

The word "LEADER" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside a green arrow-shaped graphic pointing to the right. The background of the slide features a gradient from green to blue with abstract white and light blue circular patterns.

LEADER

LEADER in Finland

Transition period and COVID-19

9th meeting of the LEADER/CLLD sub-group, 23 Feb 2021

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LEADER in Finland 2014-2020 & 2021-2022

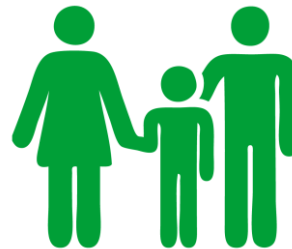


54 rural LAGs
+ 1 in Åland

100 %



All of rural population



Per LAG
14 000-123 000 inhabitants,
average 50 000



Total public funding
300 M€

+ 83 M€ in
2021-2022



Per LAG
3-11 M€
= 5,5 M€ on average

+ 1,5 M€ on average



Transitional period 2021-2022

- "Old" funding has to be committed 3/2021
- LAGs applied for transitional period funding 10/2020
- MA's decision on transitional period budget for LAGs 3/2021 → funds available 4/2021
- LAGs will update the goals of LDSs to match the additional funding
- All 2014-2020 LEADER measures available for LAGs
- A new sub-measure 19.1. preparatory support added in the RDP
- Preparing 2023-2027 LAGs and LDSs: 1st round of applications 5/2021
- A busy spring in LAGs!

Supporting existing and new businesses



Group of businesses developing services together **with the municipality** to overcome COVID-19 → a new cooperation model emerged

”All ears – Support for enterprises in Fell Lapland in exceptional circumstances”
ESF project administered by a LAG: **a network of 100 entrepreneurs** supporting each other

Local business association initiated and LAG PoKo administered a **business development project** (eg digital training) as a rapid response to the situation in spring 2020

New start-ups emerging –
Time to realise business ideas and lifestyle change because of lay-off
Forced to find new income

Group of enterprises **widening markets** from local to international

Tourism business developing **new digital services**
Eg funding for video equipment



COVID-19 effects on rural areas

- Businesses face difficulties – and new opportunities
 - Rapid reactions needed – "mini-LEADER" with municipal funding flexible in helping small businesses
- Harsh effects on local communities, NGOs, village action etc.
 - Cutting the income
 - Not possible to organise events
 - Not possible to get together
- Tele-working – new projects for developing working spaces
- Bonus-question to colleagues: Are LAGs involved in planning and implementing the Just Transition Fund JTF?
 - In Finland discussion on-going on the local effects of giving up the peat production and the possible role of LEADER in this respect



Thank you!



For ideas on a human scale!

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