



OUR

# PROJECTFOLDER

Ländlich

Digital

Weltoffen

The road to funding

Practical examples

In English





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## Legal Notice

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e.V.

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Dear stakeholders in the region,  
You are lucky enough to live in a Leader  
region!

Here in the heart of Hesse, we are a small  
but beautiful region characterised by its  
diversity. Whether it's the Herbstlabyrinth  
show cave in Breitscheid, the HeckeNest café  
in Hüttenberg or the Fortuna mine in Solms -  
there's plenty to experience here!

Rural, digital, cosmopolitan - we want to  
continue on this path in the coming years.

Since we were named a Leader region in 2007, over 100 projects have  
already been realised. We want to continue in the same vein in the  
current funding period. We are very excited to see what project ideas will  
surprise us, how the businesses that have already received funding will  
develop and what the future holds for the region.

yours Wolfgang Keller, chairman



## Regional management

Is your point of contact and support  
from the concept idea to the  
application.

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# The LEADER region Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar

The LEADER region Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar comprises twelve towns and municipalities in the south and west of the Lahn-Dill district. It stretches from the Westerwald in the north to the Taunus in the south. The Lahn Valley runs through the centre of the region.

The tourism themes of nature, cultural and active tourism are covered for across all three destinations. The city of Wetzlar is a member municipality of the region, but is defined as an urban area.



The region is located in the centre of Germany and is therefore a good business location for many industries.

It is characterised by strong social cohesion, as well as a number of cultural highlights and special natural features.

# Field of action 1

## Equal living conditions for "ALL" - Services of general interest (Daseinsvorsorge)

### Culture and leisure

The Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar region has set itself the task of promoting a region-wide, needs-orientated and quality of life-creating leisure and cultural offering for young and old.

Examples: Industrial culture, Celts and Romans, country cinema, cultural experience for children.

### Living and working environments, mobility

The meeting of new living and working environments should promote the long-term attractiveness of Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar as a place to live and ensure the influx of young families.

We want to become a co-working region and create family-friendly offers.

In this connection, needs-based mobility in the area is to be improved.

Ideas: communal forms of living, job sharing, digital carpooling

### Local supply and healthcare

Furthermore, traditional businesses providing basic and local supplies (including medical care) must be safeguarded in order to keep supply chains in the region.

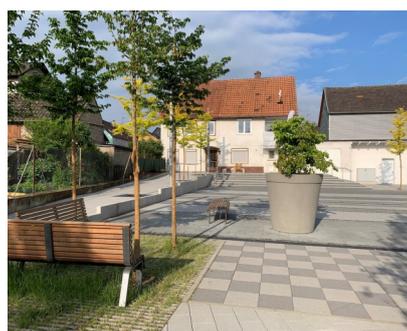
Examples: Village shops, Regiomats, barrier-free services, securing attractive town centres

### Life-long learning

Creation of educational programmes within the framework of education for lifelong learning. A special focus should also be placed on education for sustainable development. Examples: Learning farms concepts, reading/cultural competitions, educational mobile facilities



## Realised projects



Bachtrompeter

### „Zum Bachtrompeter“ Solms

The design of the square in Burgsolms has been completed and is proving extremely popular. Young people in particular are attracted by the basketball hoop, a chessboard and the hotspot. The Burgsolms funfair has already taken place with a large tent and many visitors.

The close proximity to the Solmsbach stream creates an idyllic atmosphere. There are many opportunities for children and young people in particular to really understand the "water habitat".

Funding: 191,600 euros / total investment volume: 379,681 euros



Funding period  
**2023-2027**



Funding budget  
**3.05 million euros**



Village caretaker office

## Village caretaker office Waldsolms

In cooperation with the churches and religious communities, the municipality of Waldsolms has created a model project position as a social coordinator for all neighbourhoods.

The social coordinator "village caretaker" serves the local people as a contact point for all problems and questions in the social field.

Funding: 37,530 euros / total investment volume: 58,284 euros

## Culture Bakehouse „KuBa“ Aßlar

The historic bakehouse of the town of Asslar is a defining feature of the Backhausplatz square in the town centre and has now been converted and renovated into a multi-purpose socio-cultural centre.

The Kultur Backhaus is a communication centre supported by civic commitment with a wide range of cultural and community activities including modern electronic information and communication media, especially for the social integration of senior citizens.

Funding: 94,743 euros / total investment volume: 261,332 euros



Culture Bakehouse



Forest Museum Dr Kanngießler

## Forest Museum Dr Kanngießler Braunfels

In the spirit of the museum's founder Dr Kanngießler (natural scientist, doctor and toxicologist in 1916), the educational work is to be continued in an expanded form, with temporary exhibitions planned in addition to guided tours of the collections. In the first phase, an exhibition room with a luminous ceiling, a library room, barrier-free sanitary facilities and a winter garden as a quiet zone were created.

Funding: 43,711 euros / total investment volume: 113,000 euros



## Functional house studio church Volpertshausen

In order to continue to strengthen the studio church as a lively space in the centre of Volpertshausen, a function house with a corresponding pathway was built in the existing church garden.

The house provides the water connection and storage facilities that were missing in the church. In addition to a ladies' and a gents' toilet, a small adjoining room with integrated storage facilities has been created. Accessibility is always taken into account.

Funding: 73,696 euros

Total investment volume: 137,871 euros



Functional house studio church



## Field of action 2

### Economic development

#### Strengthening regional micro-enterprises

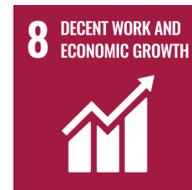
We support regional micro-enterprises in setting up and expanding their business. There is particular interest in bakeries, hairdressing salons and opticians.

#### Companies in the hospitality industry

Furthermore, businesses in the hospitality industry and their supply of regional food should be strengthened. The priority here is on the region's cycling/hiking and canoeing routes and destinations

#### Cooperation project "Strategies for recruiting skilled labour"

Joint strategies for recruiting skilled labour are to be developed in a cooperation project between the Central Hesse LEADER regions.



### Realised projects

#### Craft trades training initiative

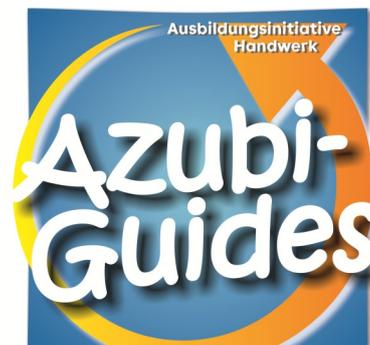
The skilled trades are increasingly faced with the problem of finding qualified young people. The Lahn-Dill District Craftsmen's Association launched the apprentice guide pilot project.

In the cooperation project with the LAG Lahn-Dill-Bergland, a project position was funded that acquires and trains trainees to present their own training occupation "at eye level" in schools.

The successful project was stabilised together with the Giessen District Craftsmen's Association.

Funding from the Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar region: 20,855 euros

Total investment volume: 69,515 euros



Craft trades training initiative in the Lahn-Dill district



Truck/bus driving simulator

#### Bus driving simulator

This driving simulator is used to promote and recruit trainees in the professional driver field. This is divided into lorry and bus.

The driving simulator with the mobile case system can be used by the Training Initiative Association at trade fairs, such as training fairs organised by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Employment Agency. It is easy to transport and can be easily assembled and disassembled. Of course, it is also available to all members free of charge, e.g. for presentations.

Funding: 14,504 euros / total investment volume: 49,313 euros

# Field of action 4

## Bioeconomy

### Adaptation strategies for sustainable consumer behaviour

The region would like to contribute to a stronger regionalisation of value chains and thus also make a contribution to sustainability.

Sustainable behaviour is to be promoted as well as the marketing of regional products, the preservation of biodiversity, which in our region includes in particular the preservation of orchards, the creation of initiatives to move away from the "throwaway society", the use of waste management, the use of regional energy potentials, promotion and energy saving. Opportunity for the economy for the common good - the region would like to implement information and communication measures with other LEADER regions.

Further example: Lahn-Dill district carbonisation potential analysis cooperation project.



## Realised projects

### Company expansion „EISZEIT“

EISZEIT in Lahnau-Dorlar specialises in the artisanal production of high-quality ice cream using only natural ingredients that are grown as regionally and sustainably as possible. The company has been expanded to accommodate the new third distribution channel.

The production and deep-freeze storage areas were expanded to meet the needs of catering customers looking for a high-quality ice cream solution for their concept. In addition, the logistics capabilities for the dispatch of frozen pallets were created. Funding: 100,000 euros / total investment volume: 356,375 euros.



Jakob und Elia Rauber, EISZEIT



Tobias Wagner, Brotkultur

### Business start-up „Brotkultur Hüttenberg“

Tobias Wagner has fulfilled his dream and opened a bakery and shop in Hüttenberg. In "Brotkultur", bread is produced in its purist style using only flour, water and salt, traditionally with sourdough. High-quality products are produced and sold by hand in this niche. The various types of flour and seeds are sourced from Amends Mühle in Braunfels-Neukirchen.

Planned total costs approx. 130,000 euros net  
Funding: 50,008 euros

## Field of action 3

### Recreational areas for local recreation and rural tourism

#### Hiking, cycling and water tourism

We support our three destinations Lahntal, Taunus and Westerwald in expanding active tourism and optimising the cultural experiences on offer. The aim is to improve the development of local recreational infrastructure, especially with children, young people and families in mind.

#### History Experience

Strengthening region-specific themes, e.g. Celts and Romans, Huguenots and Waldensians, local history. Measures are supported here that help to valorise these themes these themes in the region.

**Project idea: AR - Virtual journey through time into the region's past**

#### Promotion of the service sector

Increasing guest requirements bring with them the need for service-orientated and qualitative developments. The product range of local recreation and tourism offers determines whether a place is attractive enough to live and visit.



### Realised Projects

#### Redesign of the Herrengarten Braunfels entrance area

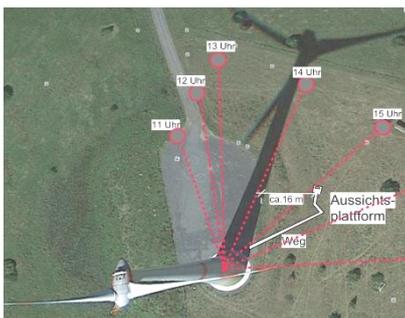
With the redesign of the entrance area of the historic Herrengarten, the main aim was to sustainably preserve the cultural and landscape heritage of the historic "Herrengarten". The idea of "preservation through careful utilisation and care" is at the forefront of this.

The investment project will strengthen the connection between the Herrengarten and the historic city centre and thus, among other things, improve the networking of tourist attractions.

Funding: 76,013 euros / total investment volume: 132,536 euros



Ground-breaking ceremony in the Herrengarten



Wind energy sundial

#### Wind energy sundial

Die Idee zu dem Projekt entstand durch die BürgerInnen im Rahmen des Dorfentwicklungsverfahrens. Der Standort der Sonnenuhr befindet sich in der Nähe einer der höchsten Erhebungen des Westerwaldes, dem Knoten, und ist hervorragend an ein umfangreiches Rad- und Wanderwegenetz angebunden.

Bei Sonnenschein zeigt der Schatten des Windrads die vollen Stunden, indem er auf Basalt-Steinhaufen fällt, die als „Zeitsteine“ aufgeschichtet wurden. Von der angelegten Aussichtsplattform lässt sich ein weites Rundum-Panorama genießen.

Funding: 18,025 euros / total investment volume: 30,642 euros



Funding period  
**2023-2027**



Funding budget  
**3.05 million euros**

## Visitor Centre Roman Forum Waldgirmes

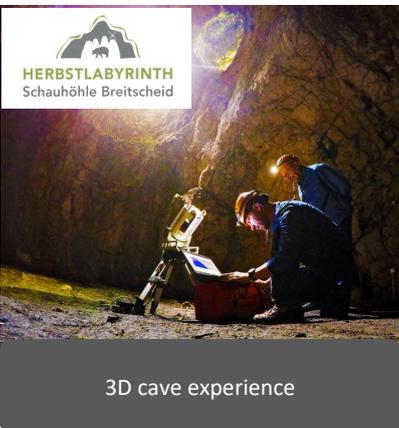
In order to better present the historical significance of the Roman settlement site near Waldgirmes at the time of Emperor Augustus, a visitor centre was built by the Roman Forum Association.

The almost self-sufficient wooden building was constructed directly on the former excavation site. The location of the building provides a magnificent overview of the approximately 8-hectare site. Numerous artefacts, replicas and information boards as well as the association's extensive library are exhibited in the building.

Funding: 199,605 euros / total investment volume: 478,260 euros



Lahnau visitor centre



3D cave experience

## 3D cave experience Breitscheid

The Herbstlabyrinth show cave in Breitscheid is still considered one of the most important show caves in Germany due to its uniqueness and scientific discoveries.

In order to make the protected areas tangible, the project idea was to make the physically inaccessible areas virtually accessible in the form of a 3D show. This gives visitors the opportunity to enter the now 12,665 metre long cave system in 3D virtually and using multimedia.

Funding 15,289 euros / total investment volume: 27,631 euros

## Greifenstein children's trail

The municipality of Greifenstein redesigned half of the existing Kleiner Wäller Kunst + Natur circular hiking trail as a children's hiking trail.

The story "The Blue Machine" by author Heike Ellermann was told over 2.9 kilometres. Heike Ellermann. The trail is equipped with life-size wooden animal figures (deer, hedgehog, wild boar, fox, hare, wild goose). The children's tour also includes information boards that encourage children to guess and play.

Funding: 7,736 euros

Total investment volume: 13,151.50 euros



Greifenstein children's trail



Holiday home „Silberhaus“

## Holiday cottage Dorotheenhof Leun-Lahnbahnhof

The old and dilapidated holiday home in Leun-Lahnbahnhof has been rebuilt. The entire property on the former Maria mine was taken over by the Spangenberg family. By building the small 50 m² holiday home, they have expanded the tourist offer in the region and attracted canoeing, cycling and hiking tourists to the destination. The new "Silberhaus" holiday home was also designed to be as accessible as possible.

Funding: 25,000 euros / Total investment volume: approx. 124,000 euros

# The association structures

## Association Region Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar e.V.

At the heart of every LEADER region is the Local Action Group (LAG), in our case the Region Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar e.V. association. Its members are local authorities, business partners, social initiatives, educational institutions and private individuals.

There are a total of 24 LAGs in Hessen and 372 throughout Germany.



## The decision-making committee

The decision-making body is an organ of the region. It evaluates the project proposals received on the basis of defined criteria and thus decides on their eligibility for funding. It is also responsible for the strategic direction of the LEADER region.

The members come from different areas and thus represent the content of the local development strategy in all its diversity:

There are task owners for all fields of action in the decision-making body and therefore the content of our strategy is reflected in its breadth.

Tourism, mobility, economy, local recreation, agriculture, voluntary work, crafts,  
Lifelong learning, municipal and district administration, ecology, entrepreneurship



Wolfgang Keller



Kira Lampe



Christian Schwarz



Andrea Biermann



Marion Sander



Unser Entscheidungsgremium



Saskia Kuhl



Frank Inderthal



Laura Heun



Katharina Lang



Michael Volkwein



Ernst-Günther Lang



Carsten Braun

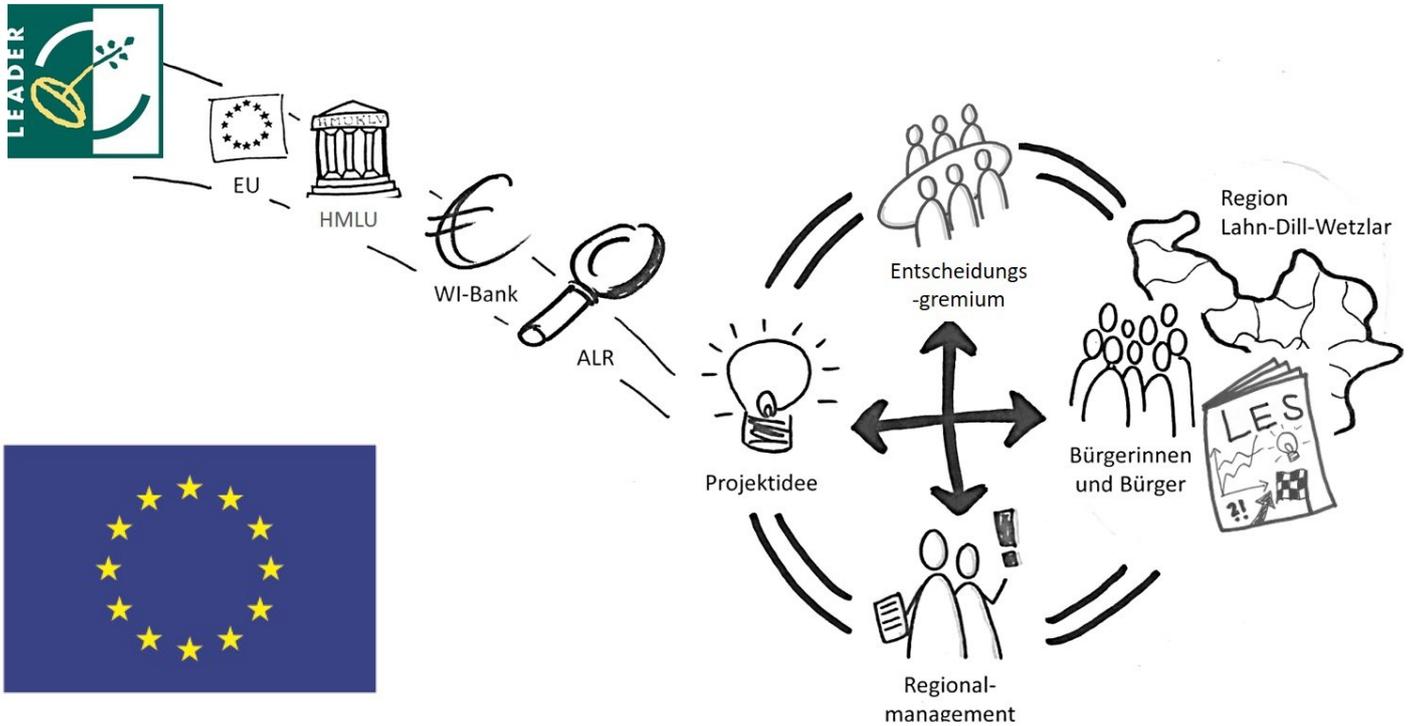


Karin Buchner



Norbert Kortlücke

# The L.E.A.D.E.R process



## EU funding strategy

LEADER is an EU funding strategy that supports rural regions in Europe on their way to independent development. This funding period runs from 2023 to 2027.

LEADER is the abbreviation of the French "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale" and translates as "Link between actions for the development of rural areas".

What is special about the LEADER programme is that it follows the so-called "bottom-up" approach: Local stakeholders develop their own projects that are to be implemented locally.



## Links

Hessian Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viticulture, Forestry, Hunting and Homeland:  
<https://umwelt.hessen.de/laendliche-raeume/regionalentwicklung>

European GAP network: [https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/national-networks\\_de](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/national-networks_de)

## Collaboration!

Would you like to get involved and help shape the Lahn-Dill-Wetzlar region?

You can become active with us. Come to our events or become a member.

Get in touch with us!



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