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Template to

TERRITORIAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
(IN FRAME OF THE SARD LEADER IMPLEMENTATION)

On the creation of the local action group (LAG)

_____ (name)

concluded at _____ (date, place)

The present Partnership Agreement is concluded among the following **members**:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The signatories of this Statement, representing civil society, local public administration authorities and the business representatives, named above, share similar missions and wish to cooperate in areas of mutual concern to enhance the effectiveness of development efforts and to improve local inhabitants' quality of life by implementation of the EU LEADER approach at the territorial level, with initial facilitation provided by the SARD Programme.

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the territorial framework for cooperation between the Parties in areas of common interest in particular the socio-economic development of the delineated rural territory.

Signatories declare that the territorial partnership is established by following the **criteria of the LEADER partnership formalization, provided by the SARD Programme.**



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The signatories have agreed that the local LEADER area, established by the parties cuts across local authority boundaries between the following administrative-territorial units:

municipality names with the corresponding localities included in their administrative territory.

Purpose

The purpose of this Partnership Agreement between the civil society, business and the local public sector representatives is to formalize the creation of the LAG (Local Action Group) _____ (name).

Duration

This Partnership Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time.

Objective

The main objective of the LAG _____ (name) is contribute to the local economic and social development in the settlements which are part to the LAG _____ (name) using the methods and tools available under the current and future local development support programmes offered by the SARD Programme, the Moldovan Government, by the EU and by other development partners.

Mission

The mission of the LAG _____ (name) is to use all legal means possible to attain high standards of life for the citizens living in the territory of the LAG, by promoting entrepreneurship, increasing the visibility of the settlements within the LAG, value local traditions, customs and geographical attractiveness, increase social inclusion and involvement (to be further completed in each particular case).

Function

The LAG _____ (name) will promote its mission via the participatory development, approval and implementation of the local rural development plan acting for the territory and society of the LAG, and will take actions for its implementation providing equal opportunities to all members of the local society to take part and benefit from it.



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Partnership Council

Within 60 days (other period) from the conclusion of this Partnership Agreement, the members of the LAG _____ (name) will convene the first session of the Partnership Council.

The Partnership Council shall have the following functions:

- a) Approves the detailed Rules of Procedures of the LAG, the Board, the Selection Council and the Audit Council;
- b) Elects among the members of the LAG, for a mandate of 2 years the members to the:
 - a. LAG Board
 - b. Selection Council
 - c. Audit Council
- c) Selects among the members of the LAG an accountable body responsible for the administrative and financial relations of the LAG with the managing and financing institutions;
- d) Approve the LAG's Strategic Action Plan, the membership fees and the financing strategy of the LAG.

LAG Board

The Board of the Local Action Group (LAG) contains 6-9 persons, elected by and represents the three different sectors where the LAG members come from. All three stakeholder groups of the LAG members, the civil society, business and local public sector representatives elect 2 or 3 board members representing their sector in the LAG Board. The Chairperson of the Board is one of the Mayors, who is elected by and represents the relevant local authorities. The group of elected representatives of the relevant villages include at least one representative of the local public institutions.

Selection Council

The Selection Council has at least 50%+1 vote represented by the civil society and business representatives and the rest represents the local public sector from the LAG. LAG Chairman is member of the Selection Council. The Selection Council contains 5-9 persons.



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The Selection Council is responsible for the selection of the project proposals, which could be potentially financed by the public resources available for rural development or for other related purposes.

After each call for proposals, managed by the accountable body, the Selection Council assesses and selects the project proposals from local partners to implement the scope and objectives of the local development plan. The selection and evaluation criteria are set at the stage of publication of the calls for proposals.

The members of the Selection Council, which represent the parties who have submitted applications as a result of the calls for proposals do not participate in the decision making process. The Selection Council can decide on each particular application only if the requirement of at least 50% of cast votes originate from the civil society and business representatives.

The decisions taken by the Selection Council are signed by the Chairman of the Selection Council. Minutes of each Selection Council sessions are taken and signed by the Chairman and the secretary of the meeting.

Audit Council

The activities of the LAG _____ (name) are monitored by the Audit Council, comprised not less than 3 and not more than 5 members.

The Audit Council exercises control over how the accountable body and the Selection Council have used the resources of the LAG.

The audit over the use of funds takes place at least once a year, in accordance with the Detailed Rules of Procedure approved by the Partnership Council.

The Accountable Body

The accountable body appointed by the Partnership Council to manage the administrative and financial relations of the LAG with the managing and financial authorities for a mandate of 3 years, which is renewable.

The accountable body has the following main competences:

- a) Keeps the secretariat of the Partnership Council, Selection Council and Audit Council
- b) Keeps records of the calls for proposals and the selection results



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- c) Promotes the selected projects for financing, including presentation to the managing and financing authority of necessary justifications with respect to their selection
- d) Maintains close contact with the managing and financing authorities
- e) Informs on other open applications from other financing sources to the members of the LAG
- f) Receives applications from new members to the LAG
- g) Involves experts at the request of the Partnership Council, Selection Council or Audit Council in the course of the enforcement of their respective duties
- h) Carries out other tasks related to the promotion of the LAG agenda, including the implementation of the local development plan.

Amendments to the Partnership Agreement

Any amendments can be made to the Partnership Agreement as an annex to the present one, signed by all members of the Partnership Agreement, including the members of the LAG who have joined the LAG at a later stage.

No amendments to the present Partnership Agreement can be made to eliminate the main objective and purpose of the creation of the LAG, with respect to the decision making rule of at least 50% representation of the civil society and private business representatives and of at most 50% representation of the local public authorities in the working bodies of the LAG – Partnership Council and Selection Council, and to the requirement of exclusion of conflict of interest in the selection of projects by the Selection Council.

The terms and conditions of the present express of will, which is constituted in the present Statement are known and accepted by all partners.

Place and date of the signature

On behalf of 1-2-3-4

Name

.....

Signature