

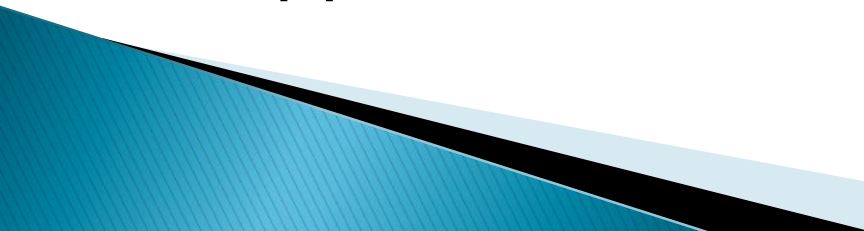
Co-operation in Leader – challenges, possibilities and successes

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Starting point in my LAGs

- ▶ A project for producing transnational projects started on September 2010
 - ▶ Quantitative aim has been 3 transnational projects within 1,5 – 2 years with local and foreign associations and people
 - ▶ Project provides assistance and "know-how" when looking for partners, writing applications and agreements + financial support when traveling abroad
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Project's functional area

- ▶ Functional area is called **Päijät-Häme** (province)
- ▶ In Päijät-Häme lives about 1 000 000 people in 11 municipalities

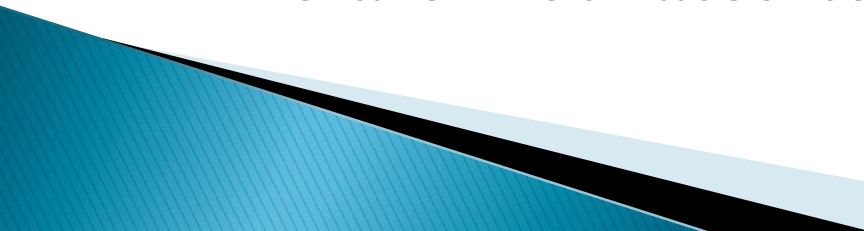
Päijät-Häme in Finland



Main challenges in the beginning

- ▶ No idea of partners; who, why & when?
 - ▶ Lack of resources; who has the time & energy
 - ▶ Creating something new and different is always demanding
 - ▶ Suspiciousness and mistrust
 - ▶ Inexperience of the project coordinator
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Main possibilities

- ▶ If something is new, you can do it on your own way (even if there are strict rules)
 - ▶ There are lots of potential partners after you have found a way to reach them
 - ▶ Funding in Finland is readily available as demand for measure 421 funding is relatively low
 - ▶ Basically everything in Leader – program can be done internationally if you just find the people who are motivated to do this
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Main successes

- ▶ 2 transnational projects has been approved by government officials within 1,5 years (on spring 2012)
 - ▶ Many people have attended on meetings abroad with the support of this project (In France, Slovenia, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary, Sweden and Denmark)
 - ▶ So far cooperation has been most succesful with Slovenians, Swedes and Danish, most likely because of coincidence
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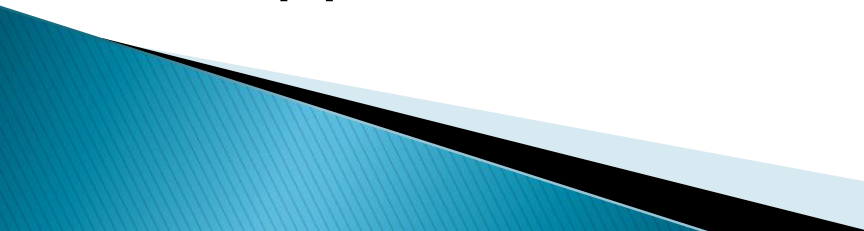
Project 1

- ▶ Transnational project between LAG's Päijänne Leader (Finland) and Obsotelje in Kozjansko (Slovenia)
- ▶ Basic idea is to arrange 2 riding camps for riding pupils (Finns will send pupils to Slovenia and vice versa)
- ▶ Project is applied by riding centers and associations (implemented 1.3. – 30.8.2012), budget in Finland about 23 000 euros

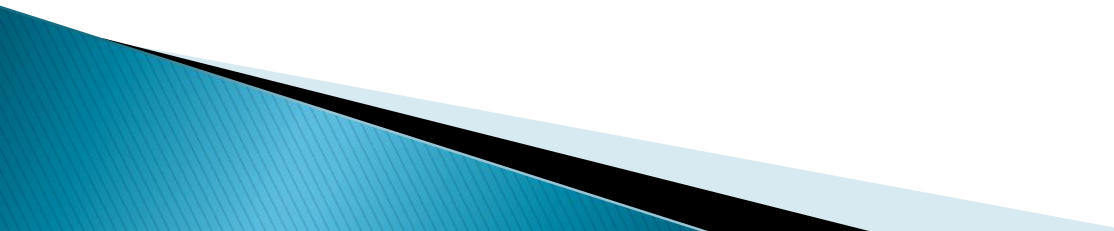
Project 2

- ▶ Transnational project between 2 Finnish LAGs Etpähä ry and Ykkösakseli ry + 1 Swedish LAG PH
- ▶ In the project main aim is to develop management fishing and utilization of fish catch in several lake areas
- ▶ Project lasts about 2 years (1.3.2012 – 28.2.2014) and a project manager works in it on a part-time basis
- ▶ Budget in one Finnish area 150 000 euros

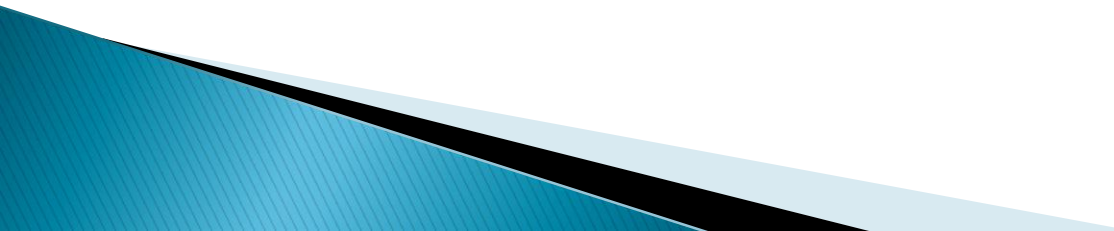
Project 3?

- ▶ One potential idea could be implemented between Finnish, Swedish and Danish LAGs
 - ▶ Basic idea is to create several workshops in each country to develop entrepreneurship, village activities and local markets
 - ▶ In the Finnish program are few limits for this type of project but we are doing the best we can to fulfill this idea (with max. financial support)
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What has been the most difficult?

- ▶ What to do?
 - ▶ Why to do something?
 - ▶ Who can do something?
 - ▶ When can everything be done and in which order?
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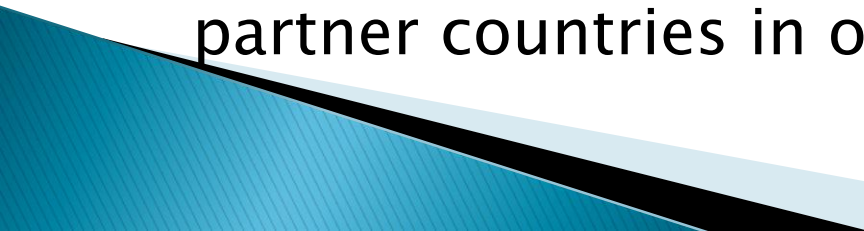
What has led into a success?

- ▶ Hard and persistent communication traffic
 - ▶ Broadmindedness and open discussion
 - ▶ Simple and concrete goals
 - ▶ Humour and mistakes
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Few tips for transnational projects...

- ▶ Try to find out what potential partners are missing instead of what partners could give to each other
 - ▶ Keep everything as simple as possible; focus on timetables and pragmatic issues
 - ▶ Avoid joint costs!!! All the partners are responsible of their own costs
 - ▶ Do not try to solve anything that nobody else hasn't solved already; focus on doing instead of inventing
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Some project ideas...

- ▶ **A joint coordination project:** A project with at least 2 partners where coordinators look for potential people and ideas and assist them in project planning
 - ▶ **Youth exchange / workshops:** Depending on the theme you can arrange camps, meetings, workshops etc. where you can provide some new / updated skills for participants
 - ▶ **"Exchange of things":** Organising sales events in partner countries in order to promote exporting
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Thank you for your attention!!!

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