

The thesis deals with action of local action groups (LAGs) in the Czech Republic at the beginning of the new programming period. During the last seven years, LAGs proved to be an ideal cooperation platform of local actors, which leads to the integrated development of its home territory. The aim of this work is to evaluate the activity of LAGs, with an emphasis on the process of social networking, sectors cooperation at the local level, promote economic activities LAGs and ensure their operation.

Analysis of the functioning of LAGs was based on guided interviews with LAG managers or LAG directors, and representatives of rural development institutions. Selection of interviewed LAG representatives was based on the LAGs evaluation from 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Results of guided interviews with LAGs' representatives and experts served to define the barriers that currently impede the development of rural areas through the LEADER method and community planning. Furthermore, the results of field research confirmed that LAGs activity supports the development of social networks in its home territory and breaking down barriers between public, private and non-profit sectors.