

# Added Value of Networking



## Youth takes the lead

Basic information	
NRN:	Danish National Rural Network Unit
Theme:	Good practice
Coordinator:	LAG manager Jan Berg
Partners:	Landudvikling Slagelse (LAG-slagelse)
Beneficiaries:	LAG Slagelse
Resources:	To be decided
Period:	2013 to date
<b>Main element of networking:</b>	<b>Capacity building and training</b>
Other elements of networking:	Effective stakeholder engagement Support for cooperation and joint actions

### Background

The objective of this initiative is to involve youth in local development and to improve the living conditions for young people in rural areas. The project was inspired by the trans-national cooperation project "Youth take the lead".

The people on the LAG board and those who submit applications for support are mostly adults. Landudvikling Slagelse (Slagelse LAG) wanted to encourage more young people in its area to participate in the LAG and in development in more generally. To do this the LAG established a youth LAG to develop young people's interest in leadership and local development.

### Main activities

The initiative engaged with up to twenty young people who wanted to take the lead as volunteers. These young people were identified through existing organisations, which involve youth volunteers, candidates from the existing transnational project 'Youth take the Lead' and from Slagelse Youth Council were also invited.

These young people participated in a 24h meeting or 'camp' where they were interviewed and other data was collected through a variety of techniques. The suggestions made by the young people regarding local development themes, motivation and goals were collected in order to present the results



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to the main LAG board (Landudvikling Slagelse).

## Main results/benefits

Fifteen young people participated in the 24-hour camp with the results from this youth event being discussed at the main LAG board. This will then enable a structure for a future young persons' LAG to be established.

## Success factors

The main objective was to establish an active youth decision-making body under the Local Action Group. This would directly involve young people and make them feel a sense of ownership of the project and their own needs for local development. A budget from the LAG will be allocated to the youth LAG in order to provide youth projects. A key success factor will be the implementation of youth projects within the LAG strategy.

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The project is a simple and practical way to involve young people in local development and voluntary work within the LAG structure and LEADER approach. Networking supported these young people to come together at the Camp and will enable the partners to continue to take the project forward.

## Contribution of the NSU

In 2010 the Danish rural network unit invited Local Action Groups to focus on projects for young people under which they could be supported through a specific central tender for youth projects called Teen Towns.

## Contribution of the partners

Local youth associations and volunteer organisations supported the dissemination of information about the project and helped to identify young people who might be interested in participating.

## Additional information

For further information please contact the LAG manager Jan Berg:

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## Pictures

n/a

## Last Update

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