

## **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:**

### **EUROPE INVESTS IN RURAL AREAS**

"Local Action Group Letnitsa - Lovech" Association concluded an administrative contract under sub-measure 19.1 "Assistance for preparatory activities" of measure 19 "Community-led local development" under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

On 22.03.2023, an administrative contract No. RD 50-74/22.03.2023 was signed between the "Local Action Group Letnitsa - Lovech" Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, under sub-measure 19.1 "Assistance for preparatory activities" of measure 19 "Community-led local development" under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, aimed at providing funding for the implementation of "Preparation of a strategy for local development, with the participation of the local community on the territory of Letnitsa and Lovech municipalities" Project.

The financial aid is at the amount of BGN 48,852.00; it is provided for activities that contribute to achieving the goals of measure 19:

- Support to acquiring skills and building capacity to implement the Local Action Groups operations;
- Support the process of preparation of local development strategies financed by the EAFRD or by more than one of the European Structural and Investment Funds;
- Encourage the involvement of the local population in the development and future implementation of Community-Led Local Development strategies;
- Support to informing the local population on the possibility of financing the strategies under more than one EU fund.

***The project will be implemented for six months; it covers the following activities:***

- Popularization of the approach and the process of strategy development for CLLD;
- Training of local leaders and stakeholder groups on the CLLD approach and its implementation;
- Studies and analyzes on the development potential of the territory of Letnitsa - Lovech LAG;
- Design of a CLLD strategy with the active involvement of the local community in its preparation, discussion and adoption;
- Coordination of the preparatory activities.

***Expected results of the project implementation:***

- Information campaign conducted to popularize the strategy development process; information meetings, seminars and conferences, publications and broadcasts in regional media;
- Training for the LAG team, local leaders and other stakeholders conducted;
- Analyzes on the potentials of the LAG territory performed;
- CLLD strategy on the LAG territory designed and agreed with all interested parties.

## **About us:**

In 2021, a public benefit non-for-profit association "LOCAL ACTION GROUP LETNICA - LOVECH" was established by the municipality of Letnitsa, municipality of Lovech, private and public bodies and non-governmental organizations implementing activities on the territory of Letnitsa municipality and the villages of Lovech Municipality (with the exception of the city of Lovech - a city with a population of over 30,000 inhabitants, in its borders).

The goals of the association are:

- Implementation of the integrated territorial approach;
- Improvement of the living conditions on the local community territories;
- Create a dynamic living environment and improve the quality of life through the development of horizontal and inter-sectoral partnerships and through initiatives of common interest, as well as practices and models for good management and participation of stakeholders in the development of the territory /as a basis for territorial development/;
- Support for building territorial identity, marketing and brands based on the specific territorial potential and local products;
- Increase the competitiveness of local economies and create opportunities for local business, including diversification and support for alternative activities;
- Support the introduction of innovations;
- Strengthen the capacity for scientific research and innovation and introduce modern technologies by supporting innovation and encouraging the transition to a circular economy by supporting investments in enterprises with the aim of improving resource efficiency;

- Promotion of sustainable and quality employment and social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- Preservation and protection of the environment and promotion of resource efficiency, incl. activities for risk prevention and management and for using the cultural heritage potential;
- Inclusive education and educational integration;
- Implementation of the Local Development Strategy (the Strategy) on the territory of Letnitsa and Lovech municipalities in accordance with the Rural Development Program (RDP) approach, other European funds and programs; assistance to the implementation of projects connected to specific measures, included in the Community-Led Local Development Strategy;
- Building capacity for successful application and implementation of the Local Development Strategy;
- Development and consolidation of European practices for decentralized rural development, including through Community-led local development (CLLD) approach supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds according to the Partnership Agreement of the Republic of Bulgaria which outlines the assistance from the European Structural and Investment Funds.