

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE LEADER APPROACH IN SERBIA¹

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Abstract

Serbia has officially started implementing the Leader approach in 2019, by adopting an appropriate rulebook for implementing this national measure and by announcing the first public call for support programs related to the preparation and implementation of the local rural development strategies. Paper analyses the results of the first public call for supporting preparation of the local rural development strategies. The aim of this paper is analysis local communities' interest for creating partnerships, territorial distribution of formed partnerships, as well as the degree to which formed partnerships have met Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management criteria for their recognition and financial support for preparation local rural development strategies.

Key words: *Leader approach, territorial partnerships, local rural development strategy, national support measure, Serbia.*

1 This paper is a result of the research conducted within the framework of the agreement of the implementation and funding of scientific-research work in 2021 made between the Institute of agricultural economics, Belgrade and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, the registered Agreement number: 451-03-9/2021-14/200009.

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