The role and the experiences of the Finnish National Rural Network in TNC

Workshop:
Transnational cooperation: A key tool for Community-Led Local Development, 10 of October, 2012

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TNC-projects, LEADER+

• 100 projects
• Co-operation with 17 countries
• The most popular countries were: Italy, Ireland, Estonia, Sweden, Germany, Spain and France
• Results: networking, disseminating best practices
State of play of TNC in Finland, this programme period

- **45** approved TNC-projects, several projects are waiting for approval
- **73** preliminary surveys in order to build TNC-projects
- **53** co-operation offers on TNC-database
- **22** Finnish LAGs have implemented TNC projects, which is 39 % of Finnish LAGs
- Project partners are from **20** countries: Estonia, Sweden, Italy, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Czhek, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Germany, Luxemburg, Denmark, Poland, Portugal, UK, Slovenia, Norway, Romania and Russia
LEADER+ TNC-projects

LEADER TNC projects, this period
TNC-projects, budgets and themes

• Average total budget is around 100 000 euros.
• The range of the budgets is wide: from 15 000 euros up to 150 000 euros.
• Themes: the most popular themes have been:
  - youth issues: awareness-raising, networking, building interest to rural development
  - developing local business, especially tourism,
  - village development,
  - environmental issues: awareness, lake renovation, sustainability
  - local culture, traditions and activities
Transnational cooperation

- not only projects
- study trips
- seminars, workshops, meetings
- flow of information

- European Network for Rural Development as a one tool
Main TNC activities of the Finnish NRN

- trainings and meetings
  - target groups: managing authorities, rural actors, transnational coordinators and other LAG staff
- hosting transnational seminar at least once a year
- communication
  - examples, examples and examples
- study trips
- help in finding project partners
- active participation in European level discussion groups
Strengths of TNC in Finland

- History: one third of our LAGs have a long history of TNC cooperation
- 10 transnational coordinators are hired by the LAGs to active TNC in their area. Their role is help rural actors to build and implement TNC-projects
- some LAGs have strong strategic approach for TNC as a part of their local development strategies
Weaknesses of TNC in Finland

• One third of our LAGs have no experience of TNC.
• TNC is not always seen as tool of local development strategy. It is considered to be "giving money away from our area"
• Continuation of TNC
  - projects do not have continuation
  - gained contacts and information is not disseminated to other actors in the area
  - contacts are lost when TNC-projects end or there are changes in personnel
Is transnationalisation enough?
Example: CULTrips 2010-2013

- Finland: Joensuu Region and Jetina
- Estonia: Raplamaa
- Luxemburg: Redange-Wiltzin
- Austria: Urfahr-West Oststeirisches Kernland
- Italy: Valle Umbra e Sibillini

- Objective: building socio-cultural village tourism concept. Take visitors as a part of village life.

- Test trips, trainings, knowledge exchange, marketing material

- First contacts were made at Evora LEADER Conference 2007!
Example: Dare to Dream 2010-2012

- Finland: Outokaira tuottamhan
- Sweden: Leader Tornedalen
- Estonia: Pärnu Lahe Partnerluskogu

- Objective: find new innovations and methods in rural tourism, handigrafts and natural products.
- Workshops, product development, study trips, product panels.
- First contacts were made at Levi LEADER seminar 2009!
Example: Folk Summer School 2010-2011

- Finland: Aktion Österbotten
- Sweden: Leader Hälsingebygden

- Objective: create new and interesting folk music activities. Engage and stimulate young people within the area of folk music.
- Two folk music summer schools for young people.

- Only nine months from idea to end of implementation.
- Second project is going on.
Thank you!