8th LEADER Sub-group meeting [1]

The eighth meeting [2] of the European Rural Networks’ Assembly’s permanent Sub-group on LEADER/CLLD (18/09/2020) took place virtually and provided an update on Commission initiatives relating to LEADER.

Local Action Groups, LEADER and rural networks presented an overview on recent LEADER activities, responses to the COVID-19 situation, and how lessons from these can be used in planning for LEADER in the next period.

A separate ENRD mini-workshop in the afternoon offered Sub-group members the opportunity to discuss key success factors in improving LEADER delivery to ensure resilient rural territories.

The presentations from the day are available on the event page [2], together with relevant background
Leader France and 15 partners in France and Europe published a collection of innovative projects that facilitate access to services in rural areas in France and in other European countries.

The publication was issued in the framework of the Access' r project.
Celebrating the impact of LEADER on Irish rural communities

The National Rural Network (NRN) is launching a NRN LEADER Impact Campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to celebrate the impact of the LEADER Programme, which has been in operation in Ireland since 1991, on Rural Communities across Ireland.

Impact, simply refers to a positive change that has resulted due to the LEADER programme, that may not otherwise have been possible. Impacts can be tangible like a much-needed community amenity or service, or something intangible like an increased sense of community pride or well-being.

Source:

- National stakeholders

Publication date:
01/09/2020

Discover the ingredients for vibrant rural areas

Well-functioning services, dynamic business development opportunities and inclusive communities are the key ingredients needed for vibrant rural areas. The latest EAFRD Projects Brochure ‘Vibrant rural areas’ presents 12 projects using Rural Development Programmes to help rural areas become, or remain, attractive places to live and work.

The EAFRD-supported projects included in the publication have successfully improved services, jobs or social inclusion in rural areas - sometimes achieving more than was initially planned.

The publication shows how social objectives can go hand in hand with economic and environmental sustainability and that vibrant rural areas are essential for all, including for farmers and urban citizens.

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Source:

- ENRD Contact Point

Publication date:
An inspiring database for curious tourists in the Czech Republic

The National Network of Local Action Groups in the Czech Republic has launched a website showcasing and linking to small regional producers. This initiative supports local businesses and can inspire curious tourists to discover rural Czech Republic.

The website 'Regiony sobě' ('Regions to themselves') offers a number of links to small regional producers in different regions of the Czech Republic. The companies listed focus on food and natural products, crafts, handicrafts, services, restaurants and accommodation, and have regional shops and stores. Users can also purchase a voucher to access products and services at a given time.

The National LAG network is an important partner of the National Rural Network of the Czech Republic.

Source:
- National stakeholders

Publication date:
04/08/2020

Pioneers in rural Germany

An initiatives started in 2015 to collect experiences of people moving from urban centres to rural Germany is experiencing lots of success during the COVID-19 situation, with more and more people requesting advice to move to rural areas.

The initiative Raumpionier Station Oberlausitz aims to "make the first step easier" for new settlers, providing first-hand accounts and direct contacts with people in Upper Lusatia, easter Germany.
happens through a blog, events and meetings.

The activities have been supported also via LEADER funding through the LAG Östliche Oberlausitz [15].

Source:

- National stakeholders

Publication date:

04/08/2020

LEADER succes stories from Lithuania [16]

Lithuania’s rural communities continue to benefit from LEADER funds and a short video news story [17] just released on our EURural [18] YouTube channel demonstrates this.

The video clip shows interviews with the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture and two different project beneficiaries. These projects are a social economy project providing care facilities for elderly residents in a rural community and business start-up for a young female veterinarian.

Watch and share these ENRD films:

- Short news story [17]
- Business start-up story [19]
- Social economy story [20]

Publication date:

03/08/2020

Discover the achievements of LEADER - in 7 languages [21]

The EU Rural Review 29 on ‘LEADER achievements’ [22] is now available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Croatian.
This EU Rural Review explores how the seven LEADER principles are interpreted today by people who have been deeply involved with implementing LEADER in rural communities across Europe.

The Croatian version is available thanks to the Croatian Rural Network [23].

Source:
- ENRD Contact Point

Publication date:
16/07/2020

From Theory to Action – First Turkish Local Action Groups (LAGs) start transforming their rural communities according to their own strategies [24]

Gudul is amongst the 50 pioneer Local Action Groups in Turkey to start in July 2020 implementing their local strategies according to LEADER approach to rural development. The EU financed IPARD programme will provide €16,2 million to the first 50 Turkish Local Action Groups (LAGs) for implementation of their local development strategies. These funds will finance the running costs of the LAGs, animation and capacity building as well as small projects in the area of local products, rural diversification, short value chains for agricultural products, rural tourism, environment, village space, social, cultural organisations and networking. The projects are designed and implemented by the Local Action Groups. In the future more Local Action Groups are planned in Turkey.

Find out more here [25].

Source:
- EU institutions

Publication date:
13/07/2020
Engaging LEADER stakeholders in times of crisis [26]

The highlights report of the ENRD Thematic Lab on ‘Maintaining and widening stakeholder engagement’ (4 June 2020) has been published on the event page [27].

This online event explored the role of LEADER and LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) in maintaining and widening stakeholder engagement in their local areas to develop short- and long-term responses to address local challenges now and for the future. It was also the opportunity to discuss LAGs' responses to the COVID-19 crisis [28].

The initiatives discussed during the event point to a valuable lesson for the future: the need to build resilience, responsiveness and flexibility into the design of LEADER under the CAP Strategic Plans.

Source:
- ENRD Contact Point

Publication date:
02/07/2020

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