



European Network for
Rural Development

Forum of LAGs Podlaskie Region

ENRD LAG Implementation Survey 2017

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How CLLD was programmed

ESI Funds involved in CLLD (multi-funded or single-funded LAGs)



| Category | Member State |
|-------------------------|--|
| EAFRD, ERDF, ESF & EMFF | BG, DE, ES, FR, GR, IT, PL, PT, RO, SE, UK |
| EAFRD, ERDF & ESF | CZ, HU |
| EAFRD, ERDF & EMFF | SI |
| EAFRD, ESF & EMFF | LT |
| EAFRD & EMFF | CY, DK, EE, FI, HR, IE, LV |
| EAFRD & ERDF | AT, NL, SK |
| Only EAFRD | BE, LU, MT |

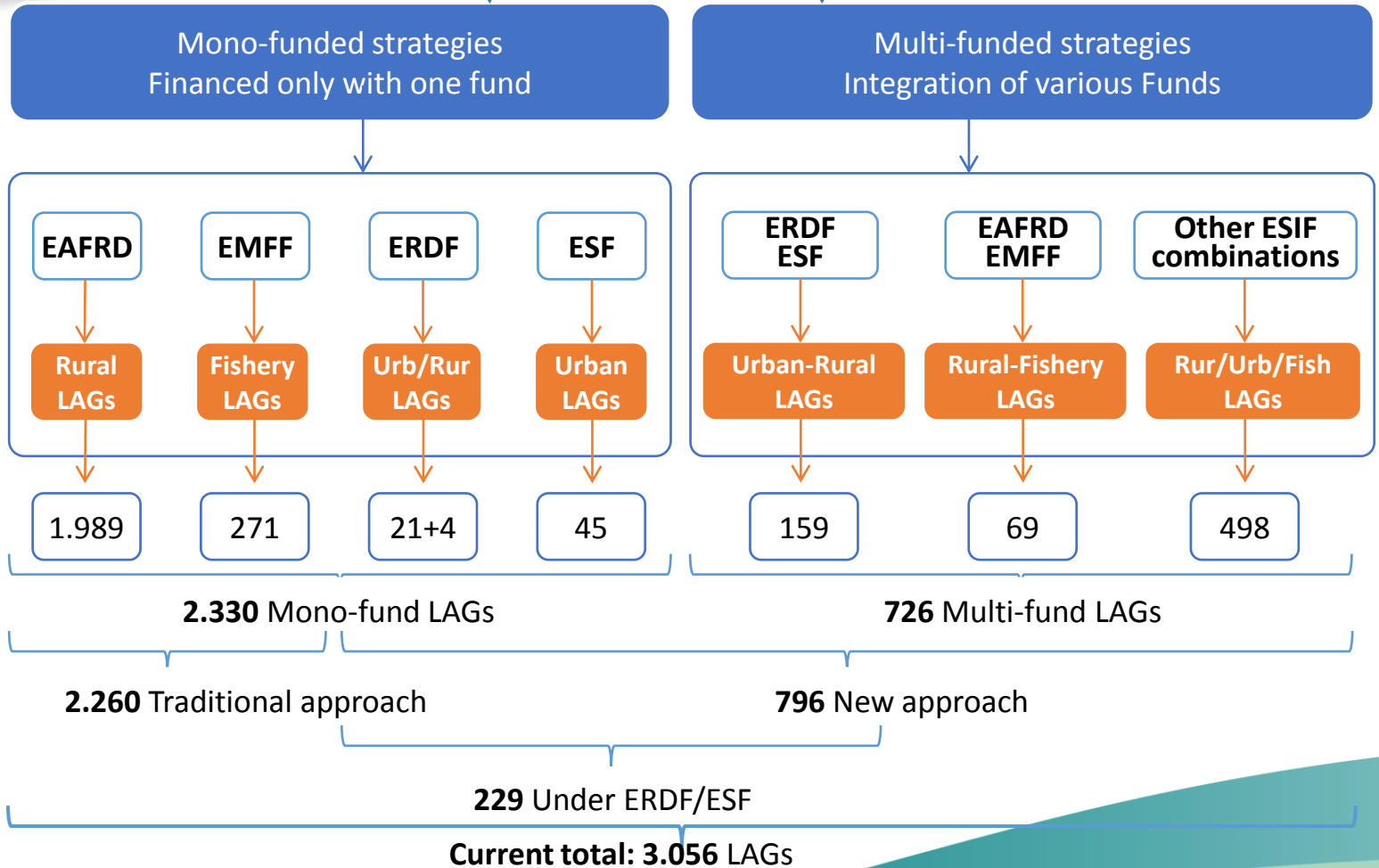
Multi-funded strategies across Europe



Source: Partnership Agreements and MS information.

Source: DG Agri, Partnership agreements

State of play: October 2017
CLLD implementation in the MS
Various combinations



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Basic data



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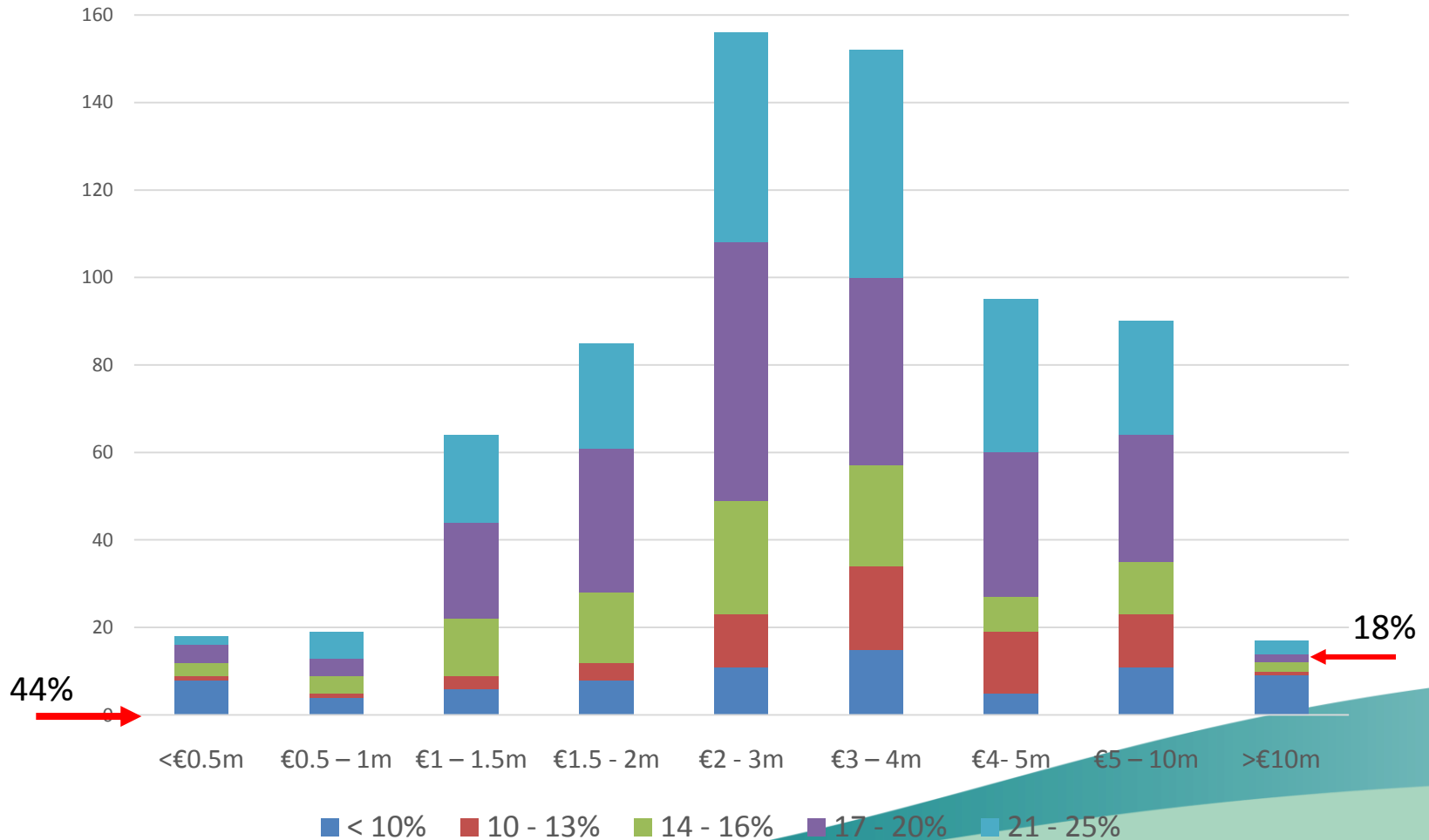
Basic Data – Make up of Responses

- **LEADER implementation 'on the ground' - LAGs' viewpoint**
- 710 responses from 27 Member States
- 19 National and 70 Regional RDPs
- 72% responses came from LAG managers
- 22% were 'new' LAGs, 44% LEADER I – LEADER+
- 59% selected by end 2015, 10% in 2017
- 67% had launched calls by end of 2016
- 32% used two or more funds (60 EMFF, 109 ESF, 177 ERDF)



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Percentage of LAG budget spent on Animation and Administration by LAG Budget

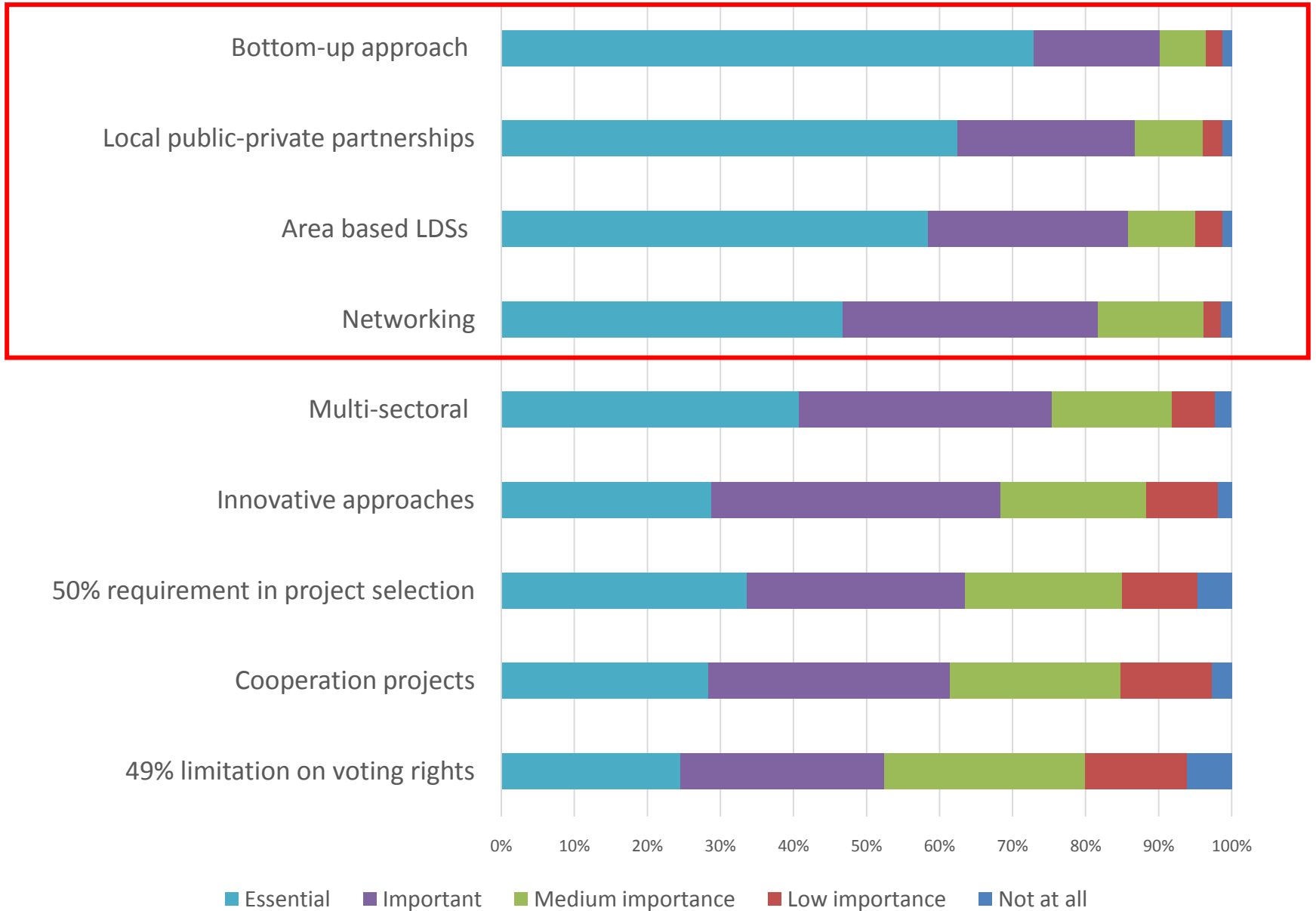


LEADER Principles



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LEADER Principles – Importance

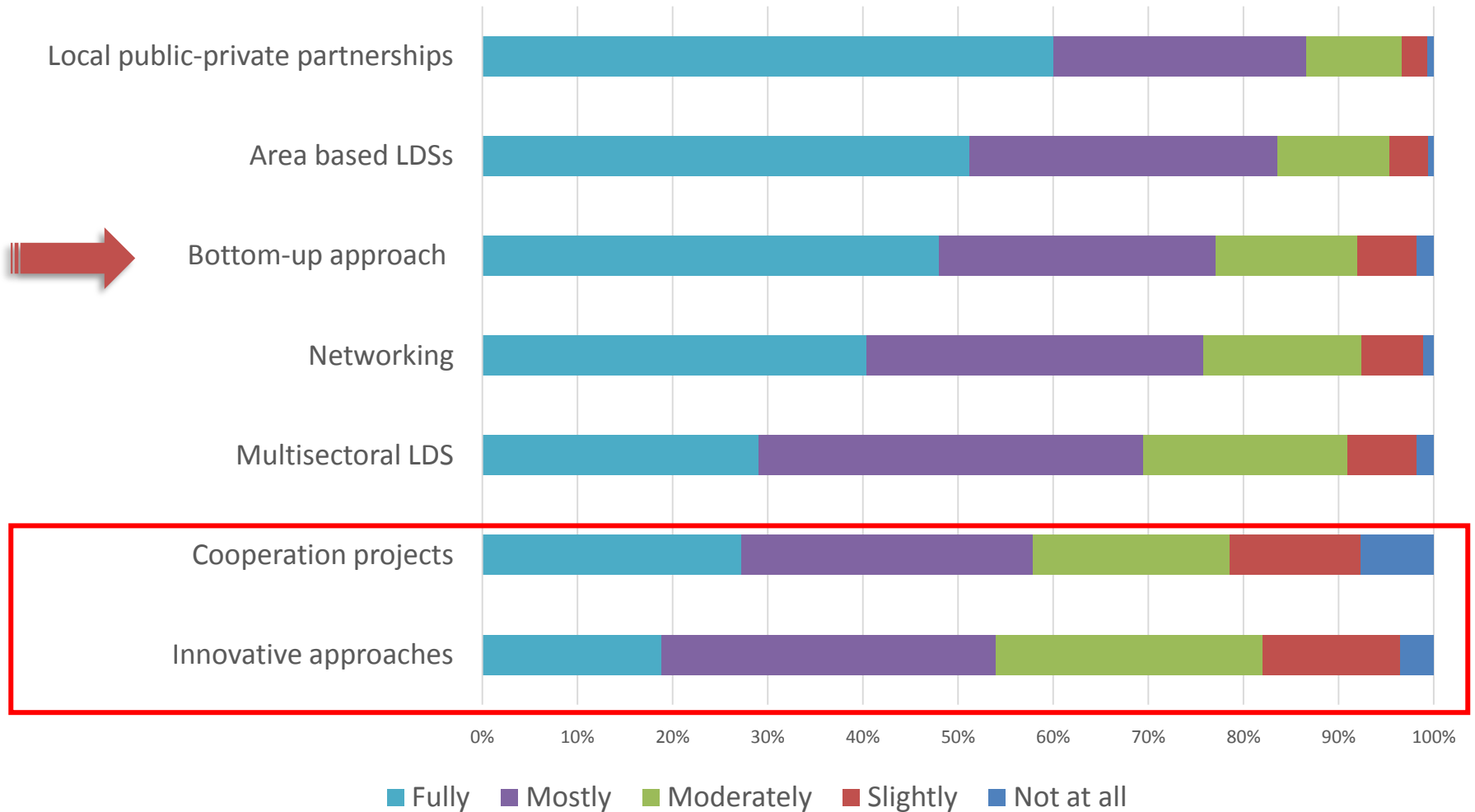


LEADER Principles

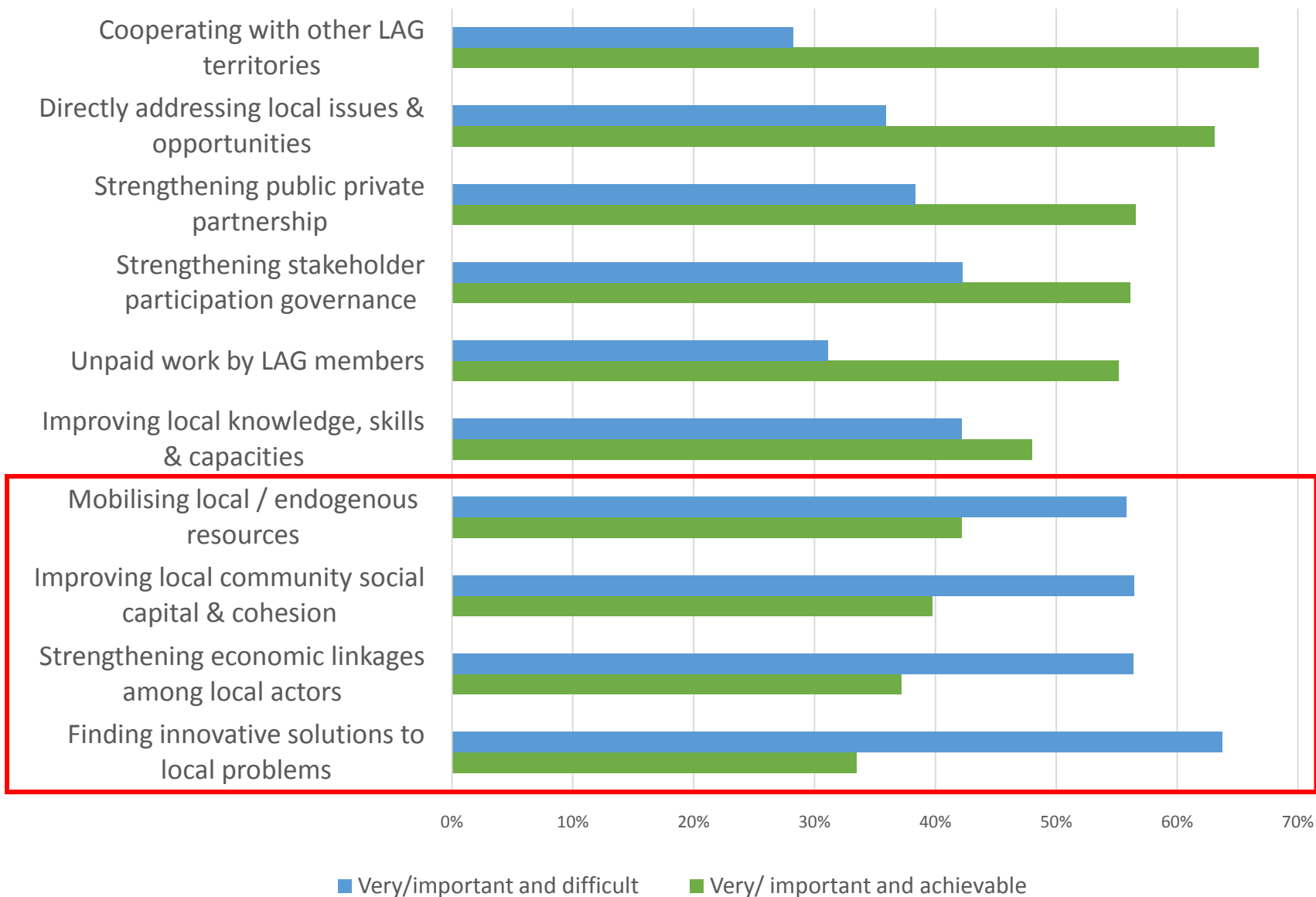
1. Highest priority element of method is 'bottom up'; lowest is the 49% rule (which is designed to protect the bottom up principle?)
2. Public private partnerships and area based local development strategies are elements most fully implemented
3. Cooperation and innovation are most difficult to implement
4. 80% indicate their ability to implement LEADER approach constrained by bureaucracy, 78% for project implementation
5. Over 50% believe that finding innovative solutions is either important or very important but is difficult to achieve
6. LEADER's ability to directly address local issues is seen to be important and achievable

LEADER Principles – Practice

Extent to which LAGs are able to Implement the Elements of the LEADER Approach



LEADER Principles – Importance and Achievability

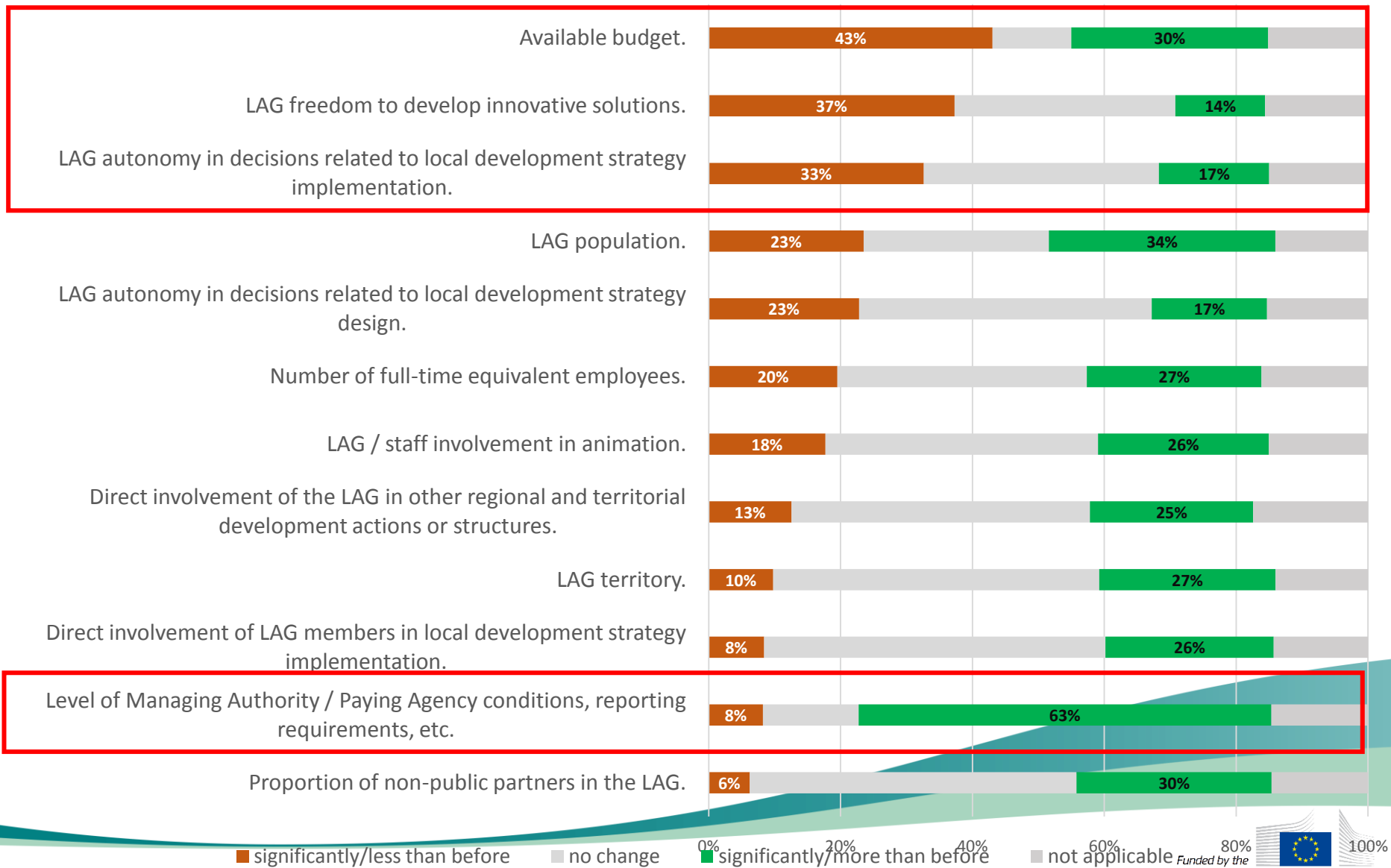


LEADER Operation



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LEADER Operation – Changes Since 2007-2013



LEADER Operations

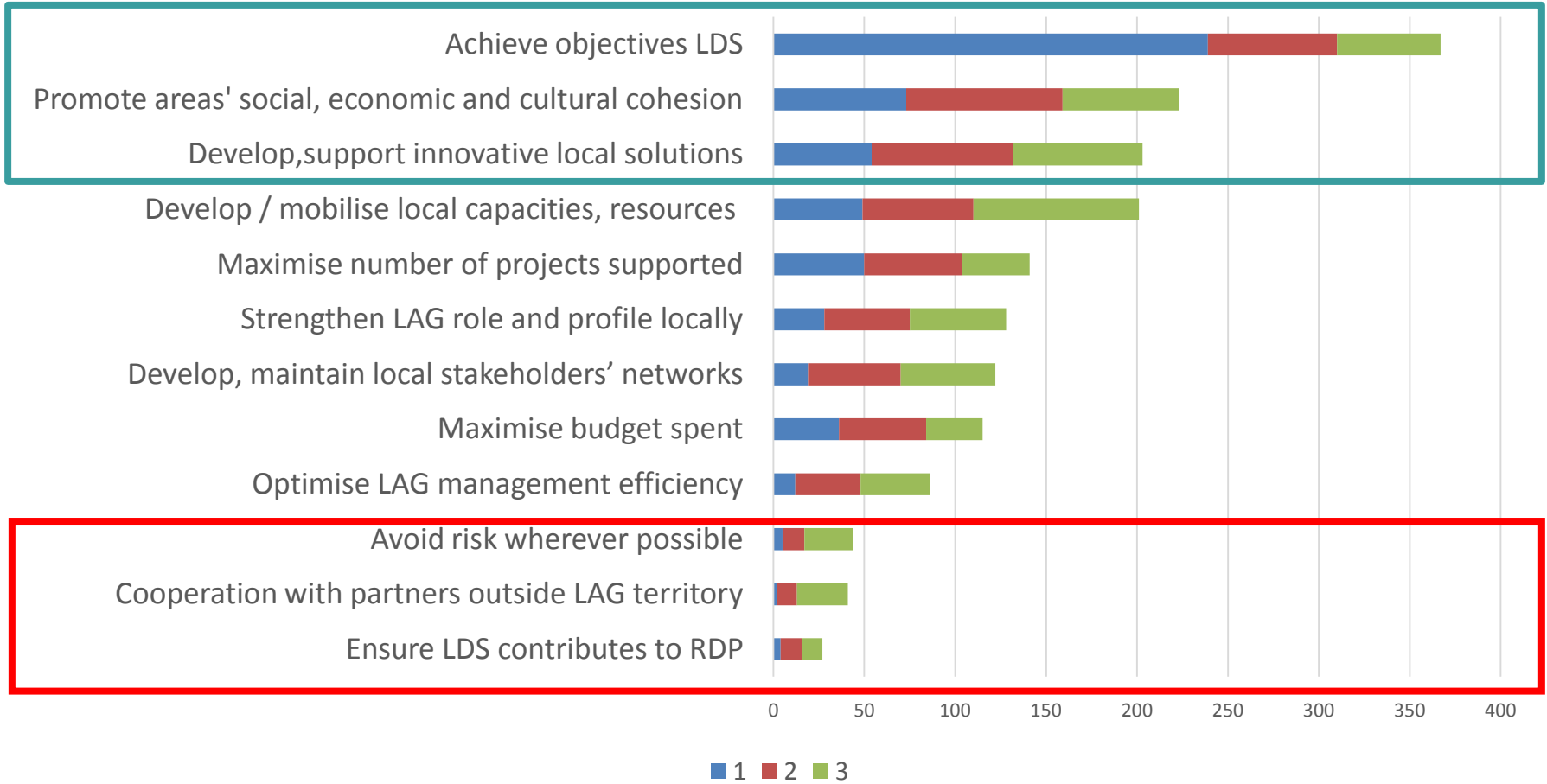
1. Continuity of LAG membership rates as important
2. Negative effects on implementation
 - MA/PA conditions/reporting requirements (71%)
 - Time taken to approve selected projects (68%)
 - Implementation procedures aimed at reducing risk rather than encouraging innovation (61%)
3. Over 40% find level of MA conditions and reporting more or significantly more than before

LEADER Operations

- 70% of LAGs chose ‘local economy (non-agriculture), job creation’ as theme relating most closely to their LDS objectives
- ‘Broadband, internet, ICT’ was least preferred option with only two LAGs choosing it as their first option
- LAG staff spend more time on supporting projects than financial management and admin –these are the top two – LAGs most want to spend more time on project support

Importance of Operational Priorities to LAGs

Importance of Operational Priorities to LAGs

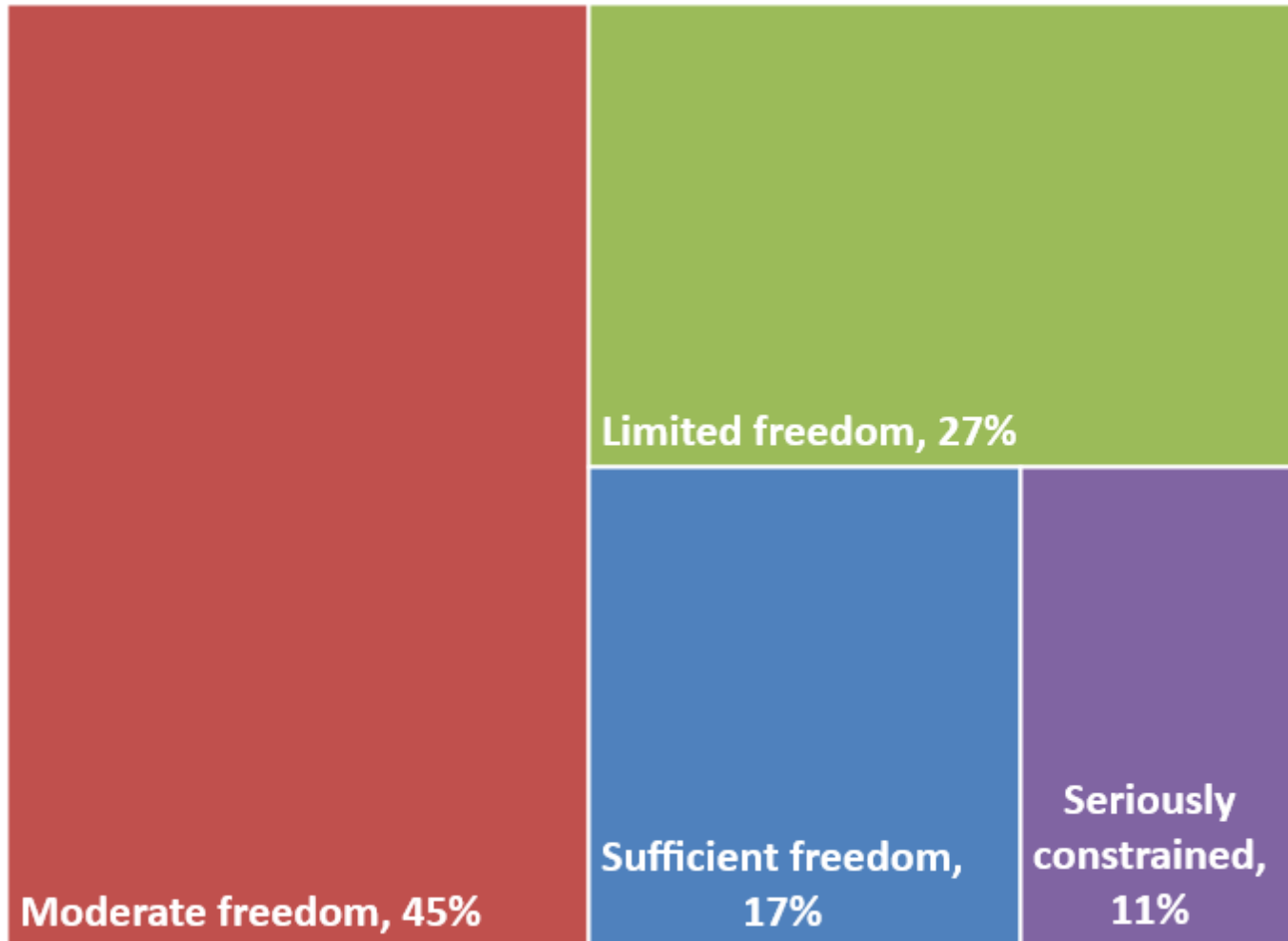


LEADER Operation

1. The top operational priority for LAGs is to achieve the objectives of their strategy but only 13% consider they have sufficient freedom to do so
2. Almost 50% of LAGs perform only the `project selection` function, 18% do selection, approval and payment of claims.
3. Most asked for improvements:
 - Simpler project applications
 - Better common knowledge through networking
 - Improving MA/IB turnaround time were the top 1 & 2 requests and eligibility of measures to support new ideas,

LAG freedom to pursue operational objectives within the current national/regional delivery framework

Based on 572 LAG responses



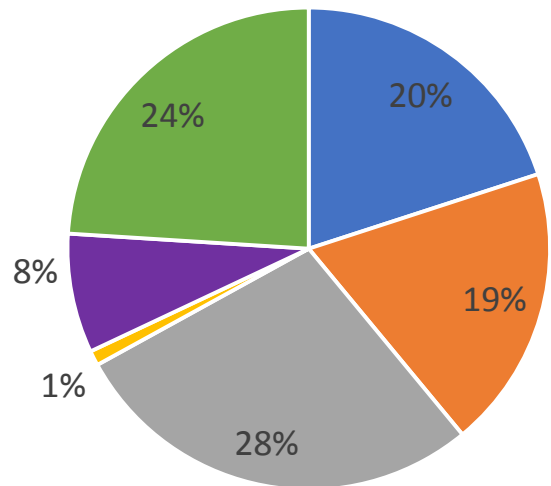
LEADER Improvements



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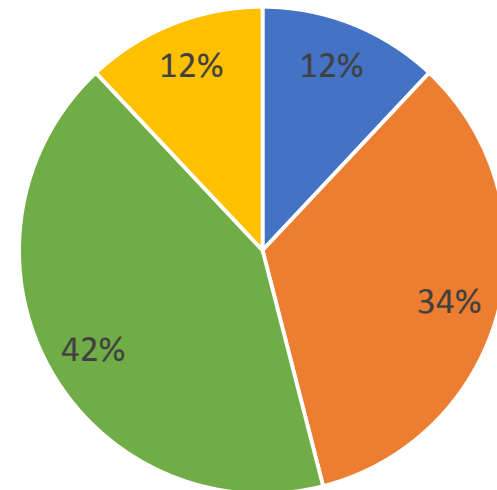
LEADER Improvements Independence, Responsibility and Achievement

Levels of Independence and
Responsibility



- Status Quo
- Much higher in both
- Moderate in both
- Less independence / lower responsibility
- Existing independence / lower responsibility
- Don't link the two

Would Greater Independence
Improve Achievement?



- Not at all
- A little
- Significantly
- Very Significantly

LEADER Improvements

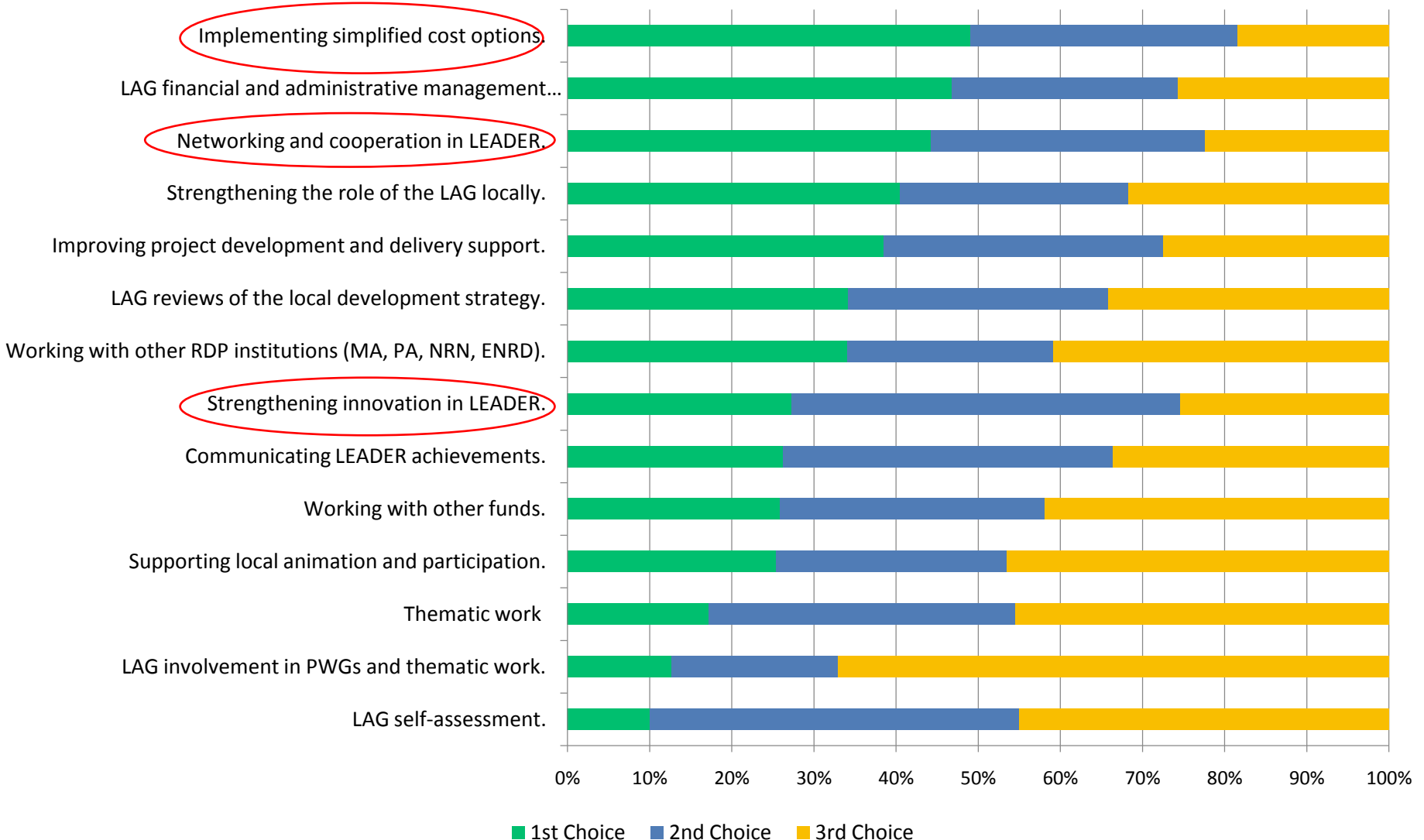
1. 64% LAGs think centralising admin would increase levels of achievement
2. Smallest gaps in MA/PA and NRNs support is for animation and networking
3. Greatest gaps and support needed in ‘ensuring better understanding of audit expectations’
4. LAGs would like support from ENRD in implementing simplified cost option, networking and cooperation and working with other funds

LEADER Improvements

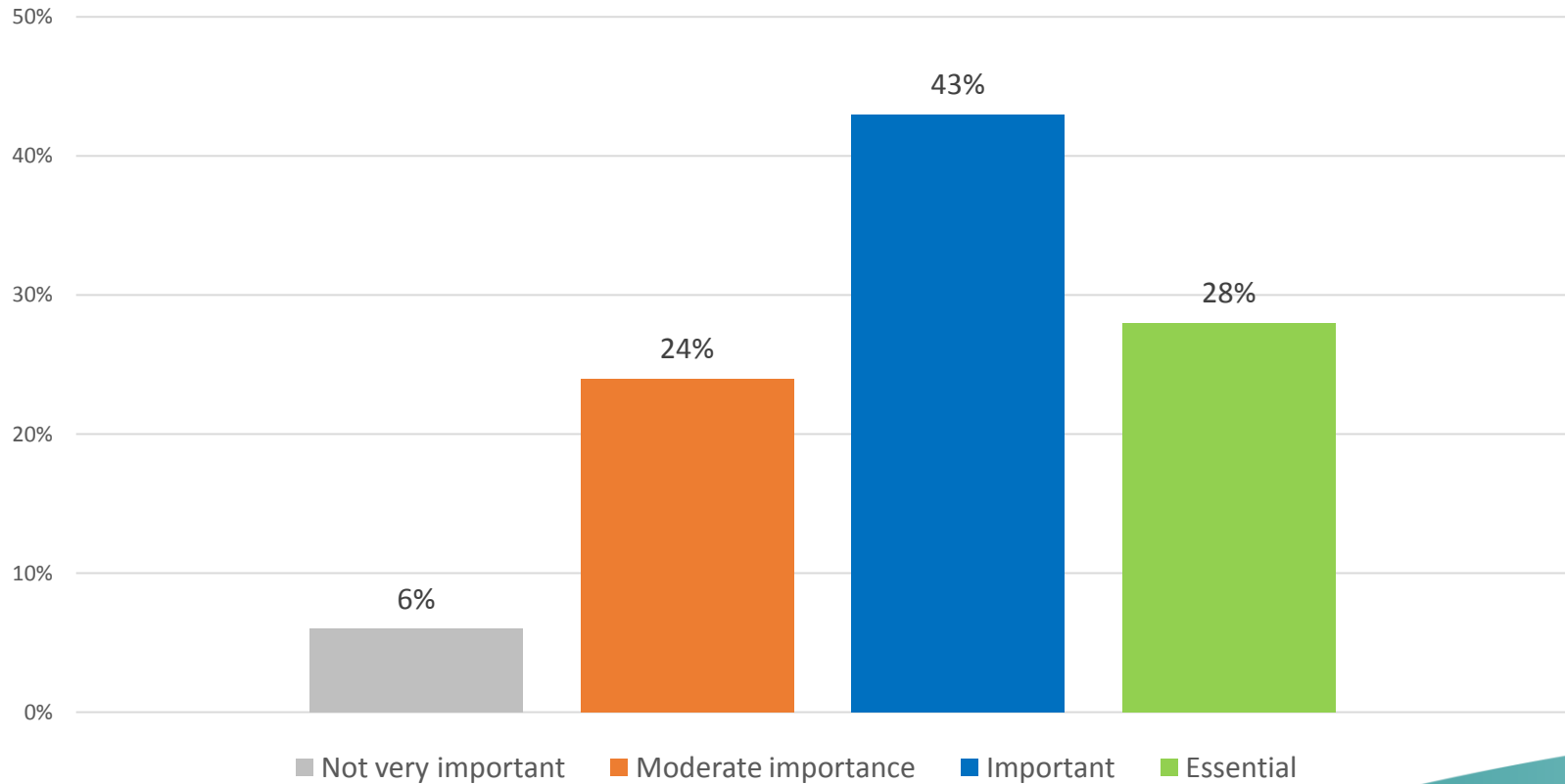
1. LAGS least favoured options for support from ENRD were LAG self assessment, LAG reviews of LDSs and support for animation and participation
2. Increased participation in ENRD work would be helped most by more available time, higher LAG budget and more flexible rules related to travel.
3. NRN support, more language versions and less costly methods of participation scored lowest in preventing participation

LEADER Improvements - ENRD Involvement

Priorities for support from ENRD to meet LAGs' implementation needs by %



Importance of Self Assessment of LDS to Improve LAGs' Operation



ENRD Consultation and Facilitation of LEADER / CLLD

- Two Practitioner-Led Working Groups (PWGs)
 - Cooperation
 - Innovation
- ENRD Workshop on LEADER Innovation, Brussels
- ENRD Workshop on LEADER Simplification, Brussels
- Third EU Seminar on CLLD, Gyor, Hungary
- LEADER Reflection Group

Summary Points

1. Coherent & consistent communication in delivery chain
2. Demonstrate added value of LEADER, ensure common understanding in delivery chain
3. Enable LAGs to focus more on animation, project support & development
4. Enhance SCO use for simpler delivery & reduced admin burden
5. Make sure all LEADER stakeholders learn from controls & audits
6. Simplification - moving forward together at the MS level (involving MAs, LAGs, NRNs, PAs in finding good solutions)
7. Modifying Member State's existing delivery systems to improve LEADER delivery and results
8. Enable LAGs to exercise operational & strategic freedom for better LDS delivery



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Thank you for your attention!

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