EN
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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.2.2026)

1. The Commission confirms that the beneficiaries of the proposed LEADER[1] intervention can include a wide range of local actors such as non-governmental organisations, rural businesses, public authorities and other bodies, in line with the Commission's commitment to preserve vibrant rural areas and make them stronger, more resilient, connected and prosperous[2].

2. LEADER is an example of community-led local development implemented in rural areas. All features of community-led local development apply to LEADER.

3. The Commission proposes an obligation to programme LEADER in all Member States, at least to provide support in rural areas with specific disadvantages. The financial allocation for LEADER will be proposed by each Member State in its national and regional partnership plan and will be financed from the non-allocated part of the plans. The Commission will provide guidance for the programming of the national and regional partnership plans 2028-34, including Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) national recommendations.

[1] https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/networking/leader_en.
[2] A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas - Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040 (COM/2021/345 final).