

# LEADER/CLLD Conference 2019

Thoughts and suggestions  
conveyed from the

ELARD Members' Workshop on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>

by  
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Amarante, Portugal  
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# Where we stand



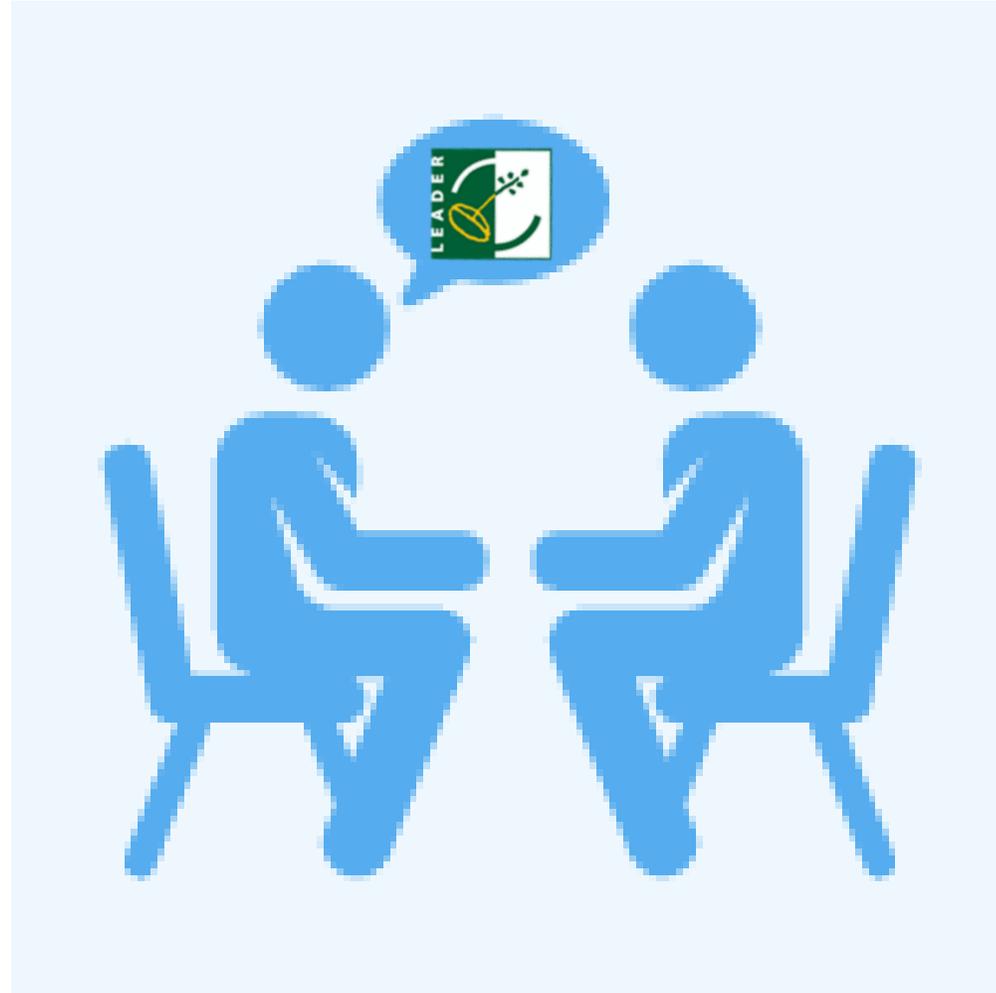
- The current LEADER implementation points towards **successful outcomes**. CLLD/LEADER keeps gaining recognition, but there is still a need to make stakeholders familiar with the concept and the method.
  - Everybody is aware that overshooting **bureaucracy and control must be simplified**. At least in parts the administrative burden imposed has to do with the fact that LEADER is still not sufficiently understood by the relevant authorities. Some countries experience progress in this respect: advance payments, umbrella projects...
  - There is growing confidence that **multi-funding** is actually an option worth being considered.
- ❑ It should be borne in mind that funding is not the essence of LEADER. It's the solidary engagement, the people-centered approach, the deliberate choice of innovative solutions and the confidence into the power of the own resources. It's only then when the quest for funding comes in:
- « **All things are ready when our mind be so** » (Shakespeare).

# Worries and hopes

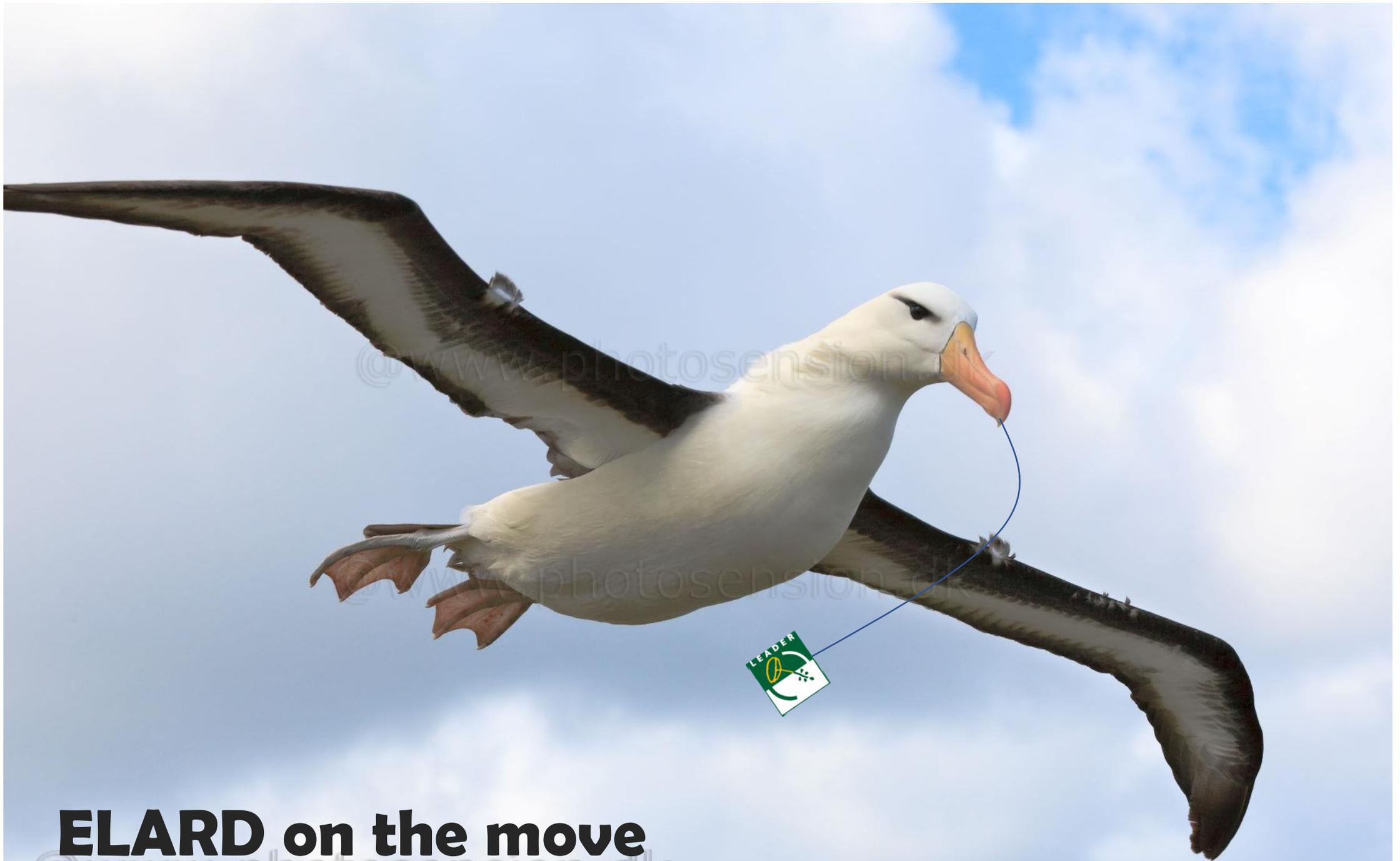


- Past experience foments fears of transition problems when this period ends and the new one starts late (**funding gap**).
- Hopes are intact that the spirit remains high and that the networking contacts and transnational cooperation keep growing.
- There are concerns about the shift of focus away from rural development through the CAP Strategy Plans architecture, with funds decreasing and bureaucracy still on the rise. LEADER and LAG simulacra may drain money away from genuine efforts towards broader participation and sustainability orientation.
- Consciousness raising and capacity building are never ending tasks. LEADER is not just about the delivery of a support measure. Being undemanding in the empowering quest would indeed miss the added value of LEADER.
- **Let us keep LEADER far from the shallow.....now (Lady Gaga).**

# What we need to do back home

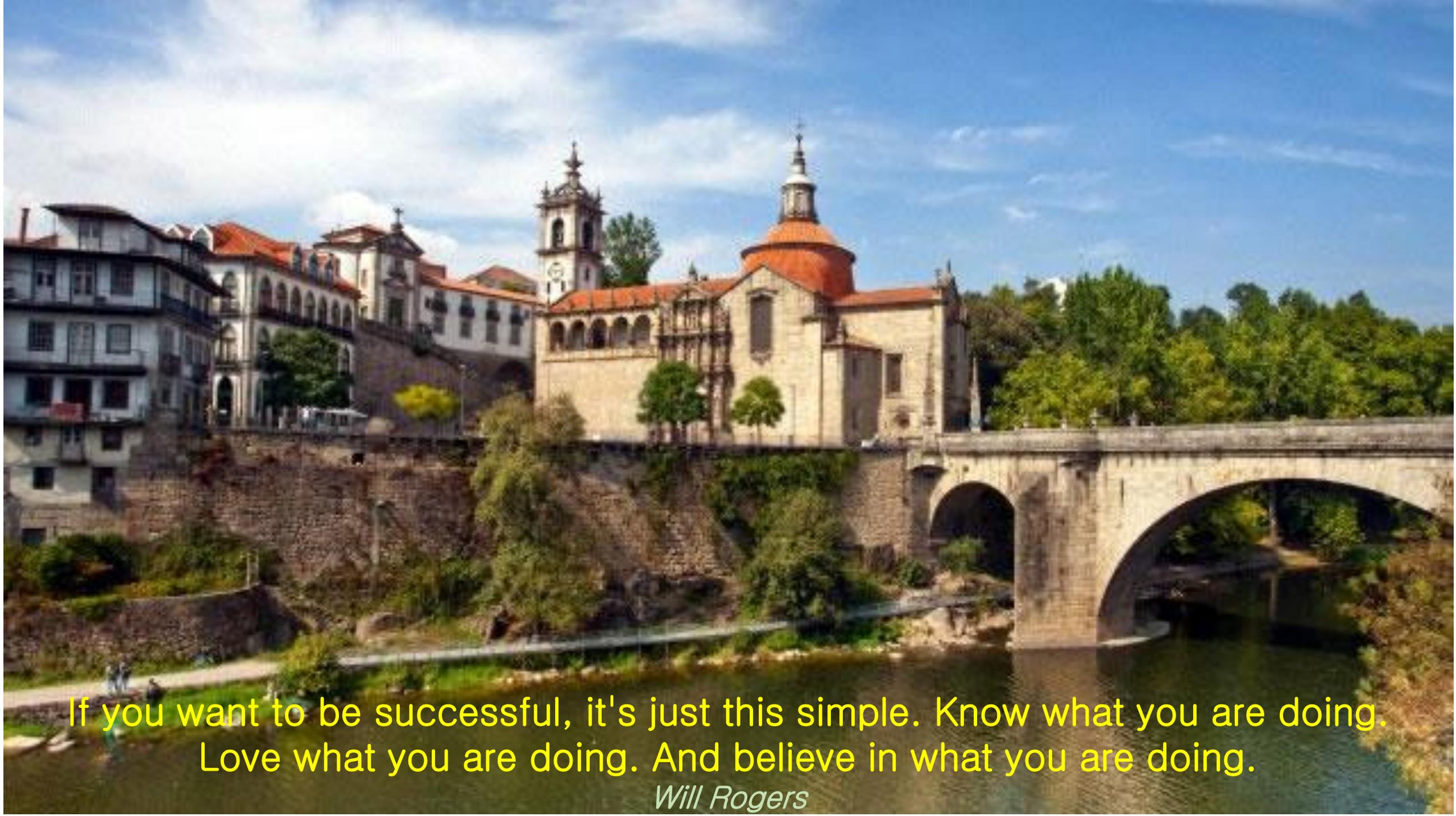


- Communicate, inform, include all stakeholders. Forge alliances. Get down to action at eye level with the authorities, stakeholders, communities and people, laying emphasis on Cohesion Policy Objective Nr. 5: **Bringing the EU closer to the citizens.**
- Stay on the scene and **showcase the evidence** of what has been achieved.
- Carry the LEADER spirit to the managing and paying authorities' level. Carve out arrangements which give **leeway for the Local Action Groups** to fulfil the roles and functions they deem being the appropriate one to play in the local context. Provide the flexibility to adapt and reconfigure whenever needed.
- Negotiate for **continuity, diversity and independence.**



**ELARD on the move**

- We see ELARD growing and gaining reputation, but we won't stop here, as changing perceptions is a long-haul task and requires us to think and act strategically...
- ...in respect to outreach and alliances:
  - Cultivate friendships and make new friends, create new institutional links and forge new partnerships (academia, private sector....).
  - Seek to actively contribute to the CAP Strategy Network Action Plan.
  - Look beyond the EU borders and foster according relationships.
- ...in respect to continued support to members:
  - Harness the rich experiences of network members, identify and communicate good practices.
  - Look for the human and financial resources required for enhanced networking and advocacy.
  - **Embolden its members like a caring LAG does with local communities.**



If you want to be successful, it's just this simple. Know what you are doing.  
Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing.

*Will Rogers*