

Added Value of Networking



Idea trips "Learning about Leader in Estonia" - 5 study tours to different LAGs for potential multi-fund partners

Basic information	
NRN:	Estonian NRN
Theme:	Good practice
Coordinator:	Ave Bremse, Estonian NSU
Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture, Estonian LAGs
Beneficiaries:	wider audience, beneficiaries of RDP support, potential beneficiaries
Resources:	RDP Technical Assistance
Period:	01 – 15 November 2012
Main element of networking:	Building common understanding of common policies
Other elements of networking:	Exchange of relevant experience and know-how amongst stakeholders

Background

On October 5th 2012 the first of four meetings of the 'Future of the LEADER Measure' discussion workgroup was held in the Ministry of Agriculture. Due to the opportunities to use the multi-fund approach in the future Leader measure, or CLLD, representatives from different Ministries and social partners were involved. It was soon recognised that their knowledge of Leader was not as robust as hoped, so to develop a better understanding an introduction to the activities of LAGs and the success of the Leader measure in rural areas was proposed. Five study trips, called IDEA-TRIPS, were organised between 1st and 15th November 2012. It was hoped that including five trips would enable a sufficient number of specialists and decision makers the opportunity to identify a suitable trip to attend.

Main activities

Five study tours were prepared with the assistance of 13 LAGs during October 2012. Every IDEA-TRIP consisted of visits to three or four Leader supported projects, one or two LAG offices and involved approximately 2 hour discussions, introducing the area, current activities, strategy and possible use of the multi fund approach in the future. At least one project visit was selected where different funds were used. The following trips were undertaken:

1. IDEA-TRIP 1: 1st November 2012 to Järva County. Visits to: LAG Järva Development Partners



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Main activities

- www.jap.org.ee; LAG South-Järvamaa Partnership www.koostookogu.ee. Four Leader supported projects were visited: village centre, theme park and centre, youth centre and female entrepreneur vet.
2. IDEA-TRIP 2: 5th November 2012 to East-Estonia. Visits to: LAG Viru Region Cooperation Council www.viko.ee; LAG Peipsi-Alutaguse Chamber of Cooperation www.pakmtu.ee; LAG Partnership of North-East Coast www.kirderannik.ee. Four Leader supported projects visited: a village centre & guest house, local port, adventure park, regional farmer's union centre.
3. IDEA-TRIP 3: 9th November 2012 to South-Estonia. Visits to: LAG Tartu Rural Development Association www.tas.ee; LAG Põlva County Partnership Board www.partnerluskogu.ee; LAG Borderlands Leader www.piiriveere.ee. Three Leader supported projects visited: local food market, flight club & airfield, community house.
4. IDEA-TRIP 4: 13th November 2012 to Western Estonia and the Island of Saaremaa. Visits to: LAG Kodukant Läänemaa www.kklm.ee; LAG West- Estonian Islands Partnership www.skk.ee. Five Leader supported projects visited: local health centre, bio-fuel chips entrepreneur, aluminum ship construction company, bio-farm restaurant, registered community kitchen.
5. IDEA-TRIP 5: 15th November 2012 to Rapla county. Visits to: LAG Raplamaa Partnership Registered Association www.raplaleader.ee; LAG Western-Harju Partnership www.vomentaga.ee. Four Leader supported projects visited: metal company, village development, rally park, heritage objects.

Main results/benefits

Representatives from four Ministries and several social partners' organisations had direct contact with Leader LAGs and their projects. This enabled different approaches to the use of multi funding to be discussed with rural people in their local communities.

Success factors

The key success within this activity was the many direct contacts made between decision makers and rural actors.

Added value of networking

Networking enabled first-hand information about Leader and its activities in rural areas to be provided to representatives of different Ministries. A wide range of LAG and Leader project representatives were directly involved in discussions on the future of Leader and CLLD. Possible schemes and the need for the multi-fund approach were discussed. Organisations like Young Farmers, the Rural Parliament, Union of Rural Municipalities and the Association of Rural Women had the opportunity to meet LAGs.



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Contribution of the NSU

All these activities were organised by the NSU as part of our everyday work.

Contribution of the partners

The Ministry of Agriculture was involved in developing the content of the trips and the 13 LAGs proposed their projects and prepared meetings with visitors from different Ministries and organisations.

Pictures



IdeaTrips. Source: Estonian Rural Network

Last Update

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