



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FOOD

European LEADER CONGRESS 2023

LEADER/CLLD multi-fund approach – Slovenian model

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Co-founded by the
European Union



 COMMON
AGRICULTURE
POLICY



LEADER/CLLD 2014-2020



1. New implementation model → multi-fund CLLD (EAFRD, ERDF, EMFF)

- good definition of a LDS structure at the very beginning
- **CLLD Coordination Committee 2014-2020**: coordination between MAs, paying agency, intermediate bodies, DGs, LAGs was essential

2. Administrative procedures

- **3 OPs** → 1 national LEADER/CLLD legislation – 1. step of harmonisation of procedures;
- joint confirmation of LAGs and LDSs → CLLD Coordination Committee 2014-2020
- „Lead Fund“ – only 1 fund of LDS for paying the Running cost and animation

3. Basic LEADER principles

- LAGs are partnerships of 3 sectors, LAG cooperation projects (44 projects, 23 international), networking between LAGs, NRN – LEADER Office, NGOs - Slovenian rural development network,...)

4. Administrative capacity of LAGs

- Appropriate and qualified LAG staff defined at the beginning of the programming period
- Constant capacity building for LAGs (trainings and communication)

KEY SUCCESSES in 2014-2020



- **Common LEADER/CLLD approach** with 3 funds
- **All LAGs and all LDSs are multi-funded** (37 EAFRD+ERDF, + 4 of all EMFF), LAGs cover the **entire territory of Slovenia**, all municipalities (all rural inhabitants, small urban areas, fisheries communities)
- **Improved capacity building** between MA, intermediate body ERDF, PA and LAGs
- **Intense promotion of LEADER/CLLD approach** (LAG Catalogue, FB, articles, communication with ENRD, EU CAP Network, ...)
- **Simplifications**: Implemented SCOs (lump sum for preparatory support, draft budget for small projects, standards scales for unit costs (hourly rate) and flat rate – 15 % for indirect costs; harmonisation of procedures

LEADER/CLLD 2021-2027

Multi-fund LEADER/CLLD (EAFRD + ERDF), EMFF separate CLLD

Harmonisation and common approach:

1. CLLD GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP

- **Members** of all 3 EU funds, 3 MAs, PA,...
- **Purpose:** it is set up to prepare and implement the programming documents for the implementation of the common CLLD approach
- Regular communication: meetings, Guidelines and flowcharts

2. LEADER/CLLD common regulations and procedures

- One stop-shop → Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
- Common national regulation
- Common selection procedure and criteria of multi-fund LDSs

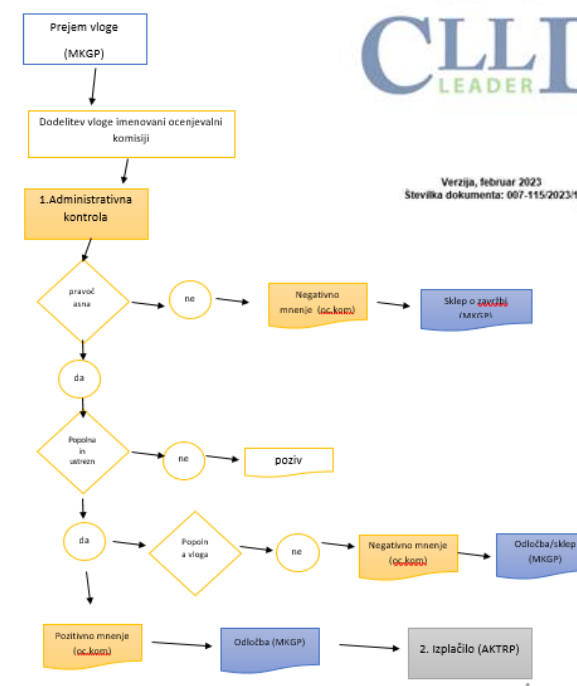


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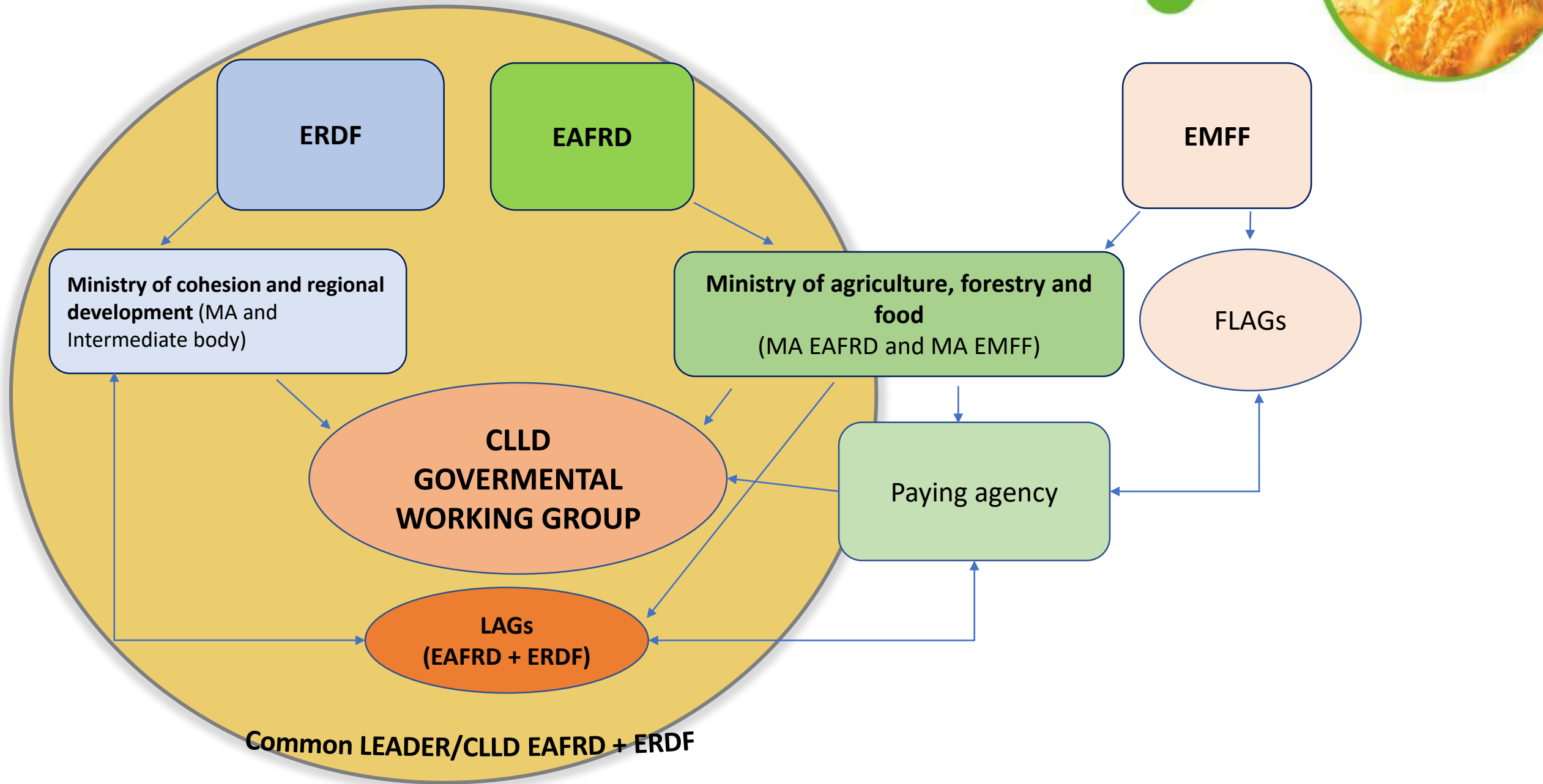


CLLD
LEADER

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LEADER/CLLD MODEL 2021-2027



Multi-fund LEADER/CLLD 2023-2027 (EAFRD + ERDF)- legal framework



Partnership Agreement SI 2021 - 2027

EAFRD

CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027

- SO8 - *Promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry*
- LEADER intervention
- **Budget: 44,43 mio EUR**
- Confirmed 28th October 2022

ERDF

European Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027 –

- PO5: *Europe closer to citizens - fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in areas other than urban areas*
- Measure CLLD
- **Budget: 40,12 mio EUR**
- **Confirmed 13th December 2022**

Multi-fund LEADER/CLLD 2023-2027 (EAFRD + ERDF) - legal framework



1. Regulation and public call for new local partnerships (LAGs) and preparation of LDSs

- **Joint public call** for LDSs (EAFRD and ERDF), December 2022, prepared by CLLD GOVERNMENTAL WG,
- **PREPARATORY SUPPORT** for preparation of new LDSs
 - financed from RDP 2014 – 2022, Sub-measure 19.1.1. *Preparatory support (Art. 34 (1)(a) CPR)*

2. Regulation on the implementation of Community-led local development in the period 2023 – 2027 (proposal)

- lays down the **purpose of the support, beneficiaries, conditions**,.. for:
 - a) **PROJECTS** „*the implementation of operations, including cooperation activities and their preparation, selected under the strategy*“,
 - b) **LAG MANAGEMENT** „*the management, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy and its animation, including the facilitation of exchanges between stakeholders*“

Multi-fund LEADER/CLLD 2023-2027 (EAFRD + ERDF) – public call for new LAGs and LDSs



1. Regulation and public call for local partnerships (LAGs) and preparation of LDSs

- **Joint public** call for LDSs (MA EAFRD + MA ERDF), *Art 31(3) CPR*, published in the Official gazette of the Republic Slovenia
- LDSs are checked and selected by members of the CLLD GOVERNMENTAL WG (*Art 31(2)*)
- **conditions:**
 - operation of LAG
 - leading partner (LAG manager),
 - required chapters, annexes and elements of LDSs,
 - formula for calculating the financial framework of LDSs
- **3 phases** of checks and selection:
 - ✓ 1st and 2nd phase – preparatory support
 - payment in the form of lump sum
 - ✓ 3rd phase – selection
 - on the basis of the criteria for selecting LDSs

Preparatory support - Eligibility conditions: when milestones of phase 1 and 2 are reached

Phase 1 → 3rd March 2023

→ milestones (key):

- contract on the establishment of LAG
- contract between the LAG and the leading partner,
- at least 1 employee (1 FTE) for the purpose of LAG / LDS preparation,
- website of the local partnership
- official office

Phase 2 → 31st July 2023

→ milestones:

- **LDS prepared and submitted** (with all required elements)

Phase 3 → until the end of December 2023

→ milestones:

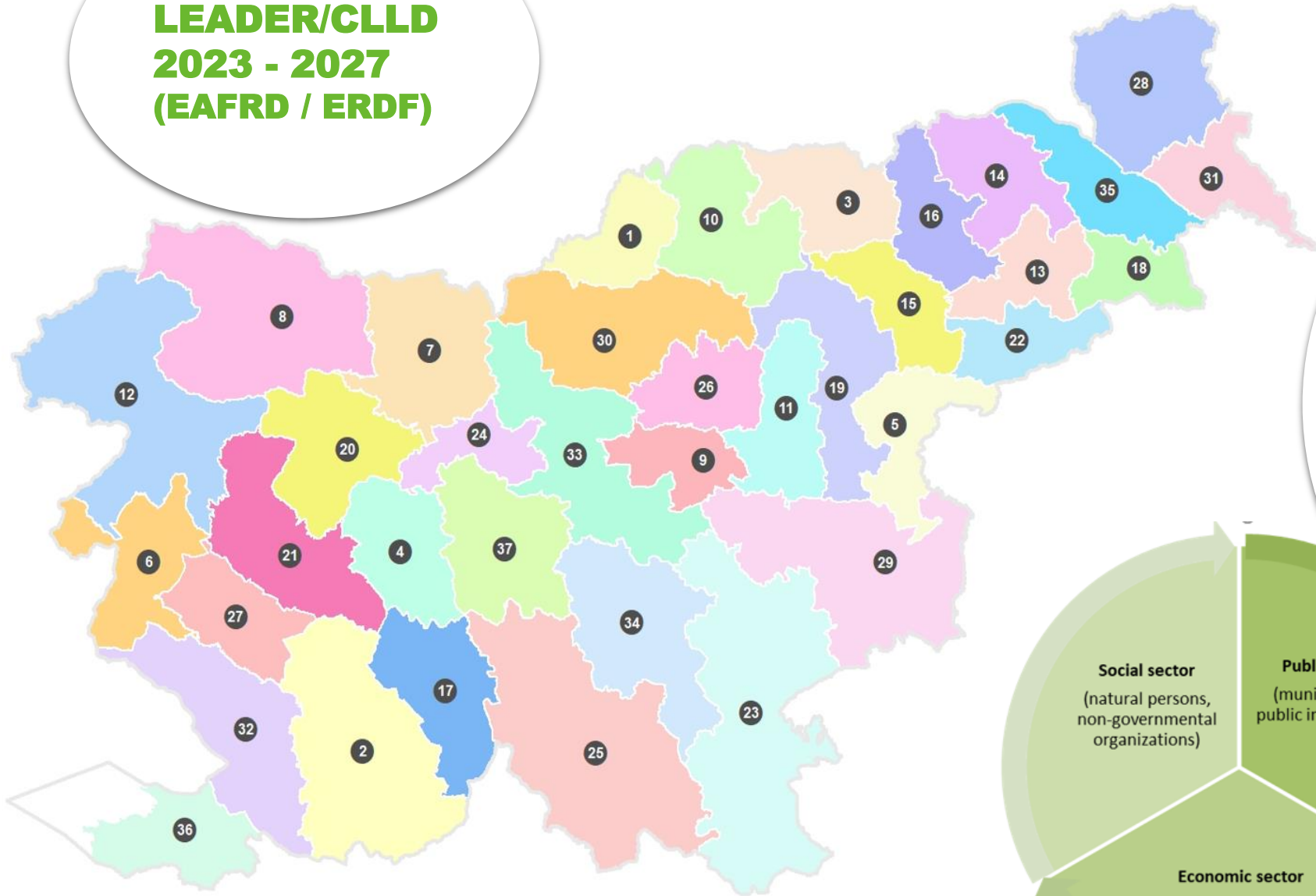
- **selection of LDSs on the basis of the selection criteria**

Decision approving the 1st phase → **30 %** of preparatory support

Decision approving the 2nd phase → **70 %** of preparatory support

Decision approving / rejecting the LAG and LDS

**Multi-fund
LEADER/CLLD
2023 - 2027
(EAFRD / ERDF)**



**37 LOCAL ACTION
GROUPS
= 37 multi-fund local
development strategies
(LDS)**

- all territory of Slovenia, all rural areas (settlements under 10.000 inhabitants);
- population between 14 000 and 150 000 inhabitants



Multi-fund LEADER/CLLD 2023-2027 (EAFRD + ERDF) – implementation of LDSs



2. Regulation on the implementation of community-led local development in the period 2023 – 2027 (proposal)

- lays down the **purpose of the support, beneficiaries, conditions**,.. (*Art 34 (b)(c) CPR*) for:
 - a) **IMPLEMENTATION of PROJECTS**, including LAS cooperation projects
 - b) **LAG MANAGMENT** – leading partners, LAG tasks,..

3. Differences and improvements:

- **harmonized rules for EAFRD and ERDF** (eligibility conditions for support, forms of support and eligible costs, financial provisions, VAT claiming options, procedures for selecting projects on the basis of approved strategies on the level of LAG, state aid, ...); no need to have „lead fund“
- **simplifications for management structures and beneficiaries:**
 - ✓ additional SCO – projects: standards scales for unit costs (hourly rate), flat rate,
– LAG management: payment from both funds in the form of lump-sum
 - ✓ simplified selection procedures – new IT system (PA), ...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



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