LINC ESTONIA 2012

Involvement and Voluntary Work

12-14 June 2012
Tartu and South-Estonia
WORDS OF WELCOME

Thanks to the Cooperation measure under the LEADER axis of the EAFRD more and more Local Action Groups undertake joint actions together with another LEADER group, or with a group taking an approach similar to LEADER, in another region, EU Member State, or even a third country. As implementation of the 2007-2013 programme period progresses, we witness how access to new information and mutual learning resolve common local development issues, thus adding value and producing benefits for the people living in the rural territories involved.

There are many challenges that those interested in cooperation may face. They range from differences of an administrative nature to difficulties rooted in the fact that the planning and management of Cooperation is resource-hungry. Let’s not forget that a lot of hard work and time is spent by rural actors on a voluntary basis (in addition to the €265 million of EAFRD funding budgeted for Cooperation). But the extra efforts can bring big rewards. There is growing evidence of cooperating rural communities across Europe which have successfully used the knowledge, experience and expertise identified in other countries to create very practical and often highly innovative initiatives. And of lasting value they often establish European partnerships that continue to grow and prosper for many years to come.

Now in its 3rd year, LINC continues to highlight the values of LEADER, providing networking opportunities for communities interested in Cooperation. I would like to wish you the very best of success with this LINC event which the European Network for Rural Development considers to be a very valuable on-going initiative.

With kind regards,

Adrian Neal  
Team Leader of the Contact Point of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)
LINC ESTONIA 2012 ORGANISATIONS

Rural Economy Research Centre - Estonian Rural Network Unit
Maamajanduse Infokeskus - Maaeluvõrgustik

LAG Tartu Rural Development Association
Tartumaa Arendusselts

LAG Borderlands Leader
Piiriveere Liider

LAG Põlva County Partnership Board
Põlvamaa Partnerluskogu

LAG Valga County Partnerships Board
Valgamaa Partnerluskogu

LAG Võrumaa Partnership Assembly
Võrumaa Partnerluskogu
INTERNATIONAL LINC CONFERENCES:
MAIN IDEA AND BACKGROUND

LINC is the European Leader Conference which combines European exchange of experience with sport events and European culinary so that the participants can network. LINC is an initiative from Local Action Groups (LAG’s) and National Network Units for rural development in Austria, Germany, Estonia and Finland. It is planned to hold this innovative European-wide conference annually in another member state. The first conference was held in Austria 2010 and the second in Germany 2011. It is planned to hold this innovative European-wide conference annually in different member states.

“LINC” means: Leader - Inspired - Network - Community
The aim of the conference is to present the results of the Leader approach achieved by innovative methods; to foster the networking of rural developers, the exchange of experiences among the Leader areas, and international cooperation; and to draw attention to the importance of local cuisine, tourism and other issues crucial to rural areas. To learn from others’ experience is a principle that everyone can profit from!

The slogan of the conference is:
Get informed – distribution of appropriate information
Get inspired – mutual learning from each other’s valuable experience
Get involved – learn about each other’s versatility

Information and knowledge transfer: To bring people from Leader areas together to build up a framework for the spread of important information for the Leader-areas. The focus will be on the implementation of transnational projects, closer cooperation between rural areas and rural actors.
Inspiration and exchange of experience: To give to rural promoters possibility to study and learn of the good practice of European Leader. To meet rural actors at seminars where participants can learn from innovative Leader experiences from other Leader areas. That they can be inspired and bring home new ideas how to develop their area.
Involvement: To know each other better, establish new contacts to learn about the cultural, social and culinary variety of Europe’s treasures. To involve new people in rural development.

LINC combines the transfer of knowledge about innovation in rural development with sport events. Leader-teams from Europe can network and show their sporting spirit and skills. The idea behind it is: networking and exchange of experience do not only happen in seminar rooms and workshops. Common experiences in a relaxing atmosphere and a stimulating environment play a crucial role in building-up relationships between people and organizations. Here is where LINC uses the often quoted “unifying force” of sport!

Out of that reason there mainly expected Leader-teams of 3 people from local action groups, national rural networks managing authorities or other Leader-connected organisations to register for LINC Conference. There will be an award ceremony with teams and individual judging at the end of the Conference. However, it is more about reaching something together as a team than to compete with other colleagues.

“European Aperitif” is a buffet, consisting of regional products from all over Europe. The European Buffet will give each country and region a chance to introduce its local cuisine to all the participants of the conference.

LINC seminars give always possibility to share Leader experiences with participants. To bring some examples of innovative best practices of Leader projects to participants and inspire them to think how to transfer new ideas to their living environment. It is place and possibility for generate new ideas and to get inspired.
LINC IS ORGANISED IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL NETWORK UNITS AND LAGS

Austria: LINC 2010
Kirchberg in Tyrol 15.03. - 17.03.2010
National Rural Network Austria - Luis Fidlschuster, Robert Lukesch
LAG Hohe Salve Tyrol-Austria
Management: Barbara Loferer-Lainer
The first conference was held in Austria 2010, since this idea was born in Austria. Leader area Hohe Salve stands for a highly successful premiere, carrying out the first event in Kirchberg, Tyrol. The first LINC conference day was dedicated to a European knowledge exchange in the field of innovative, transnational projects in the fields of Leader and rural development. Evening was for European Aperitif. Next day was for discussions about „Innovation of cooperation in rural development” and afternoon started the first sports competitions for participants: snow shoe race, steilbob-race. Third day was dedicated for giant slalom and ice-stock sport. After final conclusions and closing events the fruitful meeting was over.

Germany: LINC 2011
Bad Schandau in Sachsen 27.04. - 29.04.2011
Saxon Network for Rural Development - Christoph Hrubesch
National Rural Network, Germany - Anke Wehmayer
LAG Landschaft(f)zt Zukunft e.V.
ILE Sächsische Schweiz (Leader-like German partnership)
Management: Ulrike Funke
The second conference took place in Bad Schandau, Germany. The first day was opening with transnational knowledge exchange. The second day started with workshop sessions in four different topics, afternoon started the first sport competitions. During the evening at Culturel Centre was served European specialities from different countries. Third day started with sports - fun – action: competition between LAG –teams. And in the last conference day field trips were organized linked to topics of the workshops.

Estonia: LINC 2012
Tartu and South-Estonia 12.06. - 14.06.2012
Rural Economy Research Centre – Estonian Rural Network Unit
LAG Tartu Rural Development Association
Management: Kristiina Liimand
Co-organizers LAG’s: LAG Põlva County Partnerships Board, Võrumaa Partnership Assembly, Valga County Partnerships Board, Borderlands Leader

Finland: LINC 2013
Iisalmi and Iisalmi region 11.06. - 13.06.2013,
Rural Network Unit of Finland Juha-Matti Markkola
LAG Ylä-Savon Veturi
Management: Sari Hyttinen

Austria: LINC 2014

More information about LINC is available in website: www.info-linc.eu
LINC CONFERENCE IN ESTONIA MAIN FOCUS: “IN VOLVEMENT AND VOLUN TARY WORK”

In 2012 the LINC Conference will be held in Estonia. We expect about 200 guests. Among other things, the Conference in Estonia draws special attention to the relationships created through the Leader approach to volunteer work and introduces projects carried out using the Leader method in South Estonia. You can exchange your experiences taking part of Theoretical and Practical Workshops in Tartu and South-Estonia.

The main theme of LINC is “Involvement and voluntary work”.

Involvement is one of the keys of Leader approach. It is related to creating an environment, in which people are prepared to act, assume responsibility and commit. Involvement is becoming increasingly important in times where the surrounding living environment is undergoing constant changes, where solving the existing problems requires the involvement of various parties and where creative and future-shaping solutions are sought. Involvement should be based on the presumption that every organisation, community, team and person has the wisdom necessary for the creation of common well-being. Every local action group can create a favourable environment for the expansion of involvement possibilities.

One common method for involving people is through voluntary activities – an area that has been revived in Estonia, as evidenced by the joint waste removal event Let’s Do It 2008 (Teeme Ära 2008) and the joint community work days held in recent years. For a good common cause, people are willing to volunteer their best efforts to create a better living environment.

Because of that one important part in Estonian LINC Conference beside theoretical workshops will be also practical workshops. Estonian rural communities have done a lot of voluntary work to build up their community houses, nature paths, village centres, children playgrounds, preserve heritage and culture objects. We offer to our guests not only a possibility to look at the Estonian rural life, but also to help to do something practical and real.
# Programme

## Tuesday
12. June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Arrival in Tartu. Hotel check-in starting from 14:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.45</td>
<td>LINC 2012 Conference opening ceremony at Town Hall Square:</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.45</td>
<td>Musical welcome by Brass band “Popsid”, “Chorus Menticum” and “United Bikers Choir” at Tartu Town Hall Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>Opening speeches to the LINC 2012 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Helir-Valdor Seeder, Minister of Agriculture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Reno Laidre, Governor of Tartu County</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Urmas Kruuse, Mayor of Tartu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Kairi Kell, on behalf of LINC Conference organizers, the representatives of Tartu Rural Development Association</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LINC participants procession through the city centre to AHHAA centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>“Welcome” speeches to the LINC 2012 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.20</td>
<td>Introduction of the Conference work and programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.30</td>
<td>Introduction of Austrian, Finnish and Estonian Leader cooperation projects initiated during LINC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.45</td>
<td>Closing of the day</td>
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</table>

## Wednesday
13. June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 - 9.00</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 - 9.10</td>
<td>Opening of Theoretical Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Introduction - Ave Bremse, Estonian Rural Network Unit</td>
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</table>

LINC ESTONIA 2012 Involvement and Voluntary Work
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.10-10.20</td>
<td><strong>Theoretical workshops</strong>, work in parallel groups, <strong>Session I</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Local food - workshop leader Robert Oetjen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Katrin Noorkõiv, Local food to the local table, NGO Maitsev Lõuna-Eesti – Leader cooperation project of South-Estonian LAGs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Anneli Viitkin „Trademark of local food: UMA MEKK“ - Leader project of LAG Võrumaa Partnership Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Youth and seniors - workshop leader Konstantin Mihhejev</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Ragnar Kekkonen „Joy of Creating in Ülenurme Parish“ – Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Liina Kokk „Raplamaa Youth Health Project“ - Leader project of LAG Raplamaa Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Rural tourism - workshop leader Ivika Nõgel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Raili Mengel-Sünt „Romantic Coastline“ - Leader project of LAG Pärnu Bay Partnership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Robert Peets „Alutaguse Adventurepark“ – Leader project of LAG Peipsi-Alutaguse Partnership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Community services - workshop leader Tiina Sergo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Mart Külvik „Obinitsa Seto Community Centre – seto community home“ - Leader project of LAG Borderlands Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Kristel Lopsik „Sports club Viraaž“ - Leader project of LAG Valga County Partnerships Board</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Local resources and renewable energy - workshop leader Kaire Valge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Taivo Tali „Sustainable Energy Solution For Melliste Village Based On Local Resources“ Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Allan Pardane „Local and nature-friendly“ – NGO HääOm, Leader project of LAG Põlva County Partnerships Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.20 - 10.40</td>
<td><strong>Coffee break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.40-12.00</td>
<td><strong>Theoretical workshops</strong>, work in parallel groups, <strong>Session II</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Local food - workshop leader Robert Oetjen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>- Raili Mengel-Sünt „Romantic Coastline“ - Leader project of LAG Pärnu Bay Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Kajar Lember „Whole family playland Vudila“ - Leader project of LAG Jõgevamaa Cooperation Chamber</td>
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<td>- Community services - workshop leader Tiina Sergo</td>
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<td>- Allan Pardane „Local and nature-friendly“ – NGO HääOm, Leader project of LAG Põlva County Partnerships Board</td>
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</tbody>
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**LINC 2012 Conference  Sports programme in Mammaste**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.00 - 12.40</td>
<td>Free time to prepare for the sports programme and to change into sports clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>Buses leave from Vanemuine Theatre lower parking lot for Mammaste, Põlva County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00 - 15.00</td>
<td>Lunch in Mammaste Registration for sports programme Time and facilities for dressing and showering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.00 - 19.00</td>
<td><strong>Sports competitions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Orienteering „Looking for the fern blossom“</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Disc-golf “Warding off the evil eye”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Pentathlon “Who are the best man and woman in the village”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Boating competition “Let the best village win!” – takes place on Põlva lake, situated 2km from Mammaste. Participants are transported by bus.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Kiiking – extreme swinging, a voluntary activity for the boldest &amp; bravest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderated by Riho Järveläinen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.00 - 20.00</td>
<td>Participants return to Tartu by bus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LINC 2012 Conference  European Buffet at restaurant-pub Gunpowder Cellar (Püssirohukelder)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.30</td>
<td><strong>Every country introduces the specialities of their region</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Every country will have one table on which your local dishes will be displayed. Moderator of the event will help to introduce the dishes and will make short interview with representative of every country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Participating countries: Austria, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Italy, Ireland, Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderated by Anti Einpaul</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Party night, music by VEM</td>
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<tr>
<td>00.45</td>
<td>Closing of the day</td>
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</table>
THURSDAY
14. June 2012

**LINC 2012 Conference “Involvement and Voluntary Work” Practical Workshops**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Buses leave from the lower parking lot of Vanemuine Theatre to Practical Workshops in the form of voluntary work in four South-Estonian regions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Onion Route</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russian Old Believers’ Culture, Baltic German culture, Estonian peasant culture. Community work at the Liivi Museum in Alatskivi.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Valgamaa</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Setomaa</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uue-Võhvi Centre, which was built with the support of the Leader. Community work at the Seto Farm Museum, and getting acquainted with the culture of the Setos. Visit to the Väraska skate park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Võrumaa</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A visit to the birthplace of the legendary August Teppo at Loosu. Sightseeing in Tsolgo village. Community work at the Tsolgo community centre. An introduction to local culture and folk dance. Musical entertainment from the local village band, Omad poisid (“Our own lads”).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The trip includes a tour of sites and facilities supported by the Leader measure, hands-on involvement in volunteer projects, and introductions to regional cultures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Arrival in Tartu</td>
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</table>

**Festive Closing Ceremony of the LINC conference at AHHAA Science Centre**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Conclusions of the Theoretical Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Moderator of the evening Anti Einpaul will present the conclusions of the workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Video conclusions by representatives of ENRD Contact Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Award ceremony - the winners of the sport competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td><strong>The best fern’s blossom searchers</strong> - orienteering “Search for fern’s blossom”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td><strong>The best evil eye scarers</strong> - disc-golf “Scare away the evil eye”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td><strong>The best villagers</strong> - pentathlon “Who’s the village’s top man and woman”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td><strong>The best boaters</strong> – boat race “Village versus village”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td><strong>Best teams of LINC 2012 sports programme</strong> – I, II and III places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Final speeches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td><strong>Kristiina Liimand, Tartu Rural Development Association</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td><strong>Ave Bremse, Estonian Rural Network Unit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td><strong>Wilma Harmoinen, Finnish LAG Ylä-Savon Veturi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td><strong>Juha-Matti Markkola, Finnish Rural Network Unit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Introduction of the hosting country Finland of the next LINC conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>Handing over of the flag to Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.30</td>
<td>Dinner continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.30</td>
<td><strong>Music by Gipsy Jazz Collective</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.30</td>
<td>Networking and sharing experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.30</td>
<td>Closing of the event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LINC 2012 CONFERENCE EVENTS AND HOTELS IN TARTU

TARTU

1 Tartu Town Hall Square
2 AHHAA Science Centre
3 Dorpat conference centre
4 parking lot of Vanemuine Theatre
5 Gunpowder Cellar (Püssirohukelder)

Hotels
1 Dorpat
2 Barclay
3 Tartu
4 Pallas
5 London
6 Villa Margaretha
7 Aleksandri
8 Hansa
9 Tartu bus station
LINC 2012 CONFERENCE “INVolvement and VOluntary Work” PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS - ROUTES

SOUTH-ESTONIA

1. Varnja
2. Kolkja
3. Alatskivi
4. Liivi Museaum
5. The Onion route area
6. Värskra / Setomaa
7. Otepää
8. Taagepera
9. Tsoolga / Lasva
10. Tartu
11. Mammaste

1. The Onion Route
2. Valgamaa
3. Setomaa
4. Võrumaa
THEORETICAL WORKSHOPS

LOCAL FOOD

Local food and food related traditions are a national wealth, which has to be preserved. The wealth of every region includes food culture, which is attractive for both local people and visitors. Another, equally important aspect is local food producers who create jobs in the region. In Estonia, the Leader programme has initiated and supported various local food projects – two of those will be introduced in the workshop.

PROJECTS:
Local food to the local table, NGO Maitsev Lõuna-Eesti - Leader cooperation project of South-Estonian LAGs presented by Katrin Noorkõiv.
Small-scale production and development of local products is an essential area of co-operation between the LAGs of Southern Estonia established together with food producers an NGO “Tasty South-Estonia”, in order to promote networking and joint marketing of small producers and find new marketing channels. In August 2010 The Farmers -Market was opened in one of the main shopping centres of Tartu - Lõunakeskus, where one can buy products from over 90 producers from South-Estonia. The total cost of the project was 72 785 EEK (€ 4 652), including Leader grant of 59 114 EEK (€ 3 778).

“Trademark of local food: UMA MEKK“ - Leader project of LAG Võrumaa Partnership Assembly presented by Anneli Viitkin
UMA MEKK project is made for local food producers and traders in Võru region, South-Estonia. The project operator is Võrumaa Partnership Assembly and the project is carried out in cooperation with Võru County Government and regional enterprises. Leader measure has supported UMA MEKK projects already through four projects, starting from 2010. TOP objectives for UMA MEKK are to recognize farms, enterprises and producers who are working in agro-alimentary sector, to promote cooperation between food producers, traders and catering enterprises and to support the marketing of small producers.

From the autumn 2010 the brand UMA MEKK has become the trademark of food originated from Võru region. Trademark recognizes local entrepreneurs who: grow fruit and vegetables, produce different products from local raw materials and prepare delicious meals with local ingredients.
The biggest activity of the project is the Grand Fair UMA MEKK of local food products – already third in 13th Oct. 2012. More than 90 local manufacturers will participate and more than 3 000 visitors. Volunteer work was also involved to develop the project, volunteers helped to decorate a market hall. They have also participated in trade fairs and have sold local products.
The total cost of the four UMA MEKK projects is € 85 710, of which € 68 500 is from Leader funding.
Workgroup leader Robert Oetjen

YOUTH AND SENIORS

The development of a rural area requires the presence of people of all ages, as well as a sufficient number of jobs and recreational possibilities. Relationships and cooperation between different generations are very important. The more there are activities and events, which offer contribution and participation possibilities for young people and the elderly, the better. The workshop includes examples of Estonian Leader projects and everyone can take part in discussions.

PROJECTS:
„Joy of Creating in Ülenurme County“ – Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association presented by Ragnar Kekkonen
The project organizer was NGO Õnnemaa, the project group consisted of people from different generations (7-67 years old) from Ülenurme and Võnnu parish.

Project info:
- Young people were trying to make contacts with older generation;
- Activate the communication between different generations;
To act locally, maintain values and see family as a whole from the perspective of children as well as parents. Activities were divided in 3 parts training sessions: creativity and how to use it, Band Camp method for creative activities and creative play: public performance in Luunja Community house where the families were participating.

Project outcomes:
- Project gave a boost for cooperation between generations and families and today many events for the whole community have been made and the cooperation between other parishes has also become more active.
- Older people living in the community have realized that having common activities with young people is interesting for them and also it helps to create a feeling of security in the community.

The total cost of the project: € 5 853, including Leader support: € 5 275.

„Raplamaa Youth Health Project“ - Leader project of LAG Raplamaa Partnership presented by Liina Kokk
Project promoter was NGO Health Promotion Union of Estonia and project period was 20.04.2011-31.12.2011.

Main objectives of the project:
- To give an opportunity for local youth to speak up about health and also to make some difference in the field of health promotion in the local level.
- Encourage youngsters to take action for healthy lifestyle.

The project included a number of activities led by young people or youngsters were involved in the implementation of activities.

Project activities:
1. Health competition day “Let’s rock for health”, 100 participants;
2. Summer camp for Health promoting schools, 65 participants;
3. Youth Health Conference, 150 participants; and
4. Health plays contest, 13 schools and 100 students took part.

The total cost of the project was € 4 435, including Leader support € 3 991.

Workgroup leader Konstantin Mihhejev

RURAL TOURISM

Rural areas offer possibilities to enjoy nature, forests, landscapes, rivers and lakes, contact with wild and domestic animals. Travelling is becoming increasingly popular and in addition to renowned tourism destinations people are looking for and are able to appreciate simple nature, both at home and abroad. Interest towards rural tourism possibilities has increased both among local and foreign tourists. In Estonia, the Leader programme has supported the development of individual rural tourism objects as well as the preparation of tourism concepts for entire regions.

PROJECTS:
„Romantic Coastline“ - Leader project of LAG Pärnu Bay Partnership presented by Ralii Mengel-Sünt
Tourism and Marketing Project “Romantic Coastline” joins 10 municipalities, entrepreneurs, NGO-s, local sights, cultural objects, events and services in the region.

Project started in 2009, the first 5 projects are finished, projects 6, 7 and 8 are still running.
The aims of the project are: Increase the demand of the different and distinct tourism services and products. Create the positive image. Increase the quality of sights, cultural objects, events etc. Rise awareness about our region.

Activities include:
- Common corporative identity (like stylebook, logos, web-page, maps, booklets).
- Trainings about local food and local production, event-organising, study tours etc.
- Many joint activities - Romantic Coastline Coffee and participating in different markets and events.

What we learned in this cooperation:
- We believe in our region
- Bottom-up initiative
- Cooperation works with people who know each other and who are willing to cooperate
- Continuous attention to young people
- Sharing practical experiences, learning by doing

Total budget of projects is € 264 629, support by Leader: € 238 116.

“Whole family playland Vudila” - Leader project of LAG Jõgevamaa Cooperation Chamber presented by Kajar Lember
Vudila playland has been established in a large part on the premises of the Kaiavere Quail Farm, which ended its activities in 1991.

From a Quail Farm into Vudila Playland started to rebuild the farming complex into a playland in 2007. The Main Building was completed in 2009 and in the same year the Partystable and the Trout pond were built. In September 2009 was build the Vuti bistro and the large playhouse.

The whole family playland Vudila was opened on June, 1, 2010 and now the activities are carried out on 7 hectares of land. In the summer seasons of 2010 and 2011 complex had more than 20 000 visitors. In addition lots of guests have
participated in the Christmas-land and Family Day events. In 2012 more investments are planned like a pool with a river and a sunbathing area – water surface 700 m², parking lot, beach, large playroom, new attractions. In addition a climbing pyramid is being built. In 2013 there will be added: A water attraction – with a 3-level slide. A nature track and a park with comical figures. Adventure park. Leader support was used to support 2009 – Playland attractions; 2010 – the first stage of the building of Water attractions; 2010 – distribution of electricity (generator); and 2013 planned – adventure track for kids and grown-ups, a park of comical figures. The budget of Leader projects (3 projects altogether) has been € 140 000, incl. grant € 73 990.

„Alutaguse Adventurepark“ – Leader project of LAG Peipsi-Alutaguse Partnership presented by Robert Peets
Project organizer was MTÜ Mäekeskus, Konju village, Ida-Viru County, project period 2011-2012.
Alutaguse Adventure Park: possibility to spend a good time in nature, for children and adults and attraction for tourists.

Voluntary work:
- Project writing, made by Peeter Kümmel, member of the board
- Project manager was a volunteer Robert Peets, member of the board
- Adventure Park building: involving 10 volunteers from Toila and Illuka
- Running the Adventure Park: runned by MTÜ Mäekeskus, board members as volunteers.

What did we achieve? 58 activities on trees.
What did we learn? There are many active and cooperative people in Ida-Virumaa.
Future goal - conference room on trees (3 meters from ground) for 20 people.

I phase, 24 activities: budget € 37 708, Leader support € 30 036. II phase: budget € 55 000, Leader support € 21 000. Total budget € 92 708, Leader support € 51 036.
Workshop leader Ivika Nõgel

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Compared to rural areas, cities and large settlements offer better possibilities of using various services and finding suitable goods and entertainment opportunities etc. The question here is how to make life in rural areas more diverse and how to use village halls as a place for providing services and holding cultural or sports events and gatherings. The workshop includes the introduction of Estonian Leader projects and discussions about the possibilities of developing community services in rural areas.

PROJECTS:
„Obinitsa Seto Community Centre – seto community home“ - Leader project of Borderlands Leader või LAG Borderlands Leader presented by Mart Külvik
Obinitsa Seto Community Centre has been the region's community centre from the early 1990's. The centre is situated in an old farmhouse and in 2009 the community had to choose whether to renovate the decayed complex or to move to modern village centre. The community decided to stay and renovate the old farm. Leader project started in May 2009 – the interior decoration project of the centre, done by Iir Hermeliin who is a legendary Estonian theatre designer. She designed the decorations for theatrical performance “Taarka” which performed in the Obinitsa Seto Community Centre during 2006-2007.
From 2009 to 2010 many work has been done to renovate the community house to allow to start hosting tourists and visitors in the house and to provide catering. Inner decoration works allows to open Seto coffee and eating place for tourists and to use the house for various periodic and permanent events. The local community was involved in the renovation process from the very beginning until the very end. They helped identifying the needs for renovation, with demolishing works and various building tasks, etc.
The result: after the renovation the Obinitsa Seto Community Centre has become more popular. Visitors value cosy atmosphere, good food and suitable facilities for organizing various events.
Leader support from May 2009, in 6 various sub-projects, totalling to 60 880 EUR.

„Sports club Viraaž“ - Leader project of LAG Valgamaa Partnership presented by Kristel Lopsik
Sports club Viraaž was established 16th of April 1990. Current activities are: training groups for children and youngsters (athletics). Organizing sports events. Establishing facilities to do sports and recreational activities: like different sports services for local people and sports facility and maintenance of it

Cooperation and volunteers:
- Cooperation between different organizations, companies and municipalities.
- Volunteers helping as referees, cleaning the tracks, in coaching work etc.
Organizing sports events with long term traditions, like bicycle trips in spring time, bicycle competitions, athletic
competitions, running competitions, combined competitions (run-bicycle-canoe). With support there are many great ways to improve and create new recreational and sporting opportunities in the area.
Leader has supported two projects with total of 7 889 €.
Workgroup leader *Tiina Sergo*

**LOCAL RESOURCES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Finding and using renewable energy possibilities is an extremely important issue today, as the sustainability of future generations depends on it. The use of local resources is also important, because even reduced transport needs help protect the environment. Our world will remain more diverse, if we increase the use of various local resources and preserve the related skills. In Estonia, the Leader programme has supported projects focussed on renewable energy and construction based on local materials and traditions. The workshop includes the introduction of Estonian Leader projects and discussion about the possibilities of developing this area.

**PROJECTS:**

„Sustainable Energy Solution For Melliste Village Based On Local Resources“ Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association presented by Taivo Tali

Project idea: feasibility study for ecological and economical solution.
Objective: create a common energy solution – central locally based energy system for the all village in cooperation with public, private and third sector.

**Steps of the study:**
1. Mapping of current and potential customers (who are they, consumable capacity etc.);
2. Consumption forecasts (time horizon, user group, solvency rating etc.);
3. Local fuel types and resources in the region (potential quantities, suppliers, cost, calorific value, quality and quantity of local fuel, other conditions etc.);
4. Possible technical solutions for local fuel use (boiler type, capacity, burners etc.);
5. Environmental aspects (emissions into the air, pollution etc.);
6. Financing and investment options;
7. Financial projections (direct and indirect costs, type of expenditures, produced MWh cost, investment payback period etc.);
8. Social and economic impact assessment (population, employment, business development, management og public sector etc.);
9. Comparison of current and planned (common heating system) situation (why it is useful to go over to the common heating);
10. Risk analysis (external and internal environment of the project risks and sensitivity to the various risk factors);
11. Presentation of survey results (to local community, other similar villages and the public).

Still planning the project, not applied yet.

“Local and nature-friendly” - NGO HääOm, Leader project of LAG Põlva County Partnerships Board presented by Allan Pardane

NGO HääOm was created in 2007 by Liina Asu-Raag for spreading direct information about ecological and natural building and decoration materials.
NGO HääOm has organized practical workshops in the 200 year old Kooli farmhouse where top specialists teach how to use different natural materials as wood, stone, reed, clay, lime, etc.
Different trainings about environmentally friendly buildings and constructions (for example „Ecological outhouse“, „Handmade clayhouse“, „Natural interior decoration materials“, etc) have been organised.
NGO HääOm works mostly on voluntary basis and is funded from Leader measure, which makes it possible to participate also for the less economically secured target group.

**Leader supported training programs as follows:**
2010 - € 17 494 and 2012 - € 7 000.
Workgroup leader *Kaire Valge*
SPORTS PROGRAMME IN MAMMASTE

Sport activities are became very important and attractive part of LINC Conference. This is both individual competition, but also a teamwork to get good results for your team.

Buses leave the lower parking lot of Vanemuine Theatre to Mammaste, Põlva County 13.00.

Please wear sports clothes and shoes. If you participate in the boat race, please bring a change of dry clothes just in case.

Our sports programme includes Estonians’ beloved and traditional sports. We hope you will enjoy them:

- **Orienteering** “Looking for the fern blossom”
- **Disc-golf** “Warding off the evil eye”
- **Pentathlon** “Who are the best man and woman in the village”

One team member will also participate in the boat race. There will be buses taking us from Mammaste to the lake. Three events (individual relay, disc golf and orienteering) will take place at the same time in the vicinity of the Mammaste sports centre. The fourth event, the boat race will take place after the first competitions.

- **Boating competition** “Let the best village win!” – takes place on Põlva lake, situated 2km from Mammaste. Participants are transported by bus. There are boats for teams of ten in the boat race. The teams will be composed of persons wishing to take part in the race. It will be a feat of true inclusion and cooperation.

There is another optional possibility to try -

- **Kiiking** – extreme swinging, a voluntary activity for the boldest & bravest

Kiiking is a field of sports invented in Estonia. The aim is to swing the swing 360 degrees over the swing shaft. We did not include it in our competition programme, but bolder participants are welcome to try it!

Points for events will be awarded the same way as in previous years: the first place will be awarded 200 points, the second 195 points, etc. Places 12–50 will be awarded 2 points less than the preceding place and places 51 to the last will be awarded 1 point less than the preceding place. The winners will be determined in each discipline: men and women separately. The best LAG and the best boating team will also be determined.
PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

This year, the study trip is combined with voluntary work, which means that we can all contribute to the development of various objects in South-Estonia through community work. As voluntary work and involvement is part of most Leader projects then we called our trips to South-Estonia LAG’s area Practical Workshops. We will visit different Leader supported projects, landscapes and cultures of South-Estonia. We have organised four routes:

- The Onion Route
- Valgamaa,
- Setomaa,
- Võrumaa.

All the community work will be coordinated by an instructor and the necessary tools will be provided and gloves if necessary. We will be accompanied by guides who introduce every region.

Every trip includes a region-specific lunch made from local and region specific food. We will be enjoy local dance and song performances and if we’re lucky, we can even join in!

Buses leave Tartu already at 9 a.m. in the morning from the lower parking lot of Vanemuine Theatre and return by 5 p.m on 14th of June. Please wear weather-proof clothing! We recommend bringing along some cash, as there are opportunities to buy souvenirs.

THE ONION ROUTE

The Onion Route (Sibulatee) is a network of tourism service providers which covers the shores of Lake Peipsi, snaking from the left banks of Emajõgi River all the way up to Kallaste. The fourth biggest lake in Europe has played a vital role in local life for centuries – Lake Peipsi feeds and clothes the people, but sometimes also takes from them.

The Onion Route provides the visitors with an overview of three cultures:

- Russian Old Believers - the Old Believers on the shores of Lake Peipsi still honour old traditions. Varnja, Kasepää, Kolkja – all three are diverse ribbon villages. While you explore these, the museums, prayer houses and graveyards are worth looking up. Also, you should buy fish, onions and other agricultural produce here.
- Baltic German manor culture – the former Baltic German culture is represented by the stately Alatskivi manor. The old stone buildings at the heart of the manor are finding more and more new purposes of use. However, the majestic Alatskivi manor house deserves the most attention.
- Estonian peasant culture – hard-working Estonians have also developed village life and culture in this area. The museum in the area where the famous Estonian poet Juhan Liiv was born and lived is well worth a visit and there are several places on the Onion Route which are related to the legends of our national epic’s hero Kalevipoeg.

Our trip will include visits to an Old Believers’ church and museum. We will check out special onion beds, visit Alatskivi Castle and do community work at Juhan Liiv’s Museum.

The bus route is approximately 100 km long.

Onion Route programme

- The lunch, cultural programme and community work will take place in the Museum Of Juhan Liiv (J.Liiv is an Estonian writer). The museum is situated near Alatskivi village.
- Community work involves making sauna whisks, some work at house and cleaning up territory.
- The trip is organised by non-profit association Sibulatee who is member of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association. Our guide to Onion Route is Triinu Akkermann.


VALGAMAA

Valgamaa lies along the line of the Estonian-Latvian border. In the old times, during the Livonian rule most of the county belonged to Latvia, thus the central town of the then province is now divided between the two countries – one half belongs to Estonia and the other to Latvia.

Tõrva-Helme-Taagepera area opens the gate to Mulgimaa, which was once well-known for its wealthy farmsteads. People in this part of Valga county still hold in high respect the folk culture and amateur activities, national instruments, songs and dances.

The pride of Valgamaa – Taagepera Manor – was completed in 1912 and represents the archaic-romantic trend of Art Nouveau, with hints of Finnish influence. The free-plan park surrounding the castle is one of the largest and most species-rich in South-Estonia. By now, the manor has been rebuilt into a hotel.

Our Practical Workshop includes an introduction to Taagepera – we will visit Taagepera Handicraft Workshop.

Our community work will take place at the Handicraft Workshop, together with the substitute home of Taheva Sanatorium. Lunch will be served at Taagepera Manor.

The route back will run through Otepää – the winter capital of Estonia. We will visit the Tehvandi viewing tower and Ski museum, draw energy from the Otepää energy pillar and listen to Pühajärve legends.

The bus route is approximately 200 km long.

The trip is organised by LAG Valgamaa Partnership.

Valgamaa programme
- Practical workshop in the Taagepera Handicraft Workshop with the substitute home of the Taheva sanatorium. Activity organized by NGO Taagepera Village Society (MTÜ Taagepera külastels)
- Lunch in Taagepera Manor. Sightseeing if the manor house.
- Bus trip to Otepää region: Tehvandi viewing ski-jump tower, Ski Museum, Otepää energy pillar, lake Pühajärve.
- Bus trip back to Tartu

SETOMAA

Setomaa is located in the most south-eastern corner of Estonia, forming an area of specific and characteristic culture and language. The local customs of this border area have been passed from generations to generations for centuries, remaining rather unchanged due to the isolated nature of the region. Setomaa is a place with beautiful nature and specific culture. It has a lot to offer visitors and one can even briefly pop into Russia without a visa!

The Seto people have also remained the same. But who are these Seto people? Their name in Estonian refers that they are neither this nor that. Their language is similar to Estonian, but not quite the same, and their religion is similar to Slavic, but not quite the same. When Estonians ask the Seto people to speak Estonian, they do. When Russians ask the Seto people to share their religion, they do. But they also bring their own beliefs.

If you want to hear the most archaic Seto language, it is worth listening to a Seto chanting choir. Chanting is the Seto folksong where the lead singer improvises, chanting words for the choir to repeat. Since 2009, the Seto chants are included in UNESCO’s representative list of spiritual cultural heritage.

By the way, do not hope to make the Seto people sing or dance to your tune! The Seto people love to sing and dance, but they sing their own song and dance to their own tune.

Our Practical Workshop includes a visit to Uue-Võhvi Centre, which has been built with support from the Leader measure.

We will do community work at the Seto Farm Museum and take a closer look at the Seto culture. Lunch at Seto Tsäimaja, followed by a visit to Värska skate park.

The bus route is approximately 190 km long.

The trip is organised by a non-profit association Setomaa Turism and the Borderlands Leader

Setomaa programme
- Visit to Uue-Võhvi Centre, which was built with the support of the Leader.
- Community work at the Seto Farm Museum, and getting acquainted with the culture of the Setos.
- Visit to the Värska skate park.
VÕRUMAA

Võrumaa is an area where one can be alone with nature. The local nature here is amazingly diverse and primeval – when travelling here you can find places that seem previously undiscovered by people. Towards the south, Võrumaa rises almost as high as the clouds. The highest peak of the Baltic region – the Great Egg Hill (Suur Munamägi) is also in this region. Võru region is forest-covered “hilly Estonia” with its steep valleys and deep clear lakes. Since ancient times, hard-working nature, wisdom, handicraft skills, sense of humour, love of music and singing has helped local people to live in this hilly region.

Our Practical Workshop includes a visit to Tsolgo, in the Lasva area, where we will visit a community house renovated with support from the Leader measure. We will do community work around the community house, eat a lunch made from local food and enjoy a cultural programme.

The bus route is approximately 140 km long.

The trip is organised by a non-profit association Tsolgo Arendusühing and the LAG Võrumaa Partnership Assembly

Võrumaa programme

- Visit to the legendary accordion builder August Teppo’s birth-place at Loosu village. August Teppo (1875-1959) was the developer of the most common accordion type in Estonia
- Visit to Tsolgo community house, which was funded by the Leader.
- Community work at the Tsolgo community house.

Getting acquainted with local culture and folk dance. Musical entertainment from the local village band „Omad poisid“ („Our own lads“).
LAG HOHE SALVE TYROL

Character of the Region:
Mountain area in the „Kithbühler Alps“ is well known tourism region characterized by mountain-farming, forests and alpine pasture land.

Major Projects:
The main part is linking between agriculture and tourism. The development of an innovative system for our rural area. Improvement of the quality of life (social and cultural and natural projects). Renewable energy – projects.

Objectives of the Local Development strategy:
Integrated and multi-sectoral actions especially between agriculture and tourism. Learning and the exchange of know how are important aims of the region. Strengthening the cross-border co-operation and network with other LAG’s. Innovation and quality upgrading should be the most often research added value at the end of the period.

LAG MITTLERES UNTERINNTAL TYROL

Our Region is situated in the west part of Austria (Tyrol). Characterized by mountain - region with the Inn-valley with high transit traffic in a sensitive alpine region.

Major Projects:
the main part is linking between employment, mobility and cultural and natural projects. The development of an innovative system for our rural area. Improvement of the quality of life (social and cultural and natural projects). Renewable energy projects.

Objectives of the Local Development strategy:
Our LAG is responsible for putting the Leader element into practice. We are aiming to develop a Leader approach in the west part of Austria – Tyrol. Strengthening the cross-border co-operation and network with other LAG’s. Innovation and quality upgrading should be the biggest added value at the end of the period.
The NRN Austria is a consortium consisting of 3 organisations. Each of these organisations is specialising in different fields of rural development: agriculture & forestry, environment, multisectoral development/Leader.

Leader Austria is based on one national programme. Managing authority is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water management. The implementation of Leader is supported by 8 regional governments. Main fields of activity of the Austrian LAGs are: tourism, renewable energy, agriculture, education/qualification, culture, business development.

The main characteristics of the region:
situated between Vienna and Bratislava, dominated by Lake Neusiedl, national park. Major projects: village renewal, tourism development, nature protection, renewable energies. Objectives of the local strategy:
1) Regional identity and culture, 2) mobility, 3) regional economy, 4) tourism, 5) agriculture and renewable energies.

Ideas for transnational cooperation:
1) barrier-free tourism in cooperation with LAG Mittlerer Schwarzwald (Germany), 2) cherry project in cooperation with LAG Kromme Rijn (The Netherlands), 3) development of tourism in cooperation with LAG Lommatzscher Pflege (Germany).

Examples of international projects:
1) Barrier free tourism in cooperation with LAG Mittlerer Schwarzwald (Germany), 2) Cherry project in cooperation with LAG Kromme Rijn (The Netherlands); 3) Development of tourism in cooperation with LAG Lommatzscher Pflege (Germany).
Gina Streit

- National Park Hohe Tauern – covers 1/3 of East Tyrol’s surface.
- County is situated on the Italian border.
- Mountains (Alps and Dolomites), forests, alpine pastures, 2,000 hours of sunshine a year and nice climate, openhearted people
- The region is quite remote, sparsely populated and threatened by a continuous loss of inhabitants.

The Regional Development Agency East Tyrol (RMO) supports municipalities and regional organisations, institutions and companies in East Tyrol to develop regional, national and transnational projects in various sectors. A major focus of our work is laid on regional mobility and sustainable energy. Here we act as contact and information point and carry out projects in our own name in addition to advising the development of projects.

We support a bottom up approach whenever possible, there is a high emphasis in introducing volunteer work in all projects and in all stages of the project. Objectives and aims of the local development strategy are far reaching and certainly will be pursued beyond the current EU-program: 1) to stop the loss of population (at least reduce the speed of the decline); 2) to keep lively villages and secure rural infrastructure; 3) to foster the comprehensive small scale agriculture; 4) to reach autonomy in sustainable energy supplies.

Stefan Niedermoser

Objectives of the Local Development Strategy:
1. Better education and qualification opportunities in the region and lifelong learning; 2. Increase the high standard for quality of life in relation to the natural heritage of the region as well as mountainous agriculture; 3. Cooperation within all economic sectors with the focus to increase the attraction of the region; 4. Supporting new technologies, renewable energy and regional products or services.

Ideas for transnational cooperation:
We are open for cooperation projects in every field of the local development strategy, especially within the fields of tourism, regional marketing, culture and quality of life. We also would be pleased to welcome you and your LAG in our area to show you 15 years of Leader-work in a small, rural area with a lot of transferrable projects.
REGIOL DISTRICT OF LANDECK/TYROL

Bruggfeldstraße 5 / 4, 6500 Landeck, Österreich
info@regiol.at
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+43-(0)5442-67804
Contact: Mag. Gerald Jochum

Population of the region: 44 998
Number of municipalities: 30

Examples of projects:
1) Climbers Paradise (District Westtirol);
2) Project Transmuseum: Museum co-op with Cadore/Italy;
3) Arlberg Kandahar St. Anton (Skiing history with Garmisch);
4) Project “Weg der Schwabenkinder” (Our children’s road to Swabia, co-op with Vorarlberg, South Germany);
5) Bike Trail along the Roman road Via Claudia Augusta

Objectives of the Local Development and Strategy, field of actions:
1. to strengthen profit-making agriculture and forestry as well as to support environmentally friendly systems and renewable energies.
2. to manage Alpine environments and to protect against natural hazards.
3. Tourism region Landeck: To establish partnerships, to reduce seasonality, and to improve competitive position by raising quality.
4/5. Support quality of life and improve services of public interest in rural areas, as well as to promote a knowledge-based society and to reinforce the industrial location.

VEREIN REGIONALMANAGEMENT BEZIRK IMST

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Contact: GF Dr. Nicole Stern

Number of municipalities: 10

The district of Imst is situated in the western part of Tyrol and belongs to the upper Inn valley. The regions of Imst are the mentioned Inn valley, the plateau of Mieming, the Gurgltal and Ötztal as well as the Pitztal. The major business is tourism apart from a few small and medium sized enterprises which have up to 500 employees. Never the less the district and its touristic companies form the economic core competence and accelerate 5,4 overnight stays every year. In this mountainous area only 10% of the landscape is habitable. The rest are mountains up to 3.800 meters. Culture and history are an important part of the daily life and according to that the possibilities are versatile as well as interesting.
LEADER REGION NATIONALPARK HOHE TAUERN

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Ferdinand Lainer
Josef Zandl
Leonhard Madreiter

The leader region Hohe Tauern National Park is located in the southern province of Salzburg and covers the area of the Hohe Tauern.

The Salzburger National Park region is the inner-alpine centers distant part of the Salzburg Gebirsgaue. This “border region” around the central Alpine mountains is largely characterized by rather narrow structure of jobs, out-migration and relatively unfavorable traffic-moderate accessibility.

The strategy is targeted to improve the quality of life and development of the economy to ensure sustainable regional development. Also to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry and environment.

LAG SAALACHTAL

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Astrid Hohenwarter
Leitinger Josef
Michael Payer
Christine Schläffer

About half the population of the region Saalachtal lives in the central town of Saalfelden. LAG Saalachtal has six main development priorities. Priorities of the strategy are to develop regional economy, education, culture and nature.

Projects are targeted for the improving the quality of youth activity, promotion of regional products renewable energy and sustainable mobility.
Bulgaria is a country located in Southeastern Europe with a territory of 110,994 square kilometres. Bulgaria is Europe’s 14th-largest country. Within the period 2008 – 2011 in Bulgaria was implemented sub-measure 431-2 “Acquisition of skills and animating the territory of potential local action groups” of axis 4 Leader of the rural Development Program. During this period Bulgarian Local action groups have gained considerable experience in project management, built administrative capacity, established contacts at regional, national and European level. Leader approach generated great interest in Bulgaria and the number of potential LAGs supported under sub-measure 431-2 is 102, which is nearly 60% over-performance of the indicator in the RDP. Process of approval of LAGs in Bulgaria was split into two calls. On the first call of applications for approval of MIG for funding under Axis 4 Leader had submitted 55 applications and contracts were signed only with 16 LAGs.

On the second call were submitted 71 applications and the evaluation is still on-going.

The European Commission’s Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development is based in Brussels under the authority of Commissioner Dacian Ciolos. With a staff of about 1000 and led by Director-General José Manuel Silva Rodrigues, it is responsible for the implementation of agriculture and rural development policy, the latter being managed in conjunction with the other DGs which deal with structural policies. It is made up of 13 Directorates dealing with all aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) including farm support, market measures, rural development policy, quality policy, financial and legal matters, analysis and evaluation as well as international relations relating to agriculture.

Unit G.1 as part of the Directorate G (Horizontal aspects of rural development) is responsible for the consistency of the rural development programs; it contributes to the definition and design of the rural development policy in respect of its objectives, instruments and delivery mechanisms, including implementing rules. The Unit ensures a coherent approach to the implementation of rural development policy in Member States, including the Leader approach. G1 also ensures the coordination with other policies including the future Community-led Local Development.
The European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD) is an international non-profit making association (aisbl) set up to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to maintain their population through sustainable, integrated local development. In doing so ELARD campaigns to spread the philosophy of the LEADER method both at a local grassroots and at an institutional level.

ELARD is currently working on expanding its membership base even further, especially among the new Member States and the pre-accession countries in an effort to create a culturally and nationally diverse front united by the common goal of a sustainable and viable rural Europe.

ELARD supports its members directly in their efforts to carry out innovative work in the field of rural development and to network with each other in order to cooperate and disseminate good LEADER practices and know-how from one territory to another.

The Contact Point based in Brussels with the specific purpose of providing support to the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission for setting up and running the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD).

ENRD contributes to the efficient implementation of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) throughout the European Union (EU). Each Member State has established a National Rural Network (NRN) which brings together the organisations and administrations involved in rural development. At EU level, the ENRD ensures the networking of these NRNs, national administrations and European organisations. An important function of the ENRD is to encourage and support transnational cooperation between Local Action Groups (LAGs).
Aisapari LAG was established in 1999 to serve as the common developer for 6 municipalities. We aim to improve vitality, maintain the population base and activate new types of activity in the region. The development strategy for 2007-2013 is „The Aisapari area – modern, vibrant and competitive“. This strategy is also outlines the focal points of the Leader funding in our region. The main objectives of the program are: happy and participating people, competitive business activities that provides employment, a pleasant, attractive an thriving environment. The focal points of our programme are: 1) entrepreneurship and trade; 2) nature and culture. We particularly finance projects from these walks of life. The common thread in our programme is competitiveness within various themes including: trade, attractiveness of the area, environment, tourism, employment, welfare of people, culture, youth. We are also looking for international contacts in those themes.

The Rural Network Unit is based in Seinäjoki in the heart of the vital rural region of Western Finland. One of its’ main task is to promote the establishment of international and interregional projects, co-operation and dissemination of information, for example by finding partners for international projects. The aim is to make international co-operation part of the every-day life of those engaged in rural development.

In Finland, Leader local action groups (LAGs) are registered associations that develop rural areas by funding local rural development projects and supporting local enterprises. There are 56 LAGs in Finland, covering the whole country.
Suupohja main production:
- 50% of the furniture made in Finland
- 50% of the material processing systems
- 50% of potatoes for human consumption
- The biggest spelt-growing area in Finland
One of the most modern and fastest regional optical fibre networks in Europe has been built in Suupohja. The furniture cluster: there are 200 furniture companies which employ about 1200 people

Local Strategies:
- promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening the competitiveness of business
- renewing local service structure
- developing residence, villages and the environment
Entrepreneurship is the key resource for the development of the region. Strong cluster relate to the metal, technology industries, wood product industry as well as to the locally produced food.
We are especially interested in projects including villages and village's activities and cultural activities.
SME's are a focus point of our activities as well.

Town of Iisalmi is the commercial and administrative centre of Ylä-Savo. Iisalmi has 22 100 inhabitants and the whole region 58 000. Most Ylä-Savo people get their living from technology industry, wood processing or food industry. There are many prosperous export firms in Ylä-Savo like Ponsse (forest machines), Normet (mining and tunnelling machines), Genelec (active speakers and speaker systems), Olvi (brewery) and Valio (cheese and other milk products).
Milk producing is very important to the region.
The touristic strengths of Iisalmi and region are the uncountable lakes, countryside, culture heritage and peculiar events like annual Wife Carrying World Championship.
The main characteristics of the LAG region:
- farming 2 400 farms, average farm size 36 ha
- food industry
- forestry and environmental technology
- metal industry
- nature – clean and natural environment, silence and peace
- local people – active inhabitants and associations, local traditions and identity

Main areas of the local LAG strategies:
1) Rural micro-enterprises – developing employment and services in rural areas
2) Rural living – developing local communities
3) Rural environment – developing cultural and natural environment
4) Young people in rural areas – a bond to the future. Within all of these themes, the transnational work is promoted and encouraged.

An example of most successfully implemented projects: Amaze me Leader!
Adventure seminar for 16-28-year old youth, taking place in August 2011.

The region is characterized by the location at the northern edge of the alps. Villages are located in the wider parts of the valleys, near by the rivers and streams which running through. Mountains are densely wooded and up to 2.000m high. Area for agriculture use is low but very efficient. Forestry is the other main income of the local residents. There is a strong alliance and knowledge on the cultural development of professional „mountain forestry“. The region is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Bavaria (2.5 million overnight stays per year). Ruhpolding and Inzell are the official weltcup-venues for Biathlon and Speed-Skating.

The main areas of the local strategies are to develop sustainable transport concepts, an sustainable products for tourism, to save the cultural heritages (mountain agriculture, forestry), to protect and to save the natural heritages.
LINC ESTONIA 2012 Involvement and Voluntary Work

LEADER GESCHÄFTSSTELLE MITTLERER SCHWARZWALD

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Main characteristics of the region:
most of the territory is part of the area “Central Black Forest”, 85% of the region is situated in the “Black Forest Nature Park Central/North, the largest park in Germany.

Major projects:
Initiative for renewable energy to replace conventional fuels especially in power generation and heating (Sun Area 2010). Initiative to establish the Black Forest as a accessibly designed holiday destination (in cooperation with LAG Norhten Black Forest). Developing a new concept for a already existing adventure farm and vivarium (providing an understanding for the modern farmer).

Objectives of the Local Development Strategy:
1) Education and social policy; 2) Infrastructure and provision with basic supplies; 3) nature and culture; 4) renewable energy and resources; 5) agriculture and agricultural marketing; 6) rural tourism.

NATIONAL RURAL SUPPORT UNIT

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Contact: Anke Wehmeyer

The National Rural Support Unit (NRSU) - DVS Deutsche Vernetzungsstelle Ländliche Räume (DVS) is supporting all 244 German LAGs in all 14 Laender. The NRSU is doing that through meetings, trainings, workshops, conferences and publications. That means support for transnational and inter-territorial cooperation in Leader, too. The German NRSU is although responsible for the Networking of all Axis of the EAFRD.
The main characteristics of the Saxon Switzerland region:
unique natural area of sandstone rocks on both sides of German-Czech boarder; 70% of the territory is classified as national park or other nature protected areas; 39% forestlands, one of the most wooded regions in Saxony; wellknown tourism and health region close to Dresden.

Some examples of most sucessfully implemented projects:
1) initiative for regional supplies in line with actual needs including a distribution
2) centre direct marketing – culinary tour through Saxon Switzerland;
3) regional transition management „Professional Qualification Prospect” SAMO – development of mobility models for reducing socio-cultural and infrastructural deficits in model communities.

Current cooperations with international partners: cross-border nature and environment education project „River Elbe – our common heritage” (CIL III) with Czech neighbourhood; Upper Lusatian Mountains and Lausitz Mountains (joint initiative for making Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland publicly known as a regional brand).

FELSŐ-HOMOKHÁTSÁG LAG

The Felső-Homokhátság LAG is located near to Budapest, capital of Hungary. There are a lack of architectural and art relics here: halls, churches, cellars, manorial buildings which are graceful scenes of different local cultural and entertaining programs. We’ve got illustrious natural makings with a few industrial parts and emissions. Fileds, plough-lands, forests make landscapes characteristics, but wayside sycamore alleys and vineyards with cellars giving special atmosphere for some villages. The main areas of the local strategies: increasing the local economy of the region, developing rural tourism, improving the quality of life, preserving the local heritage and values, protecting the natural and physical environment. Partnership search for future cooperation projects: horse tourism, Local cultural heritage & programmes, Local products & branding.
Júlia Szendrői

The region is located near to Budapest, capital of Hungary. There are a lock of architectural and art relics here: halls, churches, cellars, manorial buildings which are graceful scenes of different local cultural and entertaining programs. We’ve got illustrious natural makings with a few industrial parts and emissions. Fileds, plough-lands, forests make landscapes characteristics, but wayside sycamore alleys and vineyards with cellars giving special atmosphere for some villages. The main areas of the local strategies: increasing the local economy of the region, developing rural tourism, improving the quality of life, preserving the local heritage and values, protecting the natural and physical environment. Partnership search for future cooperation projects: horse tourism, local cultural heritage & programmes, local products & branding.

The most important international cooperation projects:
1) Developing local trade mark, joining to the European Territorial Quality Mark;
2) Hungarian – French forestry Cooperation;
3) European Network of Equestrian Guesthouses;
4) European Network of Rural Craftsmen

Triona Murphy

IRD Duhallow’s territory includes North West Cork and South East Kerry in southern Ireland. It is a largely Rural Area. Over 85 % of the population live in the open country side or in settlements of less that 200 people. Established in 1989 IRD Duhallow is one of the original Leader/Partnership companies. IRD Duhallow currently administers and implements a number of EU and National Programmes such as Leader, Local Community Development Programme, Community Services Programme, Rural Social Scheme, Warmer Homes Scheme, FAS, TUS. NCIP and LIFE+ in order to achieve the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the Duhallow Region. The main object of the Company is to promote, support, assist and engage in 1) social development, 2) enterprise development to facilitate rural and urban regeneration or 3) community development, designed to benefit and promote the welfare of local communities or to deal with the causes and consequences of social and economic disadvantage or poverty.
LOCAL ACTION GROUP “LA CITTADELLA DEL SAPERE”

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Population of the region: 75 000
Number of municipalities: 27

The territory of the LAG “La Cittadella del Sapere” falls almost entirely within the perimeter of the Pollino National Park and covers some 1,500 km².

An example of most successfully implemented projects:
“Monna Lisa Museum”. The project aims to establish in the area of the LAG a multimedia museum dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa within which to focus the planning of events, exhibitions and cultural performances.
We have already launched a series of interregional and transnational cooperation initiatives: Fair of Arezzo, the Lucania Film Festival in Amsterdam and at the 2012 Sanremo Festival.
Shortly we will definitely start another project named “I Cammini D’Europa”: 20 LAGs will participate in this project from 5 European countries (Italy, Spain, France, Sweden and Portugal).
We search partnership for future cooperation projects whose objectives are: transfer of skills and experiences of local development; enhance the resources of the partner areas; enhance the food and craft associated with local traditions.

GAL CARSO – LAS KRAS

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GAL Carso – LAS Kras is a local action group in the border area of Italian Trieste County in region Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Slovenia. The goals of strategy is connected to improve living enviroment of local inhabitants, also to preserve social and cultural values.
BALVI DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

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vinuks1@gmail.com
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Contact: Vineta Zeltkalne

Population of the region: 25 779
Number of municipalities: 4

Vineta Zeltkalne
Maruta Paidere

Balvi District Partnership is established in 2003 and consists of representatives from municipalities, non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs. Main aim is to minimize poverty and social depression in Balvi Region. BDV has established “Balvi district poverty and social depression minimizing strategy” financed by the government of United Kingdom in 2003 – 2005 and implemented 31 projects. BDV has experience in Leader projects, implemented “Balvi District development strategy 2006 – 2009” (financed 28 projects) and continues to implement “Balvi District development strategy 2009 – 2013”. BDP is looking forward to establish contacts under following topics: youth, culture, local tourism and entrepreneurship.

CESIS DISTRICT RURAL PARTNERSHIP

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Population of the region: 33 680
Number of municipalities: 8

Maris Cirulis
Kristine Zake

Cesis District Rural Partnership is situated in the middle part of Latvia, uniting 8 municipalities: Cesis, Amata, Priekuli, Ligatne, Rauna, Vecpiebalga, Jaunpiebalga and Raiskums. Main aim: to develop favourable living conditions and sustainable Cesis district rural area, where to live and return.

Partnership actions are based on specific development actions and priorities:
1. Promotion of business and employment.
2. Promotion of the quality of life in the territory of local development strategy.
3. Strengthening of rural traditions and culture heritage.

Searching for partners for international cooperation projects in the sphere of innovations centres, best practices for inland water, tourism and fish resource management, and support for local entrepreneurs, including local identity products, as well.
Jūrkante

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Contact: Dzintra Eizenberga

Our territory is situated by the sea. The coastline is 54 km. As the land is not particularly fertile, the main focus of agriculture is dairy-farming and cattle-breeding. Another source of revenue is small scale coastal fishing. Good transport connections – Via Baltica route, and close vicinity to regional centres. Main problem is declining population. Our goal is to preserve the local spirit and traditions through activating inhabitants and encouraging the youth to return to rural areas.

Latvian Rural Network Unit

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Contact: Zanda Dimanta

Latvian Rural Network – cooperation for development.
The National Rural Network is established to facilitate the co-operation between rural population and the various organizations and administrative bodies involved in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme for Latvia.

The key function of the Latvian Rural Network is to inform rural inhabitants, enterprises and organizations on the opportunities available via the Rural Development Program for Latvia.
The Unit of the National Rural Network identifies the needs of rural inhabitants and directs the attention of the policy-makers involved in the Programme for Rural Development to the needs in rural areas.

The National Rural Network is working with all Latvian LAGs. NRN is raising awareness about LEADER initiative. What will be the LEADER initiative in the next planning period? That is the question we are working on by using research, workshops and discussions.
LAG “SATEKA” was established in 2007 with an aim to favour sustainable and balanced development of the territory in Gulbene district, representing interests of the society and promoting its active participation in the solving of social and economic issues, involving businessmen, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and residents.

Some examples of most successfully implemented projects: Simplified reconstruction of Stāķi Primary School attic and a creation of exposition room (150 m²). The first exposition in the new room was about the study of the local history of Stradi village.

Examples of the most important international cooperation projects: an international cooperation project “Mushroom Road”.

Partners: Varena region Local Action Group (Lithuania), Ignalina District Local Action Group (Lithuania), Daugavpils and Iluksste Districts Partnership “Neighbors” (Latvia), NGO SATEKA (Latvia).

Partnership search for future cooperation projects:
1) Small business development
2) Ancient crafts art
3) Rural women’s co-operation in various fields
4) Folklore-ethnographic ensemble
TALSI DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

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The Partnership area has very attractive nature and is culturally rich. The area is characterized by the diversity of the landscape. Agricultural landscape mixed with large forests and coastal landscapes. Local municipality is interested to develop region tourism to attract holidaymakers with interesting places and objects.

The main targets of the strategy: to involve, educate and encourage local community; to improve quality of life and accessibility of services and to open nature landscapes to public use.

Some examples of most successfully implemented projects:
1) Pastende Sports Complex improvement.
2) Inter-reconstruction of Arlava Evangelical Lutheran Church’s entrance to the tower lobbies.
3) Warm, cozy rooms - Mçrsrags disabled support centre roof replacement and renovation of premises.

UTENA REGION LAG

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URLAG is a non-profit organization, rendering support for the members of village communities in social, economic, cultural and sport activities. UTLAG acts in the area of 1219 km². The Utena Local Administration is decorated with 179 lakes. The woods cover one third of the territory of 133.38 km². The tourism business in Lithuania, as of a new international region in the economic and geographic area of the Middle Europe and South East at the Baltic Sea, is growing up.

The main goals of the URLAG are to prepare and implement the programs and plans for developing the villages of the Utena region.

The most important international cooperation projects – „Traditional Art and Handcraft exchange 2011-2012“.

Partnership search for future cooperation projects: promotion of local products, crafts and services development in Utena region.
LEADER EAST GRONINGER

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Contact: Rob Heilijgers

Some examples of most successfully implemented projects:
1) Two year partnership with National Geographic Channel and Magazine;
2) Regional Marketing East Groningen

Blue Ribbon, organisation of entrepreneurs in tourism and recreation
The most important international cooperation projects: East Groningen-Tartumaa (Tourism, recreation and rural products); Dutch presentation on Maamess trade fair and Springfair in Tartumaa, Estonia; Estonian presentation during Week of the Taste in Winschoten, East Groningen; Exchange of knowhow and experience of entrepreneurs in the field of tourism and recreation Partnership search for future cooperation projects: further development of partnership with Tartumaa (especially in the field of entrepreneurship and local products, also involving Dutch Embassy in Estonia, possible transfer of partnership with National Geographic) and new partnerships with other LEADER areas in Estonia. Possibly with LEADER organisations in Finland, Germany or Austria

LAG CIESZYNSKA KRAINA

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The countryside of the Polish Beskidy Mountains, the architectural monuments and the atmosphere as snug as a bug in a rug could be short description of this place. The eight communes of Podbeskidzie, situated at the foot of Beskidy Mountains, Brenna, Chybie, Dębowiec, Goleszów, Hażłach, Skoczów, Strumięń and Zebrzydowice, create an exceptionally enchanting look which makes the area of the local action group.
The area of Ziemia Bielska LAG Association is located in the southern part of the Śląskie Voivodeship. The area of activity of the Association is entirely situated in the territory of Bielsko-Biała Poviat, in the middle of the international routes and transport tracks. The LAG territory surrounds the city of Bielsko Biała forming an open ring.

**Cooperation project:**
At the moment Ziemia Bielska LAG Association is implementing a cooperation project KRAM aimed at promoting local handicraft.

Rumenian is country where 47,3% are rural population and 90% of territory is rural. There are 42 counties with 2854 comunas and 319 towns.

The Romanian NRN’s objectives are:
• to enlist the energy of all actors in the rural development process
• to promote an effective flow of information, exchange of ideas and good practices,
• cooperation among all the actors involved in rural development in order to:
  - create an agricultural and forestry economy based on those holdings to be modernised;
  - develop the agriculture which has to favour diversity and environment preservation;
  - improve the quality of life, the economic development in rural areas and the local governance for implementing local development strategies.
LOCAL ACTION GROUP VRSATEC

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LAG Vrsatec is focused on rural development in the west part of Slovakia. LAG Vrsatec territory has great potential to become region with very good living standard and interesting object for tourists and visitors. We have implemented 17 projects for more then 1,2 MEUR, and are waiting to implement around 30 more in a year. These changes are visible in the region and LAG is becoming more and more popular among its inhabitants.

Every three months we organise activities for the people in the region, as competitions, cultural programmes, public meetings and others. We publish the LAG Vrsatec newsletter with all the news form LAG itself and from the region. We try to support small civil associations, small producers of traditional products and professional craftsmen.

We cooperate with other European LAGs, especially from Czech republic, Poland and Belgium. We have participated in several european projects. In the future, we would like to cooperate with many more LAGs from different parts of Europe. Our projects are mainly focused on increasing of tourist potentional.

LEADER GOTLAND

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The main characteristics of the region:
The area is 3 134 square meters. The length of the island is 17, 6 Swedish miles, the width - 5 miles. Gotland has a very flat landscape. A tourist island in summer.

The main areas of the local strategies, prioritized areas for 2012:
1) Develop new and existing financing solutions
2) Infrastructure
3) Innovative energy solutions

Some examples of most successfully implemented projects: Broadband in every parish. A LAG-owned project, that gives support with up to 15 000 SEK to mobilization in each parish for building broadband in the countryside. This project has involved many people of different ages, young and old, and it is full of activity in the parishes.

Leader Gotland has a close cooperation with municipality, and other organizations such as county Administrative Board, Agriculture Society, Farmer’s association etc. Gotland has no international cooperation project until today, but is working on it.
LEADER TIMRÅBYGD

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Timrå leader area possesses fantastic natural resources, including six nature reserves. The entire coastline from Ångermanland around Åvikebukten and inland towards Söråker offers a wealth of gems for lovers of nature and beautiful scenery. This is complemented by the inland with areas of steep sandy riverbanks, mountains, valleys, and agricultural areas. Around 18 000 people live in the Timråbygd area.

Examples of successful projects:
we have 28 projects descriptions. We have a youth- and integration project that is based in Söråker. We also have a big nature project that works with old cultural paths in the forests and connects them with GPS based adventures.

BORDERLANDS LEADER - PIIRIVEERE LIIDER

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Borderlands Leader is created 6 years ago to develop the region by the Estonian South-East border. Our slogan is “Boundless Borderland”, which reflects the open way of thinking, readiness for innovation, a wish not to let physical or mental limits hinder development.

General goals of the Leader strategy are; to stop the decrease of population in the territory, focus on family, creation of valuable work places, residents’ initiative and to improve quality of life of the territory.
191 projects (total sum 1, 4 MEUR) were supported in the framework of the Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013 Leader measure.

We participate in a co-operation project “Farm Market”, coordinated by Delicious South-Estonia. The aim of the project is to market the products (food, handicraft etc) produced by local farmers. Also in the co-operation project “Peipsimaa”, which promotes the development of tourism in the region of Lake Peipus.
The Agricultural Registers and Information Board

ARIB was established in summer 2000 as a government agency working in the area of administration of the Ministry of Agriculture on the basis of the Agricultural Registers and Information Centere. The number of ARIB employees is in the beginning of 2009 404 people, from whom 230 people are working in the main office in Tartu and the rest in 15 service-offices in all Estonian counties. Along with processing applications for aid, one of ARIB’s duties is to maintain national registers - the register of farm animals and the register of agricultural support and land parcels. LEADER Unit is responsible of Leader applications, payments and controls.

Development Centre - Arenduskoda

The main characteristics of the region:
NGO Development Centre comprises local governments from 3 counties: Harju, Järva and Lääne-Viru County. From the economic aspect, it is a harmonized area with diverse entrepreneurship. The main fields of activities are agriculture, production and processing (building materials, timber), tourism and recreational activities.

The main areas of the local strategies:
Improvement of the living environment; using new knowledge and technologies to increase the area’s competitiveness in production and service. In fulfilling the priorities, the goal is to support and promote local cultural activities and therefore, shape the reputation of the area and also local entrepreneurship and its development.

Most important international cooperation projects:
“Loving local values” (Estonia-Finland). Aim is to enable interaction and concrete development activities (seminars, study tours, practicing in (each-other organizations) local organizations) within and between two countries rural regions close to the Baltic Sea in the fields of local food and handicraft.
The Estonian Rural Network Unit was established in 2007 by the Rural Economy Research Centre. The main role of the Rural Network Unit is to add value to the implementation of the Estonian Rural Development Programme.

Network and its website has become the meeting place for various sectors. The Network is dealing with wide range of topics: Leader, the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, joint activities, local food, social farming, rural entrepreneurship, youth and others. The Network is doing cooperation with Estonian Public Broadcasting since 2008. Important tasks are disseminating knowledge and information, and organizing different events to encourage cooperation between rural actors.

Hiiumaa is isolated island in Baltic Sea, hence the interest of the people is on sailing, local food and sustainable livelihood. The 1000 km² of land is mostly covered with natural forest that gives jobs to foresters, but the main activity of people is in industry (plastic, construction), farming, culture, services, tourism. Hiiumaa LAG strategy supports community activities, training, investments in local economy and public services, planning and marketing of the island. The biggest project is the new abattoir to serve cattle and lamb farmers. Transnational cooperation is directed to enliven the maritime traditions of sailing (together with Karhuseutu and Bornholm LAGs), local food and short supply chains (together with Saaremaa, Loir Valley LAG, Central Warwickshire Villages LAG, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership). Looking for the partners in above mentioned areas for the period 2014+.
The territory of the LAG Partnership of North-East Coast is the most northeastern region in Estonia. The natural border with Finland in the north is the Finnish Bay and with the Russian Federation in the east is Narva River. Diversity is what unites and differentiates the Partnership of North-East Coast from the others: towns changing with rural life, large industries next to developing small enterprise, different nationalities living together, beautiful nature with a seaside cliff, waterfalls and sandy beaches as a contradiction to “oil shale mining land”.

The Partnership of North-East Coast helps to carry out efficient ideas, which are targeted for the improving the quality of life in region and development of enterprise
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The main goals of the NGO are to help preserve and revive traditional village life, and to boost its harmonious development, to support village economy, folk culture and nature conservation and to unite different associations of village movements.

Examples of international cooperation projects:
"FIN-EST RUral youth camps "Projects members -coordinating Leader local action group: Pärnu Lahe Partnerluskogu / Pärnu Bay Partnership, Leader local action group
1. Kodukant Läänemaa, Leader local action group
2. Development Association Sepra, Leader local action group
3. Pohjois- Kymen Kasvu, Leader local action group
4. Länsi-Saimaan Gehittämisyydhdistys, Russian Local Interest group: Olonets District Lig. Partnership search for future cooperation projects: we wish to make cooperation projects on bio energy and rural developments topics.

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Contact: Tanel Tang

The areas of activity of the Ministry of Agriculture are:
• drafting and realisation of national agricultural development plans and effectuation of corresponding measures,
• regulation of activities related to the processing of agricultural products,
• agricultural market regulation,
• the national stockpiles of basic grain seed and food grains,
• food control and supervision,
• plant protection,
• veterinary medicine,
• animal and plant breeding,
• land improvement.

The Ministry provides agricultural research, education and training, and prepares relevant draft legislation.
NELJA VALLA KOGU

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The territory of the LAG Nelja Valla Kogu is untypical in Estonian, because the main problem in this peri-urban area is not the decrease of rural population and the accompanying socio-economic decline, but the increasing pressure on better public services due to immigration to region. Therefore, the territory’s strategy is targeted to strong and innovative measures, which help to improve civil society.

Establishing a theme park of Peter the Great’s naval fortress is one of unique project in the area. The goal of the theme park is to exhibit military objects from the beginning of the last century, imitate military activities of that era and show tourists from all over Europe the historical buildings of a military defence constructions.
NORTH-HARJU PARTNERSHIP - PÕHJA-HARJU KOOSTÖOKOGU

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Our motto: we are brought together by 5000 years of love for the home region, history, culture and traditions – there aren’t many regions in Estonia, which can beat this).

The main areas of the local strategy:
1) Connecting and developing village communities
2) Enterprise and recreational activities
3) Youth of the Partnership’s territory
4) Developing coastal areas and small islands.

Some examples of most successfully implemented projects: 4 projects has been supported by Leader program with 66 503 € to reconstruct Naissaare church and open it for local community people and tourists. Other projects are about supporting tourism on the island like installing information labels, buying 10 bicycles to get around the island, opening a visitor centre with new kitchen equipment, putting to use windmill for saving energy etc. Our most important international cooperation projects are with LAG KOLD, Suduva LAG, LAG SPIS, North Harju LAG, about demarcation of hiking trails in partner areas and organizing of promotion of local products.

PÄRNU BAY PARTNERSHIP – PÄRNU LAHE PARTNERLUSKOGU

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The main characteristics of the region:
LAG Pärnu Bay Partnership situates on bank of Baltic Sea around town Pärnu. Region has traditional coastal village culture, especially on Kihnu Island. Region is traditional fishing area. Has large nature protection areas, natural beauty and wetlands.

Pärnu Bay Partnership is willingness to cooperate in tourism and local food promotion.

The most successfully implemented projects are:
Romantic Coastline – development of environmentally friendly tourism in area. www.rannatee.ee
Very important are youth activities.

International cooperation projects:
Dare To Dream, Medieval Festivals and FIN-EST-RUral youth camps (Finland and Russia)
The Põlva County Partnership Board is LAG in South-East Estonia. This area is well-known tourism and health region. The territory has long cultural traditions and we have a lot of manors. The region is mostly affected by its distance from the capital Tallinn and vicinity of the state borders of Russia and Latvia. We preserve our natural and cultural heritage. Our slogan is “Põlva County - a greener life!”

263 projects with the total sum of 2,2 million euro were supported in the framework of the Rural Development Plan 2007 - 2013 Leader measure 2008 - 2012.

Leader has initiated many successful projects in Region like:
1) Since 2009, the naturally manufactured high-quality products has been labelled with “Rohelisem märk”(A greener mark) www.polvamaine.ee
2) We are founder of the NGO Maitsev Lõuna-Eesti (Delicious Southern Estonia)
3) Many projects have been made to improve the living environment

Example of international cooperation projects:
Culturips. Culturips is a project of interpersonal exchange through cultural trips in Europe. It’s concept is socio-cultural exchange and tourism in rural areas. Tourists and local people’s active participations are the backbone of the project. Project partners: Redange-Wiltz from Luxembourg, Central Karelia Jetina and Joensuu from Finland, Urfahr-West and Oststeirisches Kemland from Austria, the region Valle Umbra e Sibillini from Italy and the Estonian region Raplamaa. The project will last 2010-2013.

Partnership search for future cooperation projects:
Youth projects cooperation for introducing and implementing healthy living style and engaging of young people into decision making and participation process on local community level.
The region of Tartu Rural Development Association (TRDA) surrounds the city of Tartu which is the second largest city in Estonia. The territory of TRDA is located in between the two biggest Estonian lakes – Lake Võrtsjärv and Lake Peipus.

Our strategic programme focuses on the quality of life and best use of natural and cultural resources. The three strategic target groups chosen by TRDA are entrepreneurs, communities and young people.

Different initiatives are carried out, such as a development programme targeted to small entrepreneurs “In the search for innovation” and a non-profit organization of South-Estonian food producers - NGO Delicious South-Estonia. Working with youth is a priority, which was reflected by an international youth seminar “Let’s make the county shine and thrive!” which took place in August 2010. TRDA has also established a special “Youth Foundation”, with the aim to foster youth initiatives. The foundation is managed and operated by young people themselves.

355 projects with the total sum of €3,055,675.99 were supported in the framework of the Rural Development Plan 2007 - 2013 Leader measure between 2008 - 2012.

Valga County is located in South-Estonia, at the Latvian border. Twelve municipalities of the region comprise a 150 villages, two cities and seven small towns. Valga County has good natural tourism prerequisites, provided by hilly landscape, many forests and beautiful lakes.

We create possibilities for people and give our support for the improvement of our living environment and organization of life. We are a team of people coming from different fields of life, who cooperate, while considering everyone’s interests. The strategy focuses on three priority groups – communities, the youth and entrepreneurs.
Lag Võrumaa Partnership Assembly was established in 2002. Võru County, located at the Estonian South-East border, is one of the smallest counties, which is also the furthest from the capital Tallinn.

**Leader strategy main priorities:**
The use of new know-how and new technologies to make the products and services of rural areas more competitive. The acquisition of new skills and knowledge and their implementation are equally important. Improving the quality of life in rural areas, which includes the social aspects: local networks, community services and traditions, as well as physical aspect: well-being, visual identity and infrastructure. The principles of inclusion and cooperation are important.
**WESTERN HARMONY PARTNERSHIP - LÕHARJU KOOSTÖÖKOGU**

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Western-Harju Partnership is a voluntary association operating in public interests with the aim to develop local life and improve environment. Located at the comparatively sparsely inhabited area, local people have managed to preserve beautiful nature, a great number of sights worth seeing as well as traditions, which attract visitors from even faraway places.

The main areas of the local strategies:
Community networks, local services and infrastructure have been created through the development of a viable and attractive environment. The area offers high living quality to its residents including employment and recreation possibilities and it always welcomes guest to enjoy its various sights and attractions.

Some examples of the most successfully implemented projects:
1) Kernu Stadium, which now offers high-quality facilities for numerous local football fans, but has a potential to host guest teams and visitors as well.
2) Reconstruction of the church building, Phase II.
3) „Theatrical Holiday“- a drama camp.
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