

# LINC ESTONIA 2012

## Involvement and Voluntary Work

12-14 June 2012  
Tartu and South-Estonia



**LEADER**  
ESTONIA



The European  
Agricultural Fund for Rural  
Development Europe  
Investing in rural areas





# SISUKORD

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## 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**



**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 Fidlshuster, 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 Landschaf(f)t 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 Cultural 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](http://www.info-linc.eu)



## LINC CONFERENCE IN ESTONIA MAIN FOCUS: “INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTARY 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

14.00	Arrival in Tartu. Hotel check-in starting from 14:00
<b>LINC 2012 Conference opening ceremony at Town Hall Square:</b>	
17.45	Musical welcome by Brass band "Popsid", "Chorus Menticum" and "United Bikers Choir" at Tartu Town Hall Square
18.00	<p><b>Opening speeches to the LINC 2012 participants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia</li> <li>■ Helir-Valdor Seeder, Minister of Agriculture</li> <li>■ Reno Laidre, Governor of Tartu County</li> <li>■ Urmas Kruuse, Mayor of Tartu</li> <li>■ Kairi Kell, on behalf of LINC Conference organizers, the representatives of Tartu Rural Development Association</li> </ul> <p>LINC participants procession through the city centre to AHHAA centre</p>
<b>LINC 2012 Conference opening ceremony at AHHAA "Science" Centre :</b>	
20.00 - 20.20	<p><b>"Welcome" speeches to the LINC 2012 participants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Petri Rinne, The European Leader Association for Rural Development</li> <li>■ György Mudri, European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>■ LINC organisers from Estonia: Kristiina Liimand, Tartu Rural Development Association accompanied by Ave Bremse, Estonian Rural Network Unit, Tiina Ivask, LAG Valga County Partnerships Board, Tiit Rüütle, LAG Põlva County Partnerships Board, Anneli Viitkin, LAG Võrumaa Partnership Assembly and Veiko Maastik LAG Borderlands Leader</li> <li>■ Maria Hartikainen, Finnish LAG Ylä-Savon Veturi</li> <li>■ Barbara Loferer-Lainer, Austrian LAG Hohe Salve Tirol</li> <li>■ Ulrike Funke, German LAG Landschaf(f)t Zukunft e.V.</li> </ul>
20.20 - 20.30	<p><b>Introduction of the Conference work and programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Anti Einpaul, moderator</li> </ul>
20.30 - 21.00	<p><b>Introduction of Austrian, Finnish and Estonian Leader cooperation projects initiated during LINC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Stefan Niedermoser, Austrian LAG Pillerseetal – Leogang</li> <li>■ Maria Hartikainen, Finnish LAG Ylä-Savon Veturi</li> <li>■ Rando Lai, Estonian LAG Raplamaa Partnership</li> <li>■ Adrian Neal, Contact Point of the European Network for Rural Development</li> </ul>
21.00	Dinner
	Musical entertainment during the evening provided by Kristi Kool, concertina and a surprise performance by MTÜ Õnnemaa
23.45	Closing of the day

## WEDNESDAY

13. June 2012

<b>LINC 2012 Conference seminar "Involvement and Voluntary Work" in Dorpat Conference Centre</b>	
8.00 - 9.00	Registration of participants
9.00 - 9.10	Opening of Theoretical Workshops
9.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Introduction - Ave Bremse, Estonian Rural Network Unit</li> </ul>

9.10-10.20	<p><b>Theoretical workshops</b>, work in parallel groups, <b>Session I</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Local food</b> – workshop leader Robert Oetjen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Katrin Noorkõiv, Local food to the local table, NGO Maitsev Lõuna-Eesti – Leader cooperation project of South-Estonian LAGs</li> <li>- Anneli Viitkin, „Trademark of local food: UMA MEKK“ - Leader project of LAG Võrumaa Partnership Assembly</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Youth and seniors</b> - workshop leader Konstantin Mihhejev <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ragnar Kekkonen „Joy of Creating in Ülenurme Parish“ – Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association</li> <li>- Liina Kokk „Raplamaa Youth Health Project“ - Leader project of LAG Raplamaa Partnership</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Rural tourism</b> - workshop leader Ivika Nõgel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raili Mengel-Sünt „Romantic Coastline“ - Leader project of LAG Pärnu Bay Partnership</li> <li>- Robert Peets „Alutaguse Adventurepark“ – Leader project of LAG Peipsi-Alutaguse Partnership</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Community services</b> - workshop leader Tiina Sergio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mart Külvik „Obinitsa Seto Community Centre – seto community home“ - Leader project of LAG Borderlands Leader</li> <li>- Kristel Lopsik „Sports club Viraaž“ - Leader project of LAG Valga County Partnerships Board</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Local resources and renewable energy</b> - workshop leader Kaire Valge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taivo Tali „Sustainable Energy Solution For Melliste Village Based On Local Resources“ Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association</li> <li>- Allan Pardane „Local and nature-friendly“ – NGO HääOm, Leader project of LAG Põlva County Partnerships Board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.20 - 10.40	<p><b>Coffee break</b> <b>Exchange of workgroups</b></p>
10.40 - 12.00	<p><b>Theoretical workshops</b>, work in parallel groups, <b>Session II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Local food</b> – workshop leader Robert Oetjen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Katrin Noorkõiv, Local food to the local table, NGO Maitsev Lõuna-Eesti – Leader cooperation project of South-Estonian LAGs</li> <li>- Anneli Viitkin, „Trademark of local food: UMA MEKK“ - Leader project of LAG Võrumaa Partnership Assembly</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Youth and seniors</b> - workshop leader Konstantin Mihhejev <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ragnar Kekkonen „Joy of Creating in Ülenurme Parish“ – Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association</li> <li>- Liina Kokk „Raplamaa Youth Health Project“ - Leader project of LAG Raplamaa Partnership</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Rural tourism</b> - workshop leader Ivika Nõgel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raili Mengel-Sünt „Romantic Coastline“ - Leader project of LAG Pärnu Bay Partnership</li> <li>- Kajar Lember „Whole family playland Vudila“ - Leader project of LAG Jõgevamaa Cooperation Chamber</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Community services</b> - workshop leader Tiina Sergio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mart Külvik „Obinitsa Seto Community Centre – seto community home“ - Leader project of LAG Borderlands Leader</li> <li>- Kristel Lopsik „Sports club Viraaž“ - Leader project of LAG Valga County Partnerships Board</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Local resources and renewable energy</b> - workshop leader Kaire Valge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taivo Tali „Sustainable Energy Solution For Melliste Village Based On Local Resources“ Leader project of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association</li> <li>- Allan Pardane „Local and nature-friendly“ – NGO HääOm, Leader project of LAG Põlva County Partnerships Board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>LINC 2012 Conference Sports programme in Mammaste</b>	
12.00 - 12.40	Free time to prepare for the sports programme and to change into sports clothes
13.00	Buses leave from Vanemuine Theatre lower parking lot for Mammaste, Põlva County
14.00 - 15.00	Lunch in Mammaste Registration for sports programme Time and facilities for dressing and showering
15.00 - 19.00	<p><b>Sports competitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Orienteering</b> “Looking for the fern blossom”</li> <li>■ <b>Disc-golf</b> “Warding off the evil eye”</li> <li>■ <b>Pentathlon</b> “Who are the best man and woman in the village”</li> <li>■ <b>Boating competition</b> “Let the best village win!” – takes place on Põlva lake, situated 2km from Mammaste. Participants are transported by bus.</li> <li>■ <b>Kiiking</b> – extreme swinging, a voluntary activity for the boldest &amp; bravest</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Riho Järveläinen</b></p>
19.00 - 20.00	Participants return to Tartu by bus
<b>LINC 2012 Conference European Buffet at restaurant-pub Gunpowder Cellar (Püssirohukelder)</b>	
21.30	<p><b>Every country introduces the specialities of their region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 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.</li> <li>■ Participating countries: Austria, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Italy, Ireland, Estonia</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Anti Einpaul</b></p>
	Party night, music by VEM
00.45	Closing of the day

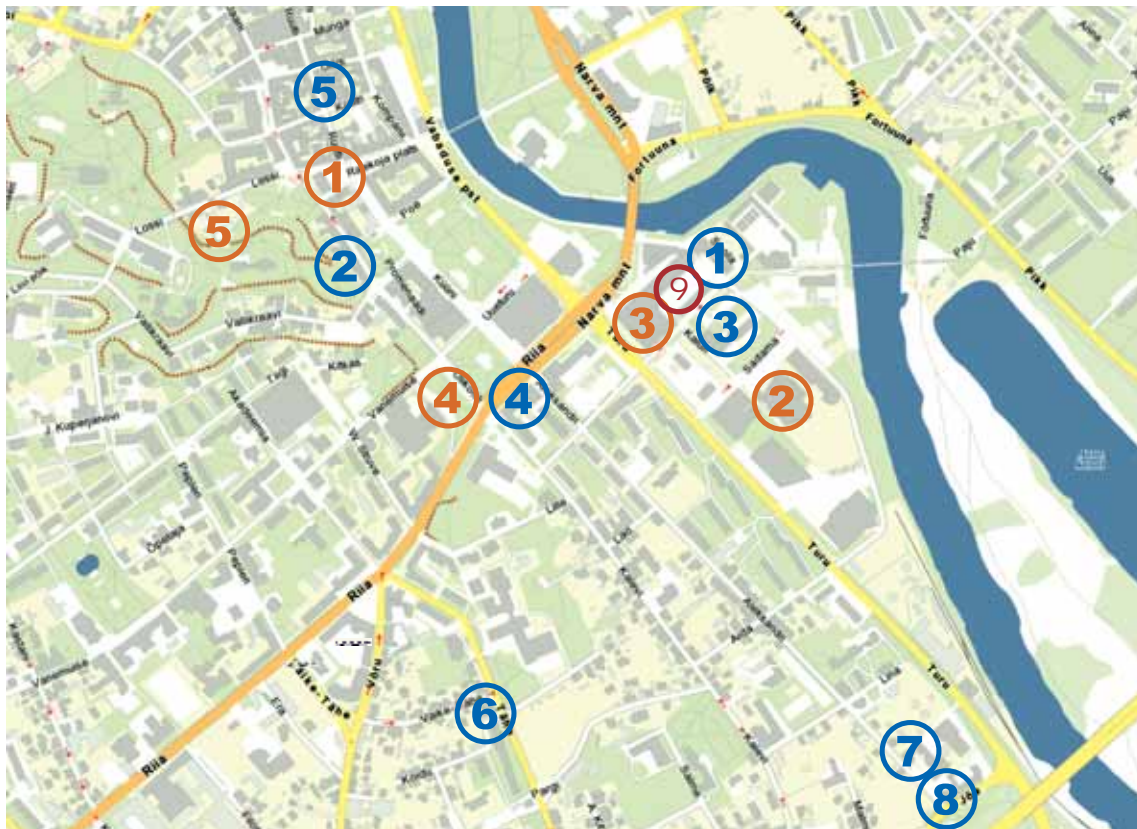
## THURSDAY

### 14. June 2012

LINC 2012 Conference "Involvement and Voluntary Work" Practical Workshops	
9.00	<p>Buses leave from the lower parking lot of Vanemuine Theatre to Practical Workshops in the form of voluntary work in four South-Estonian regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>The Onion Route</b> Russian Old Believers' Culture, Baltic German culture, Estonian peasant culture. Community work at the Liivi Museum in Alatskivi.</li> <li>■ <b>Valgamaa</b> Taagepera Handicraft Workshop. Community work at the Taagepera Handicraft Workshop with the substitute home of the Taheva sanatorium. Otepää: Tehvandi ski-jump tower, Skiing museum, Energy pillar, lake Pühajärv. Residents from substitute home.</li> <li>■ <b>Setomaa</b> 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.</li> <li>■ <b>Võrumaa</b> 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").</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>
17.00	Arrival in Tartu
Festive Closing Ceremony of the LINC conference at AHHA Science Centre	
19.00 - 19.30	<p>Conclusions of the Theoretical Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Moderator of the evening Anti Einpaul will present the conclusions of the workshops</li> <li>■ Video conclusions by representatives of ENRD Contact Point</li> </ul>
19.30 - 20.00	<p>Award ceremony - the winners of the sport competitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>The best fern's blossom searchers</b> - orienteering "Search for fern's blossom"</li> <li>■ <b>The best evil eye scarers</b> - disc-golf "Scare away the evil eye"</li> <li>■ <b>The best villagers</b> - pentathlon "Who's the village's top man and woman"</li> <li>■ <b>The best boaters</b> - boat race "Village versus village"</li> <li>■ <b>Best teams of LINC 2012 sports programme</b> - I, II and III places</li> </ul>
20.00 - 21.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dinner</li> </ul>
21.00 - 21.30	<p>Final speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Kristiina Liimand, Tartu Rural Development Association</li> <li>■ Ave Bremse, Estonian Rural Network Unit</li> </ul> <p>Introduction of the hosting country Finland of the next LINC conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Wilma Harmoinen, Finnish LAG Ylä-Savon Veturi</li> <li>■ Juha-Matti Markkola, Finnish Rural Network Unit</li> </ul> <p>Handing over of the flag to Finland</p>
21.30 - 23.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dinner continues</li> <li>■ Music by Gipsy Jazz Collective</li> <li>■ Networking and sharing experiences</li> </ul>
23.30	Closing of the event

# LINC 2012 CONFERENCE EVENTS AND HOTELS IN TARTU

## TARTU



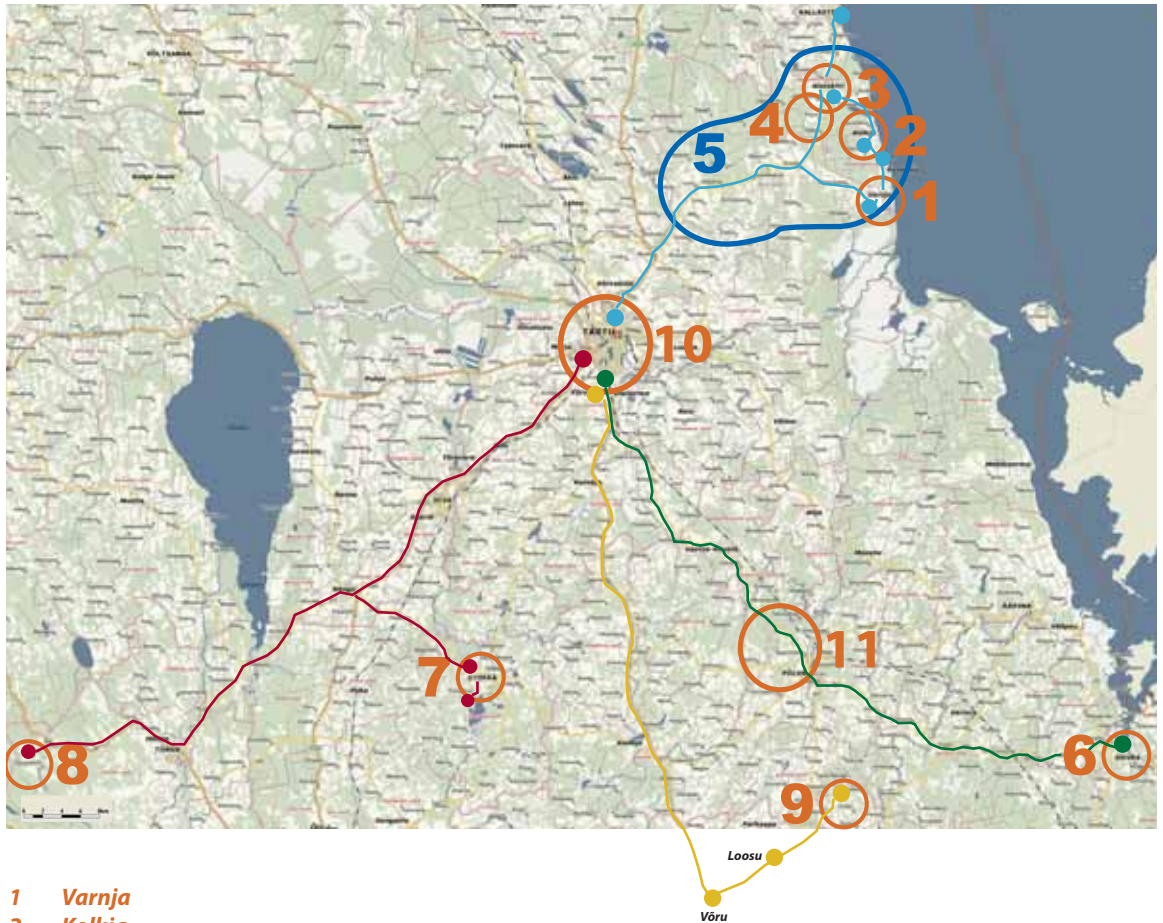
- 1 *Tartu Town Hall Square*
- 2 *AHHA Science Centre*
- 3 *Dorpat conference centre*
- 4 *parking lot of Vanemuine Theatre*
- 5 *Gunpowder Cellar (Püssirohukelder)*

### 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 Museum
- 5 The Onion route area
- 6 Värskä / Setomaa
- 7 Otepää
- 8 Taagepera
- 9 Tsalgo / 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 promotor 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 € 4435, including Leader support € 3991.

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 Raili 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

- Continous 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 playground, 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 build 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 Partership 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 achieved? 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 Sergio**

## 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 undirect 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 becoming a 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 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 külaselts)
- 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.

## VÖRUMAA

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



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■ Number of municipalities: 86

*Barbara Loferer-Lainer  
Andrea Achrainer  
Roswitha Huber*

**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



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■ Number of municipalities: 86

*Stefanie Dymak  
Karin Adami*



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.

## NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK AUSTRIA / ÖAR

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Contact: Luis Fidlschuster

■ Population of the Country: 8 400 000

■ Rural area: 72 000 km<sup>2</sup> (4 300 000)

■ Number of municipalities: 86

■ Territory: 84 000 km<sup>2</sup>



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.

*Barbara Pia Hartl  
Luis Fidlschuster*



## NORDBURGENLAND PLUS

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Contact: Mag. Andreas Zeman

■ Population of the region 284 000

■ Number of municipalities: 171



### 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 Lommatzcher 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 Lommatzcher Pflege (Germany).

*Andreas Zeman  
Rainer Tatic  
Ursula Maringer*



## REGIONSMANAGEMENT OSTTIROL



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- Population of the region: 49 230
- Number of municipalities: 33
- Territory: 2 020 km<sup>2</sup>

### Gina Streit

- National Park Hohe Tauern – covers 1/3 of East Tyrol's surface.
- County is situated on the Italian boarder.
- 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.

## PILLERSEETAL-LEOGANG KITZBÜHLER ALPEN



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- Population of the region: 12 500
- Number of municipalities: 6

### Stefan Niedermoser Sebastian Eder

#### Objectives of the Local Development Strategy:

1. Better education and qualification opportunities in the region and life-long 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

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



*Engelbert Stenico  
Mag. Gerald Jochum  
Eva Maria Jörg  
Sandra Careccia  
Waltraud Handle*

### 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 Voralberg, 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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- Number of municipalities: 10



*Brigitte Flür  
Dr. Stern Nicole*

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 staysevery year. In this mountainous area only 10% of the landscape is habitable. The rest aremountains 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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- Population of the region: 62 500
- Number of municipalities: 20
- Territory: 2 250 km<sup>2</sup>

*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 Gebirgsgaue. 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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- Population of the region: 30 000
- Number of municipalities: 10
- Territory: 785 km<sup>2</sup>

*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.



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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■ Population of the Country: 7 364 570  
■ Number of municipalities: 264  
■ Rural area municipalities: 231  
■ Number of LAGs: 16  
■ Territory: 12 000 km<sup>2</sup>  
■ Leader area population: 421 000



*Dimitrina Pavlova*  
*Stefan Spasov*  
*Alexey Vutov*

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 to 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



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE - GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rue de la Loi 130, B-1049 Brussels,  
Belgium  
[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm)  
+32 2 29 51910



The European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development is based in Brussels under the authority of Commissioner Dacian Cioloș. 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 inter alia the future Community-led Local Development.

*György Mudri*



## EUROPEAN LEADER ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT - ELARD



36-38 rue Saint Laurent,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
elard@elard.eu  
www.elard.eu  
+32 (2) 230 13 53  
Contact: Stefanos Loukopoulos

- Year of formation: 1999
- Members: 25
  - 21 Networks of LAGs
  - 4 individual LAGs
- ELARD represents a total of 812 Local Action Groups

### Petri Rinne

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.

## CONTACT POINT OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT - ENRD



Rue du Marteau 81B  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
info@enrd.eu  
http://enrd.ec.europa.eu  
+32 2 235 20 20

- Established in 2008
- Team of 20 experts based in Brussels

### Adrian Neal Judit Török

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

Kauppatie 109, FIN-62200  
Kauhava, Finland  
aisapari@aisapari.net  
www.aisapari.net  
+ 358 500 765 871  
Contact: Mervi Niemi-Huhdanpää

- Population of the region: 50 000
- Number of municipalities: 6



**Mervi Niemi-Huhdanpää**  
**Päivi Kultalahti**

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.



## RURAL NETWORK UNIT OF FINLAND

PO Box 167, 60101 Seinäjoki, Finland  
info@maaseutu.fi  
www.rural.fi  
+358 40 5599412  
Contact: Juha-Matti Markkola

- Number of LAGs: 56



**Kirsi Hakoniemi**  
**Juha-Matti Markkola**

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 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION - SUUPOHJAN KEHITTÄMISYHDISTYS RY



Teknologiapuisto 1, 61800  
Kauhajoki, Finland  
suupohjankehittamisyhdistys@sky.suupohja.fi  
www.suupohjadevelopmentassociation.fi  
+358 207 470 205  
Contact: Paavo Mattila

- Population of the region: 2 8000
- Number of municipalities: 5

**Paavo Mattila**  
**Matti Jaskari**  
**Tuukka Olli**

**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



Pohjolankatu 14,  
74101 Iisalmi, Finland  
riitta.topelius@iisalmi.fi  
www.iisalmi.fi  
+ 358 400 540041  
Contact: Riitta Topelius

- Rural municipal regulation since 1865
- Iisalmi town since 1 January 1970

**Riitta Topelius**  
**Kirsi Malinen**  
**Jarmo Miettinen**  
**Harri Leinola**  
**Pekka Partanen**  
**Kaja Rahkema**  
**Anna Tuomainen**



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.

## LAG YLÄ-SAVON VETURI

Kankaankatu 1 A 6,  
74120 Iisalmi, Finland  
sari.hyttinen@ylasavonveturi.fi  
www.ylasavonveturi.fi  
+358 40 868 0998  
Contact: Sari Hyttinen

- Population of the region: 57 000
- Number of municipalities: 8



### 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.

*Wilma Harmoinen  
Simo Mäkinen  
Tuulikki Hakkarainen  
Maria Hartikainen  
Laura Vinberg  
Sari Hyttinen*



## LAG CHIEMGAUER ALPEN E.V.

Rathausplatz 5, 83334 Inzell, GERMANY  
info@lag-chiemgauer-alpen.de  
www.lag-chiemgauer-alpen.de  
+49 (0)8665 98 69 - 37  
Contact: Kolja Zimmermann

- Population of the region: 26 000
- Number of municipalities: 5



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 knockledge 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.

*Kolja Zimmermann*



## LEADER GESCHÄFTSSTELLE MITTLERER SCHWARZWALD



Hauptstr. 5, 77761 Schiltach, Germany  
sinfo@leader-mittlerer-schwarzwald.de  
www.leader-mittlerer-schwarzwald.de  
+49 (0) 7836-955 779  
Contact: Mark Prielipp

■ Population of the region: 148 505  
■ Number of municipalities: 38

*Mark Prielipp*

### **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



Deichmanns Aue 29  
53179 Bonn, Germany  
Anke.Wehmeyer@ble.de  
www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de  
+49 228 6845 3841  
Contact: Anke Wehmeyer

■ 14 different EAFRD programs  
■ Number of LAGs: 244

*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.





## VEREIN LANDSCHAFT(F) ZUKUNFT E.V. SÄCHSISCHE SCHWEIZ

Bahnhofstraße 1, 01829 Stadt  
Wehlen, OT Pötzscha, Germany  
info@landschaftzukunftev.de  
www.landschaftzukunftev.de  
+49 035020 75384  
Contact: Ulrike Funke

- Population of the region: 136 400
- Number of municipalities: 25



*Ulrike Funke*

### 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 successfully 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” (CÍL 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

Szent István u. 67 H-2370  
Dabas, Hungary  
info@leaderkontakt.hu  
www.leaderkontakt.hu  
+36 209 157 200  
Contact: Judit Racz

- Population of the region: 53 000
- Number of municipalities: 13
- Geographical centre of Hungary in Pusztavacs



*Judit Racz  
Béla Somogyi*

The Felső-Homokhátság LAG 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.



## VÖLGY VIDÉK LAG



Vajda J. Street 2 H-2473 Vál, Hungary  
 jszendroi@volgyvidek.hu  
 www.volgyvidek.hu  
 +36 203 521 604  
 Contact: Júlia Szendrői

■ Population of the region: 44 700  
 ■ Number of municipalities: 17

### Júlia Szendrői



The region is located near to Budapest, capital of Hungary. There are a lot 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. Fields, 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

## IRD DUHALLOW



IRD Duhallow, James O'Keeffe  
 Institute, Newmarket, Co.Cork, Ireland  
 duhallow@eircom.net  
 www.irdduhallow.com  
 +35 329 60633  
 Contact: Triona Murphy

■ Territory: 1800 km<sup>2</sup>  
 ■ Rural area over 85 %  
 ■ 4 Market Towns and 36 Villages

### Triona Murphy Eileen Linehan



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 than 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"

C/da Calda n.8,  
85043 Latronico (Pz), Italy  
info@lacittadelladelsapere.it  
ntimpone@ctplex.it  
www.lacittadelladelsapere.it  
+39 0973 858200  
Contact: Dr. Nicola Timpone

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



*Dr. Nicola Timpone  
Dr. Federica Fittipaldi  
Dr. Gaetano Mitidieri*

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 km<sup>2</sup>.

### 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

Loc. Sistiana, 54d  
Duino Aurisina 34011 Italy  
francfabec@yahoo.it  
www.galcarso.eu  
+ 39 333 2736557  
Contact: Dr. Franc Fabec



*Miloš Čotar  
Dr Franc Fabec*

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 environment of local inhabitants, also to preserve social and cultural values



## BALVI DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP



Bērzpils iela 1a, Balvi,  
Balvu novads, LV-4501  
vinuks1@gmail.com  
www.balvi.partneribas.lv  
+ 371 6450 7216, + 371 2937 3559  
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



J.Poruka iela 8, Cesis, LV4101, Latvia  
cesis@partneriba.lv  
www.partneriba.lv  
+371 2978 2159  
Contact: Maris Cirulis

- 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

Smilšu street 9, Salacgrīva,  
LV-4033, Latvia  
Dzintra.eizenberga@salacgriva.lv  
www.jurkante.lv  
+371 2919 7068, +371 6407 1993  
Contact: Dzintra Eizenberga

- Population of the region: 14 425
- Number of municipalities: 2



*Kristaps Soms  
Dzintra Eizenberga  
Jānis Lipsbergs*

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

Rigas 34, Ozolnieki, LV-3018, Latvia  
laukutikls@llkc.lv  
www.laukutikls.lv  
+371 6300 7559  
Contact: Zanda Dimanta

- Population of the region: 2 070 000
- Number of LAGs: 40
- Territory: 64 589 km<sup>2</sup>



*Zanda Dimanta*

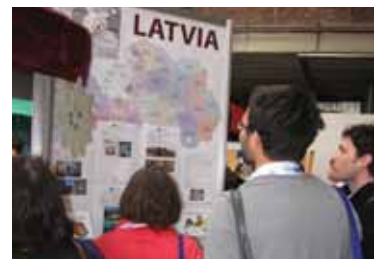
### **Latvian Rural Network – cooperation for development.**

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.



## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY „ZIED ZEME“



**Anna Volkova**  
**Jazeps Janisevs**  
**Linda Cīrule**



Raina iela 11a, Lielvarde, Latvia  
linda@ziedzeme.lv  
www.ziedzeme.lv  
+371 25623775  
Contact: Linda Cīrule

- Population of the region: 38 979
- Number of municipalities: 4

LAG “Zied zeme” is situated in the middle of Latvia where the biggest river Daugava flows through. LAG strategy is focused on improvement of inhabitants’ quality of life, by solving identified socioeconomic problems. One of important focuses of the strategy is development of Daugava River, so that this resource brings more benefit to local community.

**Important actions:**

- 1) Support public activities for local people
- 2) Development of infrastructure for public activities for local people
- 3) Support for employment and diversification of services
- 4) Development of home made production and food crafts
- 5) Support fisheries and tourism- related infrastructure and services
- 6) Development of villages with fisheries activities.

## LAG SATEKA



**Inese Zvejniece**  
**Daiga Gargurne**  
**Aija Supe**



O.Kalpaka street 60, Gulbene,  
LV-4401, Latvia  
biedribasateka@inbox.lv  
www.sateka.lv  
+371 2917 7019  
Contact: Daiga Gargurne

- Population of the region: 24676
- Number of municipalities: 1

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 m<sup>2</sup>). 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 Ilukste 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

Kr. Valdemāra St 21a,  
Talsi LV 3201, Latvia  
talsu.partneriba@inbox.lv  
www.talsupartneriba.lv  
+371 2 91 93 595  
Contact: Antra Jaunskalže

- Population of the region: 37 954
- Number of municipalities: 3
- Total area: 1712,99 km<sup>2</sup>



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 - MĀrsrags disabled support centre roof replacement and renovation of premises.



**Antra Jaunskalže**  
**Ivonna Kusīda**  
**Ilze Loēmele**

## UTENA REGION LAG

Taikos g. 6, LT-28153,  
Utena, Lithuania  
info@lacittadelladelsapere.it  
utenosvvg@gmail.com  
www.utenosvvg.lt  
+370 8-389 72765  
Contact: Jolita Umbrasienė

- Population of the region: 153 000
- Number of municipalities: 7



URLAG is a non-profit organization, rendering support for the members of village communities in social, economic, cultural and sport activities. URLAG acts in the area of 1219 km<sup>2</sup>. The Utena Local Administration is decorated with 179 lakes. The woods cover one third of the territory of 133.38 km<sup>2</sup>. 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.

**Mantvydas Popovas**  
**Nela Kuosiene**  
**Mindaugas Kuodis**  
**Edita Ruksyte**  
**Alma Palubinskaite**  
**Jolita Umbrasiene**



## LEADER EAST GRONINGEN



**René Perton**  
**Rob Heilijgers**

Provincie Groningen, Afdeling  
Landelijk Gebied en Water  
Sint Jansstraat 4, Postbus 610,  
9700 AP Groningen, Netherlands  
rob@brodie.nl  
e.f.perton@provinciegroningen.nl  
www.leaderoostgroningen.nl  
www.plattelandshuisoostgroningen.nl  
+31-597552455, +31-646158087  
Contact: Rob Heilijgers

- Population of the region: 153 000
- Number of municipalities: 7



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



**Dominika Tyrna**  
**Cecylia Skowron**  
**Tomasz Donocik**

Mickiewicza 9, 43-430  
Skoczów, Poland  
biuro@cieszynskakraina.pl  
www.cieszynskakraina.pl  
+48 33 487 49 42  
Contact: Tomasz Donocik

- Population of the region: 97 259
- Number of municipalities: 8



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, Golezów, Hażlach, Skoczów, Strumień and Zebrzydowice, create an exceptionally enchanting look which makes the area of the local action group.



## ZIEMIA BIELSKA LAG ASSOCIATION

43-300 Bielsko-Biała, Poland  
 40 Piastowska Street, room 111  
 biuro@ziemiabielska.pl  
 www.ziemiabielska.pl  
 +48 33 813 69 63  
 Contact: Katarzyna Szlosek

■ Population of the region: 100 160  
 ■ Number of municipalities: 8



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 Poviát, 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.

*Katarzyna Szlosek  
 Daniela Łukanowska  
 Lubomira Zastawny*



## SUPPORT UNIT OF ROMANIAN NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

35 Clucerului Street – 1st floor, 011363  
 Bucharest - Sector 1, Romania  
 msalvo@rndr.ro  
 lfernandez@rndr.ro  
 cooperare@rndr.ro  
 www.rndr.ro  
 +40 21 317 15 80  
 Contact: Miguel Salvo

■ Population of the Country: 22 000 000  
 ■ Territory: 238 391 km<sup>2</sup>  
 ■ Number of LAGs:81



Rumanian 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.

*Lucía Fernández de Soto  
 Miguel Salvo Mendivil*



## LOCAL ACTION GROUP VRSATEC



Obecny urad Horna Suca 233,  
913 33 Horna Suca, Slovakia  
masvrsatec@masvrsatec.sk  
www.masvrsatec.sk  
+421 (0) 32 64 01 072  
Contact: Petra Supakova

- Population of the region: 34 300
- Number of municipalities: 20

*Juraj Ondracka  
Petra Supakova*



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 than 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 from 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 potential.

## LEADER GOTLAND



Lövsta Landsbygdscenter,  
622 54 Romakloster, Sweden  
info@leadergotland.se  
renee@leadergotland.se  
www.leadergotland.se  
+46 498 20 38 90  
Contact: Annelie Söderström

- Population of the region: 57 400
- Number of municipalities: 1

*Birgitta Eriksson*



### **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

Terminalvägen 30,  
861 36 Timrå, Sweden  
info@leadertimra.se  
www.leadertimra.se  
+4673-2754869  
Contact: Lena Liljemark

- Population of the region: 18 000
- Number of municipalities: 1



**Lena Liljemark**  
**Marie Holm**  
**Märta Högstedt**

Timrå leader area possesses fantastic natural resources, including six nature reserves. The entire coastline from Ångermanland around Ävikebukten 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

Kooli 1, 64504 Rääpina, Estonia  
info@lacittadelladelsapere.it  
piiriveere@piiriveere.ee  
www.piiriveere.ee  
+372 5858 5469  
Contact: Veiko Maastik

- Population of the region: 10 603
- Number of municipalities: 6
- Territory: 1063 km<sup>2</sup>



**Veiko Maastik**  
**Raul Kudre**  
**Viivika Kooser**  
**Ragner Löbu**  
**Kairi Kasearu**  
**Laur Lepson**

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.



## DEVELOPMENT CENTRE - ARENDUSKODA



Roheline 19, Tapa,  
Lääne-Virumaa, Estonia  
arenduskoda@arenduskoda.ee  
arenduskoda.ee  
+372 5648 5208, +372 322 9695  
Contact: Heiki Vuntus

- Population of the region: 27 700
- Number of municipalities: 6

*Heiki Vuntus  
Tiina Vilu  
Vahur Leemets  
Arlet Palmist*



### 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 AGRICULTURAL REGISTERS AND INFORMATION BOARD



Narva mnt. 3, Tartu 51009  
leader@pria.ee  
www.pria.ee

- established in summer 2000

*Esta Leppik  
Liisi Veske  
Marek Treufeldt*



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 Center. 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.

## RURAL ECONOMY RESEARCH CENTRE - ESTONIAN RURAL NETWORK

Jänedä, 73602, Tapa  
Lääne-Virumaa, Estonia  
seminar@maainfo.ee  
www.maainfo.ee  
Contact: Krista Kõiv

■ Established in 2007



*Krista Kõiv  
Ester Valdvee  
Ave Bremse  
Meeri Klooren  
Helene Kõiv  
Erik Lööper*

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.



## HIIMUMAA COOPERATION NETWORK - HIIDLASTE KOOSTÖÖKOGU

Vabrikuvälja 1, 92411 Kärkla,  
Hiiumaa, Estonia  
info@kogu.hiiumaa.ee  
www.kogu.hiiumaa.ee  
+372 46 22807, +372 5178497  
Contact: Reet Kokovkin

■ Population of the region: 8 470  
■ Number of municipalities: 5



*Anu Pielberg  
Heli Tuisk  
Reet Kokovkin*

Hiiumaa is isolated island in Baltic Sea, hence the interest of the people is on sailing, local food and sustainable livelihood. The 1000 km<sup>2</sup> 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+.



## JÕGEVAMAA COOPERATION CHAMBER - JÕGEVAMAA KOOSTÖÖKODA



Pargi 3 Jõgeva 48306 Estonia  
 info@jogevamaa.com  
 www.jogevamaa.com  
 +327 772 0087, +327 5309 0915  
 Contact: Aive Tamm

- Population of the region: 36 780
- Number of municipalities: 13

**Aive Tamm**  
**Kaire Sardis**  
**Katrin Rajamäe**



The ambit of NGO Jõgevamaa Cooperation Chamber (Jõgevamaa Koostöökoda) coincides with the administrative borders of eleven local authorities of Jõgevamaa, populated with approximately 36,000 people and covering an area of approximately 2,600 km<sup>2</sup>.

Jõgevamaa has, thanks to its fertile soils, been mostly an agricultural and forestry region. Several important transit and cargo routes pass through this area.

The goal of our development plan is to improve the wellbeing of local population and promote tourism and other forms of entrepreneurship. New projects are annually funded under 3 measures for the implementation of the development program: active community (development of community services, cooperation between different sectors, youth work, preserving cultural heritage); attractive environment (developing community centres and infrastructure, theme parks, etc); entrepreneurship (developing local products, marketing, cooperation between companies, lengthening the locally produced production cycle).

## PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH-EAST COAST - KIRDERANNIKU KOOSTÖÖKOGU



Keskväljak 1, 41594, Jõhvi  
 lag@kirderannik.ee  
 www.kirderannik.ee  
 Contact: Ülle Marits

- Population of the region: 21 243
- Number of municipalities: 6

**Mehis Luus**  
**Meelis Tint**



The territory of the LAG Partnership of North-East Coast is the most north-eastern 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

## KODUKANT LÄÄNEMAA

Lihula mnt 3, Haapsalu,  
Läänemaa 90505, Estonia  
laaneliider@kklm.ee  
www.kklm.ee  
+372 4731 393  
Contact: Tiiu Aavik, Ene Sarapuu

- Population of the region: 27 00
- Number of municipalities: 12



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 RUrural 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 Kehittämisyhdistys, 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.



*Tiiu Aavik  
Aime Koit  
Urmas Pau*

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF ESTONIA - PÕLLUMAJANDUSMINISTEERIUM

Lai tn 39 / Lai tn 41,  
15056 Tallinn, Estonia  
pm@agri.ee  
www.agri.ee  
+372 625 6101  
Contact: Tanel Tang

- Population of the region: 1 318 005
- Number of LAGs : 26
- Total area: 45 227km<sup>2</sup>
- Density 29,2 person/km<sup>2</sup>



### 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.

*Anneli Kimmel  
Sigmar Suu  
Tanel Tang  
Konstantin Mihhejev*



## MULGIMAA DEVELOPMENT - MULGIMAA ARENDUSKODA



Pärnu road 30a, 69403,  
Abja-Paluoja, Estonia  
mulgimaaarenduskoda@gmail.com  
www.mulgimaaarenduskoda.ee  
+372 5303 8361  
Contact: Piret Leskova

- Population of the region: 9 800
- Number of municipalities: 5

**Ene Saar**  
**Kaupo Välba**  
**Piret Leskova**



LAG Mulgimaa Development connects entrepreneurs, non-profit organisations and local governments, which are active in the territories of the five local governments' territories of ancient region Mulgimaa in South-Estonia.

Cooperation and partnership in the framework of Leader activities is the impelling force for the region and creates new possibilities. For that reason, we use a message in Mulgi language to emphasise the importance of Leader measure – "Leader lüüp Mulgimaa värati valla!" (Leader opens the gate of Mulgimaa).

The main priorities in the development of the territory are improving enterprise, village and community life and increasing the competitiveness and uniqueness of Mulgimaa.

## NELJA VALLA KOGU



Sirge 2, Tallinn, 10618, Estonia  
info@4kogu.ee  
www.4kogu.ee  
Contact: Deiw Rahumägi

- Population of the region: 36 264
- Number of municipalities: 4
- Territory: 627 km<sup>2</sup>

**Deiw Rahumägi**  
**Eva Pukk**  
**Mihkel Pukk**



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 KOOSTÖÖKOGU

Saha road 13, Loo, 74201,  
Jõelähtme, Harju County, Estonia  
merle.laager@gmail.com  
www.leaderph.eu  
+372 516 2086  
Contact: Merle Laager

- Population of the region: 33 907
- Number of municipalities: 3



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.

*Reet Rehtsalu  
Ene Lill  
Arno Kannike  
Merle Laager*



## PÄRNU BAY PARTNERSHIP – PÄRNU LAHE PARTNERLUSKOGU

Ringi 1a, 88301 Audru  
Pärnumaa, Estonia  
plpparnu@gmail.com  
www.plp.ee; www.rannatee.ee  
+372 433 1053  
Contact: Mercedes Merimaa

- Population of the region: 23400
- Number of municipalities: 10
- Total area: 22782 km<sup>2</sup>



### 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](http://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)

*Mercedes Merimaa  
Raili Mengel-Sünt  
Lennart Sünt-Mengel*



## PÕLVA COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD - PÕLVAMAA PARTNERLUSKOGU



**Tiiu Rüütle**  
**Marko Avikson**  
**Ülo Needo**  
**Lennart Liba**  
**Alar Alapert**  
**Andrus Seeme**  
**Saima Värton**  
**Kaido Kõiv**  
**Tiina Länkur**  
**Katrin Pree**  
**Karmen Kukk**



Kesk 20, 63308, Põlva, Estonia  
 partnerluskogu@polvamaa.ee  
 www.partnerluskogu.ee  
 +372 799 8953; +372 5302 9100  
 Contact: Tiiu Rüütle

- Population of the region: 16 000
- Number of municipalities: 9
- Number of members: 52
- Territory: 1425,7 km<sup>2</sup>

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](http://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

## RAPLAMAA PARTNERSHIP - RAPLAMAA PARTNERLUSKOGU



**Rando Lai**  
**Jaak Vitsur**  
**Triin Matsalu**



Tallinn rd 14, 79513, Rapla,  
 Rapla County, Estonia  
 info@raplaleader.ee  
 www.raplaleader.ee  
 +372 484 1135, +372 551 7253  
 Contact: Jaak Vitsur

- Population of the region: 35 000
- Number of municipalities: 9

### Example of international cooperation projects:

Cultrips. Cultrips 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 Kernland 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.

**TARTU RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION - TARTUMAA ARENDUSSELTS**

Vaksali 17A, 50410, Tartu, Estonia  
 tas@tas.ee  
 www.tas.ee  
 Contact: Kristiina Liimand

- Population of the region: 35 422
- Number of municipalities: 17



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.



**Kristiina Liimand**  
**Triin Lääne**  
**Ene Reedi**  
**Merle Anton**  
**Kairi Kell**  
**Nikolai Männik**  
**Priit Allas**  
**Anna Nossõreva**  
**Kaja Allilender**

**VALGA COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD - VALGAMAA PARTNERLUSKOGU**

Valga st 3, 67403, Otepää, Estonia  
 info@valgaleader.ee  
 www.valgaleader.ee  
 Contact: Tiina Ivask

- Population of the region: 20 356
- Number of municipalities: 12



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.



**Kairi Rebane**  
**Annika Jaansoo**  
**Kunnar Vahi**

## VIRU REGION COOPERATION COUNCIL - VIRUMAA KOOSTÖÖKOGU



Kõrtsialuse village, Aseri vald,  
43406, Ida-Viru County  
www.viko.ee  
Contact: Kadri Kuusmik

- Population of the region: 7 670
- Number of municipalities: 6
- Territory: 828,3 km<sup>2</sup>

### Valdek Haugas



Viru Region Cooperation Council's activity area is located around the central point of Viru region and forms geographically common area. The territory consists of six local governments, five of which are located in East-Viru and one in West-Viru Counties. This facilitates joint activities in every field of life. Lüganuse, Maidla, Aseri and Sonda rural municipalities and Püssi town are a part of the ancient parish of Lüganuse, where the socio-cultural communication of inhabitants has a very long history. Strong economic and social relations have been historically formed between the rural municipalities of Rägavere and Sonda.

Our vision is "Active people who value clean living environment and local traditions live in the heart of Viru County and continuously improve life in the territory with their activities."

## VÕRUMAA PARTNERSHIP ASSEMBLY - VÕRUMAA PARTNERLUSKOGU



Jüri st 13-130, 65620, Võru  
info@voruleader.ee  
www.voruleader.ee  
Contact: Anneli Viitkin

- Population of the region: 21 861
- Number of municipalities: 10
- Territory: 1 983 km<sup>2</sup>

### Anneli Viitkin Jarek Jõela Margit Lukka



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.

## WEST ESTONIAN ISLANDS PARTNERSHIP - SAARTE KOOSTÖOKOGU

Tallinna 58A,  
93818 Kuressaare, Estonia  
info@skk.ee  
www.skk.ee  
+372 5138 767  
Contact: Terje Aus

- Population of the region: 20 000
- Number of municipalities: 15



Saarte Koostöökogu was founded in 2006, today we have 78 members by. Our LAG territory consist the Estonian biggest island Saaremaa together with smaller islands Muhu, Ruhnu, Abruca and Vilsandi.

Main priorities of our LAG are to support and promote development initiatives, culture and environment, which support and facilitate the development of local enterprise and increase knowledge and subsistence in the region.

### Examples of successfully implemented projects:

- 1) Väinamere Uisk has launched a project to re-build the traditional vessel "uisk" of Estonian islands.
- 2) Community kitchens established all over Saaremaa. These are certified by the Veterinary and Food Board, which will enable the products to be sold on the market.

### Example of international Cooperation projects:

"Planet said to me" is a project to exchange experiences and to promote informal learning by youth between the ages of 15 and 18. The project activities will take place in Saaremaa during the years 2011-2013 with the aim of raising environmental awareness. Partners are from Luxembourg, Finland and France.



*Koit Kelder  
Sulvi Munk  
Terje Aus*

## WESTERN-HARJU PARTNERSHIP - LÄÄNE-HARJU KOOSTÖOKOGU

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- Population of the region: 14 680
- Number of municipalities: 5



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 it's residents – including employment and recreation possibilities and it always welcomes guest to enjoy it's various sights and attractions.

### Some examples of 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.



*Lilian Saage  
Annika Jõks  
Marje Suharov*

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### LINC Estonia 2012 conference was organised thanks to:

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