

Current State of Local Support Groups (LSG) and Local Action Plans (LAP)

Municipality of Galați, Romania



1. How did we set up our LSG?

Stage I - Lead Expert visit to Galați

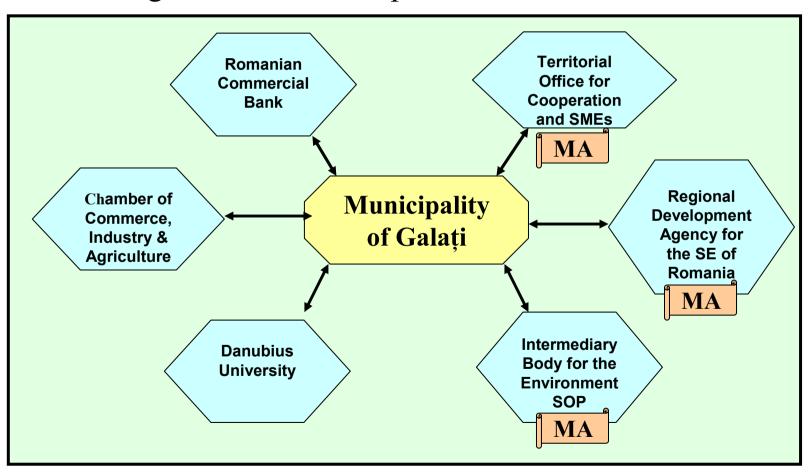
Possible candidates for LSG membership are briefed about the project and are asked to help with the preliminary questionnaire sent by the Lead Expert

LSG candidates participate actively in the debates occasioned by Mr. Fourguette's visit

Their contributions enable the Lead Expert to gain an accurate view of the local situation



1. How did we set up our LSG? Stage II – final makeup of the LSG is decided





1. How did we set up our LSG?

Stage III – LSG signs Partnership Agreement with PP Galati

Based on the Partnership agreement with the LP, PP Galati drafts a

Partnership Agreement for its LSG members.

After it is discussed with the LSG, this Partnership Agreement is signed by all involved on 16.12.2008



3. How is the working process organized?

- The LSG is led by the Local Project Manager; both LSG and LPM are supervised by the Local Project Coordinator
- The LSG convenes at the request of the LPC and LPM, whenever necessary; every meeting is recorded by the LPM in the minutes which are distributed to all LSG members and also contain assignments and deadlines for them



3. How is the working process organized?

- The LPC proposes the working agenda for the LSG according to the project activities agreed by LP Aachen and all PPs
- The LPM works with the LSG to adapt the requested activities to the local environment and to perform them
- Results are evaluated by the LPC and reported to the LP and PPs during the work meetings of the project



4. Which first activities have been done?

- February May $2009 \sim$ a questionnaire was realized to estimate the interests of the local SMEs; results were communicated at the meeting in Aveiro
- May 2009 a conference was held in Galati for the SMEs to involve them in the project and discuss the results of the first questionnaire
- August October 2009 ~ a second questionnaire was realized according to the information sent by the Lead Expert



5. What went easily and where are the difficulties?

- LSG operates promptly and efficiently
- Excellent communication with the LSG and the LP
- Serious procedural difficulties originating form the heavily bureaucratic style of the National Authority and the First Level Control
- Difficulties in successfully engaging the SMEs due in part to the crisis and in part to the bureaucracy surrounding the financing solutions
- High costs of loans, interest rates and credit insurance as well as the inflation and depreciation of leu, our national currency



Thank you for your attention!