

Over the years, the Leader approach has proved its worth in so many ways.

It has shown that when we hand power to local people in rural communities, they respond. They take charge of their own development and come up with the ideas. They plan, and negotiate with programme authorities.

Leader has also shown that diverse partnerships can work and that reaching out across regional and national boundaries has huge value.

All these features make Leader one of the success stories of the European Union. It has delivered jobs. It has delivered improvements to the natural environment. It has delivered new services.

All in all, it has made people's lives better. And it has brought local people together, helping them to help themselves through new ideas and new forms of partnership. It has become a "given" in grass-roots rural development.

All of this makes it right to congratulate everyone who has been involved with Leader so far.



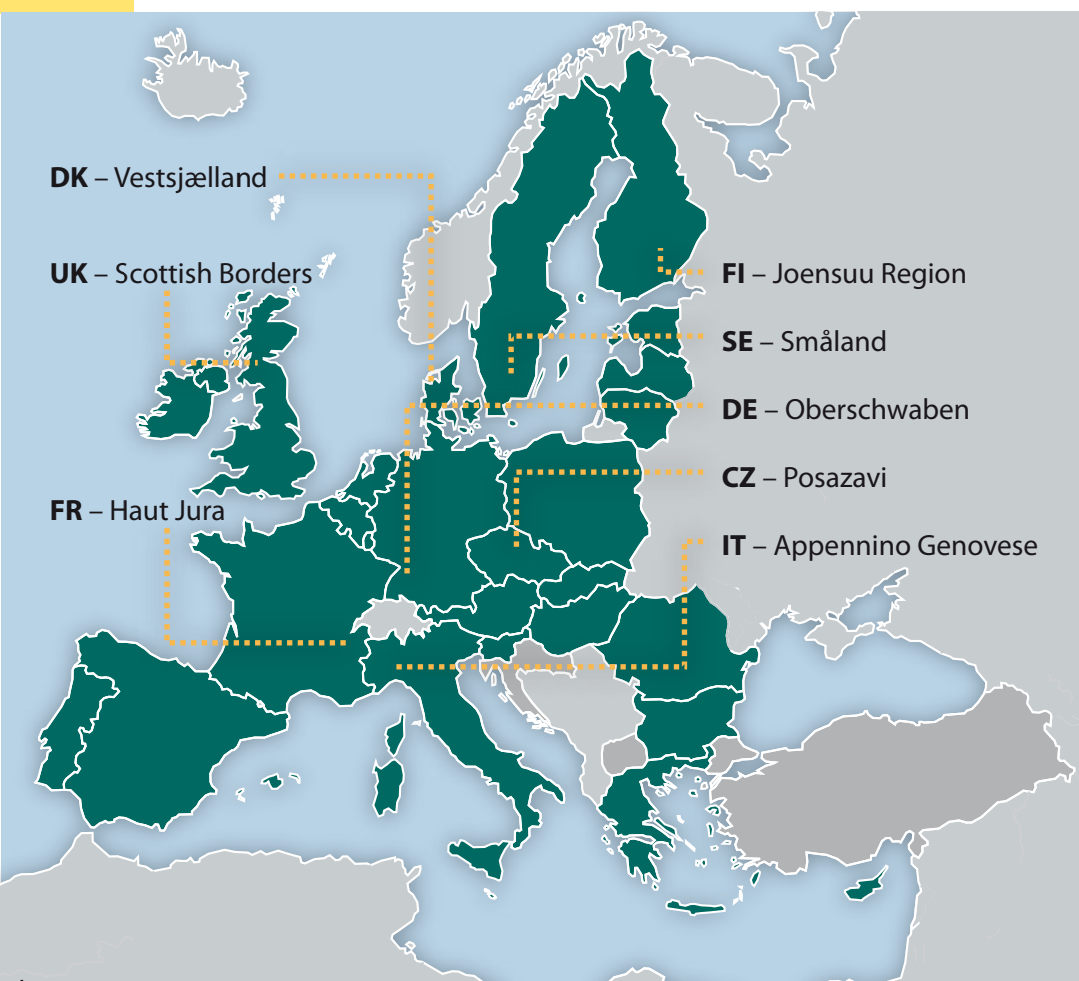
Mariann Fischer Boel

Mariann Fischer Boel
Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development



Extract from the official programme of the conference:

'This event aims to communicate clear and strong political messages about the legacy of the Leader initiative, by showing how its success provides a sound platform for ensuring the future of Europe's rural diversity.'



DVDs 1 and 2: In the context of the conference, 16 Member States have prepared a film presenting one territory. These films focus on the specific experience of how local people addressed their problems using the Leader method.

The films are based on live interviews with Local Action Groups representatives and local inhabitants. Each DVD contains 8 films.



DVD 3: With this DVD you have a direct access to the most important sessions and messages of the event. They are presented in a user friendly way and are available in short or long versions.

