



## The very first transnational LEADER region in Europe!



The Rhineland-Palatinate region of Moselfranken and its neighbours in the Miselerland area of Luxembourg have drawn up the first transnational development strategy under the EU programme 'LEADER' which supports innovative projects and initiatives in rural areas.

**Discover our region, our concept, our activities and our projects!**

Die gemeinsame Öffentlichkeitsarbeit der GAL LEADER Miselerland und der LAG LEADER Moselfranken unter Beteiligung des Großherzogtums Luxemburg und des Landes Rheinland-Pfalz wird gefördert durch:



den Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raumes (ELER):  
**Hier investiert Europa in die ländlichen Gebiete**



im Rahmen des luxemburgischen „Programms zur Entwicklung des ländlichen Raumes“ (PDR)

im Rahmen des rheinland-pfälzischen „Entwicklungsprogramms Umweltmaßnahmen, Ländliche Entwicklung, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung“ (EULLE)



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture  
et du Développement rural



Rheinland-Pfalz  
MINISTERIUM FÜR  
WIRTSCHAFT, VERKEHR,  
LANDWIRTSCHAFT  
UND WEINBAU

Local Action Group LEADER Miselerland  
23, Rue de Trèves, L-6793 Grevenmacher  
Tel: +352 75 01 39  
E-Mail: [info@miselerland.lu](mailto:info@miselerland.lu)  
Manager: Thomas Wallrich

Local Action Group LEADER Moselfranken  
Schlossberg 6, D-54439 Saarburg  
Tel.: +49 6581 81-165  
E-Mail: [info@lag-moselfranken.de](mailto:info@lag-moselfranken.de)  
Manager: Matthias Faß

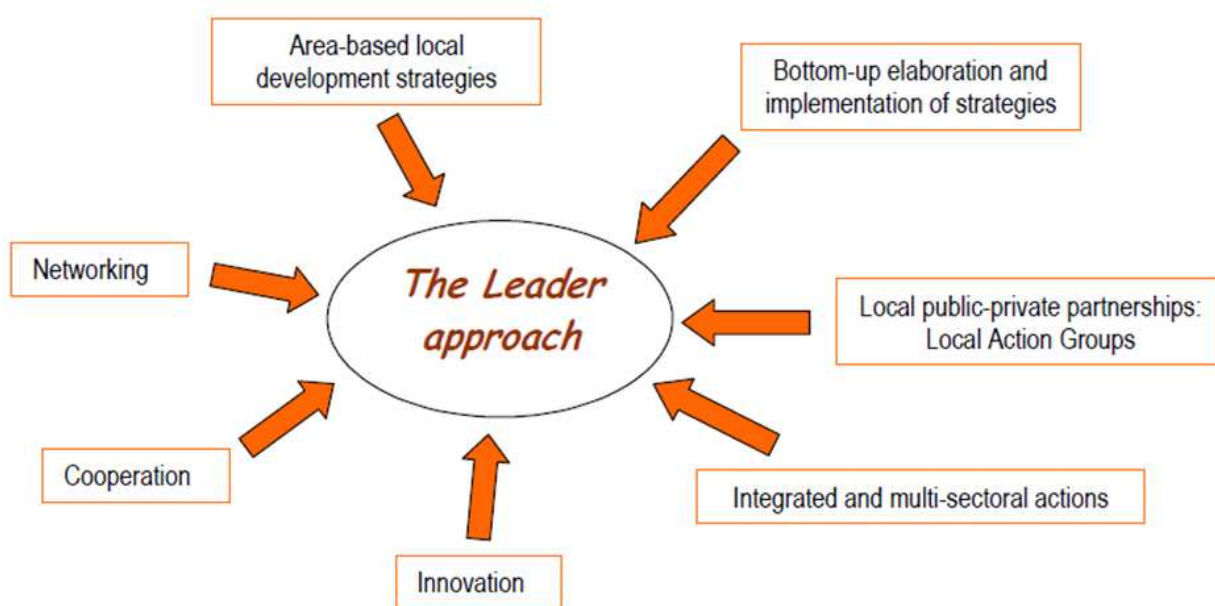
[www.leader-miselerland-moselfranken.eu](http://www.leader-miselerland-moselfranken.eu)

## What is LEADER?

LEADER is a European funding programme for the development of rural areas, which engages local actors in designing their regions under the European Common Agricultural Policy. The name is an acronym in French for "**L**iaison **E**ntre **A**ctions de **D**éveloppement de l'**E**conomie **R**urale" - meaning „Links between actions for the development of the rural economy“.

It is implemented by around 2 600 regions, covering over 54% of the rural population in the EU and bringing together public, private and civil-society stakeholders in a particular area.

LEADER is financed by the Common Agriculture Politik of the European Union, by national fundings from the Ministry of Agriculture and by regional fundings from the municipalities of the region. The underlying approach of the European Union is to transfer, to rural areas and their people, more responsibility for their own development.



The hub of the LEADER regions is the local action group (LAG) in which actors from all sectors (industry, agricultural, municipalities, welfare, politics, associations, cultural organisations etc.) collectively draw up a development concept for their region and select and support suitable, innovative and model projects.

Just about anything is possible in LEADER projects which include activities ranging from the experimental cultivation of new fruit varieties to the setting up of a citizen's meeting place, from canoe hire to signposting for mountain bikes, from municipal forest kindergartens to sculpture trails, from language courses for refugees to energy production from pomace.

Of key importance is that a project starts at grass-roots level and is a benefit to the region. In the LEADER programme, great importance is attached to inter-territorial cooperation and the development of transnational projects.

## What is Miselerland-Moselfranken?

The first transnational LEADER region in Europe is situated to the east and west of the Moselle river in the direct vicinity of the LEADER area of Miselerland in Luxembourg and the German LEADER area of Moselfranken at the heart of the border triangle and at the centre of the Greater Region and between the cities of Luxembourg and Trier.

### What is Miselerland?

The Local action group LEADER Miselerland in the east of Luxembourg was set up in 2003. It consists of 14 municipalities in the Luxembourg Moselle valley.

In view of its 48 members (14 municipalities and 34 organisations), it reflects the make-up of the region.

- area: 261 km<sup>2</sup>
- population: 42.500
- local communities: 14
- Members in the GAL: 48

### What is Moselfranken?

The Local action group LEADER Moselfranken in the west of Rhineland-Palatinate exists since 2000.

It covers the territory of the three municipalities of Trier-Land, Konz and Saarburg in the district of Trier-Saarburg

- area: 505 km<sup>2</sup>
- population: 76.600
- local communities: 39
- Members in the GAL: 26



Since both LAGs have no legal statute and its members are only linked by an agreement, one organisation has to act as the leading partner to assume responsibility for finalising administrative and financial matters.

Since the establishment of the LEADER LAG Miselerland, the Luxembourg Wine-growers Association and its President, Marc Weyer, has adopted this role. The President of the Wine-growers Association is automatically the President of the LAG Miselerland.

Since the establishment of the LEADER LAG Moselfranken, the Municipality of Saarburg and its Major has adopted this role. The Major of Saarburg, Jürgen Dixius, is automatically the President of the LAG Moselfranken.

### What are the regional commons from Moselfranken and Miselerland?

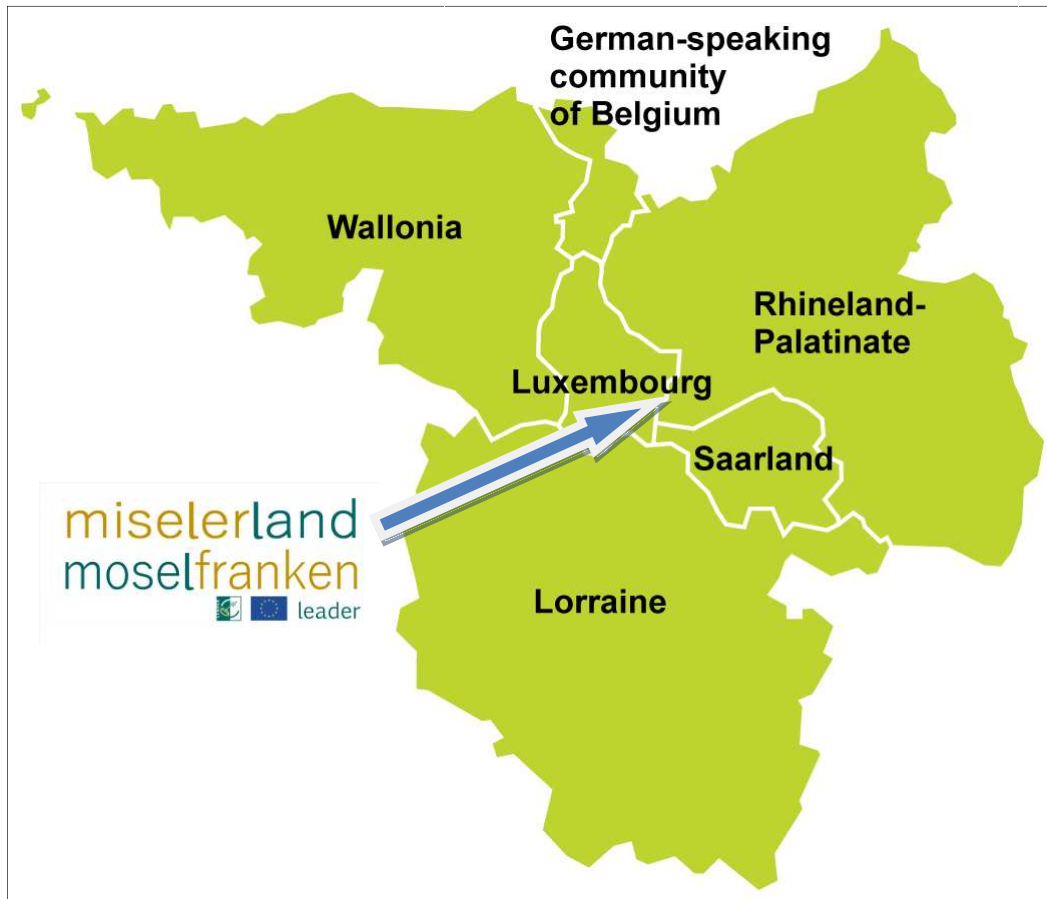
The joint cultural landscape is characterised by the rivers Moselle, Saar, Sauer and Syre, and particularly by viticulture and fruit-growing. The Romans, Celts and Franks have left their marks everywhere.

The two dominant economic centres for the region are the cities of Trier and Luxembourg - while wine-growing, agriculture, tourism, commerce and skilled trades are the main industrial sectors.

Social development is similar in both these LEADER areas: as influx region with great appeal, it shows high rates of population growth. This results in social challenges, the like of which are rare in other areas of Luxembourg and Rhineland-Palatinate and which Miselerland and Moselfranken would now like to tackle in close cooperation.

## The Greater Region:

Miselerland-Moselfranken lies in the heart of the Greater Region.



The Greater Region is a space for cross-border cooperation in the heart of Europe and a territory shaped by the history and culture of 5 regions, 4 countries, and 3 languages.

It covers 65.400 km<sup>2</sup> with more than 11.6 million inhabitants from the territories ...

- Lorraine in the French region Grand Est
- Wallonia and the German-speaking community of Belgium
- Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany
- the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.





The Greater Region offers attractive and multilingual working and living conditions for more than 11.6 million inhabitants and approximately 250,000 cross-border commuters per day – the highest number of cross-border commuters in Europe.

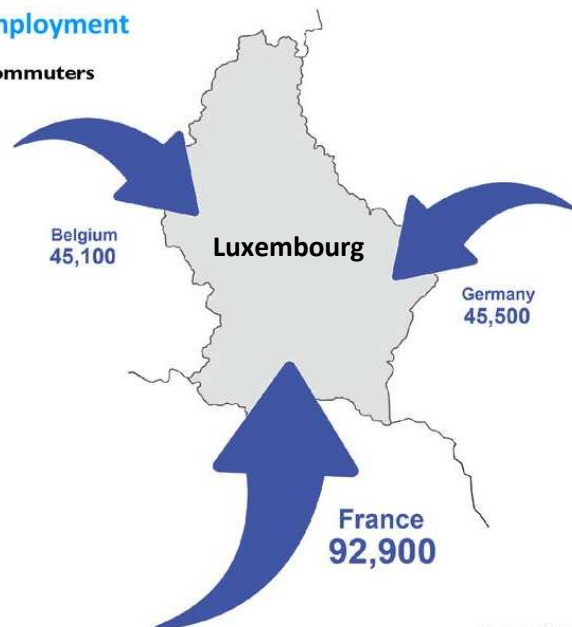
Luxembourg relies on cross-border cooperation due to steadily growing numbers of residents and employees. The Luxembourg economy needs workers from the other national sub-areas to meet the demand within its labor market. The Luxembourg labor market grew by 3.7% in 2017. In the same period, the cross-border commuter rate even increased by 4.3%.

With over 180,000 cross-border commuters, Luxembourg is the economic engine of the Greater Region. The commuter flows are concentrated primarily on Luxembourg.

The high level of development dynamics in this central area in Europe therefore requires more intensive cooperation at national and local level and an institutional setting that promotes the implementation of projects.

#### Population and employment

Flow of cross-border commuters



Numbers: 2017 Statist

#### Why do we work together?

For many years now, the people in the two LEADER regions of Moselfranken and Miselerland have maintained a wide range of connections and a lively exchange of information across national borders. In order to support, foster and design this close cooperation more transparently, the responsible parties in the two LEADER groups have decided to enhance neighbourly relations in the communal region by implementing a joint, transnational LEADER development strategy, the first of its kind across Europe, in the hope of adopting a trailblazing role for many other border areas in the EU.

Our common strengths and weaknesses are many and varied. Daily traffic issues, for instance, affect both sides of the Moselle. To date, common solutions have only occasionally been sought. The high level of residential construction activity in the commuter belt of Luxembourg's capital city has seen the region's trade industry flourish, yet in the process our treasured cultural landscape is being overrun with housing developments, while village centres risk becoming abandoned. Owner-run shops in small and medium-sized centres are closing down due to lack of profitability and purchasing power is flowing heavily into Trier and Luxembourg.

In Moselfranken, a skills shortage, faced in particular by small-scale businesses, is seen as a growing problem. Many apprenticeship positions remain vacant on the German side, while youth unemployment in Luxembourg stands at almost 20%. Our objective is in future to seek common approaches for a continuing positive development of the region as a whole and to work towards creating an even more tight-knit neighbourhood.

In this, LEADER is a crucial tool for our region. Firstly, to continue our successful project work of recent years and, secondly, to continue to support us on our path towards jointly developing ONE region. We are an exemplary European neighbourhood area, even though we are not yet able to create a joint LEADER assisted region (joint management of funds) and a joint LAG due to various national regulations.

We are convinced that the people of our region are encouraged in their own initiatives and inspirations through further intensification of cross-border cooperation. This affects every individual in the region on a personal level and this is who we want to reach with our approach.

### Our common strategy

In order to provide the framework for supporting and implementing a variety of projects, the LAG works out a regional development strategy that is adjusted every 7 years to accommodate social developments.

Our strategy for the period 2014 to 2020 :

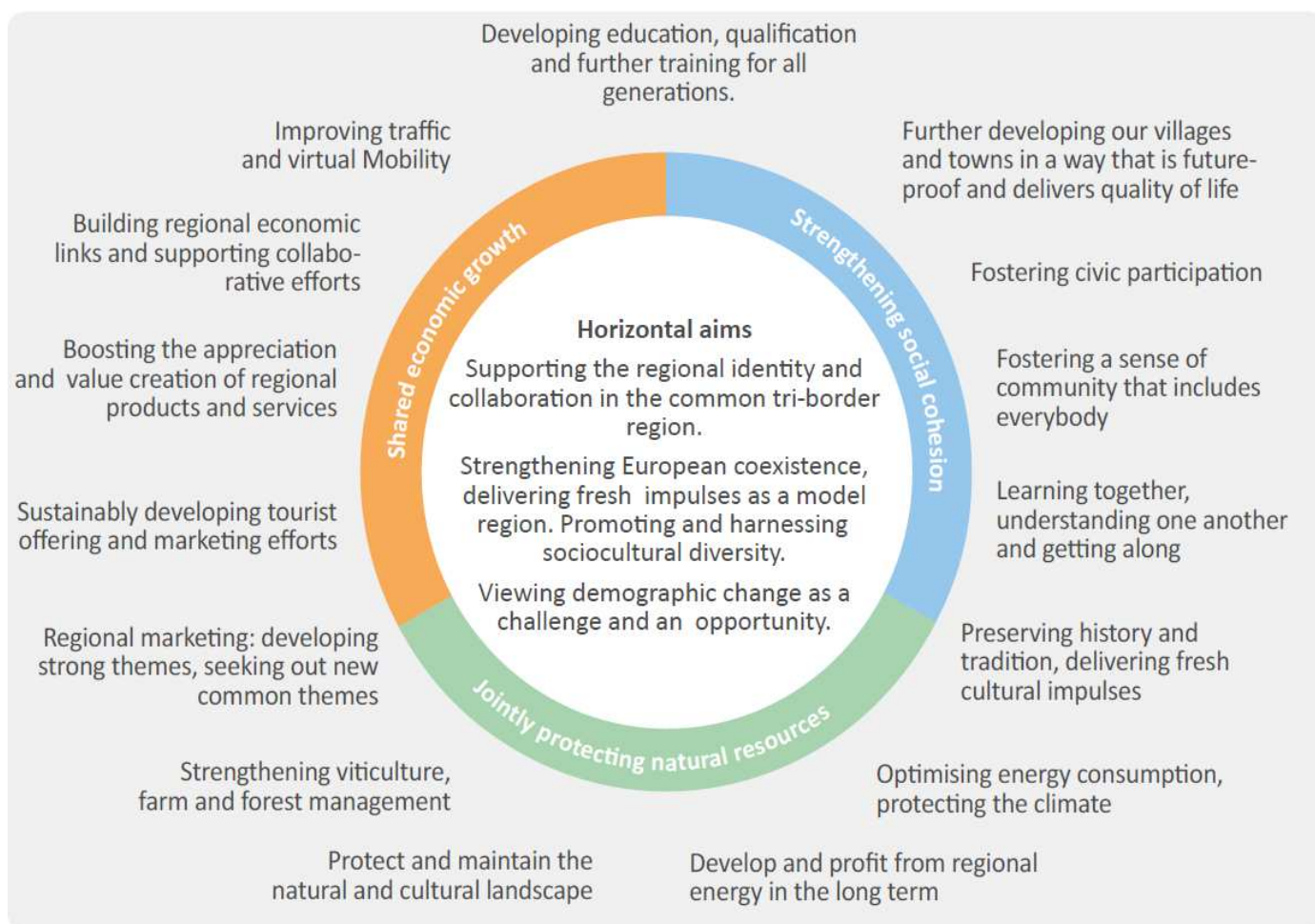
## **Miselerland & Moselfranken: People-Region-Europe**

### **Towards a joint region within the tri-border area of Germany-France-Luxembourg**

### **Regional identity, European model region, sociocultural diversity and demographic change as cross-cutting themes**

The common development strategy for Miselerland-Moselfranken is divided into three major areas of activity based on the three pillars of sustainability (industry, environment, people), consists of 15 regional objectives and a total of 70 sets of measures.

They were drawn up from the needs of the transnational region that were identified using an analysis of strengths and weaknesses as well as experiences from previous funding periods.



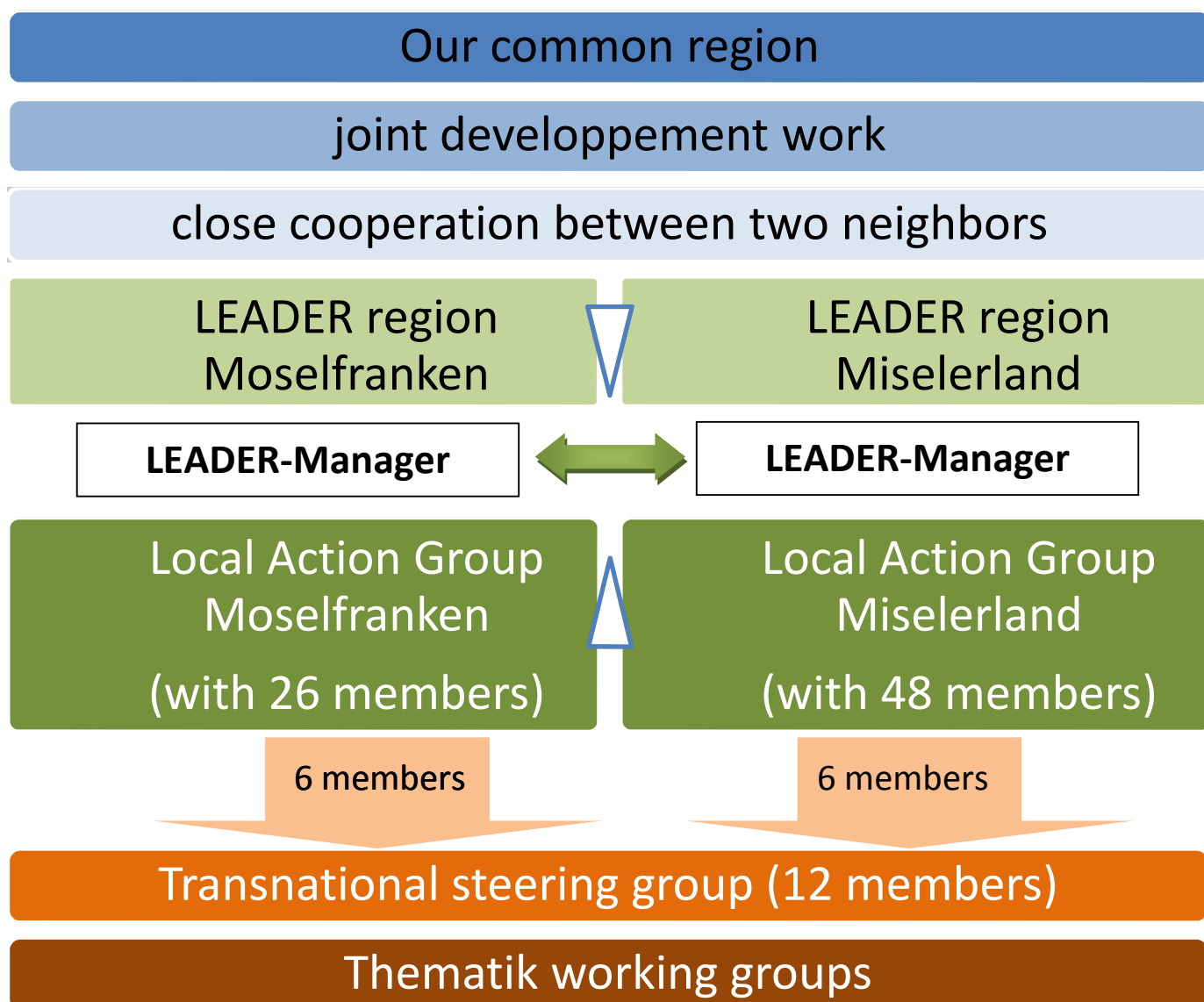
### How does the cooperation work in practice?

Unfortunately, as the Local Action Groups (LAGs) do not have an EU statutes under the LEADER program and each LAG can only apply for funding in a country where their region is located, each of the two LEADER areas have do has its own decision-making body - therefore Moselfranken has its own LAG and that Miselerland has its own LAG, too.

However, as it is important that meaningful decisions and strategic considerations are made together, we have installed a Transnational Steering Group consisting of 6 members each of the two LAGs. So this transnational steering group is coordinating the cross-border cooperation.

But that's not all: In a number of thematic working groups, we bring together experts and people from both sides of the national border: tourism experts, heads of youth centers, directors of secondary schools, mobility experts, winemakers, ... Often, these people were previously completely unknown or have never met. Our working groups therefore serve to ensure that experts from both sides get to know each other for the first time and exchange views with each other on a continual basis. By getting to know each other and exchanging ideas, we create the basis for common visions and projects.

Bringing people together from both sides is the best way to shape the future of the transnational region together!



## Model for Europe?

Our common development strategy and the resultant additional regional activities are governed by the vision of a common European neighbourhood region, which has overcome administrative and ideological borders.

We wish to explore the possibilities of what can be achieved through good cooperation and an “understanding of one another” among the local people – with the awareness that, when it comes to any regional development activities, it is ultimately about the people.

And it is the people who themselves in turn significantly influence the development of their region with their thoughts and actions. We want to put our joint LEADER strategy to use to facilitate cooperation for the people on both sides of the Moselle, to provide them with opportunities for joint planning and action.

For the first time in Europe, a transnational LEADER concept is being presented, which has the potential to inspire the approximately 500 LEADER border regions that exist throughout the 28 countries of the European Union. This common concept aims to provide these border regions with an example and reference point of how a path can be forged towards a joint region.

### Contact to our LEADER-Management

Local Action Group LEADER Miselerland  
Thomas Wallrich & Melanie Zeimetz  
23, Route de Trèves, L-6793 Grevenmacher  
Fon: + 352 750139  
e-Mail: [info@miselerland.lu](mailto:info@miselerland.lu)

Local Action Group LEADER Moselfranken  
Matthias Faß, Jochen Thinnies, Georg Schmeltzle  
Irscher Straße 56, D-54439 Saarburg  
Fon: +49 6581 81-165  
e-Mail: [info@lag-moselfranken.de](mailto:info@lag-moselfranken.de)

[www.leader-miselerland-moselfranken.eu](http://www.leader-miselerland-moselfranken.eu)