



## *NRN Success Stories*

### *How to improve the managing process of the LEADER-measure – a practical example from Estonia*

#### **Objectives**

The Estonian Rural Network Unit in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB) organised brain-storming seminars on how to fasten the LEADER-measure managing process.

The aims of the brain-storming sessions were:

- To identify different challenges and problems that slow down the management process of the LEADER-measure; and,
- To define most significant problematic subject fields (3-6) that need further resolutions and direct attention.

#### **Methodology**

In total four seminars were held in November 2011 in four different locations in Estonia. This guaranteed regional representation and meant that representatives from LAGs and ARIB from the same region came together. About 130 people participated in the discussions. The number included representatives from all 26 LEADER Local Action Groups, representatives of central and regional offices of ARIB and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The key-question areas were:

1. What works well in the management process of LEADER project applications?
2. Which aspects specifically slow down the managing process?
3. How do we improve the management process of the LEADER-measure?
4. Name three specific proposals which could be realised by every partner (Local Action Group, ARIB, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Economy Research Centre) to improve the management process?

#### **Results & Benefits**

The brain-storming session helped to identify 87 specific proposals linked with issues regarding the management process of the LEADER measure which were divided into 5 categories as follows:

1. The form-filling documents should be clearer and more understandable for the applicant;
2. The quality of the guiding materials should be raised;
3. Some regular working meetings should be organised also at regional level;
4. The information of LEADER projects confirming processes in ARIB should be more available and easier to access; and,
5. The IT-system should be improved.





A good-will cooperation agreement will be contracted between all the stakeholders implementing the LEADER measure on the basis of the results of the brain-storming sessions. The seminars have furthermore also already led to solving some of the issues related to the management of the LEADER measure.

The total cost of the brain-storming sessions was covered by technical assistance allocated to activities of the Estonian Rural Network Unit (EUR 5,328), and the number of people involved in organising the seminars was eight.

**Further information**

[http://www.maainfo.ee/index.php?b=193&page=3538&action=pic\\_list&](http://www.maainfo.ee/index.php?b=193&page=3538&action=pic_list&)

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