

# Added Value of Networking



## *Supporting the development of cooperation projects and joint activity - Carpathian Basin partner summit*

Basic information	
NRN:	Hungary
Theme:	Good practice
Coordinator:	Hungarian National Rural Network
Partners:	Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry for National Economy, Local Action Groups, stakeholders involved and interested in rural development
Beneficiaries:	Local Action Groups, stakeholders involved and interested in rural development
Resources:	EAFRD
Period:	08. 2011-12. 2013
Main element of networking:	Support for cooperation and joint actions
Other elements of networking:	Effective stakeholder engagement Building common understanding of common policies Collection, analysis and dissemination of good practice, success stories and relevant experience Exchange of relevant experience and know-how amongst stakeholders Capacity building and training Support for cooperation and joint actions

### Background

The LEADER program is one of the most successful rural development initiatives in the European Union and one of its main pillars is networking and the exchange of experience, methods and good practice - often achieved through cooperation among LEADER groups.

Recognizing that, as well as the success of previous collaborative working, an Invitation to Tender for Submitting Project Ideas on Visits Promoting or Preparing International Cooperation was published on five occasions from August 2011 to April 2013. The Invitation to Tender was published by the Hungarian

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National Rural Network and is consistent with the 99/2012. (IX. 25.) Regulation of the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development. While the Regulation is related to the implementation of specific projects based on the international cooperation of Local Action Groups, the Network's Invitation to Tender enables preparation of those projects through for example international partner search meetings.

One of many successful examples of cooperation between LEADER Local Action Groups was the international event held in Timisoara on September 27th and 28th 2012, when a cooperation agreement was signed by the Romanian and Hungarian National Rural Networks. The theme of the event was cooperation among Local Workgroups and Networks from Romania and Hungary. Through theoretical presentations, workshops and revisiting existing cooperation the Workgroups and Networks created shared solutions within a new framework for joint collaboration.

Furthermore, in order to enable transfer of information, consultations and support in the field of international cooperation projects for Local Action Groups, in March 2013 the Hungarian National Rural Network organised a summit for LAGs operating in the countries of the Carpathian Basin, the aim of which was to strengthen cooperation between Local Action Groups and to support their partner search activities. The Carpathian Basin is a geographical term covering an inhabited area with common history, peaceful relations, and where country borders have been redrawn over the years. From our shared past we research ways we can develop a common future.

## Main activities

In the LEADER Programme an important task for Member States is to support both inter-territorial and transnational co-operation. To reach these goals Local Action Groups and rural actors need support through training, meetings, social learning and learning methods of knowledge transfer. During the cooperation event the participants received support to reinforce the Carpathian Basin's cross-border co-operations and explore social and cultural connections through workshop methodology, community development and other forms of knowledge transfer. Lectures on practical experience, thematic workshops and Open Space conversations were delivered with the aim of motivating co-operation. We ensured space and opportunities for partner searches and preparation of common projects as well as experts and facilitators to help the process.

## Main results/benefits

The main results and benefits of the event have been the successful promotion of collective engagement, effective and intensive experience exchange, implementation of good practice, and finding practical solutions for improving life in rural areas.

Our experiences regarding the Partner search summit for the LAGs of the Carpathian Basin countries are



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that the three days of the programme were very successful. Although the results of the meeting will bring tangible benefits in the shape of concrete projects in the longer term, the lively debates and discussions, the exchanges of business cards, the project ideas on the flipcharts all proved that the event has achieved its desired effect.

## Success factors

Numerous participants were attracted to the events due to targeted communication and its widespread promotion as well as the involvement of experts. Although events organised so far have been successful, there are areas that need to be improved in the future, such as providing sufficient translation services or using a common language, and gathering sufficient information about the participants.

## Added value of networking

Networking helped identify shared solutions, exchange experience in order to improve individual activities, as well as cooperation of Local Action Groups and stakeholders involved and interested in rural development.

We hope all the ideas, debates and new connections made during the summit will lead to the development of successful projects. But our wish is to establish and cement long-lasting co-operations not only for one project but for many, therefore bringing the LAGs and through them, the people of this region closer to each other.

## Contribution of the NSU

The Hungarian NRN served as a platform and assisted in the reinforcement of the Carpathian Basin's cross-border co-operations, social and cultural connections through workshops, community development and other forms of knowledge transfer.

In accordance with the national rural development strategy the HNRR helped to foster economical co-operations and to make new friendships among the LAGs.

## Contribution of the partners

The participating LAGs have strengthened and further developed their existing inter-territorial and transnational cooperation activities. The international summit of LAGs helped to find innovative solutions, to set up new services and to exchange experiences with Romanian, Slovenian, Slovakian,

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Polish, Serbian and Ukrainian project partners.

In the future more emphasis will be put on local governments because they play an important role in the implementation of the project and they could be the main beneficiaries of the planned development.

## Additional information

The connection between urban areas and the countryside has developed. Voluntary work was very important concerning the improvement of the surroundings.

Video: Kárpát-medencei LEADER HACS találkozó

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGUO6W\\_dwwI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGUO6W_dwwI)

## Pictures



Carpathian Basin partner summit - photo 1



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Carpathian Basin partner summit - photo 2

Source: Hungary National Rural Network

## Last Update

April 2013



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