

The target of this work is to find out the aspects of sustainability in LEADER program in the Czech Republic and common aspects with Local Agenda 21. I have used the methods of text analysis of the key documents concerning LEADER program. I have compared the documents with a set of principles of sustainable development, made according to several official sets. In the second part of the work, I have made a research among the representants of those LAGs which were supported in the LEADER program. I have sent them a questionnaire with several questions created on the basis of a set of Criterias for local Agenda 21 in the Czech Republic. Finally I received 23 answers from 29 LAGs.

It appeared that the program includes a lot of principles of sustainability. But also lot of principles are missing. The program doesn't monitor sustainability systematically and sustainability is not the condition of receiving the financial support either. Which is an important lack of a program proclaiming support of sustainable rural development.

Udržitelnost v programu LEADER+ a LEADER ČR - porovnání s Místní Agendou 21
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In the questionnaire research the following facts were discovered. Lot of LAGs are implementing activities supporting sustainability and they provide local inhabitants with information about sustainability, too. LAGs have a strong potential to use wide spektrum of public participation methods.

All pillars of sustainability are included in LEADER, although the social one is the weakest. There is also an important lack in appreciation of the environment without regarding its economic advantages, i.e. for turism development, etc.

The hypothesis of the work wasn't approved. The program isn't systematic enough in sustainable development support. It rather depends on individual activities of the recipients of financial support.

It can be concluded that the LEADER program supports sustainability, but doesn't implement it systematically, like Local Agenda 21 iniciative does. Anyhow, it is possible that the LAGs could fulfil the requirements of LA21 criterias. LAGs' activities are very close to LA21.