG area:
  - 1 LAG = 1 municipality (LT);
  - 1 LAG = more municipalities;
  - As big as be sufficient in resources and to have good communication on local level;
- How to define the LAG area:
  - Existing cooperation of stakeholders;
  - Common inerest: identity (*for example lake*) or issue (*schools*).

Exchange of experiences and opinions  
(RS, BA, MK, CZ, LV, LT, EST, FIN):

- Partnership within the LAG
  - Independent platform for different stakeholders;
  - Good and bad stories about influence, but still local decision (good measures, project selection criteria, looking for common solutions within LAG);
  - Balanced composition of skilled, motivated stakeholders.
- Importance of networking:
  - Recognized by national bodies;
  - Operational tool for communication between members;
  - Competent resource both for policy development or implementation and for capacity building of members;
  - Issue of independence if supported only by government.

Exchange of experiences and opinions

(RS, BA, MK, CZ, LV, LT, EST, FIN):

- Sustainable community development without external resources (possibility to prove real partnership in action).
- LEADER is filling gaps created in world of changing rules and governing systems.
- Take small steps:
  - 1st strategy with easy achievable goals will help to test partnership, to involve community and to give a sense of well done work;
  - Small-scale projects help to raise awareness and involvement.

## Exchange of experiences and opinions

(RS, BA, MK, CZ, LV, LT, EST, FIN):

- **Work on the ground Vs “binding legislation will come later”:**
  - generally principles do not change – start to work immediately. It takes a lot of time to establish sufficient partnership;
  - the same story to everybody (*access to information & understanding of who is doing what*);
  - clear rules and clear expectations;
  - involve partners also in early stage of planning (*nationaly, regionaly, localy*);
  - adopt tools that have been developed in other states, but do it wisely;
  - reduce top-down approach in programming policies;
  - do not ignore already existing experiences and created local systems;
  - animation work (*motivation, clear understanding and building trust*) has to be done on all levels.