



European Economic and Social Committee

Community-led local development: a tool to strengthen Europe's role on a local level?

Roman Haken

EESC, member

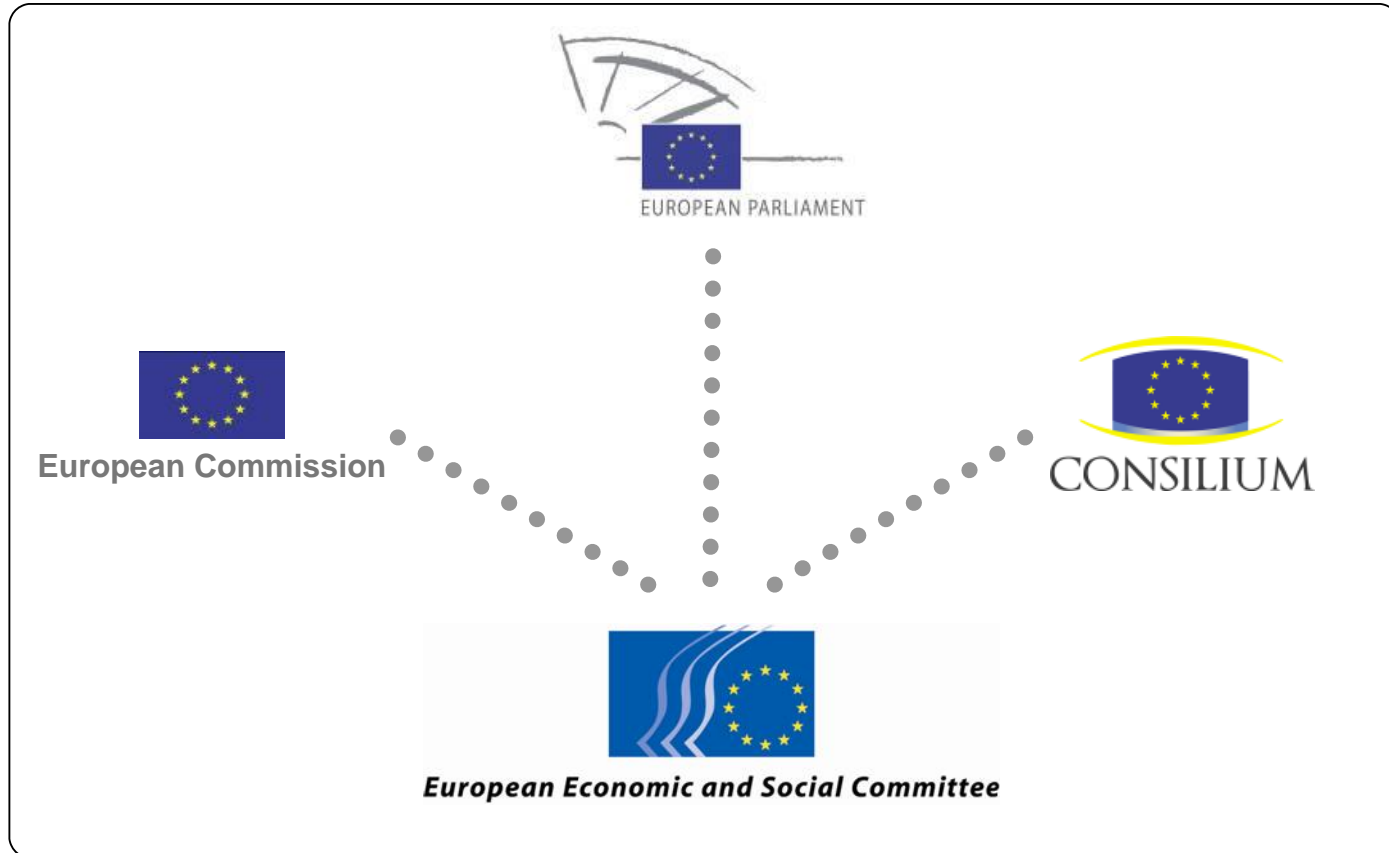
European Week of Regions and Cities 2018

Workshop: „CLLD: EU-funding from the bottom-up“

(organised by FARNET Support Unit and the NAT section of the Committee of the Regions)



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Institutional position of the EESC/ECOR

eesc.europa.eu



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- **Advantages of the Community-led Local Development (CLLD) approach for integrated local and rural development**

(Exploratory opinion, 12/2017)

- Rapporteur: **Roman HAKEN**
- Expert: **Kristiina TAMMETS**



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How can the European Union strengthen its ties with the Member States and regain the trust of its citizens?

- A well implemented Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach that enables integrated local development and the involvement of citizens and their organisations at grassroots level.
- The EESC is convinced that CLLD could have many advantages as a successful European local development tool.
- Following Priority 10: A Union of democratic change.



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The European Economic and Social Committee recommends:

- Enabling a close dialogue between all CLLD actors at European, national, regional and local level in preparations for the next programming period
 - *for building trust*
 - *for implementing a CLLD multi-fund integrated approach*
 - *to strengthen links between the EU, citizens and communities*



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Current situation:

- Community-Led Local Development is the update of the more than 26-year-old LEADER method
- Main differences:
 - the more tightly integrated approach
 - the diversified financing model (funded by one fund only or up to four funds)
 - Implemented in all typea of territories (rural, fisheries, urban!)



What has to be changed to reach considerable improvement according to the EESC opinion (1) :

- EESC urges the European Commission to explore and analyse in depth opportunities to create a **reserve fund for CLLD at EU level**.
- Irrespective of this, the European Commission should ensure that all Member States have a national CLLD Fund with contributions from all four ESI Funds (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF and EMFF).
- A clear vision for an obligatory multi-funded CLLD implementation in the European Union has to be established, ensuring a widespread use of the CLLD approach (in all types of territories in all Member States)

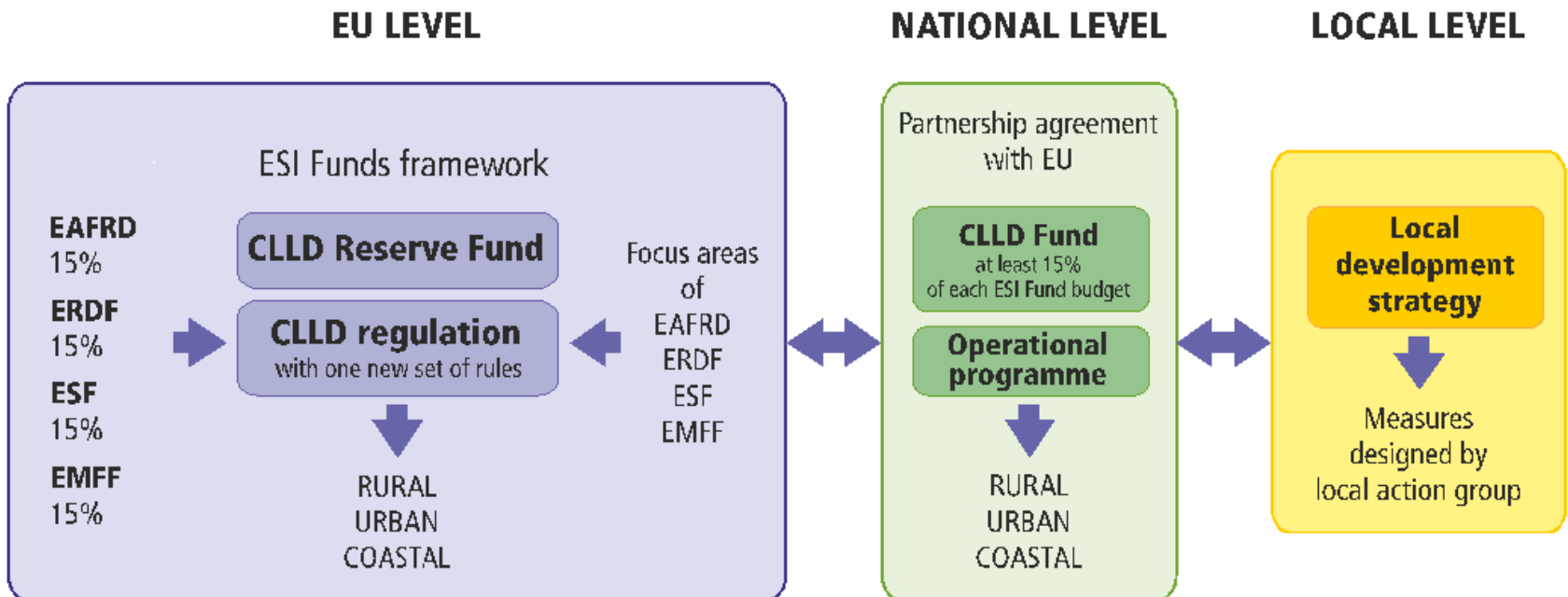


What has to be changed to reach considerable improvement according to the EESC opinion (2) :

- Recognising that CLLD gives Member States a unique opportunity to develop their areas in a more inclusive, sustainable and integrated way in partnership with local stakeholders.
- In order to achieve greater impact, **enough financial means** have to be provided for the implementation of CLLD in the programming period 2021-2027. To do this, the EESC urges the European Commission to establish a mandatory requirement for Member States to allocate at least 15% from each ESI Fund budget to the CLLD Fund, which must also be supported with sufficient national resources.



Structure of CLLD post-2020 according to the EESC opinion:





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Thank you for your attention!

Roman Haken

roman.haken@cpkp.cz

+420777793711

**European Economic and Social
Committee, Brussels
Center for Community Organizing
Central Moravia, Czech Republic**