



ОПЕРАТИВНА ПРОГРАМА
НАУКА И ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ
ЗА ИНТЕЛИГЕНТЕН РАСТЕК



ЕДНА ПОСОКА
МНОГО ВЪЗМОЖНОСТИ



ОПЕРАТИВНА ПРОГРАМА
ОКОЛНА СРЕДА



EUROPE INVESTING IN RURAL AREAS
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Rural Development Program 2014 – 2020

Organization and structure of NGO „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54“

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Non-governmental organization (NGO) „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54“ is a non-profit legal entity, registered for public benefit. It was founded on November, 24th 2016 with the participation of 32 founders. The organization is a voluntary, independent, non-party-related and non-governmental union of natural persons and legal entities, representatives of the local authorities, the economic and non-governmental sector in the Municipality of Stambolovo and in 54 border villages from the Municipality of Kardzhali.



The members of the General Assembly of the NGO are divided in terms of sectors in the following manner: two of them, or 6.25% are representatives of the two Municipalities - Stambolovo and Kardzhali; the non-governmental sector has 15 representatives, which makes 46.88%; the same number of representatives – a total 15 belong to the business sector. The General Assembly consists of the following members: 24 legal entities and 8 natural persons who live in 23 different settlements, located on the territory of the LAG. In this way, the different sectors, developing on the territory, are represented in a balanced and equal way in the Local Action Group (LAG). The main objectives of the NGO are the following:

- To support rural development in the spheres of competitiveness, environmental protection and natural resources. To help improve the quality of life and diversify the economic activities in rural areas;
- To develop and promote European bottom-up practices and approaches for decentralized rural development, including through the Community-led Local Development approach, supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and/or the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and/or the European Social Fund (ESF) and/or the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

In order to achieve its objectives, the NGO can implement any law-abiding activities in compliance with the requirements of the Non-profit Legal Entities Act and with its Statutes.

The means to achieve the set objectives of the NGO are as follows:

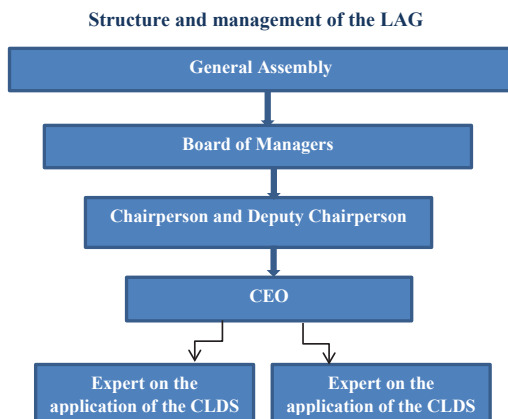
- Implementation of the Community-led Local Development approach, supported by the EAFRD and other decentralized development programs, based on local communities' involvement.
- Development of a Community-led Local Development Strategy (CLDS) and application for funding of the LAG's Strategy from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in accordance with the rules of the Community-led Local Development approach and the relevant provisions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, as well as application for funding from other programs of the EU and of other international donors.
- Application of the Community-led Local Development Strategy in accordance with the grant rules of the programs and the measures that provide the funding.

NGO „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54“ performs its activities in cooperation with the Bulgarian state bodies and institutions, the local self-government bodies and local administration, as well as with representatives of the business and the non-governmental sectors and of corresponding Bulgarian and foreign organizations.



The overall management of „LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54“ is regulated by the adopted Statutes, which is the basic statutory act to define the objectives, the means of implementation, the management and the types of activities of the NGO. The supreme governing body of the NGO is the General Assembly, which includes all the members of the Association (the NGO). Current management is conducted by the Collective Governing Body - the Board of Managers, which consists of 5 members. It implements its activities and makes decisions in compliance with the Statutes of the NGO and the normative regulations, outlining the application of the Community-led Local Development approach.

The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Association represent „LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54“ jointly and severally and manage the NGO's current activities.



The operational management of the team is carried out by the CEO, who is elected and appointed by the BM (Board of Managers) and as an elected body, the CEO is part of the NGO's structure. The CEO organizes and manages the overall implementation and the financial management process of the Community-led Local Development Strategy (CLDS) of „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54“, including the activities, related to its promotion in accordance with the current regulatory framework - the instructions, the guidelines and the other documents of the governing bodies of the programs that are implemented through the Strategy's measures. The CEO participates in the meetings of the Board of Managers (BM) of the LAG with the right to an advisory vote. For its activities, the CEO reports to the members of the BM. The two experts on the implementation of the Community-led Local Development Strategy (CLDS) establish and maintain contacts with potential applicants for financial assistance upon projects, compliant to the Community-led Local Development Strategy (CLDS) by informing them of the opportunities, provided by the strategy and the requirements of the separate measures. They assist the preparation of projects of potential applicants and recipients of funding when preparing requests for payment for the State Agricultural Fund and for other operative programs and when reporting to the governing body of the respective program.

The office of „LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54“ is located in the village of Stambolovo, in the old building of the Municipal Administration. Team members are available for contacts at the following mobile phone numbers:

0888653146 – Ivanka Dushkova, CEO;

0899916716 – Petya Boneva, Expert;

0886085829 – Halim Bekir, Expert.

The email address of „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54“ is as follows: migstambolov_kj@abv.bg

Detailed information about the activities of „LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54“ can be found on the website of the NGO: www.lagsk.eu

Description of the territory of „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54”

The territories, included in the area of „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54”, have a continuous geographical relationship with each other. The territory of the LAG includes all the 26 settlements of the Municipality of Stambolovo and 54 of the villages from the Municipality of Kardzhali, which border on Stambolovo. The territory of the LAG is located in the southwestern part of the Southern Central Region (SCR).



List of the included in the LAG settlements:



The Municipality of Stambolovo (all 26 settlements):

The village of Balkan, the village of Byal Kladenets, the village of Vodentsi, the village of Voyvodenets, the village of Gledka, the village of Golobradovo, the village of Golyam Izvor, the village of Dolno Botevo, the village of Dolno Pole, the village of Dolno Cherkovishte, the village of Zhalti Bryag, the village of Zimovina, the village of Kladenets, the village of Kralevo, the village of Lyaskovets, the village of Madzhari, the village of Malak Izvor, the village of Popovets, the village of Pchelari, the village of Patnikovo, the village of Rabovo, the village of Svetoslav, the village of Silen, the village of Stambolovo, the village of Tankovo and the village of Tsareva Polyana.

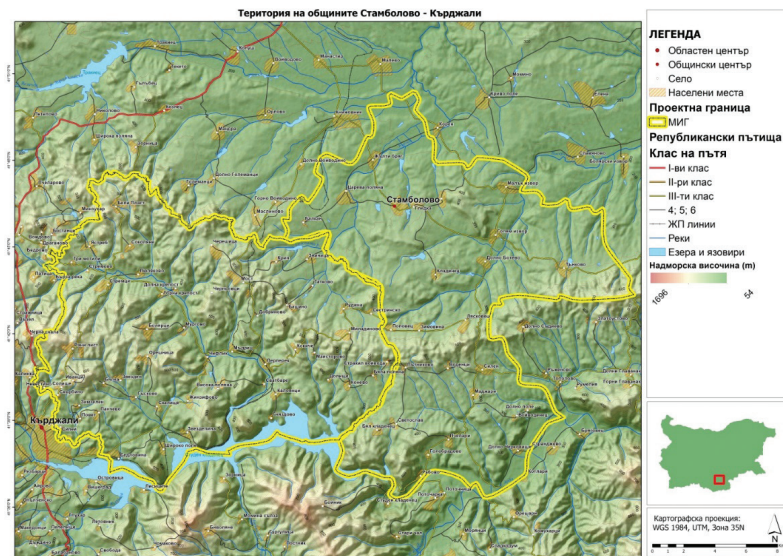


The Municipality of Kardzhali (54 out of all 118 settlements):

The village of Bashtino, the village of Beli Plast, the village of Bolyartsi, the village of Byala Polyana, the village of Byalka, the village of Visoka Polyana, the village of Gnyazdovo, the village of Gorna Krepost, the village of Gaskovo, the village of Dobrinovo, the village of Dolishte, the village of Dolna Krepost, the village of Ivantsi, the village of Zhinzifovo, the village of Zvinitsa, the village of Zimzelen, the village of Zvezdelina, the village of Zvezden, the village of Kaloyantsi, the village of Kokiche, the village of Konevo, the village of Krin, the village of Lyulyakovo, the village of Maystorovo, the village of Miladinovo, the village of Most, the village of Murgovo, the village of Madrets, the village of Nevestino, the village of Oreshnitsa, the village of Panchevo, the village of Perperек, the village

of Povet, the village of Propast, the village of Rudina, the village of Rani List, the village of Sedlovina, the village of Sestrinsko, the village of Skalishte, the village of Sokolyane, the village of Strahil Voyvoda, the village of Stremovo, the village of Stremtsi, the village of Svatbare, the village of Solishte, the village of Skarbino, the village of Sipey, the village of Tatkovo, the village of Tri Mogili, the village of Chereshitsa, the village of Chernyovtsi, the village of Chiflik, the village of Shiroko Pole and the village of Yastreb.

Map of the territory of „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54“:



Number of inhabitants, density and size of areas within the range of LAG:

The population on the territory of „LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54“ as of 31.12.2016, according to the data, presented by the National Statistics Institute, is 19 321 people. 5,805 of them live in the municipality of Stambolovo. The population, living in the 54 villages in the municipality of Kardzhali, is 13,516 inhabitants. The density of the population, living on this territory is 34,58 people per km² (which has total area of 568,94 km²). This index is below the average with respect to the density of Haskovo region (40,2 people/km²) and for Kardzhali region (46,64 people/km²) and much lower than the average for the country (64.45 people/km²).

Community – led Local Development Strategy (CLDS)

The Community-led Local Development approach is applied through the promotion and implementation of an integrated multi-sector strategy, based on the characteristics of the specific territory considering the local demands and

potential, in line with the policies at national, regional and local level. Such a CLDS strategy has been developed by NGO „LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54” and received a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry upon signed Contract № ПД (RD) 50-37/20.04.2018. This strategy amounts to 3 707 815 BGN and will be applied on the territory of „LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54” until 30.09.2023.

This Strategy has two main objectives:



First objective: „Competitive economy, based on local resources, providing higher incomes and employment“. It is expected to be achieved through investments aimed at the economic sectors that have the potential to be developed and to expand. Support will be provided to diversify the supply in the sectors of tourism and services, increasing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises through the development of small-scale production and services. Higher employment and income will be provided to the population on the territory, supporting the enterprises in the processing industry. The supply chains will be shortened and commodity access to the market will be improved by adding value on the spot.



Second objective: „Improving the Living Environment and Business to Conserve the Biodiversity on this Territory“. It will be achieved by supporting the expansion and improvement of public infrastructure that will enhance the attractiveness of the habitat and will provide access to individual services. This will improve the image of the populated areas with tourist potential and will promote the detention of the population, living on the territory of the LAG. The preservation of the biodiversity of the region is a prerequisite for promotion of the external interest and a factor for its development.



In the process of implementing the strategy, the two main objectives will be achieved through interventions in **four priority areas**.



- P1. Developing sustainable agriculture (plant and livestock) and processing;***
P2. Supporting entrepreneurship to diversify the economy, including the development of tourism;
P3. An inclusive educational environment;
P4. Improving the living environment.



The objectives of the CLDS of „LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54” for the period 2014-2020 will be achieved through the implementation of a total number of 11 measures from three programs - RDP (eight measures), Science and Education for Smart Growth (two measures) and OPE (one measure). Seven of the measures, financed by the EAFRD, fall under the RDP 2014-2020 and one is from the Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 (7.6).

The CLDS will be implemented through the following measures:

Measure 04 „Investments in Tangible Assets“

Financial assistance under this measure will be directed to tangible and intangible investments of the farms on the territory. In the CLDS, the measure will be implemented through the following sub-measures:

Sub-measures	Planned funds for the period in BGN
4.1 „Farm Investments“	704 100
4.1.2 „Investments in agricultural holdings subject to thematic sub-program for development of small farms“	164 300
4.2 „Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products“	146 600



Measure 06 „Development of Farms and Enterprises“

In the CLLD strategy, the measure will be implemented through the following sub-measures:

Sub-measures	Planned funds for the period in BGN
6.4.1 „Investments in support of non-agricultural activities“	862 500
6.4.2 „Investments in support of non-agricultural activities under the thematic sub-program for the development of small farms“	156 500

Measure 07 „Basic services and village renovation in rural areas“

In the CLLD strategy, the measure will be implemented through sub-measures 7.2, 7.5 and 7.6:

Sub-measures	Planned funds for the period in BGN
7.2 „Investments in creating, improving or expanding all types of small-scale infrastructure“	586 750
7.5 „Investments for public use in infrastructure for recreation, tourist infrastructure“	195 600
7.6 „Surveys and investments related to the maintenance, restoration and improvement of the cultural and natural heritage of villages“	117 390

Measures of OP Science and Education for Smart Growth (ESF):

Sub-measures	Planned funds for the period in BGN
1. „Support for Preschool Education and Preparation of Disadvantaged Children“	287 000
2. „Educational integration of students from the ethnic minorities and/or seekers or beneficiaries of international protection“	300 000

The measure „Improving the Conservation Status of Species of Natura 2000 through the CLLD Approach“ is from the Operational Program „Environment“ (ERDF) and has 187 075 BGN planned funds.



CLD is an approach that takes time and effort, but with relatively small financial investments it can have a significant impact on people's lives and generate new ideas and a common responsibility for putting them into practice.



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NGO “LAG Stambolovo - Kardzhali 54” bears the legal responsibility for the opinions expressed in this publication.

