

Added Value of Networking



Developing a Toolkit for Enterprising Rural Communities

Basic information	
NRN:	Lithuanian rural network
Theme:	Success story
Coordinator:	LAG Pajūrio kraštas
Partners:	n.a.
Beneficiaries:	Rural communities of Klaipėdas district
Resources:	5 792 EUR
Period:	2011-09-01 – 2012-04-30
Main element of networking:	Effective stakeholder engagement
Other elements of networking:	Building common understanding of common policies Collection, analysis and dissemination of good practices

Background

When implementing LAG Pajūrio kraštas's Local Development Strategy many of the key applicants for local projects are rural communities. These communities often require business support when preparing cost-effective, social enterprise projects. LAG Pajūrio kraštas expects rural communities to ensure the continuity of the projects and that all projects become financially sustainable at the end of the funding period. In Lithuania there wasn't any support of this nature targeted at rural community organisations which provided comprehensive information and advice on rural community development and business management, business plans, and other documents. As a result rural communities didn't have the knowledge required to enable and encourage them to develop cost-effective projects to create new jobs in rural areas.



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Main activities

Business support was provided through the development of information materials for Klaipėdas district and other Lithuanian rural communities involved in implementing local projects.

Main results/benefits

A prototype toolkit, which contained the most important information, pro forma documentation, practical advice to support the preparation and implementation of cost-effective projects was developed. These methodological materials were presented to local project applicants during information events with 300 CD's and 300 printed copies distributed to representatives of rural communities in Klaipėdas district, some reference material books were also shared with other local business organisations. LAG Pajūrio kraštas which is delivering the Klaipėdas district rural development strategy expects that it will receive at least 15 business projects during the second call for proposals.

Success factors

A prototype toolkit can be used as a guide for rural communities and individuals that are interested in starting their own business. It contains all the necessary information, forms and practical tips for preparing and implementing cost-effective projects. Rural communities which have developed a business project will also now act as best practice examples both locally and nationally for other Lithuanian communities.

Added value of networking

This activity has helped develop new businesses and so foster the creation of new jobs in rural areas.

Contribution of the NSU

Through this activity the Lithuanian NRN has supported the implementation of the Lithuanian Rural Network 2011 Action Plan.

Contribution of the partners

n.a.



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Additional information

n.a.

Pictures



Source: Lithuanian National Rural Network

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