

LEADER/CLLD Conference

“Strengthening Local Development through Cooperation”

Exchange platform: Summary of posters

Europe

LINC: an innovative way to network & be inspired

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Now in its 6th year, the LINC conference continues to highlight the value of LEADER by providing networking opportunities for communities interested in cooperation. Local actors from different countries meet and exchange ideas on thematic issues and methodologies, participate in interactive competitions and use the relaxed atmosphere to make new friends and to strengthen existing relationships. Participants learn from each other's' experiences and head home inspired with new ideas for supporting development in their own area. All of this is fully self-organised by the LAGs and local communities, with support from the national network units.

Info at: www.info-linc.eu

Latvia - Moldova

A network for regional development between Latvia and Moldova

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In Spring 2014 the *Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia* invited the Latvian Rural Forum to develop and enrich the existing cooperation between Latvia and Moldova. From a selection of potential partners identified by the Northern Development Region in Moldova, *Pro Cooperare Regionala* was selected as the most suitable partner. A productive and dynamic cooperation was created between the two organisations, its members and the rural inhabitants of Latvia and Moldova in a partnership between public administration and NGOs.

The purpose and benefits of the cooperation are: expanding international contacts; finding new ideas and inspiration; exchange of experience and good practices between local communities from Latvia and Moldova; developing a better understanding of the functioning of society and the development prospects in the context of both the European Union and Eastern Partnership.

Spain – Mexico

CLLD in Mexico: 2 LAGs in Chiapas open to EU

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This project is another example of the interest of REDR in illustrating LAGs as an effective tool for implementing territorial rural development policies in Europe and in countries outside the EU. As part of the project consortium "Laboratories of social cohesion in Mexico" funded by EuropeAid, REDR had the opportunity to support the implementation of a process of Sustainable and Integrated Local Development in depressed areas of the State of Chiapas.

Through this process two LAGs have been created, representing the broad spectrum of interests from their communities, whose objectives are to provide a better quality of life to all their citizens and to implement development strategies through government organisations, producer associations and civil society groups.

South East Europe

The Rural Development Standing Group & the Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans

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The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South East Europe (SEE) is an International Intergovernmental Organisation consisting of governmental institutions responsible for agriculture and rural development in their respective countries and territories. SWG aims to improve rural livelihoods in the SEE countries, boost rural development and promote innovation and sustainability in agriculture.

The SWG is active in south east Europe in the implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) approach. This is an innovative approach enabling a breakthrough in sustainable economic growth by targeting defined geographical areas in cross-border regions, which are characterised by a set of common, complex development problems. It is considered as an effective approach to facilitate sustainable growth in declining rural areas.

Western Balkan Region

The Balkan Rural Development Network-BRDN

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The Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN) is a regional platform of NGO-based rural development networks in the Western Balkans. BRDN brings together the rural development networks from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. BRDN has an overall aim of strengthening civil society and promoting multi-national exchanges in rural development, particularly between EU Member States and accession countries. Its general objective is to facilitate the identification of mutual needs and interests, to promote joint planning of projects and to support different institutions in fulfilling the needs of the Western Balkan countries in the area of rural development.

Morocco - Algeria - Tunisia – Mauritania

REMADEL

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REMADEL, the Maghreb network of rural local civil society organisations, was founded in 2008 by some thirty civil society organisations from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania. These NGOs are all active in the field of local development in rural areas. The creation of the network was supported by some local action groups (LAGs) from Spain, France and Italy, as well as by agricultural research institutions from several Mediterranean countries.

Our Network develops an active partnership based on bilateral, multilateral, and decentralised cooperation and between civil society organisations within the South and between the North and the South Mediterranean. REMADEL develops capacity building activities for its members, promotes active advocacy focused on the problems of the rural world and encourages the exchange of experiences between the different actors of the Maghreb rural development network.

Ireland - Uganda

Linking Communities for Shared Learning and Mutual Gain

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Partners in Learning (PiL) is a new concept - a hybrid created from the merging of the best characteristics of overseas local development policy, Irish local development policy and the concept of 'linking' which has evolved since the 1970s. PiL is described as a grassroots approach to community development. It bypasses the traditional donor aid dependency and directly links those communities actively involved in community development, empowering through shared experiences and through learning towards mutual gain. The concept came from development professionals and was supported by LEADER+ funding but the approach was developed by the communities themselves. These same communities want to share their learning so that other communities can experience the benefits of a PiL link.

Asia

AsiaDHRRA

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AsiaDHRRA was born in 1974 from a dialogue between rural development practitioners in Asia on the theme of development of human resources in rural areas. With 11 member DHRRA (Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia) and working partners in 14 countries, AsiaDHRRA responds to issues of food insecurity and rural poverty through its three-pronged strategic objectives. These are to develop strong rural peoples' organisations (RPO), to develop capacities for effective participation in public and private programs, and to build a stronger AsiaDHRRA network. These contribute to the goal of economically empowered RPOs and the vision of rural communities that are self-reliant, prosperous and living in solidarity with each other. AsiaDHRRA while facing challenges in its work, has celebrated significant milestones: acting as a catalyst for the formation of a major alliance of farmers' organisations in Asia, mobilising direct financing to RPOs coupled with advisory services and developing social capital through earning the trust and confidence of RPOs, CSOs, governments, and UN agencies for agriculture and rural development.

Finland - Mozambique

LEADER Local Action Group in the Zambesia Province of Mozambique

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A pilot LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) has been running in Zambesia Province, Mozambique since 2008, supported by Finnish Development Aid funds and the Joutsenten Reitti LAG in South West Finland. The LEADER Local Development Strategy developed for the Alto Ligonha territory, an area characterised by extreme poverty, focuses on improving agricultural cooperatives and commercial production, trade services and community forestry. 35 projects were selected and supported with 100% public funding in 2009-2012. The mid-term evaluation in 2011 showed that the projects had offered job opportunities to more than 500 people. In 2012-2014 the project extended to cover the whole Gile District and in the future it may be extended to new Districts. The Finnish project promoter, Joutsenten Reitti LAG, and its territory benefited from the cooperation through cultural exchanges involving people from Finnish media, arts and business. The project proved that LEADER could help resolve issues in very poor countries, including ones in post-conflict contexts like Mozambique.

Finland – Estonia – Russia

Rural Youth Camps

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Finnish and Estonian LEADER LAGs gained their first experience of a transnational cooperation project with a Russian partner between 2011 and 2013. The need for cooperation was obvious due to the cultural and historical background and experience of these areas and the fact that the one common topic to rural areas in all three countries was the need for investment in young people. Three camps were successfully organised in 2012, one in each country. The EU LAGs had a pilot LAG in Russian Karelia as their partner in Russia. 24 youngsters aged 11-13 participated in the camps and formed a social media network. The participating LAGs and youth organisations gained valuable experience in the benefits of cooperation.