

## EU MEMBER STATES

# Stakeholder involvement

### Location

Austria, Germany, Estonia, Finland, other EU

### Programming period

2007 - 2013

### Funding (EUR)

n/a

### Duration

2010 – 2015

### Implemented by

National Rural Networks

### Contact

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### Website

[www.info-linc.eu/](http://www.info-linc.eu/)

LINC stands for Leader Inspired Network Community, an initiative of Local Action Groups and Network Support Units.

### The challenge

The LINC Network came about through a desire to bring together people from LEADER areas to build up a framework for spreading information. Focuses are the implementation of transnational projects, closer cooperation between rural areas and rural actors, originally from a cooperation between Austria, Germany, Estonia and Finland.



### Main steps and features

LINC was set up to promote networking and the exchange of experience between European LEADER Areas in an innovative way. LINC combines the transfer of knowledge about innovation and regional cooperation in rural development with sports events so that the participants can network. LAG Teams from European LEADER Areas can show their sporting spirit and skill. For that reason there should be teams of 4 people from every Leader area or National Rural Network Unit who register for LINC Conferences.

LINC looks to organise seminars to provide rural promoters the possibility to meet, study and learn innovative good practice from other LEADER areas, and to inspire rural promoters with new ideas to take home on how to develop their area.

Each year a Conference is organised between participants. LINC continues to highlight the values of LEADER, providing networking opportunities for communities interested in cooperation. Local actors from different countries meet, exchange on thematic issues and methodologies, participate in playful competitions, use the relaxed atmosphere to make new friends and to strengthen existing relationships, learn from each other, and finally take home a rucksack full of new ideas for supporting development in their home area

2015 marks the 6th year of LINC Conferences, taking place in Italy. The chosen slogan for LINC2015 is 'Knowledge is Sharing' because the Conference's aim is to promote the spread of knowledge and the exchange of best practices, values that can be a chance for growth, development and mutual enrichment.

## Results

Every year about 150-200 LEADER actors across Europe attend the LINC Conference and at least 15 countries are represented. The 2015 conference was attended by more than 50 LAGs (over 200 people) from all over Europe, as well as the main European and Italian authorities.

The LINC Conference is open to all rural actors and has enabled multi-sectoral integration of people and projects.

LINC conferences are scheduled to take place in Hungary in 2016 and in Luxembourg in 2017.

## Challenges and lessons

- ❑ The exchange of experience and knowledge boosts innovation in rural areas across Europe. Networking between LEADER areas has generated many new transnational cooperation projects.

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## Additional information

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLkYUCIzqiU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLkYUCIzqiU)