

Polska Sieć LGD - Federacja

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Dear Mr Wolfgang Burtscher
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

The Ministry of Agriculture in Poland is working on the regulations concerning selecting local development strategies to be implemented by local action groups (LAGs) in the new financial perspective. While preparing these, the authorities aim to introduce rules that will allow to create local action groups by state institutions. We are afraid that Ministry of Agriculture wants to replace representatives of local self-governments with representatives of state institutions. We draw such a conclusion from Annex No2 to tender regulations draft provisions, which we enclose to this letter.

According to Polish LAGs representatives opinion, such a solution may contribute to the loss of the bottom-up approach, one of the key LEADER principles, which is crucial and is also planned to be implemented under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy.

We believe that the success of the LEADER approach to date results from the local communities empowerment and their opportunity to decide which direction of development is most beneficial for them.

We are concerned that increasing the role of state-established institutions in LAGs will weaken the participatory character of local development strategies and may upset the achieved balance and joint effort of different sectors towards sustainable area development. This will reduce the impact of local communities on shaping their living environment and will be the step backwards after ten years of successful implementation of the LEADER approach in Poland.

As the document draft raises our concern in the above-described scope, we kindly ask you to clarify the doubts and give the interpretation of Art. 31 par. 2 letter b of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/1060 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2021.

Our position is that all public and private entities should be local, not state-owned. We pay particular attention to the role of local representatives of public authorities. The essence of the election of these authorities at the level of communes and poviats is self-government, this means, making decisions based on local resources and independence from central authorities. The selection of the Local Development Strategies in Poland is to be announced soon, and a clear understanding of rules is crucial for further actions; therefore, we would highly appreciate your prompt reply.

Yours sincerely,



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