

LEADER in Finland Inter-LAG evaluation process

A. Background information: What is the scope of the approach – and why was it put in place.

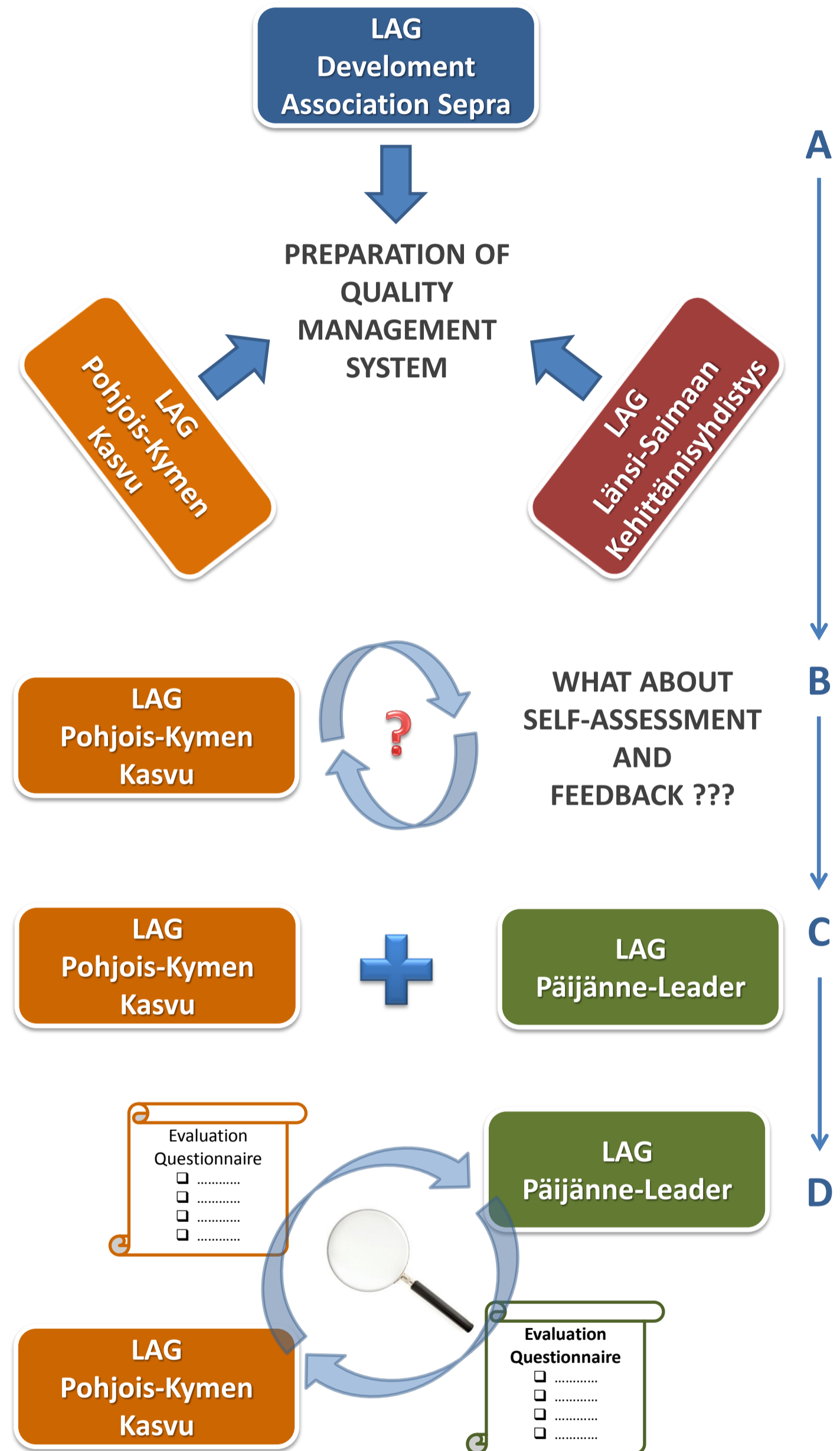
LAG Pohjois-Kymen Kasvu has been preparing their Quality management system since October 2011 with two other neighboring LAGs .

While the process went on the LAGs started discussing about self-assessment and feedback.

Even though the consultant suggested that projects most likely give honest feedback directly to LAGs about consultation process, financing and the role of the LAG in it, the representatives of the LAG Pohjois-Kymen Kasvu started wondering whether it still would be easier to get objective feedback if feedback could be given to someone else but to the LAG.

B. Description of the approach: how it was done in practice

LAG Kasvu decided to ask another neighboring LAG,–Päijänne-Leader that was not involved in the Quality management system – if they would be interested in cooperation. As they were the process was started this spring. In practice the managers of the Lags interview about half of each other’s projects by using questionnaires that have been written in cooperation with four LAGs. First Lags share information about the chosen projects and LAG managers contact the project managers. They visit some 10 projects and interview by phone some 20 projects. Project managers have received the questionnaires beforehand so they know what topics will be brought up.



C. Conclusions/lessons learnt relevant for the future: what were the results

The process is still going on so it's not possible to say much yet about the success of the Inter-LAG evaluation.

- ✓ In the end of the process, statistics and analyses will be made by LAG managers.
- ✓ In the end of May they will visit each other's Board meetings and present the results of the interviews.
- ✓ In addition to that, they will compare the results and see if there's anything to learn about the comments of the Project managers.

The overall aim is to improve the work the LAGs do with projects in future. It is also quite obvious that to prepare Quality management systems between two-three LAGs together is most beneficial. It helps to assess the work that LAGs do with "outside eyes" and encourages to find new, better ways for evaluation.