

Added Value of Networking



Added Value of Networking:

Supporting LAGs to develop inter-territorial and transnational projects

Story name: Fostering cooperation projects in Lithuania

Basic information	
NRN:	Lithuanian NRN
Keywords:	Training, conference, trans-national and inter-territorial cooperation
Coordinator:	The Centre for the LEADER Programme and Agricultural Training Methodology
Partners:	LAGs, NRN
Resources:	n.a.
Period:	2010-2013

Background to the inter-territorial and/or transnational cooperation support activities

In 2011 LAGs started to implement their first inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects related to youth, crafts, entrepreneurship etc. These projects created added value in rural areas and inspired new ideas for the implementation of local projects. However, not all inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects were approved by the MA as not all of them were innovative or met local goals.



Added Value of Networking



Purpose and description of the inter-territorial and/or transnational cooperation support activities

In order to help with inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects the Centre for the LEADER Programme and Agricultural Training Methodology supported LAGs through training and conferences. Two international conferences in Klaipėda and Druskininkai were organised in order to help LAGs with a partner search and collect new ideas for inter-territorial and/or transnational cooperation projects:

- 2010 “International cooperation projects through the LEADER approach”, and
- 2011 “Building bridges for transnational cooperation”.

At the conferences the Centre also organised a “cooperation corner” where the participating LAGs had opportunities to present their activities and share contacts.

To increase the quality of cooperation projects and to share best practices and examples from Europe the Centre prepared a special training programme entitled “Development of Cooperation Projects for Local Action Groups”. During this training a practical approach was taken with LAGs receiving individual consultations, analysis of best practice examples from European LAG’s and the preparation of applications for inter-territorial and/or transnational cooperation.

Who benefited from the activities and how

Participants of both conferences got the latest information about TNC projects in Europe, found new partners for cooperation projects, presented their future plans and potential themes and activities for cooperation. The first conference welcomed participants from five different countries where they presented their LAGs and the cooperation opportunities. The Second conference was attended by participants from 8 countries and even included participants from Moldova which is not yet a member of the EU.

The special training programme “Development of Cooperation Projects for Local Action Groups” was created for those LAGs which were already planning to apply for an inter-territorial and/or transnational cooperation project and also to stimulate new project ideas. Ten LAGs participated on the courses with some LAGs participating twice but with different LAGs as a partner. Training participants analysed best practice examples of European cooperation projects, and discussed their project ideas and how to implement them. Every project had a SWOT analysis to help them prepare successful projects. Every participant found new ways to implement cooperation projects; one LAG completely changed the idea of a project. As a result of this training 4 inter-territorial and 2 transnational cooperation projects were prepared.

Added Value of Networking



Main results of the inter-territorial and/or transnational cooperation support activities & added value of the chosen delivery approach

The main reason for choosing training courses was to have all LAG's in one place, to share their expectations, to learn about the main mistakes that are made, and to help LAGs identify their strengths and how these could be used in project implementation. The innovative approach which increased participant's benefits was the idea of using common mistakes as a learning opportunity and identifying the strongest aspects of a LAGs local area that could not only benefit the Lithuanian LAG but also the project partners. Two LAGs prepared transnational cooperation projects with non EU member state partners in Ukraine, which was accepted by the MA and so enabled other Lithuanian LAGs to explore cooperation ideas with third countries. One of the most important benefits of these training courses was that LAGs set further cooperation aspirations for new projects and developed new good practice examples in inter-territorial and transnational cooperation.

Success factors and challenges

The main elements which enabled the activities to become successful were the use of skilled and experienced tutors, the homework assigned to LAGs and the communication between the course tutors and LAGs, from basic project ideas to the ready-made project proposal. The main challenge was the fear of taking a risk, for LAGs to develop new ideas which were completely different from their initial concept. Another challenge was to convince LAGs to change the approach of their cooperation projects by exploring different means of implementation.

Description of NSU and other partners contribution

The NSU supported all the above mentioned activities and spread the information through the NRNs all around the EU.

Additional information and useful resource

- <http://www.zmmc.lt/en/component/content/article/197-conference.html>
- <http://www.leaderlietuva.lt/news/13/189/Tarptautines-konferencijos-Tieskime-tarptautinio-bendradarbiavimo-tiltus-Building-bridges-for-transnational-cooperation-pranesimai.html>

Added Value of Networking



Pictures



Funded by the

ENRD *Connecting Rural Europe*
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

Added Value of Networking



Last Update

March 2014



ENRD *Connecting Rural Europe*
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>