The Swedish Rural Network

2010 03 17-18
Hans-Olof Stålgren
Sweden – a long coast line
Swedish RDP
SEK 36,5 billion, aiming at:

Strengthening the competitiveness in farming and forestry
Protecting biodiversity
Preserving cultural heritage
Meet the climate challenges and develop renewable energy
Create new employment
Increase the number of enterprises with new products and services
Increase the number of visiting tourists
Village renewal and development
Better service and access to broadband
A National Rural Network (NRN) in all EU member states

The EU RDP article 68: Each Member State shall establish a national rural network, which groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development.

In Sweden understood:

”…to bring together parties involved in or affected by the Rural Development Programme, through information activities, exchanges of experience……

to improve its implementation and strengthen its potential for rural development. … serve as a national and transnational forum for wide-ranging exchange of information ……
to broaden dialogue on implementation at and between local, regional, national and international levels.”
The purpose of the Swedish Rural Network

Axis 1

The Rural Development Program

Axis 2

Improve the implementation
Strengthen its potential for rural development

Axis 3

Type of activities

Axis 4 Leader

Exchange of information, experience and methods

Broad dialogue between local, regional, national and international level

Exchanges of experience between rural development policy, regional development policy and environmental policy

The aim of the network
A formal, official network

Basic structure

• Members: All actors at national level working with rural development

• A Steering Committee of 11 members

• Network (service) Unit at the Managing Authority

• Activities driven by the members
100 national actors and 63 LAGs

Acting both together in co-operation and individually
Some of the member organisations

Swedish Association for Breeding of Warm Blood Race Horses
National Federation of Community Halls
Swedish Biodiversity Centre
Farmers Union, LRF
Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority (Lantmäteriet)
Ecological Farmers
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Swedish Board of Fishery
National Association All Sweden Shall Live (The village movement)
Swedish Federation of Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies, HUSH
Leader LAG:s
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
County Administrations
Association Young in Rural Areas
Royal Academy for Forestry and Agriculture
Many more
Network activities

- **Yearly**
  - 2 network conferences
  - 1 national Leader conference
  - 1 Rural Gala with awards for best practice
- Meetings with Leader managers and chairmen
- “Cheques” for member activities
- “Cheques” to LAGs for transnational cooperation
- Telephone Think Tanks
- Training and education
- Thematic working groups
- Animation activities for the RDP
- Support measures for LAGs
- Newsletter
- Web site
Collecting and analysing experiences

- **"Think Tanks":**
  - The RDP implementation
  - CAP post 2013
  - Think tanks on demand
    - Local food processing
    - Entrepreneurship

- **Surveys**
  - Regional partnerships
  - Cooperation LAGs/County Adm
  - Research "shadows"
  - Good practice – yearly Rural Best

- **Thematic working groups**
  - Gender equality
  - Integration
  - Youth
  - Community planning
  - Environmental challenges
  - Local risk capital
Participation in international thematic groups

- Focus groups: Bottom up approach, Transnational co-operation….
- Relevant examples (success factors, innovations, transferability, sustainability, effectiveness)
- Forestry
- Social farming
- Rural Entrepreneurship
- EU Commission Thematic Working Groups
The aim of this conference is to establish an arena for researchers with an interest in the Nordic rural areas as an empirical field. For this purpose biennial conferences circulating between the Nordic countries are planned. The first conference will be held in the Stockholm-Uppsala region in Sweden in 3-5 May 2010 with the following sub themes:

- New understandings and use of nature and landscapes
- Flows of people, ideas and images
- Politics and policy

Deadlines are as follows:
Oct 15th call for abstracts posted
Dec 15th deadline for abstracts
Jan 15th abstracts accepted/rejected
Apr 15th deadline for papers

Registration to nrf@sol.slu.se no later than March 15th, 2010.

Keynote speakers include:
Professor em Ottar Brox, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research
Johannes Nørregaard Frandsen, Head of Department
Institut for Litteratur, Kultur og Medier; University of Southern Denmark
Professor Katherine Gibson, College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University,
Professor Erik Westholm, Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm

Visit our conference website for more information and registration:
www.sol.slu.se/nrf

The planning committee for the conference includes:
Cecilia Waldenström, Assistant professor, Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
Ann-Kristin Ekman, Professor in Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
Leif Berndtsson, Research coordinator, Swedish National Rural Network
Lars Pettersson, PhD, Swedish Board of Agriculture and Livestock Research
Helena Christensen, Professor of Rural Policy, MTT Agrifood Research Finland
Adele Väliranta, Principal Research Scientist, MTT Agrifood Research Finland
Hanne Tanvig, Senior researcher and adviser, Forest & Landscape, University of Copenhagen
Marit S. Haugen, Research Manager, Centre for Rural Research, Trondheim, Norway
Karl Benediktsson, Professor of Human Geography, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Iceland

Conference coordinator is Stina Powell, Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Stina.Powell@sol.slu.se

We look forward to receiving your submissions, and to meeting you in Sweden next year! Most welcome!

3 - 5 May 2010
Nordic Rural Futures: pressures and possibilities
Research conference May 2010
How do we develop the rural areas?
The Rural Parliament is Sweden’s largest meeting place with dialogue, inspiration and exchange of experience.

The main purpose of the Rural Parliament is to motivate and inspire participants to start new rural projects and develop the countryside even more today. The aim is to discuss the current “tool-box” (Rural development programme including Leader, national tools, other relevant EU-programmes). What kind of “tool-box” is needed after 2013?

We will look into the future – what will be the living conditions 2020? We will focus on three themes: transport, climate and energy. Researchers will describe scenarios for the future, 2020/2025, and their impact on the rural areas.

We will show the participants different rural projects that has been, and still are, successful. There will be 10 seminars in English and 70 seminars in Swedish. The seminars and the visit to different rural projects will cover topics such as energy (water power, sun, biodiesel production) tourism, nature projects, culture, youth projects, Integration etcetera.

Where generations meet rural development happens!
Thank you!

Please feel free to contact us at the Swedish Rural Network

first name.family name@jordbruksverket.se

www.landsbygdsnatverket.se
www.leaderplus.se
Information about the Swedish Rural Network

The Swedish Rural Network shall reinforce the implementation of the Swedish Rural Development Programme 2007-2013.

The Swedish Rural Network invite You to The Swedish Rural Gala 2010, 23:rd of November 2010. More information

Contact information

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Further information

- About the Swedish Rural Network
- Follow-up of the Swedish national Rural network 2007-2008
- The nominated to the Swedish Rural Gala 2009
- Leader in the Swedish Rural Network
- Get the Swedish Rural Development Programme
- Power Point about the Swedish Rural Network
- Power Point from the 12th of May about the Swedish Rural Network
- Activity Plan for the Swedish Rural Network 2009
International networking

The Contact Point for ENRD
The hub for transnational cooperation
Lots of direct interaction
Experiences from LEADER II and Leader+

Networking linked people and competences
Created capacity building
Created personal relations
Lifted good examples
Facilitated cooperation projects
Gathered and distributed information
Created a Competence Pool
Etc……