

LEADER APPROACH FOR RURAL PROSPERITY IN MOLDOVA – PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



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Solidarity Fund PL
in Moldova



MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII
ȘI INDUSTRIEI ALIMENTARE
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

The project aims to contribute to the implementation of the LEADER approach in the Republic of Moldova, as a tool for ensuring the sustainable development and modernization of the country's rural areas. The project was launched in February 2020 and ended in February 2022.

Project activities were carried out:



AT CENTRAL LEVEL

Through advocacy and support in creating the legal framework for LAGs



AT LOCAL LEVEL

Through strengthened capacities of LAGs in managing local development processes



AT RURAL COMMUNITIES LEVEL

Through financial support provided in partnership with LAGs for the implementation of local development projects

Impact on rural areas

- Better living conditions and more attractive rural areas as a result of implementing the Local Development Strategies and empowering the LAGs as local development actors;
- Strengthened LAGs as a result of expanding the role of the National LEADER Network in providing technical assistance and consultancy to the LAGs, as well as in stimulating innovative solutions for rural development;
- Dialogue with key actors on establishing and implementing rural development policies;
- Increased visibility of the EU-LEADER approach implementation in the Republic of Moldova, both at national and international level;
- Models for managing innovative tools created for sustainable rural development processes led by the LAGs.

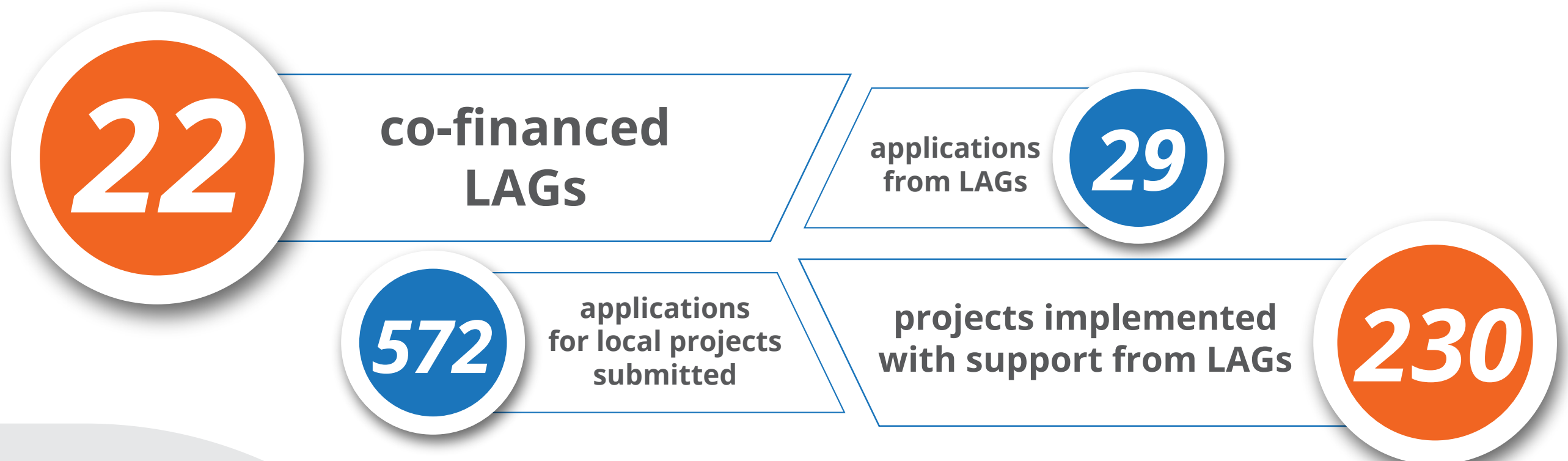
"LEADER Approach for Rural Prosperity in Moldova" is a project financed by the European Union and Polish Aid, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in partnership with the National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova. Strategic partner: the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova.

MAIN RESULTS

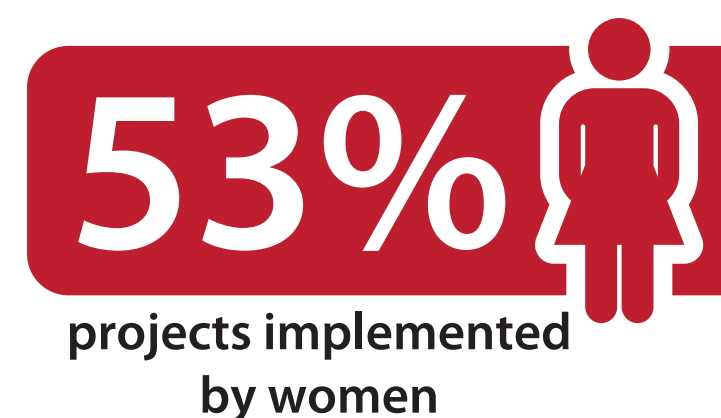
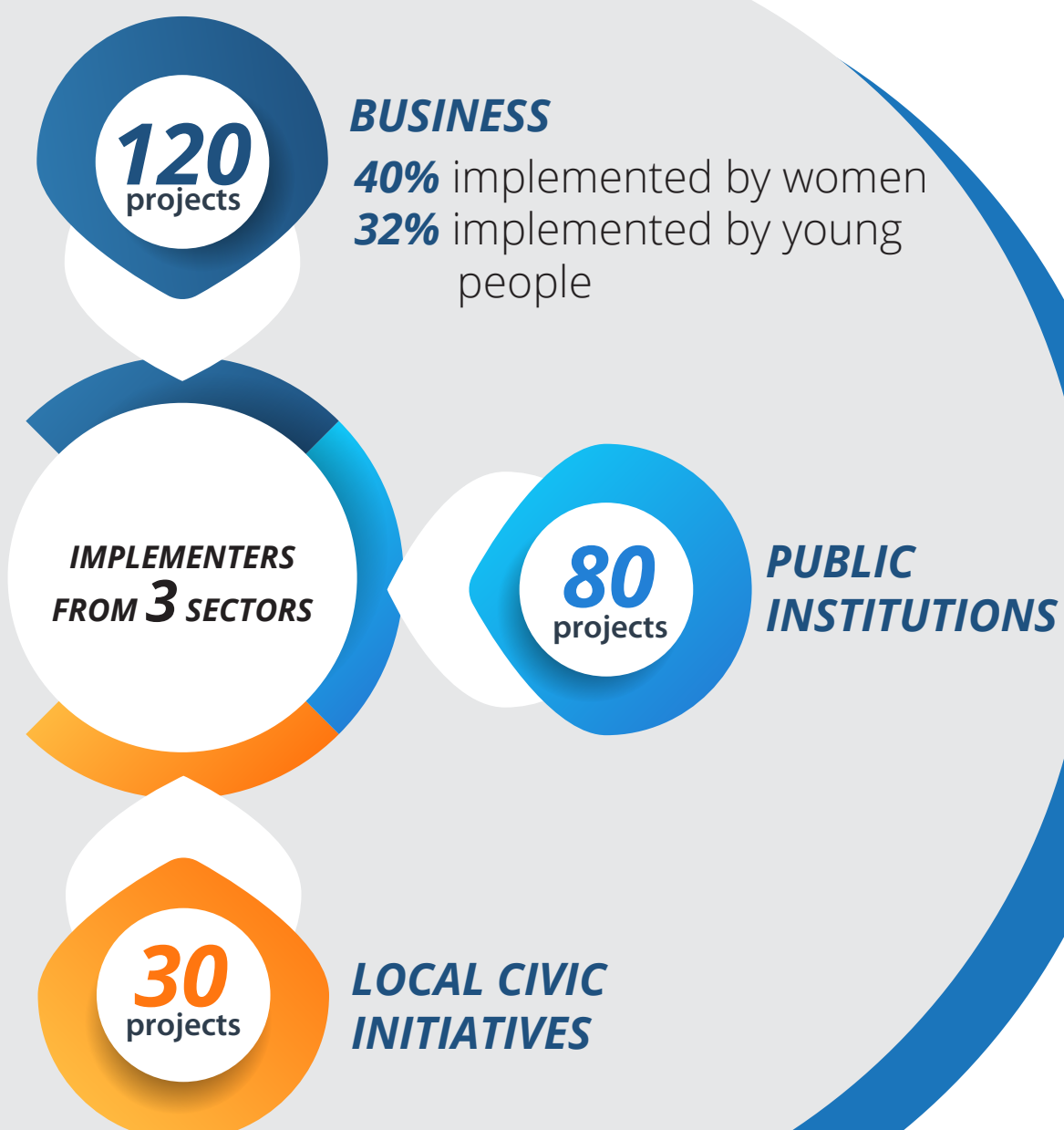
EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund (RDF) 2020

– launched in February 2020

Supported the local development in the Republic of Moldova through co-financing of development projects, implemented by local partners based on the LEADER principles.



EUR ~35.000
average amount per LAG



Success stories

► Revitalization of the spring in Sireți village - a recreational area with historical value

For the local population of Sireți village, Strășeni district, the "Nichifor Țopa" spring is both a source of drinking water and a recreational area full of historical and spiritual value. In order to preserve the spring over the years, several local people have applied to the local authorities for its renovation. Veronica Vrânceanu was the one who applied for financial support on behalf of the LAG "Bazinul Lacului Gidigici" within the support of the EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund 2020, in order to revitalize the spring:



"In three weeks, 20,000 lei were collected. We received donations from the diaspora and from the locality. For the locals, it was important to renovate the spring. There were also a lot of activities, with neighbours and young people taking part, to help us dig, plant, cultivate and renovate".

Locals say the spring has 12 wells, connected to each other, and during the renovation, they managed to uncover three of them.

► Growing strawberries in the greenhouse

Maria Gheorghita lives in the village of Cârpești, Cantemir district, and has been growing strawberries in a greenhouse for 5 years. One of the major goals of her business was to expand her fruit-growing territory, and thanks to the support she received from the LAG "Colinele Tigheciului", within the framework of the EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund 2020, she managed to successfully achieve this goal.

"It helped us a lot that we applied to the project. We managed to develop and increase our number of greenhouses from 2 to 4. Until recently, we were the only strawberry producers in the area and even though the district is small, we couldn't keep up with orders. But now we are producing twice as much fruit," says Maria.

In the future, she plans to build one more greenhouse to increase the quantity of strawberries harvested and to market them outside Cantemir district.



Success stories

► Tree house and summer kitchen in Naslavcea



Naslavcea is not only a village in Ocnita district, but also the northernmost point of the Republic of Moldova. In this scenic place, the Voleac family decided to build a tree house and a summer kitchen to place Naslavcea on the tourist map of the country. The project was carried out with the support of the EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund 2020, which they received through the LAG "33 de Vaduri".

"It was very important for us to start the project. So when we heard about this opportunity, we applied for funding. We managed to organize a resting place - a gazebo where people can also cook. We also have a tree house, where we offer accommodation for families. It's very beautiful here, especially in summer, when everything is green," says Igor Voleac.



EU-LEADER Flagship Initiatives (FI) 2020

– launched in May 2020

Provided support for innovative business initiatives in rural localities, which contributed to the economic revitalization and increased the overall appeal of Moldovan rural areas.



Success stories

► The use of drones in agriculture

Cabosal Ltd, registered in Orhei municipality, is one of the local partners that received funding under the EU-LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund 2020. The aim of Alexandru Casap, the company's director, is to implement new technologies in agriculture in the Republic of Moldova. After receiving funding, the company purchased an agricultural drone.



"Usually, the traditional technique needs an enormous amount of water, from 300 to 500 litres per hectare. With the drone we use from about 5 litres to 20 litres per hectare, allowing us to save water and significantly reduce the cost of production. Thus, we intend to bring ecological farming as close to citizens as possible," says Alexander.

The use of drones in agriculture means both innovative solutions and a positive impact on the economy. For this reason Alexander hopes that drones will soon become not only an option for farms, but also a profitable alternative to traditional methods.

EU-LEADER Innovators

– launched in January 2021

Strengthened LAGs as role-models for specific activity sectors, with potential to substantially boost economic development in the region.

20

Plans for thematic development submitted

EUR 83.480

total co-financing amount

7 supported LAGs,
out of which

6 LAGs

involved in the process
of implementation of their
thematic development plan

EUR ~11.925

average amount per project/
thematic development plan

6 ROLE-MODELS
PILOTED

3 INNOVATIVE
INSTRUMENTS
IMPLEMENTED

LAG as local tourism development agency

LAG as entity that ensures short supply chain
(diary sector)

LAG as intermediary in promotion and selling
small scale local products – aromatic and medicinal plants

Success stories

► The Beekeeping Family from Borosenii Noi - the art of beekeeping



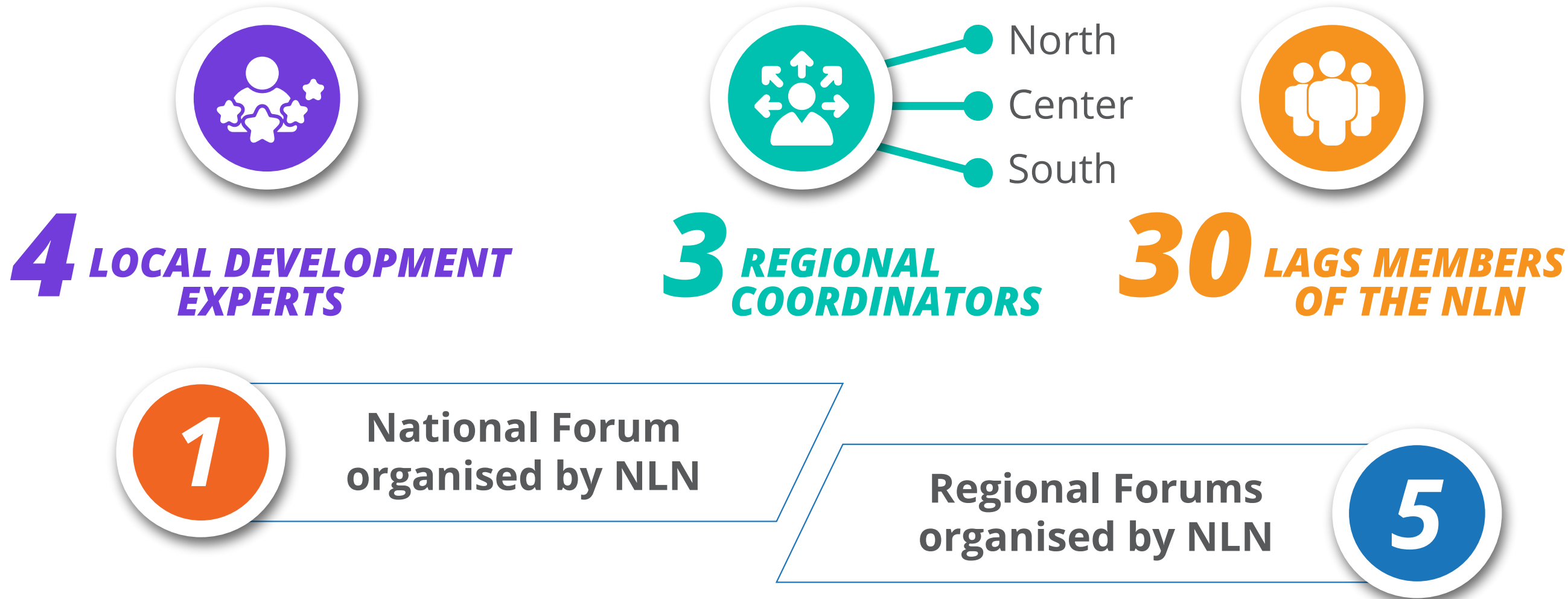
The fourth generation of beekeepers, the Pinzescu family, lives in Borosenii Noi, Riscani district. In order to increase the capacity of the farm to produce honey, the family applied for funding from the EU-LEADER Innovators Fund 2020, the LAG "Drumul Gospodarilor". At the moment they have forty hives with bees and hope that soon the prisaca will become a tourist attraction, where visitors will be able to taste many types of honey, see the bee shelters and buy bee products.

"After receiving funding, we became interested in creating new products and experimenting. Currently we produce decorative candles, propolis, honey, propolis gum, children's chocolate and other products. I think honey is part of the medicine of the future, and it's important to use it," said Daniela Pinzescu.

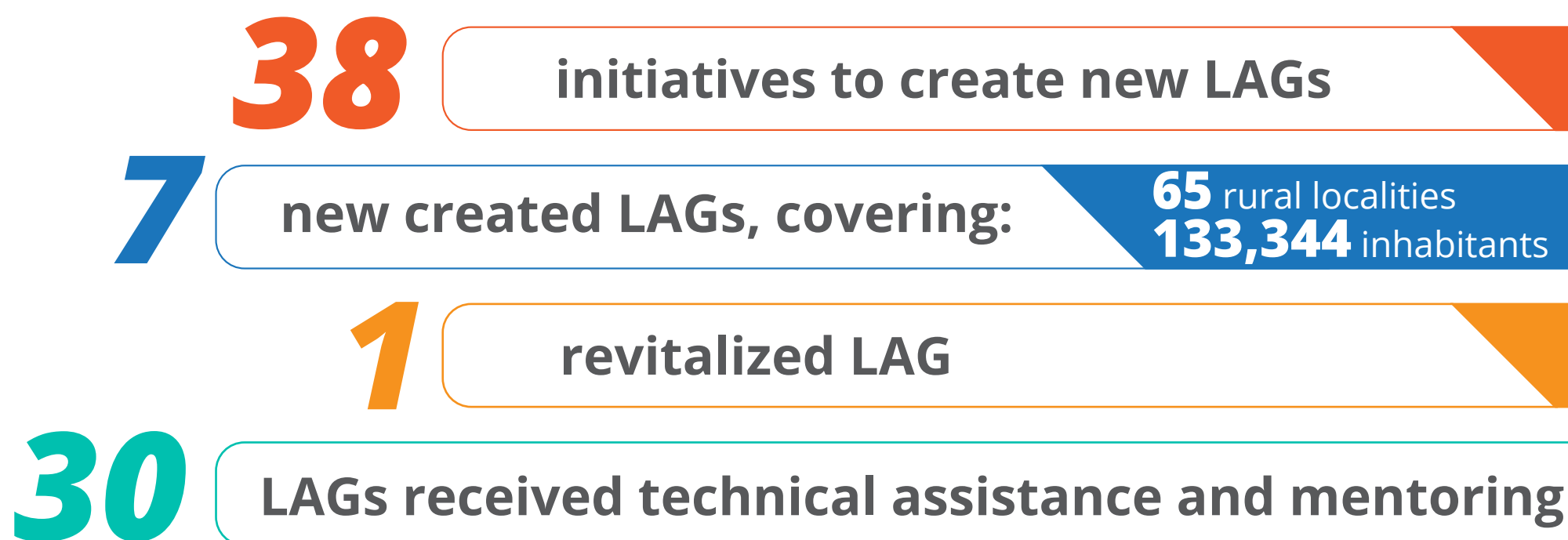
Among the Pinzescu family's goals are the construction of two beekeeping huts and a museum, which will remain as a local heritage.



The development of the National LEADER Network (NLN) in the Republic of Moldova



Strengthening the LEADER approach on the national and international level



Strengthened collaboration with Armenia and Georgia, including 2 exchange visits on LEADER experience

Participation in the ELARD General Assembly dedicated to LEADER 30 years celebration



► Creation of Local Action Groups (LAGs)

During 2021, the National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova created 15 LAGs, 7 of which were created with the support of the European Union and Polish Aid. 1 LAG already created went through a revitalization process.



The process of transforming a territorial initiative into an active LAG includes several stages and 9-10 working meetings. Totally, the 7 newly created LAGs are covering 80 rural localities with a population of 137.800 people.

Promoting the LEADER approach as a state policy

Advocacy and cooperation with the central authorities – Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry – for developing the legal framework for the LAGs' functioning and the public funding of the National LEADER Program.



Law no 50 of 09.04.2021 on Local Action Groups elaborated and approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, provides a legal framework for the creation of LAGs and grants them the status of legal entities. It has also prepared the ground for the launch of the National LEADER Program.



Amendments to **Law no 276 of 16.12.2016** on the principles of subsidy in the development of agriculture and rural environment, allow LAGs to be subsidized, starting with 2021, with up to 5% of the resources of the National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Environment.



Amendments to **Law no 436 of 28.12.2016** on local public administration, allow non-commercial organizations established locally between the public, business and civic sector (called Local Action Groups) to register and receive legal personality.

EU-LEADER Partnership Fund

– launched in February 2021

Supported partnership initiatives between experienced LAGs (min. 2 years) and newly-established ones, with the goal of mentoring and exchanging experience.

11

LAG mentoring partnerships

Regional Forums
organized by LAGs

6

Partner LAGs

22



EUR 32.383

total co-financing amount

EUR ~1.900

average amount per project

Success stories

► LAG „33 de Vaduri”

The LAG "33 de Vaduri" organized in July 2021, at the trout farm in Naslavcea, a seminar entitled "Let's get to know each other", attended by representatives of the LAGs "Vasile Stroescu" and "Lunca Ciuhurului".

During the event, several topics were discussed with a focus on the tourism potential of the 3 LAGs in the north of the country. High-performing entrepreneurs in this field shared their experience and talked about the support offered to this sector by the LAGs.



Participants had the opportunity to extract honey from beehives at the rural house "Conac Apicol". At the end of the event, all 3 LAGs signed a Partnership Agreement.

In September, these 3 partner LAGs participated in the mobile festival "At the village hearth" 2nd edition, organized on the territory of the LAG "33 de Vaduri". The guests had the opportunity to admire the performance of local folklore ensembles as well as to visit the producers' fair and the works of the craftsmen from the partner LAGs.



► LAG „Gagauz Korafłari”

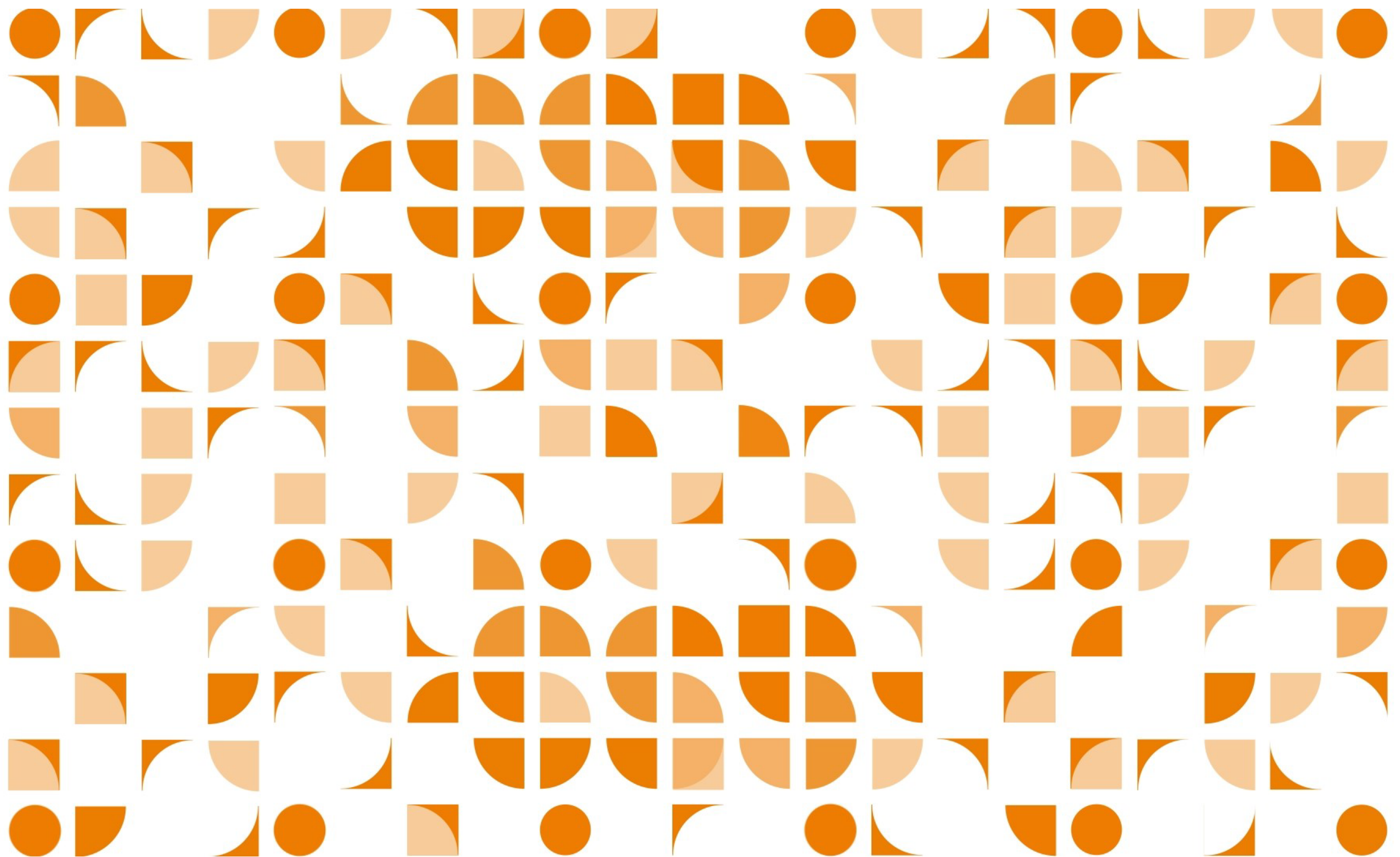


The Regional Forum "Together for the Future" was organized by the LAG "Gagauz Korafłari" in partnership with the LAGs "Eco Duz Ialpuĝel" and "Steaua Bugeac" in August 2021. The event included an artistic program and a fair with local products for the members of the LAGs involved and local people from the south of Moldova.

Forum participants learned about traditional Gagauz crafts and took part in a master class on susak ornamentation and carpet weaving. A round table was also organised to discuss topics such as rural tourism, traditional crafts and the development of the beekeeping sector on the territory of the partner LAGs.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE



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