



European Commission

Issue 61

30 June, 2007



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Flash News

Leader+ Observatory

focus

Agriculture and rural development in Kosovo

Kosovo has a total land area of 10 877 km², and borders with: Albania, Serbia Montenegro and the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. Agricultural land makes up 53% of the territory, and forests 41%. Kosovo's population of around two million gives a density of 175 per km². The population is young: a third being less than 15 years old; over half are under 25 years of age, and about 6% more than 65 years. The active population (15-64 years) accounts for 61% of the total.

Farms in Kosovo are very small, with 46% having less than one hectare, and practice mainly subsistence farming with low levels of investment and production. Most of what is produced is consumed on the farm. Development of the rural sector in general (not just farming) is hindered by a weak rural infrastructure including: poor roads; limited access to drinking water and waste disposal; and a limited electricity supply. Other obstacles relate to: a lack of credit and direct investment; food quality controls not in place; poor irrigation systems; poor and limited coverage of technology; lack of marketing and central collection points for goods; ineffective producer associations and rural advisory services; and a weak public administration at all levels.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) has drawn up Kosovo's agriculture and rural development plan (ARDP) for 2007-2013. This plan has been prepared by the respective national authorities in consultation with local economic/social partners and other stakeholders. ARDP 2007-2013 is a first step for Kosovo to learn the techniques of EU-style development planning. It is appreciated that close consultations amongst the different levels of government and social partners are needed to help create the institutions necessary to manage the use of future EU structural funds. Already the EU has supported many agricultural and rural development related projects through the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) and the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation programme (CARDS).

Further information about Kosovo's Agricultural and Rural Sector can be obtained at www.mbpzhr-ks.org.

Central Europe programme 2007-2013

2 – 3 July, 2007

Vienna, Austria

This two-day conference will bring together national, regional and local actors from the public and private sector to: share visions on regional policy for central Europe; propose projects; and to improve cooperation. The Central Europe programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation 2007-2013 (INTERREG IV.B), and is a policy framework that supports cooperation between regions in the European Union. This programme promotes economic, environmental and social development in Central Europe and provides funding to cooperation projects in the fields of innovation, accessibility, environment and competitiveness. The area covered by the programme includes regions from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine. More information is available on request by [e-mail](#), or [on-line](#).



Cooperation for rural development around the Baltic Sea

11 – 12 July, 2007

Island of Gotland, Sweden

The Swedish National Network Unit is organising an international seminar which will provide an opportunity for representatives of LAGs and other interested rural development groups to discuss their experiences with transnational cooperation around the Baltic Sea. The conference which will include a seminar on long-term cooperation, and the presentation of the "Leader of the Year" award, is open to Swedish LAGs and other interested guests. For more information please contact Mrs Ulrika Männsson on +46 8 545 27 800 or by [e-mail](#).

FLASH NEWS

links

[Leader+ website](#)

[Leader+ Magazine](#)

[New Rural Development
Regulation 2007-2013](#)

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click on the headlines



For more information please click on the headlines



“Young stakeholders in rural Europe” campus programme

July, August, September, 2007

France, Greece, and the United Kingdom

This summer the Grouping of European Campuses (GEC) gives students and young people over the age of 18 living in Europe’s rural areas a chance to take part in this programme. Seven campuses, participating in the Leader+ initiative and located in the UK (Scotland), Greece and France, are taking part in this transnational project. It aims to establish international exchanges in collaboration with European rural areas. Teams of young people with different skills and from different countries will come together for three weeks to participate in local sustainable development field projects under the guidance of a team of professionals. If you are interested to learn more about the programme, please contact [the organisers](#).



Report: Social capital and job creation in rural Europe

The regional diversity of the EU, especially after enlargement, has become even more evident. Rural areas in some of the poorer countries are faced with unique problems: a less educated workforce; lower than average labour productivity; a poor infrastructure and provision of public services; and high levels of unemployment. The report, written by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working conditions, is based on research carried out in ten EU Member States, aimed at documenting the relationship between social capital and economic development, with a specific focus on job creation in rural areas. The results of the research show that involvement in social networks can positively affect economic development, leading to entrepreneurship and consequent economic growth, employment and social inclusion. For more information please contact [Henrik Litske](#), research manager. Printed copies of the report can be requested from [Teresa Renehan](#).



Baltic Leader: achievements and perspectives

We bring to your attention the proceedings of the Baltic Leader conference which are available in English on the Lithuanian [Leader+ website](#). The objective of this first international Leader+ event in Lithuania was to exchange information on the implementation of Leader+ and to share thoughts about the 2007-2013 programming period. The seminar was addressed mainly to Local Action Groups (LAGs) and brought together representatives of: LAGs; managing authorities; national network units, and consulting bodies. The following Baltic Sea region countries represented were: Lithuania; Latvia; Estonia; Finland; Sweden; Denmark; Germany; and Poland. To find out more please click on the above heading.



COOPERATION CORNER Partner search tool

Finding partners for cooperation on Leader+ projects concerns many LAGs. If you have specific information about a cooperation event or project, you can send us details. Remember also to use the Partner Search Tool, which you can find on both European and national Leader+ sites.

A Bulgarian LAG is looking for partners to develop tourist services in their regions by providing tours, and offering local products in conjunction with local farms and shops. An Austrian LAG is looking for cross-border partnerships for a project to develop internet access in the region in order to address socio-economic issues.

These projects are looking for partners. You could be one of them! Learn more about these proposals by consulting the partner search tool via the above-mentioned link.



“Flash News” contributions

Don’t forget “Flash News” is your news too! Help us to keep you informed by telling us about what you are doing in rural development in your area. Please send to flashnews@leaderplus.org.

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European Commission

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This publication does not necessarily express the official views of the Commission.

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