▸ **ENRD TG Making the seven Leader principles work in practice**

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**VLAAMSE
LAND
MAATSCHAPPIJ**

What's at stake?

▶ Evaluation of current Leader program
  → Finding a healthy balance between bottom-up and top-down (green deal, farm-to fork, smart villages, …)
  → Provide more tools to assure innovation and quality
  → Broaden the network of potential benificiaries and LAG-members → more grass-roots movements instead of institutions)
▶ External review of current mechanisms to judge and approve project applications (and by extension LDS)
  → Comparison with other Member States
  → Workshops with MA and LAG coordinators
▶ Result:
  → Framework of procedure to judge ad approve project applications
  → Toolkit with additional methods to guarantee quality and innovation

Before and after: introduction

▶ Belgium is complex… Multi-layered governance structure
  → Regional governments of Flanders (Dutch-speaking) and Wallonia (French-speaking) are considered as two parts of the same member state, each with its own RDP
  → Provincial governments as co-financing partners
  → LAGs operate in the lap of provincial governments

Before and after: designing LDS

	Current program	Coming program
Design Local Development Strategies	Each LAG on its own	Based on ENRD guidance Facilitated by MA and provinces
Approval of LDS	Technical advise by MA, decision by Provincial Management Committees	Technical advise by independent experts and approval by Regional Management Committee
LAG Composition	50-50 public (municipalities and provincial governments) & civil sector (NGO's)	Public, civil and private sector → more local entrepreneurs, engaged residents, experts etc

Before and after: implementing LDS

	Current period	Coming period
Project broker	LAG manager to some extent	LAG manager and LAG members
Check on eligibility (formalities like completeness etc)	LAG manager	MA
Technical review (is it a good project?)	LAG	LAG, with support of external, independent experts like academics
Project approval (is it a good LEADER project?)	LAG	LAG
Additional tools during project approval	Pitching sessions for beneficiaries with Q&A, external review of investment projects by board of architects, landscape experts etc, micro- & umbrella projects to keep smaller beneficiaries involved	

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