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Flash News

Leader+ Observatory

FOCUS

Cooperation

Under Leader+ there have been many examples of successful (Action 2) cooperation projects, either interterritorial or transnational, which have contributed greatly to rural development in the territories of their respective partners. To facilitate cooperation, there have also been a variety of cooperation events (both at national and European levels), as well as a range of useful publications which can be found in the [library](#) of the Leader+ website.

Several tools to facilitate cooperation have also been developed including the transnational cooperation database: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/coopdb_en.htm. This and other tools are still active and are excellent ways to learn about those cooperation projects which have taken place under Leader+, including details of the different partners.

Some analysis done at the beginning of January 2008, shows that there were 383 transnational cooperation projects registered in this database. The highest number of projects (where a national Leader+ LAG is a lead partner) comes from the UK, France, Finland, Germany and Italy. Transnational cooperation projects have so far involved 464 local action groups (LAGs) and each project has an average of four LAGs. Some LAGs involved in transnational cooperation, around 18%, are non-Leader, such as those LAGs coming from national Leader-like programmes as can be found in Finland and Spain, or even from third countries such as Brazil and Morocco. When selecting project themes for transnational cooperation, then the priority theme selected is different for pilot (Action 1) projects compared to Action 2 ones. For example, the themes of 'best use of natural and cultural resources', and 'new technologies and new know-how' are more popular themes for Action 2 than is the case for Action 1 projects. It is also possible to see that Ireland and Finland are most active as lead partners (in relation to the number of Leader+ LAGs in these countries), followed by Sweden and the UK.

It is still not too late to get involved in transnational cooperation, and the 'Cooperation Corner' which is a regular feature of Flash News may help you to find a suitable project or partner!

Nordic biogas conference 2008

5-7 March, 2008

Malmö, Sweden

The conference is organized by biogas representatives from all five Nordic countries. The target of the conference is to exchange best practice information of production and utilization of biogas between the Nordic countries, and to establish cooperation and commercial contacts. The target group for the conference is primarily actors that work with biogas, such as: municipalities; local waste management; farmers and consultants; as well as decision makers and politicians. To attend you can register [on-line](#). For more information please contact [the organisers](#).

Swedish rural parliament

7-9 March, 2008

Lycksele, Swedish Lapland

Every second year a rural parliament is arranged by the Swedish Village Action Movement 'all Sweden shall live'. The rural parliament functions as a national and transnational meeting point for rural development and provides a forum for people to discuss and exchange ideas, and to gain valuable knowledge and mobilises public opinion in favour of local and rural development. International guests will have the opportunity to visit the local village development groups, who will present their villages and the actual projects. The main themes this year are: climate change, environment, energy, and gender equality. For more detailed information please contact [Inez Abrahamzon](#), [Nils Lagerroth](#) or [Hans-Olof Stålgren](#).

Institutional capacities and learning for sustainable development

11-14 March, 2008

Vienna, Austria

This event organised by the research institute for managing sustainability at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, will focus on the institutional aspects of sustainable development evaluations as policy learning processes. It will also explore how different evaluation tools and approaches contribute to knowledge-based governance for sustainable development. The seminar will focus on such topics as: institutional aspects of sustainable development

FLASH NEWS

links

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evaluations; policy learning and sustainable development evaluations; methodological challenges and innovation with regard to sustainable development evaluations. The organisers invite: researchers from all disciplines; professionals from related fields of work; commissioning agents; and evaluation users and other stakeholders etc. to participate. For more information please contact [Judith Galla](#).

Local and regional risk management

10-11 March, 2008

Sinaia, Prahova, Romania

Local and regional authorities are often in the best position to provide emergency planning and response to natural or man-made risks for people, property and the environment. The workshop will allow regions to exchange know-how, best-practices, and lessons learned in integrating and using satellite information and services in their management systems, in order to prepare and deal with emergencies. This is not only an opportunity to disseminate information on strategies that work. It is also an occasion for local and regional authorities to see how their respective capacities for emergency planning and response are complementary, to increase co-operation, and prepare the ground for future interregional projects. For more information please contact [Eurisy](#).

Comprehensive environmental protection – the European model of agriculture

13-14 March, 2008

Brussels, Belgium

The COPA-COGECA is organising this seminar in order to look in detail at what is being done under the reformed common agricultural policy to meet the objectives of environmental protection. The event aims to highlight how sustainable production and nature conservation are inseparable parts of environmental protection. Participants will learn about the current situation and be given an overview of the legal requirements and additional instruments available to meet them. Particular attention will be paid to how farmers' efforts at environmental protection can currently be supported, such as agri-environmental measures and farm advisory services. Examples will come from Member States who will illustrate the state of play. The conference will conclude with a debate between representatives of the European Commission, environmental NGOs, countries outside the EU and the farmers' organisations on how to ensure sustainable production in the future. For further information please contact [Anna Oberlerchner](#).

Efficient allocation and management of EU Funds

17-19 March, 2008

Berlin, Germany

Given the changes in EU structural funds' policy, national and regional authorities involved in structural aid policy are facing important challenge. The new regulations on EU Funds offer greater opportunities and a higher level of responsibility. National, regional and local authorities need to know, how to implement and support successful

projects and programmes which meet the Commission's expectations. Information will be provided through contact with experts from the EU as well as national and regional authorities. Best practice case studies from different Member States will show first hand experiences in managing, approving and auditing EU funds. The target group for this event includes representatives of public authorities and organisations in all EU Member States dealing with the managing, financing, approving and auditing of EU Funds. For more information please contact [Regina Lüning](#).



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 Slovenian territory is looking to cooperate in order to promote knowledge and maintain the cultural heritage of St. George's history, mythology and iconography. The cooperation project is open to those who celebrate St. George's week and who wish to pass this heritage on to future generations. For more information please contact [Jagodič Cvetka](#).

This project is looking for partners. You could be one of them! Learn more about this proposal by consulting the partner search tool via the above-mentioned link.



COMPETENCE CORNER

Leader competence pool

[The Leader Competence Pool](#) (LCP) allows Leader actors to share with others the experience and expertise they have gained under the Leader initiative. Registration to the pool is free and is open to all those who have contributed to the Leader programme at local, national or European level.

If you feel you are a suitable candidate, then please [register](#) and publish your profile. For more information please contact: LCP-info@leaderplus.org

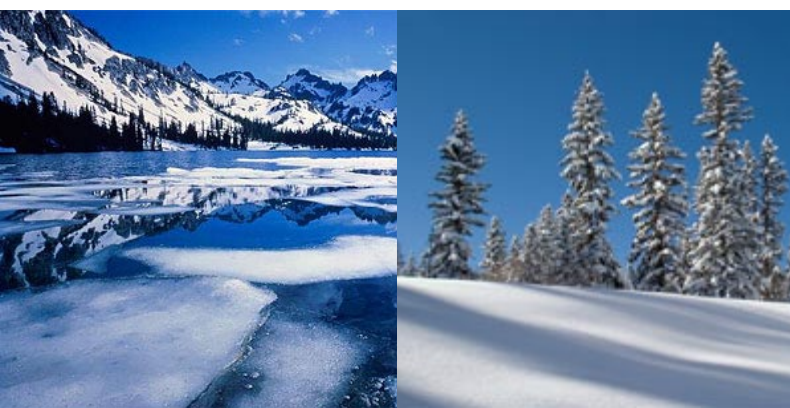


'Flash News' contributions

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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