

Added Value of Networking



Added Value of Networking: Training and networking for LAGs

Story name: Questing Workshop

Basic information	
NRN:	NRN Regional Secretariat of Mazowieckie Voivodeship
Keywords:	Good practice
Coordinator:	'Friendly Mazovia' Local Action Group
Partners:	'Friendly Mazovia' Local Action Group (Przyjazne Mazowsze)
Resources:	3 460 euro
Period:	13-14 September 2012

Background to the training and networking support activities

Questing is a form of active tourism for tourists who are looking for new inspiration and for a new approach for exploring undiscovered places. Questing is about discovering a place through one's own experience. Questing involves guessing clues written in the form of a rhyming instruction, which lead you to discovering cultural, natural and historical heritage in a different and more attractive way. Guided by the clues, one can hike along unmarked routes and by guessing subsequent puzzles one can reach places, and learn about legends and attractions which are not usually mentioned in tourist guidebooks. At the end of the hike one should find a treasure – a sealed box to confirm that the quest has been fulfilled. This form of hiking is complementary to marked tourist routes and trails.

Thanks to this innovative form of sightseeing one can create sustainable tourism products based on local assets such as nature and culture, in collaboration with local communities. Each locality has some distinctive cultural or historical assets, such as a legend, a well-known inhabitant, climate or landscape elements. It is important to discover them and find a way to make them attractive for tourists. Hence, a questing workshop project was conducted on the initiative of 'Friendly Mazovia' Local Action Group in cooperation with NRN partners and representatives of Mazovian Regional Tourist Organisation. The workshop and methodological support for questing was provided by the Foundation Miejsc i Ludzi Aktywnych.



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Purpose and description of the training and networking support activities

The aim of the project was to acquaint the participants with questing as a means of discovering the cultural and natural heritage of a region, and a means of promoting the region. The workshop on discovering local heritage 'QUESTING – TOURISM THROUGH EDUCATION AND TREASURE SEEKING FUN' was delivered at the agritourism farm "Sielanka".

On the first day of the workshop, after making an inventory of local heritage and selecting a theme and route for the quest, the workshop group made a field visit in order to inspect the area and identify orientation points along the route. Rainy weather was not a problem. All participants were engaged in discovering characteristic and interesting places to make as milestones for the quest. On the following day, while hiking the route in smaller groups, rhymed clues were prepared to help find particular milestones, as well as letters needed for finding the solution to the puzzle and for finding the treasure. Instructions drawn up by the participants were collected and read aloud so that everybody could comment on them and suggest their own proposals or modifications. Later during the workshop, the participants prepared the other materials for the quest: drawings, maps as well as the quest logo and a seal to the treasure box.

Who benefited from the activities and how

20 representatives from Local Action Groups of Mazovia region and representatives of the Mazovian Regional Tourist Organisation participated in the workshop on discovering local heritage.

Quest "Piachem, Pólka, lasem z ptasim kompasem" was developed by all the participants, including quest clues on how to move along the route, solutions for puzzles, including tips on how to reach milestones, pictures, maps, a treasure box and a seal, information concerning the person in charge of the quest, contact data, etc. This new quest is located in Pólka-Raciąż Natural Landscape.

A brochure was issued in which the quest developed during the workshop was described in detail, together with general information on questing as a form of sightseeing and examples of quests in Poland. This was then distributed to LAGs from Mazovia Region and to the Marshal Office of Mazovia Voivodeship.

Main results of the training and networking support activities & added value of the chosen delivery approach

At the end of the project the participants were asked whether they were interested in the idea of questing; everybody answered that the knowledge and skills gained during the workshop would be useful to them while developing quests at their own locations.

Dissemination of the project results through 1,000 copies of the brochure produced.

Promoting questing in Poland (there are now 100 quests in Poland, available on www.bestquest.pl where you can find examples of quests and evaluate them). This has encouraged the use of local resources: nature and culture, in collaboration with local communities (Pólka-Raciąż Natural Landscape).



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Description of NSU and other partners contribution

The NSU contributed with: essential cooperation in project development, in the brochure which summarised the project, recruiting participants for the workshop, popularising the questing method in Poland and dissemination of the project results.

Partners contributed with: participation in the workshop, cooperation in setting the questing route and engagement in the discovery of interesting places in nature. Participants were divided into groups and each of them had part of the area assigned to portray it in the form of rhyming instructions and puzzles leading to hidden treasure. All the other questing materials like maps, drawings, logo and the seal to the treasure box were also made together.

Additional information and useful resources

The brochure is available at:

http://mazowieckie.ksow.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/mazowieckie/pliki/questing/2012_Quest_LGD_Przyjazne_Mazowsze.pdf

Pictures



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Source: NRR Regional Secretariat of Mazowieckie Voivodeship

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