



Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title	<i>Socio-economic development in the micro-region Rakhiv - Ruscovei Valley</i>		
Theme	<i>Network communications; Knowledge exchange; Cooperation</i>		
NRN	<i>Romania</i>	Coordinator	<i>LAG</i>
Partners	<i>Ivan Krevan Association for Local Development, Local Council under the Mountain Meadows, Shaper City Council City Council Ruscova, Foundation Pro Viseu, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine)</i>		
Period	<i>December 2007 – November 2008</i>	Resources	<i>74,806.00 euro</i>
Geo-location	<i>Micro-region Ruscova Valley – local communities from villages Ruscova, Repedea si Poienile de sub munte from Maramures County in Romania and local communities from village Zelena, Verhoveva district, Ivano-Frankivsk region. From ethnographical point of view both territories, are a part of part of the ethnographical area of HUTULILOR Romania.</i>		
Beneficiaries	<i>The target group were people on both sides of Romanian-Ukrainian border interested in starting a business in tourism (approximately 20 people trained)</i>		

Background

Micro-region Ruscova Valley (villages Ruscova, Repedea and Poienile de sub munte) from Maramures County from Romania and the neighbor county Rakhiv from Zakarpattia region from Ukraine, have a common background from the ethnographical point of view. They both are parts of the old ethnographical region of HUTULI county (and old historical region in the central of Europe). The regions have same particularities regarding the geographical profile and the social-economic profile of the communities, and are popular for their old traditions having a great potential for rural tourism. Those territories are characterized by a wide variety of natural and geographical conditions, and a series of socio-economic and cultural features (underdeveloped communities, affected by unemployment, population migration, and an accentuated process of ageing population).

Main activities

- Promoting the project in order to animate the territory and identify persons interesting in trainings for business management
- Organization of a course for the selected persons to obtain knowledge about administrating the agro-tourism business
- Preparation of documents for people interested in starting a business, in order to obtain authorizations and finances for their project
- Knowledge exchange between people involved in starting a business in the target area in Romania and Ukraine
- Study visits from Ukraine to Romania and vice versa in order to see existing agro-tourism facilities that bring profits in similar communities
- Establishment of the Regional Micro-Business Centre, endowment and creating facilities in the micro-regional business center, in order to help the peoples from both communities to develop projects
- Identification and selection of potential business in the two micro-regions
- Development of a common site to promote the tourism in both regions
- Development of promotional materials for those regions



Results and benefits

- Knowledge exchange between the communities involved in the project during the study visits (Roscova Valley (Romania) and Rakhiv district (Ukraine) for acquiring models of best practice to development the tourism in their regions
- The Regional Business Center became the main organization to offer advice and consultancy to the communities regarding promotion and business development in the area, serving as a point of information and support to rural communities on both sides of the border
- Rediscovering of the common tradition and starting a process of cooperation between those communities in order to support each other to develop
- 40 people from two different regions in two different countries come together for the first time to organize an develop a cooperation project, fact that consolidate their experience and build new capacities for cooperation and networking
- Resumption of socio-economic and cultural ties between the two border communities after more than 50 years of isolation
- Communities from Roscova Valleys were animated in the process of discovering their potential and valuing their recourses, were consulted and they received information about the business possibilities that can be develop in their rural area. In consequence one of the main partner of the project formed a Local Action Group named Maramures Mountains and signed a financial contract with the Management Authority of Rural Development Program of Romania in order to obtain finances to develop the local strategy

Contribution of the parters

City Councils provided: funding, a space to conduct meetings during the project, participation in exchanges, other provisions necessary resources to achieve its objectives. Pro Viseu Foundation offered consultancy on EU funds and involved volunteers to support the project. Association for Local Development in Ivan Krevan from REPEDEA provided the person with experience in running European projects, experience and ongoing implementation of local community projects, including projects financed from EU funding. Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Zakarpattia region (Ukraine) provided facilities for the meetings, organised exchange of experiences, participated in exchanges and gathered information on development of border tourism promotion materials.

Success factors

- Proactive involvement of the participants
- Similarities between the geographical territory and socio-economical particularities of the communities
- Common roots and language between the communities

Additional information

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