

*Perspective on rural development* is an interdisciplinary Series, mainly devoted to studies on rural development policies and their territorial impact, including issues such as the quality of the development objectives, the transformation of identities, the organization of value chains.

The variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches is guaranteed by an international scientific committee, promoting the comparison of rural development experiences emerging from different territorial contexts.

The Series is proposed as a space for exchange between scholars dealing with rural development, and an in-depth tool for researchers, professionals and policy makers.

This book is the outcome of reflection on past observations, previous and ongoing studies, discussion with scholars and international experts. It provides a critical picture of the LEADER approach, with special attention to the local level and to the characteristics in which the transition from a territorial to a visionary approach clearly emerges. A logical framework is proposed, summing up and comparing different and opposing approaches to LEADER emerging from the scientific debate, relevant European cases and field research.

The study reconstructs the main features, taking into account the style and planning approach, the aims of a local project, the interpretation of innovation, of local resources, and the role of local actors. These characteristics can reveal the approach adopted at the local level and can therefore be seen as indicators for the understanding, interpretation and self-assessment of practices. Our assumption is that the LEADER method should move in the direction of the visionary approach in order to achieve full implementation especially on a local scale.

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