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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.12.2025)

1. LEADER is implemented in accordance with the shared management approach between the Member State and the Commission. One of the key principles of LEADER approach is the local partnerships where strategies are designed, and operations are implemented by the local action groups. The responsibility for project selection and its assessment lies with the Member State and in particular with the LEADER local action group in the area, in line with their local development strategy, and the priorities defined by the local communities therein. The project selection criteria are defined in the strategy and contain not only economic but also social and environmental criteria. The bottom-up approach and local decision-making is a defining characteristic of LEADER and contributes to its success. The Commission is not involved in the project selection.

2. The Commission does not evaluate each individual project. Evaluations are done at the level of local development strategies and programmes. Commission evaluates at EU level the relevance of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) instruments including LEADER.

3. LEADER programmes can finance a variety of projects as defined in a bottom-up manner in local development strategies. This includes pilot actions and local innovations. The conditions for durability of investments financed from the CAP 2023-27 are defined by the Member States.