

Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title *LAG South Danube learning about Local Action Groups and Fisheries Local Action Group*

Theme *Network communications; Knowledge exchange; Cooperation*

NRN *Romania* Coordinator *LAG*

Partners *LAG and FLAG experts, Honorary Consul of Romania in Murcia*

Period *1-4th July 2010* Resources *14.848,34 EUR*

Beneficiaries *Romanian LAGs*

Background

Since the '80s, the territory of the South Danube LAG witnessed high levels of migration of rural population to urban areas. As a result, agriculture and many other traditional activities have lost their labor, but also the people with knowledge and skills necessary to obtain traditional products in this region. Gradually worsening demographic situation has deeply affected the local community, creating a sense of loss of local identity through the disappearance of traditional customs and habits. Due to loss of traditional agricultural activity, environmental issues appeared, such as soil erosion and loss of ecotypes and endemic species. In this context the LAG of South Danube has been created, whose main objective is sustainable development of the areas. In 2009, LAG has secured financing through measure 431 (financial support for preparation of files for selected LAG and transnational organized action). The objective behind this specific activity was increasing the involvement of local actors for learning and knowledge exchange in order to prepare the LDS.

Main activities

The main activity was technical assistance provided by the experienced Spanish LAG and FLAG experts to the members of the Romanian LAG. In focus was sharing their knowledge about the importance of the strategy for the local community and how the LAG strategy should be developed in order to respond to the community needs, and valuing the local resources. The training included presentation of best practices within the Spanish NRN, field trips and meetings with beneficiaries of the projects financed by the LAG INTEGRAL and visits to the NATURA 2000 sites.

Main results/benefits

The activity helped to increase involvement of local stakeholders and strengthening partnership in the communities covered by the territory of the South Danube GAL. After dissemination of the information and knowledge obtained from this experience its members manage to generate a great interest in several local communities, so that the whole community was involved and wanted to take part in developing the LDS (contributing with their skill in order to assure an efficient strategy to respond to the community problems and need, by valuing the local resources and potential). Knowledge of effective practical issues that South Danube GAL have use later to brought value to their strategy combining local actions in order to propose a "diversified offer" that integrate multiple sectors (agriculture, fishery, tourism, environmental) to develop the local communities form the LAG's territory.



The visit and knowledge exchange stimulated the LAG's interest in Axis 4 of the POP, which has led to funding another partnership, dedicated to the fishing areas, and in result a FLAG has been created that now coexists and functions in complementary way with the LAG. The FLAG has also managed thru the help of the LAG's representatives to contact a FLAG from Catalonia in order to develop a study visit to the Catalonia FLAG Delta Coastal del Ebro in 2011. In the end it was developed a networking process between LAGs and FLAGs from Romania and Spain and it will be follow up by other cooperation projects.

Established LDS brought 93.5 points for the selection LAG South Danube. South Danube is also unique example of good practice in Romania by building a functional partnership in two axes 4: LEADER - POP.

Contribution of the NSU

The action was planned in collaboration with members of the Board of the Spanish NRN (representative in transnational cooperation actions via ELARD / ENRED / RIDER) and organized according to their experience of cooperation.

Contribution of the partners

The team of 15 partners from the South Danube LAG actively participated in the Spanish partner presentations, discussions and site visits of selected projects and tried to adapt those examples to the LAG's territory specificities and resources.

Success factors

- Proactive attitude of the people involved from the LAG and FLAG from Romania
- Similarities between the geographical territory of the communities
- The abilities of the representatives of the Spanish LAG and FLAG to share the information and to give practical examples

