Contribution to the Workshop:

Evaluation of the Local Development Strategies in a results-oriented programming

LEADER Reloaded Conference

Evora, Sept. 27, 2018

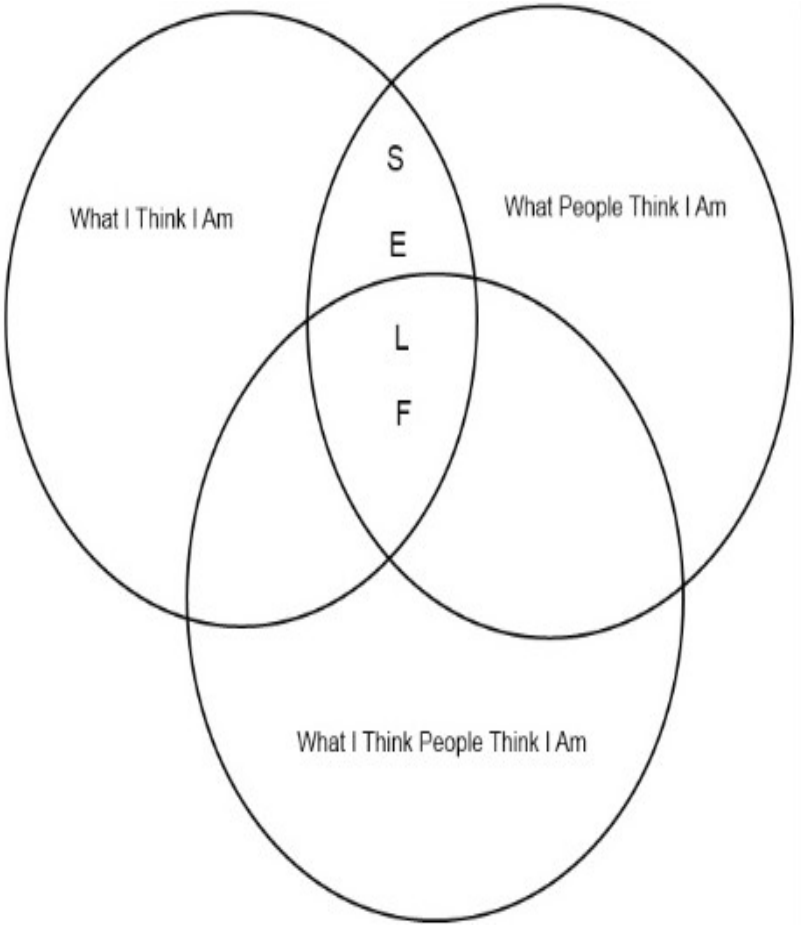
Robert Lukesch

Why evaluate?

(from the FARNET Evaluation Handbook)

- *Checking whether the LDS objectives are still relevant*
- *Knowing if the LAG has achieved its original aims and objectives*
- *Helping to critically reflect on how to improve the LAG's activities and processes*
- *Obtaining knowledge to demonstrate achievements*

- ***In five words: Learning to make it better***



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An interesting finding from the LEADER LAG survey 2017

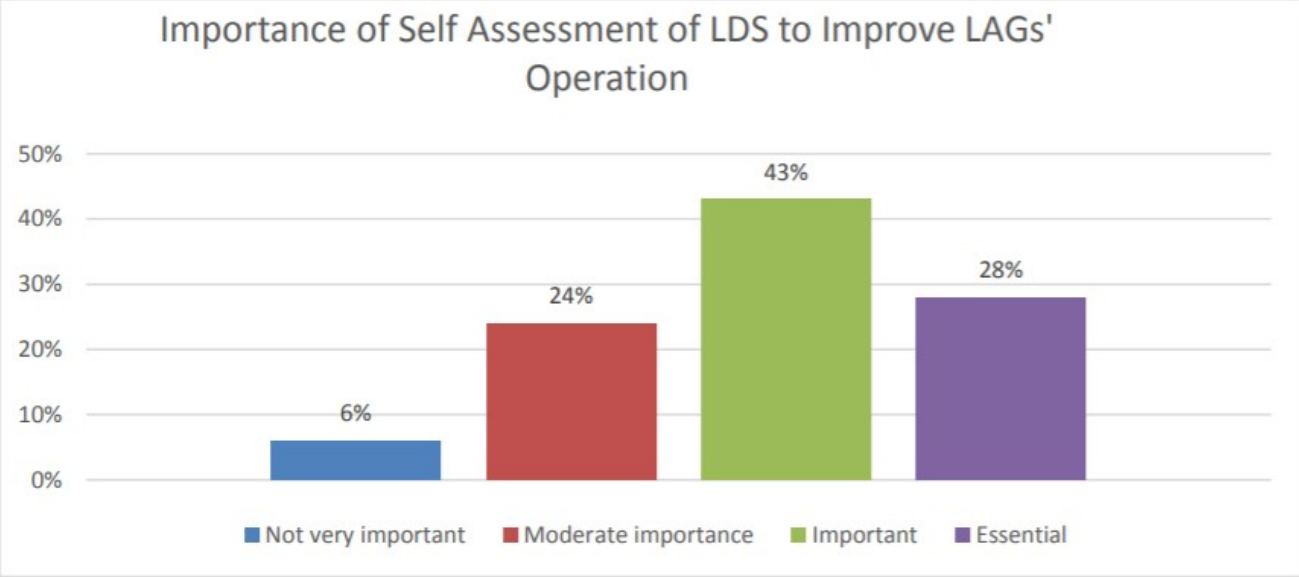
Conducted by the ENRD (Nov.2017)

Question 35

How important do you think self-assessment (internal review) of your own Local Development Strategy is to improving your LAG`s operation?

- Not very important.
- Moderate importance.
- Important.
- Essential.

Total Number of Responses 553



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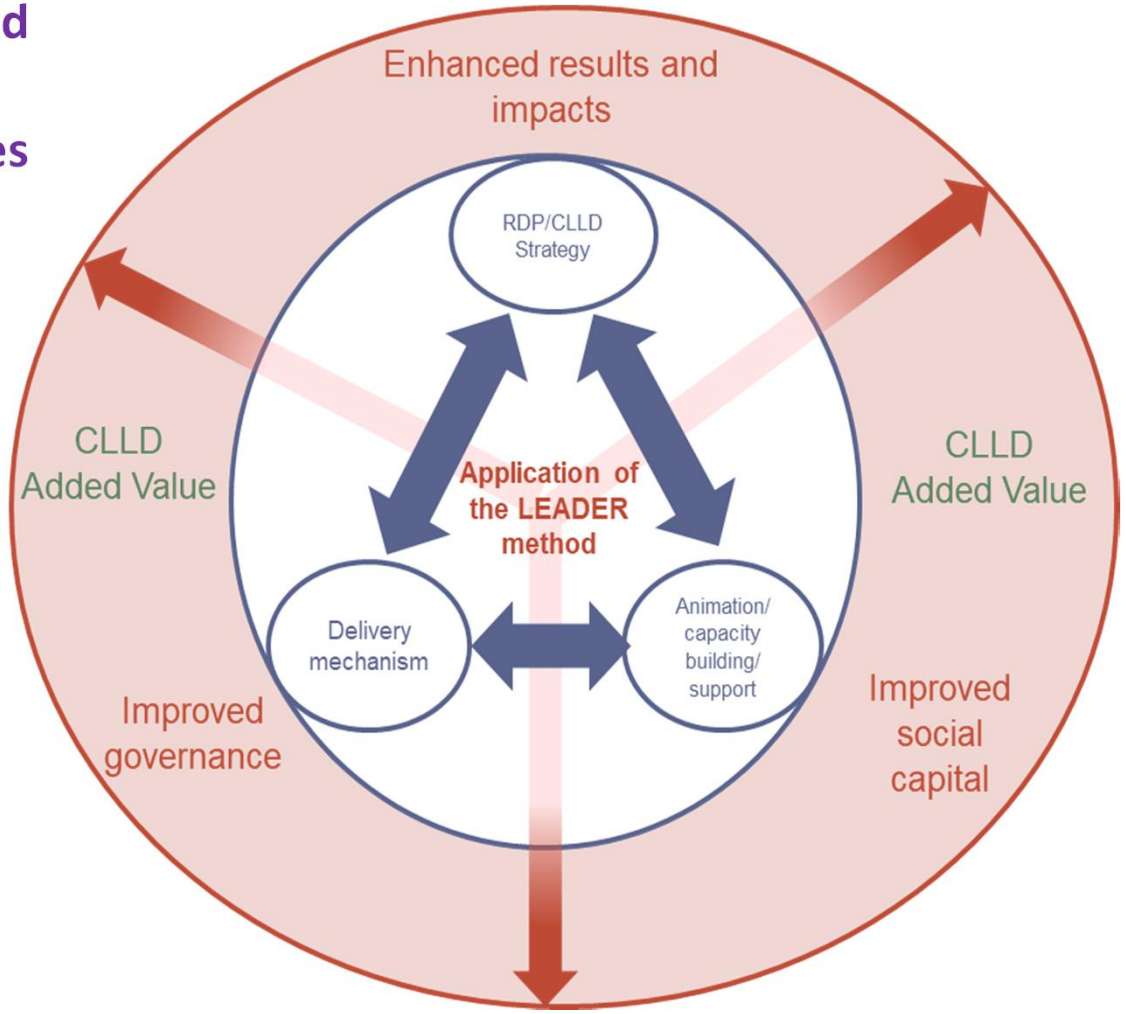
„LAG‘s view of self-assessment being ‚essential‘ increased with the ‚age of the LAG‘“

The concept of LEADER Added Value

The concept of LEADER added value in the Helpdesk's LEADER Evaluation Guidelines is strongly supported by the findings in the LEADER LAG Survey 2017:

Highest importance on bottom-up, local partnership and area-based LDS



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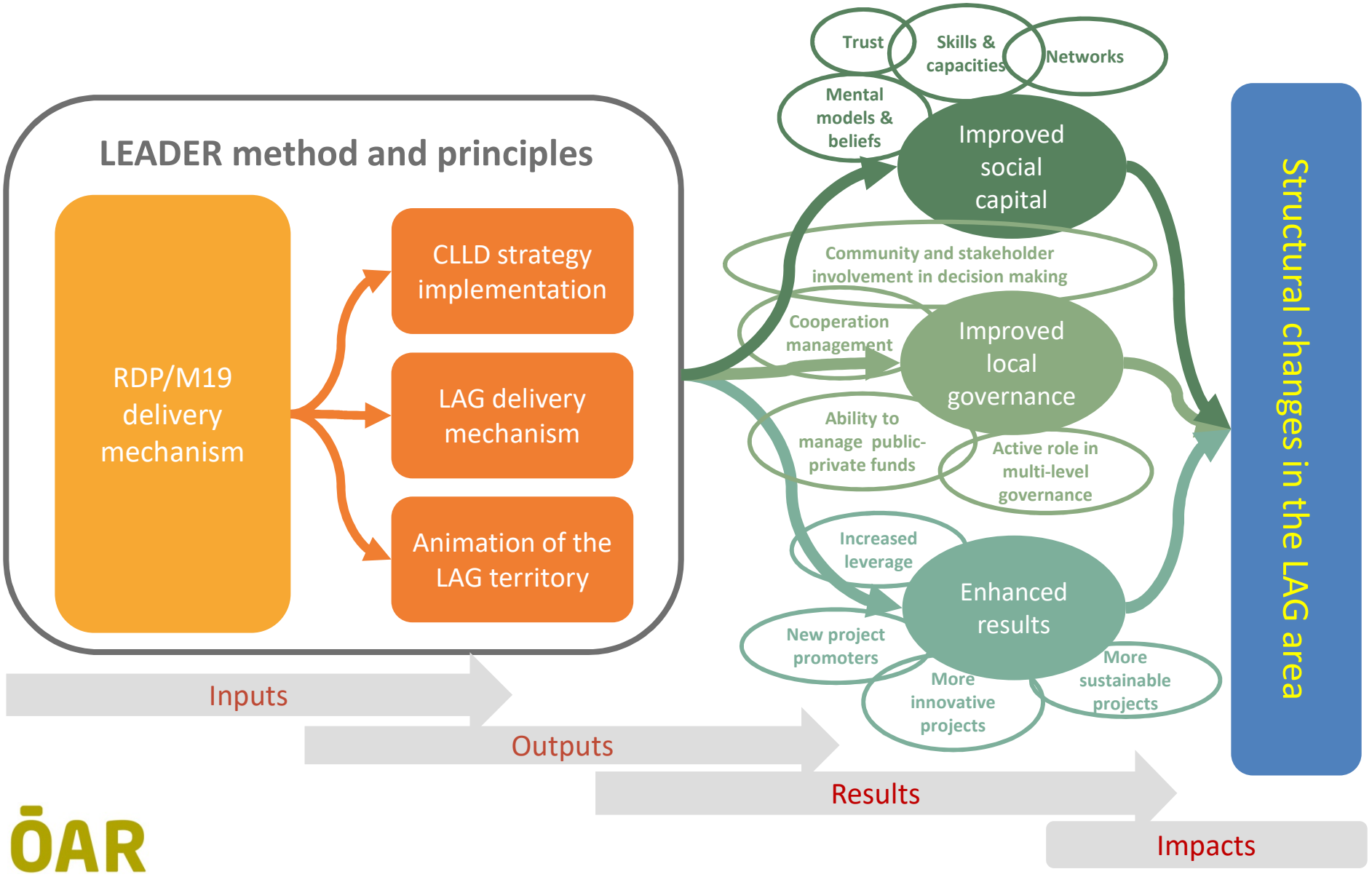
CLLD added value



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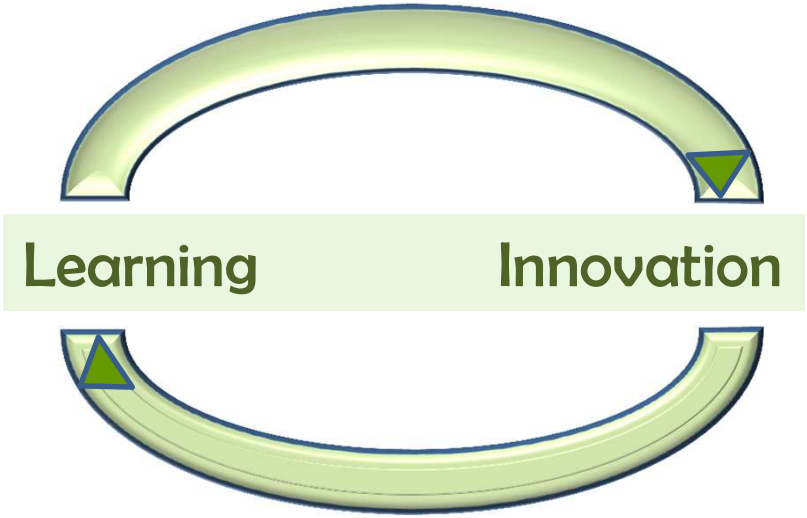
Social innovation comes into focus



Social Innovation refers to "the reconfiguring of social practices, in response to societal challenges, which seeks to enhance outcomes on societal well-being and necessarily includes the engagement of civil society actors."

simra
Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas

Definition coined by the Horizon2020 Project SIMRA on „Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas"

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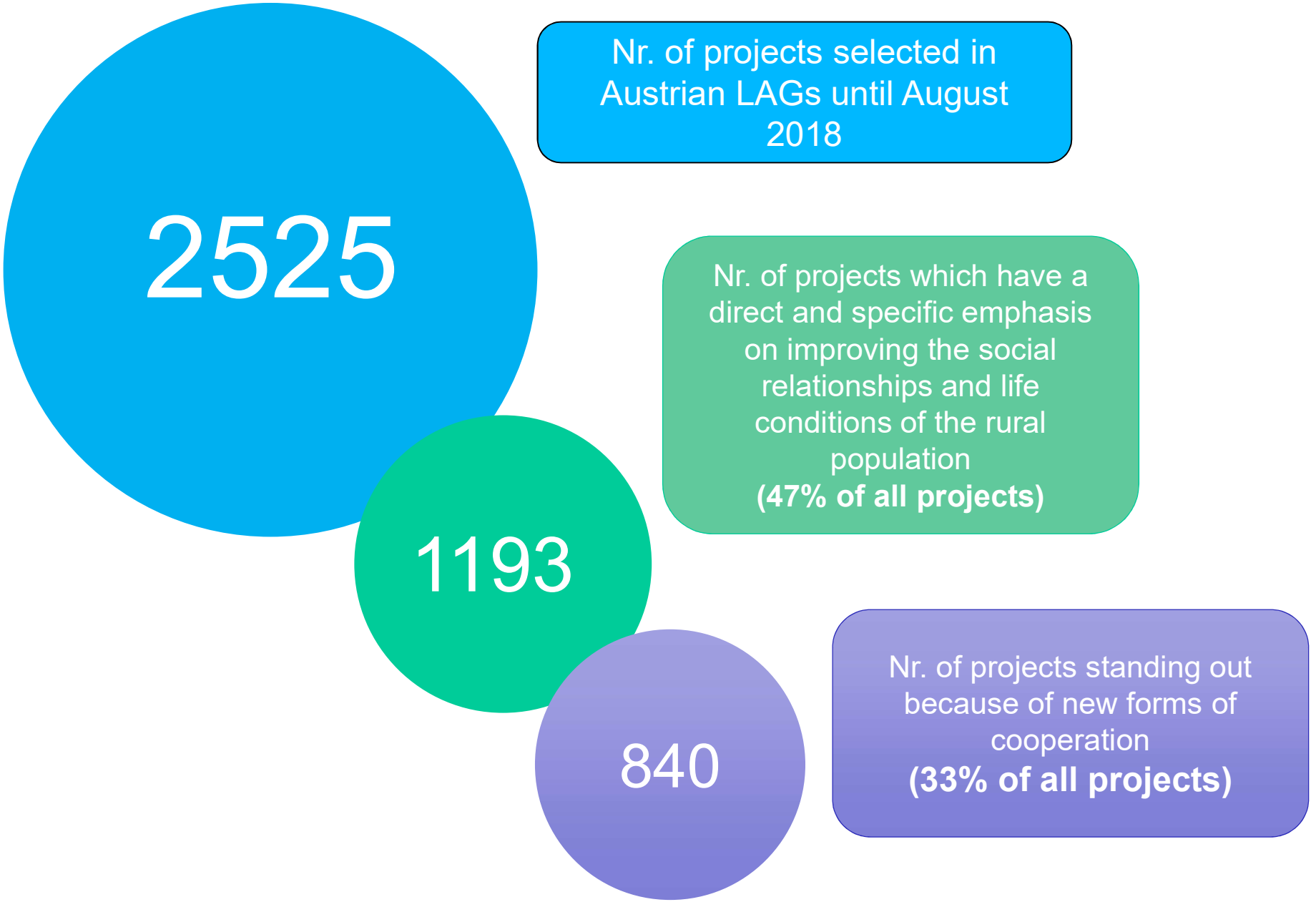
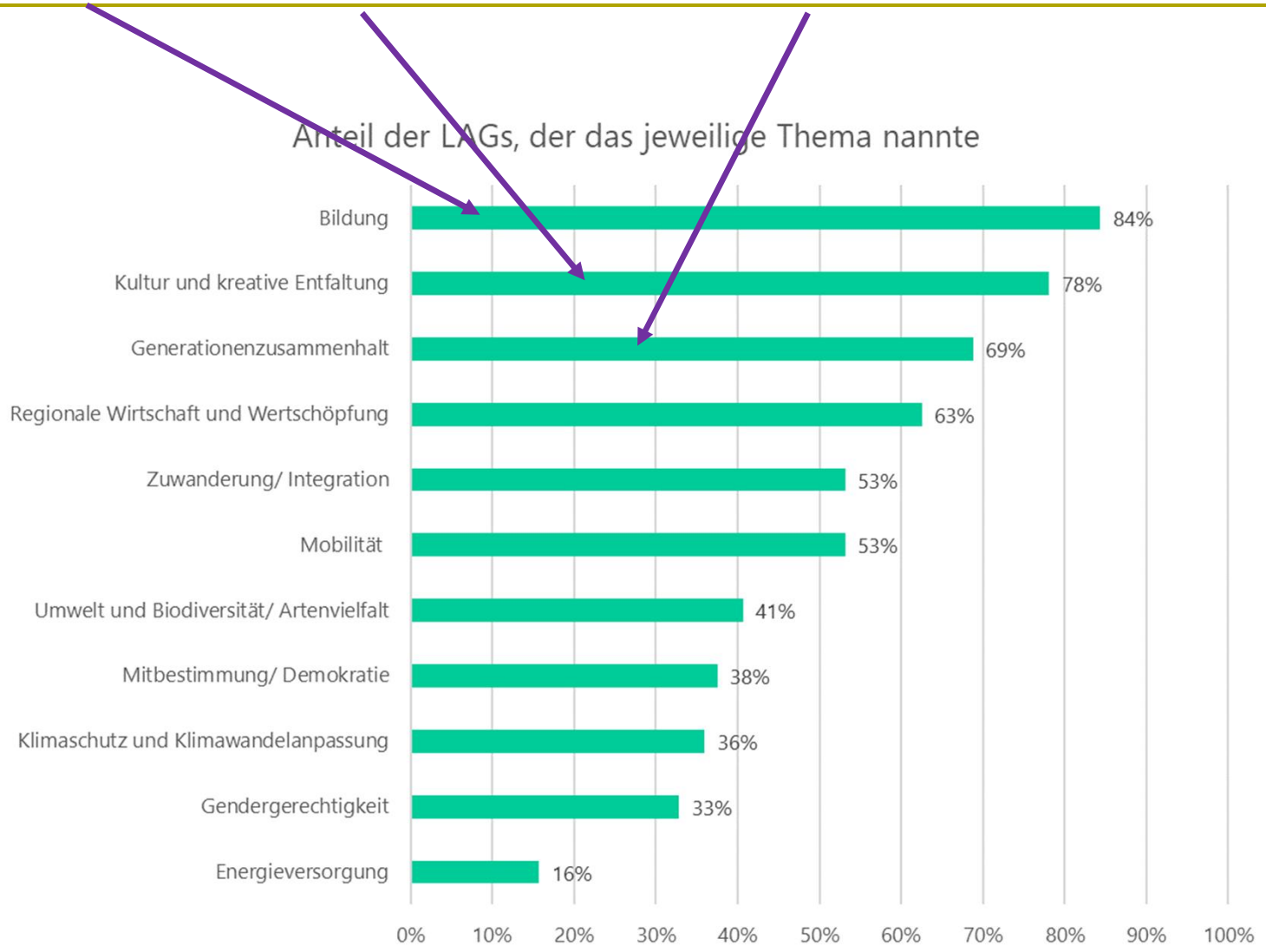
Study on „Social Innovation in LEADER 14-20“ (Austria)



Results: New solutions in education, culture and intergenerational cohesion



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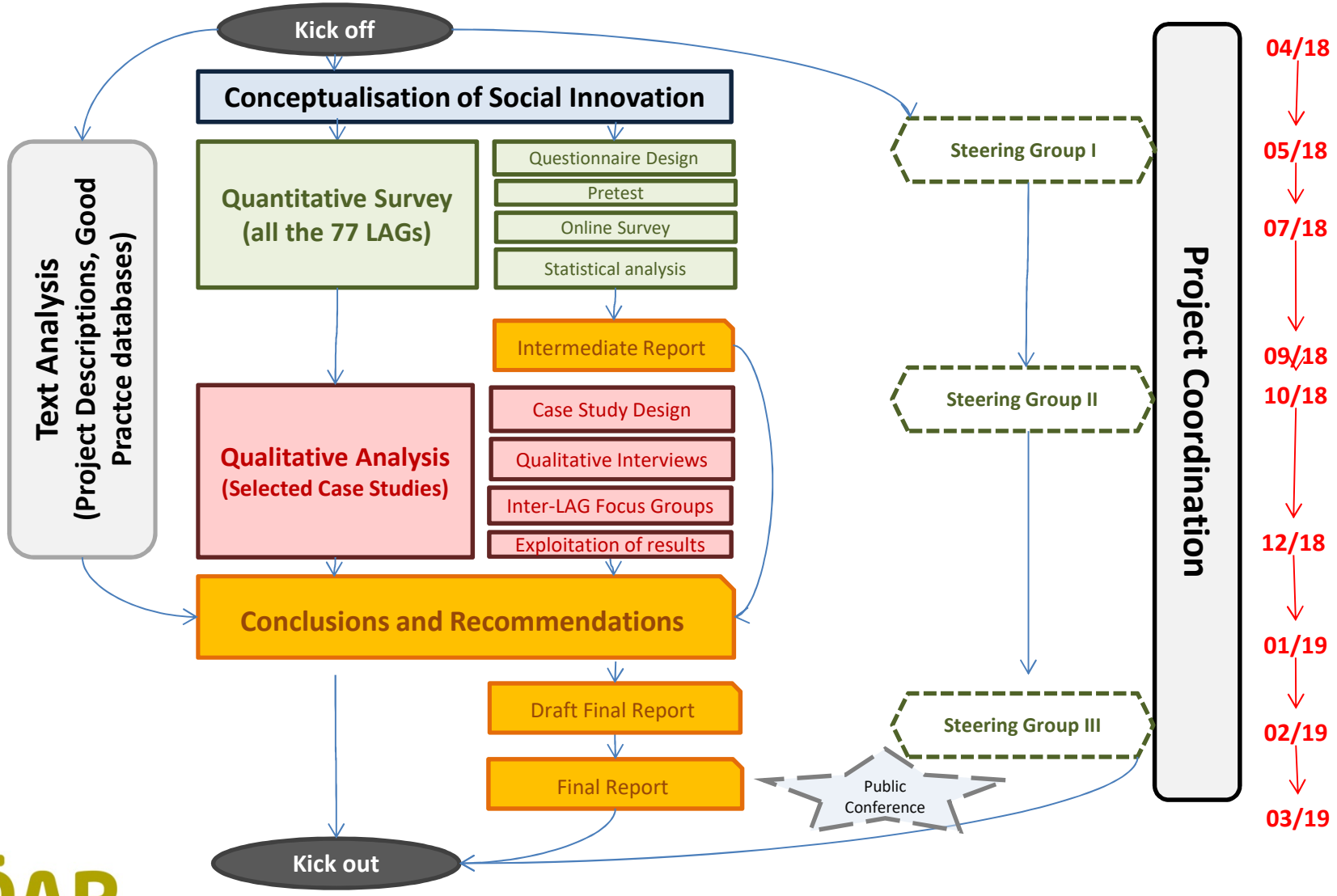
Study Design on „Social Innovation in LEADER 2014-2020“

(ÖAR/ZSI, on behalf of the Austrian MA)



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Realist Evaluation, a recommendable approach

Ray Pawson and Nick Tilley, 1997 and 2004

Theory-based: Programmes are theory incarnate

*Explores the **Context-Mechanism-Outcome Configurations (CMOCs)***

Method-neutral and pluralistic

Findings have a ‚middle-range nature‘

‘The realist viewpoint is that the most durable and practical recommendations that evaluators can offer come from research that begins with programme theory and ends with a refined programme theory.’

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http://www.communitymatters.com.au/RE_chapter.pdf

Nothing is so difficult as not deceiving oneself.

Ludwig Wittgenstein, 1938

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