







DEMAND SIDE ANALYSIS

Romania



- Online survey with 150+ rural local authorities in Romania (May 2021)
- Limit: not statistical representative
- Relevant distribution in terms of size of municipalities and geographical coverage
- Survey results have been triangulated with the results from interviews with relevant stakeholders







Highlights from survey – previous experience



Projects

- County-wide water supply systems
- Integrated waste management systems
- Average size EUR1.5M- 2.5M

Governance

Emerging use of associative structures (44% of the surveyed municipalities implemented rural infrastructure investments in the context of a LAG or an IDA)

Funding mix

Preference for national support schemes (61% of previous investments) and suboptimal access to EU grants schemes

Fls

No experience with FIs for rural investment projects

- No instruments for rural municipalities in the POs
- Regulatory barriers for usage of FIs





Highlights from survey – future demand



Projects

Future projects are not different from the ones implemented in the past, but their value is approximatively two or three times higher than the average value of past projects



Governance

Leverage on the existence of IDAs and LAGs due to the sheer size of the projects (not only in meeting the eligibility criteria, but also in terms of providing public services)

Fls

- The regulatory framework on public debt, public property and banks' risk portfolio acts as a systemic barrier for the potential use of financial instruments in the rural area
- High need to create awareness

Funding mix

- 61% of the surveyed declared that a combination of ESIF grants and grants from the national budget would be preferable.
- 14% have argued in favour of combining EU and national grants with loans.





Highlights from survey – lessons learned and recommendations



Water and sewage

- Potential: Water supply networks, Sewerage systems, Septic tanks for remote areas,
- Need for integrated investments (with roads)
- Many households cannot afford the connection cost

Waste

- Potential: Compost stations, Sorting stations and landfills (for shorter transports)
- Waste collection cannot be done without road infrastructure



Energy efficiency

- Potential: Thermal insulation of public and private buildings & LED public lighting
- Funds need to be allocated for the removal of old, cement lighting poles as it is a very expensive operation

Renewable energy

- Potential: Solar panels and heat pumps for public buildings, Photovoltaic parks, Hydrogen fuel capacities
- Needed support in identifying financing source, technical consultancy and capacity building





Can financial instruments help promote rural infrastructure?



- FIs need to be efficiently promoted among potential beneficiaries and policy makers
- Support is needed for development of pilot projects in rural infastructure, both for beneficiaries and managing authorities









Thank you!

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