

# The LEADER Programme as a Tool of Promoting Rural Development (case study)

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## Abstract

*The paper presents the results of studies aimed at determining the role of the LEADER Programme in supporting development of rural areas. The analysis was performed on the basis of a case study of the Local Action Group (LAG) “Ziemia Zamojska”. We used data from the LAG Office and the information contained in its strategic documents. “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG has received a total of PLN 6064 thousand for the implementation of activities under Axis 4 LEADER, of which more than three-quarters is for Action 413 “Implementing Local Development Strategies.” A significant portion of these funds were earmarked for investment projects responding to the immediate needs of the population (community centres, playgrounds, computer rooms with Internet access), which entail greater involvement of local communities. Efficient and effective use of financial resources available to the beneficiaries in the area covered by the local development strategy has a positive impact on the development of such areas and the local community. The opportunities created by financing and independent project implementation improve the quality of life (e.g., through the development of infrastructure), and above all, help to build and strengthen social capital in rural areas.*

**Keywords:** rural areas, LEADER Programme, Local Action Group, local development strategy

## Introduction

Rural areas in Poland, according to the designation methodology of the Central Statistical Office based on the administrative division, are defined as those situated outside of the city administrative boundaries. They are therefore areas of rural communities and rural parts of urban and rural municipalities, which, according to the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, in 2010 amounted to 29,1 million hectares<sup>1</sup> (i.e., 93,1% of the country’s area) (*Obszary wiejskie...* 2013, 128). Existing functional relationships and the experience of existing programs supporting rural development are important arguments for also placing small towns (up to 5 thousand residents) in such areas because they perform similar functions as large villages which are the seats of municipal authority. So defined rural areas are populated by approximately 15,5 million people, or about 41% of the Polish population. One of the main challenges is to reduce disparities between rural and urban areas. The vision of rural development should be based therefore on strategic plans leading to sustainable development of the country, its territorial cohesion and optimal use of the resources offered by the Polish countryside and small towns (*Kierunki rozwoju...* 2010, 7–8).

According to M. Stanny (2012), rural development is a permanent commitment to improving the standard of living of the population in rural areas, which is inextricably linked with the need to overcome the problems of rural labour market imbalances. This can be achieved by choosing either the path based on migration, “moving” rural populations to larger cities, or on the multifunctional development mode of “moving” jobs to the countryside (actually creating them in rural areas

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1. [In the journal (in both Polish and English texts) European practice of number notation is followed—for example, 36 333,33 (European style) = 36 333.33 (Canadian style) = 36,333.33 (US and British style). Furthermore in the International System of Units (SI units), fixed spaces rather than commas are used to mark off groups of three digits, both to the left and to the right of the decimal point.—Ed.]

or in nearby towns, taking into account the shuttle migration). The purpose of socio-economic development of rural areas is the emergence of such economic and social structures in the local environment which give a fair income to residents and will not lead to adverse effects (including depopulation, social and environmental deterioration). The author emphasizes that the purpose of such actions cannot be achieved using a single universal scenario, as the paths of development of local structures may be quite diverse.

For many years we have witnessed a process of disagrarisation of rural areas, which means that agriculture is playing an increasingly smaller role in providing the rural population both with work and income. Rural development identified exclusively with agriculture and food production is a concept of a historical nature. This does not mean, however, that agriculture still may not be the most important ingredient of the rural economy. Currently, rural areas are starting to play a lot of non-agricultural functions, both in production, consumption and services. All this shows that in addition to agricultural policy directed at a decreasing number of farmers, there is a need to develop an integrated rural policy aimed at the entire spectrum of the rural population, especially those of a marginal nature, characterized by large development problems (Kłodziński 2013). There is a growing importance of the new perception of the role and functions of rural areas and agriculture for the benefits of modern society. What is emphasized are the opportunities to use cultural heritage as a factor in energizing rural areas (Nurzyńska and Drygas 2011, 13–14; Sikorska-Wolak 2010). According to Bukraba-Rylska (2011), the cultural heritage of the Polish countryside should be considered as a significant value for rural communities, enabling them to develop economically, and as a means of reducing unemployment.

The concept of multifunctional development is inextricably linked to rural policy in the European Union. As Kłodziński (2012) indicates, regions with a mono-functional mode, based on one single branch of economic activity, sooner or later experience serious problems. According to the author, the conditions for development in the area are mainly based on the fact that at the same time in the same place, there must be factors at play such as: human enterprise, capital, demand, promotion, comprehensive infrastructure, good education, and strategic planning ability. It is difficult to meet such conditions simultaneously, especially in rural communities. Therefore, the chances of rapid development may become limited. Thus, in most rural communities, such development will happen in small steps. Among the many barriers to the development of rural areas, the most important are: insufficient development of entrepreneurship, and the level of human and social capital.

One of the ways to implement the European Rural Development Policy (ERDP) is a model of local development, based on a bottom-up approach. It involves changing the way in which people perceive the development process and how they think about it. It is a model of endogenous development, whose principle is to refer to the specific advantages of each territory and to support initiatives undertaken by decentralized actors. Conditions conducive to the emergence of innovative initiatives and projects in the local communities are ensured, *inter alia*, by funds allocated by the EU for rural development in the implementation of the LEADER programme (Chevalier and Maurel 2010).

## **1 LEADER Axis 4 in the framework of the Rural Development Programme 2007–2013**

LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme (RDP), which is an instrument in the implementation of the National Rural Development Plan for 2007–2013. The main objectives of the RDP are: economic support for farms, increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, and taking measures for diversification of rural economic activities. The program includes four priority thematic axes: Axis 1—Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector (EUR 7 187 million); Axis 2—Improving the environment and rural areas (EUR 95 546 million); Axis 3—Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy (EUR 3 430 million); Axis 4—LEADER (EUR 787 million, or 4,7% RDP). The LEADER thematic axis

is treated as a cross-over approach, enabling the realization and implementation of all three axes, and above all, Axis 3.

The LEADER Axis has also its own objectives—these are measures aimed at the proper functioning of the local action groups (LAGs), acquiring skills of cooperation, and activation of the rural population. Under Axis 4 (LEADER), there are three sub-thematic activity groups:

- Action 1—implementing local development strategies (LDS) (projects that meet the criteria of Axis 3: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy, and especially the development of non-agricultural activities, the creation of micro-enterprises, village renewal and development, and the so-called Smaller Projects).
- Action 2—implementation of cooperation projects: projects of interregional and international nature.
- Action 3—running the local action group, skills acquisition and animation (Halamska, Śpiewak, and Michalska 2010).

The most important means to achieve these goals and the basis of the philosophy of the LEADER programme is a local public-private partnership, which takes the form of local action groups. Members of these groups are authors of a local development strategy for the area, beneficiaries and the institutions responsible for allocating subsidies granted from the EU in the area (Grochowska and Płonka 2002).

The main goal posed to local action groups is a widely understood activation of the rural population, affecting the socio-economic condition of the Polish countryside. Funds raised for the functioning of the LAGs are invested in projects for the inhabitants of the areas covered by the local development strategy. Money is spent on projects developed with the participation of the residents, which means that they have a direct impact on the investments that are carried out in their place of residence. This results in building community bonds and teaches rural residents how to co-operate (Borkowska 2011; Halamska, Śpiewak, and Michalska 2010).

The role of the LAG consists mainly of: the implementation of local development strategies (i.e., Action 413, about 79% of the budget), the preparation and implementation of projects and transnational and international cooperation (i.e., Action 421, approximately 2% of the budget), strengthening the institutional capacity of the LAG and its members (up to 15% of the budget), and the acquisition of skills and activation (i.e., Action 431, approximately 4% of the budget).

Implementation of the LDS is done primarily through the implementation of projects, selected through a competition in four schemes: “Village Renewal and Development”, “Diversification into Non-agricultural Activities”, “Creation and Development of Micro-enterprises” and so-called “Small Projects”. Each local action group, based on the LDS, chooses themes for projects in the various schemes and specifies the total pool of funds for their financing. LAG requests the regional local authorities to announce the call for proposals, advertises and conducts submission processes, assesses the compliance of the proposals with the LDS and evaluates them based on local criteria for support. Then it recommends the proposals for grant support. It also monitors the implementation of projects that received funding support. Local action groups are not fully autonomous in decision-making, as both the LDS, and the individual calls for proposals are accepted by the regional authorities, and the funds are distributed, depending on the scope of support, by the Marshal’s Office (or a designated regional institution) and ARMA (Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture) (*Ocena funkcjonowania...* 2013).

Poland boasts the largest number of local action groups across all European Union countries—currently there are 336 (98% in the form of associations). Altogether LAGs cover an area of approximately 289 thousand square kilometres and a population of nearly 18 million inhabitants. The average area covered under a single group is approximately 861 km<sup>2</sup>. Local development strategies prepared by LAGs affect more than 90% of rural areas (*Katalog LGD...* 2012; *Ocena funkcjonowania...* 2013). Most groups are working in the Małopolskie (39) and Mazowieckie (35) voivodships, the fewest are present in Lubuskie (10) and Opolskie (11) voivodships. Lubelskie Voivodship, in terms of number of existing LAGs (26), is situated in the fifth position (fig. 1).

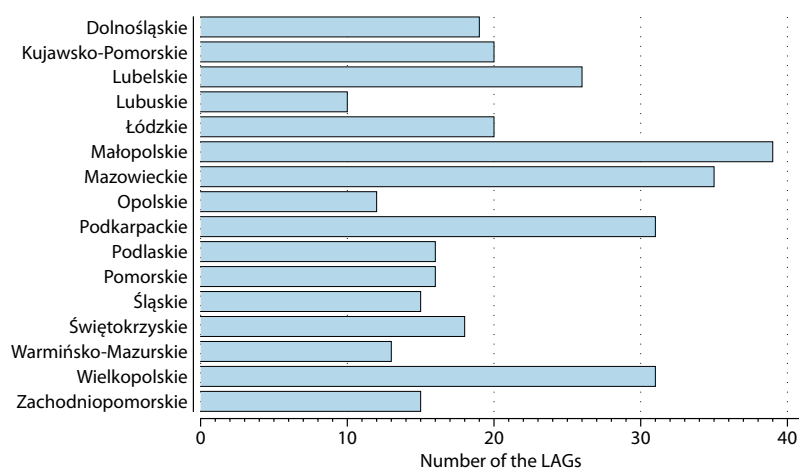


Fig. 1. Number of active local action groups in particular voivodships

Source: Own study based on (*Katalog LGD... 2012*)

## 2 Local Action Group “Ziemia Zamojska” as an example of the implementation of the LEADER Programme

The beginnings of “Ziemia Zamojska” partnership go back to November 2007. Then, during a meeting initiated by Skierbieszów Municipality and the stakeholders interested in the creation of a LAG, an initiative group was formed to establish a partnership based on the LEADER approach. Using past experience in solving problems and using the patterns of such partnerships in Europe, a local action group started to be developed at the end of December 2007 and January 2008, which subsequently adopted the name “Ziemia Zamojska”. On January 14, 2008, during the founding meeting, its composition was formed and courses of action aimed at registration of the association were established. It was also decided to start work on creating a Local Development Strategy for “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG.

According to the LEADER approach, the composition of the analysed LAG should reflect the tripartite principle. It is formed by 88 members, representing the social sector (75%), local government agencies (14%) and business sector (11%). The governing body of the analysed LAG is composed of: the General Meeting of Members, a 7-seat Board of the Association, a 9-seat Programme Council and a 5-seat Audit Committee. Research conducted by Halamska et al. (2010), concludes that an average LAG consists of about seven municipalities (although it may vary from three to a dozen or so), has about 70 members, has a seven-member executive board and about a 15-member council.

The territorial scope of “Ziemia Zamojska” Group’s activities includes seven adjacent municipalities (155 locations), belonging to the county of Zamość: Grabowiec, Komarów-Osada, Łabunie, Miączyn, Stary Zamość, Sitno, Skierbieszów. They form a compact territory, with similar characteristics of the landscape and the natural environment, traditions and culture. The total area is 844 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents 45% of the surface area of the county of Zamość (1872 km<sup>2</sup>) (tab. 1). An average area covered under LAGs in Poland is about 861 km<sup>2</sup>. More than half of the groups (54%) include in its effects populations up to 50 thousand inhabitants (*Katalog LGD... 2012*).

An integrating factor for the analysed area in terms of its geographic location is its position within the four mesoregions: Zamojski Vale, Grabowiecki Borders, Hrubieszowski Basin, Sokalski Hills, of which the most distinguishing characteristics are held by Grabowiecki Borders. This is an area distinguished by outstanding natural beauty, landscape, and culture. The LAG contains the Skierbieszowski Nature Park and five nature reserves. This area is consistent in terms of history, tradition and culture. There are a great number of monuments of architecture, associated mainly with the area’s former function as the seat of noblemen’s estates and “landscape architecture”, as well as the culture associated with the historical traditions of the region. It is also consistent in terms of socio-demographic factors (population density, ageing population, negative natural growth,

**Tab. 1.** The area and population of municipalities included in the LAG “Ziemia Zamojska”

Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population
Grabowiec	128	4 671
Komarów-Osada	124	5 610
Łabunie	87	6 342
Miączyn	156	6 314
Sitno	112	6 873
Skierbieszów	139	5 649
Stary Zamość	98	5 514
Total	844	40 973

Source: (*Lokalna Strategia...* 2013)

Note: The size of the population as in the end of 2006

a significant unemployment rate, a fairly high level of social activity—expressed by a significant number of rural organizations, such as the Volunteer Fire Brigades, Village Housewives’ Clubs, veterans associations, folklore groups and associations working in the field of local development). The area covered by the LAG is homogeneous in terms of its business and economic character. It has a typical agricultural character, with developing entrepreneurship (with entities dominated by trade and services) (*Lokalna Strategia...* 2013, 16–34).

The purpose of the “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG Association, as set out in its Statute, are activities that enhance rural development, an efficient use of internal development potential, an improvement of the area’s competitiveness as a place to live and do business by the residents and potential investors, as well as activation and cooperation of local communities.<sup>2</sup>

The concept of the development of the analyzed area was included in the Local Development Strategy for the “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG. There were three general objectives, within which specific objectives were indicated. It was emphasized that they derive directly from the long term vision for the area, which was formulated during public consultations with residents: “Ziemia Zamojska as a centre of a high standard of living, sustainable rural development, entrepreneurship and tourism.”

- General Objective 1: Improving the quality of life of the inhabitants of the LAG area.  
Specific objectives:
  - 1.1. Improvement of infrastructure performing a public, socio-cultural or sports function.
  - 1.2. Preservation of cultural, natural, and historical heritage.
  - 1.3. Development of tourist and recreational infrastructure.
- General Objective 2: Entrepreneurship development and diversification of economic activities in the LAG area.  
Specific Objectives:
  - 2.1. Entrepreneurship development based on local resources and socio-economic environment.
  - 2.2. Creation and promotion of local products.
- General Objective 3: Strengthening social capital of the LAG area.  
Specific Objectives:
  - 3.1. Stimulation of the activity of the local community;
  - 3.2. Development of the information society.

As defined in the Development Strategy for the “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG, the general objectives are identical with the objectives of Axis 4 LEADER and Axis 3 “Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy” RDP 2007–2013, which enables a full realization of the scope of the activities contained in them (*Lokalna Strategia...* 2013, 41–58).

2. See: Statut Stowarzyszenia Lokalnej Grupy Działania „Ziemia Zamojska”. Załącznik no. 1 do Uchwały Walnego Zebrania Członków Stowarzyszenia Lokalna Grupa Działania Ziemia Zamojska no. 7/IX/2013 z dnia 26 września 2013 r.

**Tab. 2.** Amounts allocated for Local Action Group Ziemia Zamojska” for the implementation of Axis 4 LEADER, as of 20 March 2013 (in PLN)

Years of implementation	413 Implementing Local Development Strategies						431 Running the Local Action Group					
	Actions that meet the conditions for granting aid measures:						Including:					
	diversification for non-agricultural activities	creation and development of micro-enterprises	renewal and development of rural areas	Small projects	Total 413	421 Implementation of cooperation projects	running LAGs (current costs)	acquiring skills and activation	Total 431	Total Axis 4		
2008-2009	0,00	0,00	200 466,93	0,00	200 466,93	0,00	75 000,84	24 353,49	99 354,33	299 821,26		
2010	0,00	0,00	1 539 059,00	238 134,36	1 777 193,36	0,00	84 549,04	136 038,02	220 587,06	1 997 780,42		
2011	250 528,00	0,00	0,00	77 817,61	328 345,61	24 653,00	144 377,51	39 894,00	184 271,51	537 270,12		
2012	168 785,00	185 000,00	1 301 788,00	180 000,00	1 835 573,00	85 546,72	147 547,38	75 799,24	223 346,62	2 144 466,34		
2013	0,00	200 000,00	0,00	411 289,10	611 289,10	12 719,28	156 945,60	27 735,00	184 680,60	808 688,98		
2014	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	161 149,91	24 436,69	185 586,60	185 586,60		
2015	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	79 390,28	11 000,00	90 390,28	90 390,28		
2008-2015	419 313,00	385 000,00	3 041 313,93	907 241,07	4 752 868,00	122 919,00	848 960,56	339 256,44	1 188 217,00	6 064 004,00		

Source: Own study based on LAG data “Ziemia Zamojska”



“Ziemia Zamojska” LAG has received a total of PLN 6064 thousand for the implementation of activities under Axis 4 LEADER, of which more than three-quarters for Action 413 “Implementation of local development strategies” (including 8,8% for “Diversification into non-agricultural activities”; 8,1% for the “Creation and Development of Micro-enterprises”; 64,0% for the “Renewal and Development of Villages” and 19,1% for “Small Projects”) (tab. 2).

During the calls for project applications organized by the analysed LAG, as of September 15, 2013, the Group received nine applications under Action 311 “Diversification into Non-agricultural Activities”, for the total amount of PLN 825,4 thousand. Four of the applications were rejected. Others received funding totalling PLN 425,4 thousand (an average of PLN 85,1 thousand per project). Their implementation was completed (tab. 3).

Under Activity 312 “Creation and Development of Micro-enterprises” 6 applications were submitted, for a total amount of PLN 631,9 thousand. Three of them did not receive funding, and implementation of two was completed with the funded amount of PLN 181,9 thousand (tab. 4).

Under the measure “Village Renewal and Development”, whose beneficiary could be a legal entity (a municipality, a cultural institution which is organized by a local government agenda, a church or other religious organization, a non-governmental organization with the status of a public benefit organization), “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG received 23 applications for a total amount of PLN 4091,6 thousand. Of these, 10 projects were completed. As of September 20, 2013, the amount paid out was PLN 3030,4 thousand, which represents 99,6% of the limit of funds allocated for the

**Tab. 3.** The value of applications for funding under Action 311 “Diversification into Non-agricultural Activities,” as of September 15, 2013 (in PLN)

Deadline for application submission	Amount requested	Total amount allocated	Project status
2011.10.19–11.08	100 000	100 000	Completed
2011.10.19–11.08	56 607	56 607	Completed
2011.10.19–11.08	100 000	100 000	Completed
2011.10.19–11.08	100 000	n/a	Definitely rejected
2011.10.19–11.08	100 000	n/a	Definitely rejected <sup>a</sup>
2012.08.13–27	68 785	68 785	Completed
2012.08.13–27	100 000	100 000	Completed
2012.08.13–27	100 000	n/a	Definitely rejected
2012.08.13–27	100 000	n/a	Definitely rejected
Total	825 392	425 392	5 completed, 4 rejected

Source: Own study based on “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG data

<sup>a</sup>Applicant withdrew project

**Tab. 4.** The value of applications for funding under Action 312 “Creation and Development of Micro-enterprises,” as of September 15, 2013 (in PLN)

Deadline for application submission	Amount requested	Total amount allocated	Project status
2011.10.19–11.08	50 000	n/a	Definitely rejected <sup>a</sup>
2011.10.19–11.08	100 000	n/a	Definitely rejected
2012.08.13–27	81 900	81 900,5	Completed
2013.05.06–20	200 000	n/a	Definitely rejected
2012.08.13–27	100 000	100 000,0	Completed
2013.05.06–20	100 000	n/a	Active
Total	631 900,50	181 900,5	2 completed, 2 rejected, 1 active

Source: Own study based on “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG data

<sup>a</sup>Applicant withdrew project

**Tab. 5.** Number and value of applications for funding within „Renewal and development of rural areas”, as of September 20, 2013 (in PLN)

Applicant	<i>n</i> <sup>a</sup>	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Project status
Grabowiec Municipality	1	60 000,00	60 000,00	Submitted at LAG
Komarów-Osada Municipality	2	545 851,00	497 624,00	1 completed, 1 active
Łabunie Municipality	6	674 029,38	511 672,93	4 completed, 2 submitted at LAG
Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (Łabunie Municipality)	1	168 806,00	n/a	Agreement terminated
Miączyn Municipality	4	954 832,00	466 541,00	1 completed, 2 submitted at LAG, 1 agreement terminated
Sitno Municipality	2	568 047,00	558 720,00	1 completed, 1 agreement signed
Roman Catholic Parish in Skierbieszów	2	477 264,00	477 264,00	1 completed, 1 agreement signed
Stary Zamość Municipality	3	258 064,00	193 825,00	2 completed, 1 agreement signed, 1 being verified
Municipal Culture Centre in Stary Zamość	1	359 179,00	239 240,00	Completed
Roman Catholic Parish in Stary Zamość	1	25 500,00	25 500,00	Withdrawn by applicant
Total	23	4 091 572,38	3 030 386,93	[detailed list below] <sup>b</sup>

Source: Own study based on LAG data “Ziemia Zamojska”

<sup>a</sup> number of applications

<sup>b</sup> 10 completed, 1 active, 3—agreements signed, 5 submitted at LAGs, 2—agreement terminated, 1—withdrawn by applicant, 1 being verified

**Tab. 6.** The scope and level of funding projects under the measure “Village Renewal and Development”, whose implementation was completed, as of September 20, 2013 (amount allocated in PLN)

Applicant	Project scope	Amount allocated
Komarów Osada Municipality	Renovation and expansion of a rural community centre in Wolica Brzozowa	462 663,00
Łabunie Municipality	Adaptation of the ex-school building for rural community centre in Mocówka	200 466,93
Łabunie Municipality	Expansion of a community centre in Wólka Łabuńska (sanitation facilities)	83 104,00
Łabunie Municipality	Renovation of a community centre building in Łabunie Reforma	54 071,00
Łabunie Municipality	Reconstruction and renovation of conference room facilities in the Culture Centre building, Łabunie	100 216,00
Miączyn Municipality	Construction of playgrounds in Kotlice and Koniuchy	38 250,00
Sitno Municipality	Establishment of a public library at the Culture in Sitno	430 000,00
Roman Catholic Parish in Skierbieszów	Preserving cultural heritage in the village of Skierbieszów by external facade repair and replacement of windows and doors of the historic Church of Assumption of the Virgin Mary	407 156,00
Municipal Culture Centre in Stary Zamość	Renovation of the Municipal Culture Centre in Stary Zamość	239 240,00
Stary Zamość Municipality	Construction of the cable line for lighting a training stadium in Wierzba in the municipality of Stary Zamość	69 729,00
Total		2 084 895,93

Source: Own study based on “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG data



**Tab. 7.** Number and value of applications for funding within “Small Project” action, as of September 20, 2013 (in PLN)

Applicant	<i>n</i> <sup>a</sup>	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Project status
Municipal Culture Centre in Grabowiec	6	100 451,18	87 074,03	2 completed, 3 signed agreements, 1 rejected in verification
Grabowiec Municipality	1	20 000,00	n/a	Withdrawn by applicant
Komarów Osada Municipality	6	116 463,04	111 684,62	4 completed, 1 processed, 1 submitted at LAG
Local Culture Centre in Komarów Osada	3	51 476,38	51 472,38	2 signed agreements, 1 submitted at LAG
Łabunie Municipality	10	139 017,57	137 519,04	5 completed, 2 signed agreements, 2 being verified, 1 submitted at LAG
Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Łabunie	2	50 000,00	25 000,00	1 submitted at LAG, 1 rejected in verification
Missionaries of the Precious Blood in Łabunie	1	25 000,00	n/a	Rejected by LAG
Miączyn Municipality	8	150 123,44	135 281,44	2 completed, 3 being verified, 2 submitted at LAG, 1 – withdrawn by applicant
Individual person (Miączyn Municipality)	1	24 990,00	n/a	Beyond fund limits
Sitno Municipality	9	180 967,07	136 492,50	5 completed, 2 signed agreements, 1 submitted at LAG, 1 – withdrawn by applicant
Association for the Development and Promotion of Sitno Municipality and Environs C.L. in Kornelówka	2	48 450,00	48 450,00	1 completed, 1 being verified
Skierbieszów Municipality	6	119 047,00	117 755,00	2 completed, 2 – signed agreements, 1 being verified, 1 submitted at LAG
Municipal Public Library in Skierbieszów	1	16 116,98	10 776,32	Completed
Municipal Culture Centre in Skierbieszów	1	13 664,28	11 194,92	Completed
St. Kilian Foundation	1	19 129,20	n/a	Rejected by LAG
Stary Zamość Municipality	2	41 944,00	41 944,00	2 signed agreements
Municipal Culture Centre in Stary Zamość	7	13 103,86	77 781,39	4 completed, 2 being verified, 1 – withdrawn by applicant
Starozamojskie Association for Local Initiatives	1	13 103,86	13 103,86	Submitted at LAG
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1 226 492,57</b>	<b>1 005 529,50</b>	[detailed list below] <sup>b</sup>

Source: Own study based on LAG data “Ziemia Zamojska”

<sup>a</sup> number of applications

<sup>b</sup> 27 completed, 12—signed agreements, 8 being verified, 2 rejected in verification, 9 submitted at LAG, 4—withdrawn by applicants, 1 being processed, 2 rejected by LAG, 1—beyond fund limits

**Tab. 8.** The scope and level of funding projects under the measure "Small Projects", whose implementation has been completed, as of September 20, 2013 (in PLN)

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project scope</b>	<b>Amount allocated</b>
Municipal Culture Center in GOK w Grabowiec	Cultivating local cultural traditions and patriotic values of Grabowiec Municipality through the purchase of musical instruments for local Brass Band	14 057,37
Municipal Culture Center in Grabowiec	Maintaining the traditions and folklore of Grabowiec Municipality through the purchase of folk costumes for Folk Dance Group and uniforms for Brass Band, working at the Municipal Culture Center in Grabowiec	18 846,80
Komarów Osada Municipality	Preserve – Enrich – Promote: Cultivating customs and rituals of Rural heritage of Komarów Osada Municipality	20 000,00
Komarów Osada Municipality	Brass Band as a preserving force of tradition - the creation and operation of all-generation Brass Band	16 355,64
Komarów Osada Municipality	Cook - decorate – serve: on the trail of tastes and cultural traditions of Komarów Osada Municipality, a series of training courses and workshops	18 895,94
Komarów Osada Municipality	Repairs of a wayside chapel shrines in Dub	14 966,39
Łabunie Municipality	Equipping a local community centre in Barchaczów	11 370,00
Łabunie Municipality	Purchase of kitchen equipment for Village Wives' Club in Wierzbie and a release of cookery book "Wierzbianki in the kitchen"	7 440,02
Łabunie Municipality	"It tastes best in Łabunie" — publication of informational and promotional materials for Łabunie Municipality	18 198,62
Łabunie Municipality	"There is force in Brass Bands" — purchase of instruments for the Youth Wind Orchestra in Łabunie	5 191,20
Łabunie Municipality	Organization of the festival of local product "Tomato beginning of the year"	13 440,00
Miączyn Municipality	Construction of a playground in the village of Horyszów	12 003,31
Miączyn Municipality	Construction of a playground in Miączyn	17 220,00
Sitno Municipality	Cultivating local traditions and customs of Sitno Municipality, development of local activities in the municipality and stimulating cultural needs of the local population, by buying Zamojski Folk Costumes for Village Housewives' Club in Horyszów Polski	20 805,55
Sitno Municipality	Works maintenance, renovation and modernization of local memorials and religious sites in the Municipality of Sitno	11 214,22
Sitno Municipality	Works maintenance, renovation and modernization of local memorials and religious sites – preventing the degradation of monuments and improving their condition in Sitno Municipality	13 001,00
Sitno Municipality	Cultivating local cultural traditions and patriotic values in Grabowiec Municipality, through the purchase of musical instruments for local Brass Bands in Jarosławiec and Kolonia Sitno	13 998,88

**Tab 8** (continued)

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project scope</b>	<b>Amount allocated</b>
Association for the Development and Promotion of Sitno Municipality and Environs C.L. in Kornelówka	Equipping playgrounds in Cześniaki, Horyszów Polski and Kornelówka	14 250,00
Sitno Municipality	Equipping Youth Wind Orchestra in Sitno with musical instruments	13 853,65
Skierbieszów Municipality	Publication of information and promotional materials for Skierbieszów Municipality	22 848,00
Skierbieszów Municipality	Activisation and development of local communities through the purchase of instruments for the Youth Wind Orchestra	19 999,00
Municipal Public Library in Skierbieszów	Creating an Internet cafe with a multimedia reading room for the residents of Skierbieszów Municipality	10 776,32
Municipal Culture Center in Skierbieszów	Equipping with additional facilities Municipal Culture Centre in Skierbieszów	11 194,92
Municipal Culture Center in Stary Zamość	Organization of Municipal and Parish Harvest Festival in Stary Zamość in 2010 with the purchase of folk costumes for Vocal Groups Kraśnianki and Udryczanki	20 447,31
Municipal Culture Center in Stary Zamość	Internet cafe	11 120,36
Municipal Culture Center in Stary Zamość	Harvest festival – Stary Zamość Municipality	16 260,16
Municipal Culture Center in Stary Zamość	Purchase of musical instruments for a vocal band in Udrycze	5 137,56
<b>Total</b>		<b>392 892,22</b>

Source: Own study based on LAG data "Ziemia Zamojska"

implementation of projects under this action. Most (18) of the grant applications were submitted by local governments (tab. 5).

Table 6 presents data on the scope and value of the projects under the measure “Village Renewal and Development”, whose implementation was completed. The resulting total grant amount was PLN 2 084,9 thousand, representing 68,6% of the limit of funds allocated for this activity. A significant part of the project involved the renovation and modernization of rural community centres.

The greatest interest of the beneficiaries was shown in the opportunity to obtain funding under the measure “Small Projects”. The analysed LAG had received 66 applications. The total amount requested was PLN 1226,5 thousand. Also in this case, local governments were the most active, and they submitted 42 applications (tab. 7). The analysis of the data on the scope and level of co-financing of projects completed indicates that most of them were associated with the cultivation of cultural traditions (including the purchase of costumes and instruments for orchestras and Village Housewives’ Clubs) and promotion of the region (tab. 8). The financing of projects completed within the “Small Projects” tranche was a total of PLN 392,9 thousand, which represents 43,3% of the pool of the resources allocated for this purpose.

Table 9 presents data on the number of applications and the level of co-financing of projects completed jointly under two measures: “Village Renewal and Development” and “Small Projects”, implemented in individual municipalities being part of “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG. As of 20 September 2013, there were 114 applications submitted for an amount of PLN 9 409,6 thousand. Of these, 49 projects were completed and the amount of the subsidy amounted to PLN 2 477,8 thousand.

**Tab. 9.** Number of applications submitted and the level of co-financing of projects completed within two joint actions: “Village Renewal and Development” and “Small Projects” in particular municipalities, as of September 20, 2013 (in PLN)

Municipality	Number of applications submitted	Amount requested	Number of projects completed	Amount allocated
Grabowiec	9	240 451,18	2	32 904,17
Komarów Osada	13	1 259 641,42	6	532 880,97
Łabunie	27	1 899 688,33	13	493 497,77
Miączyn	17	2 084 777,44	4	67 473,31
Sitno	15	1 365 511,07	8	517 123,30
Skierbieszów	13	1 122 485,46	6	471 974,24
Stary Zamość	20	1 437 082,43	10	361 934,39
Total	114	9 409 637,33	49	2 477 788,15

Source: Own study based on “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG data

The highest activity was shown by the entities originating in Łabunie Municipality, submitting 27 applications (23,7% of the total), for a total amount of PLN 1899,7 thousand. This location also features the greatest number of completed projects. The amount of funding obtained for their implementation amounted to PLN 493,5 thousand, which is 16,7% of the total. The second place in terms of number of applications (20) and completed projects (10) goes to the Municipality of Stary Zamość. In contrast, the highest total amount of funding (PLN 532,9 thousand) was received by the community of Komarów Osada Municipality.

## Summary

On the basis of the analysis, we may indicate that the efficient and effective use of financial resources available to the beneficiaries of the projects implemented in the area covered by the LDS, positively affects the development of the area and the local community. “Ziemia Zamojska” LAG has received a total of PLN 6064 thousand for the implementation of activities under Axis 4 LEADER, of which more than three-quarters were for Action 413 “Implementing Local Development Strategies”. As of September 20, 2013, the financing of projects was already completed in

the fields: “Diversification into Non-agricultural Activities”, “Creation and Development of Micro-enterprises”, “Village Renewal and Development” and “Small Projects”, which covered the communities of the LDS, and received a total of PLN 3 085,1 thousand. A significant portion of these funds were earmarked for investment projects responding to the immediate needs of the population P (community centres, playgrounds, computer rooms with Internet access), which entail greater involvement of local communities.

An important principle of the LEADER Programme is a bottom-up approach, bringing results both in practical terms—allowing the execution of tasks tailored to local needs, and social—helping to raise the self-esteem of the inhabitants of the area. A positive effect of the impact of the LEADER Programme are therefore changes mainly in the immeasurable, “soft” areas, i.e. changes in people, expressed by their increased activity. Opportunities to obtain financing and self-realization of projects in line with local development strategy enhances the quality of life (e.g., through the development of infrastructure), but above all, strengthens faith in their own capacities and makes residents aware of the value of joint action, contributing to building and strengthening social capital in rural areas.

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