Field Trip 1

LEADER building social inclusion: integration, civil society and education

Area: LAG nordburgenland plus

In this field trip, people directly involved will show you different approaches through which LEADER can positively influence relations between migrants/ asylum seekers and the local population. A further LEADER-project, the "habitat orchard meadow", will be the location for this field trip. There you will see how young people are sensitised to the value of orchard meadows, diversity of fruit trees and wild bees.

Diversity, community and more

Intercultural work mostly doesn´t offer ready-made concepts but depends on a mutual learning process. It's about bringing people with different interests and approaches together. This is also the primary objective of the LEADER project, which is being implemented in two municipalities. The project offers language support, chances to meet, conflict management, youth coaching and networking.

LEADER strengthening voluntary work on the integration of refugees

This LEADER-project is designed to work with asylum seekers in basic care who currently live in refugee accommodation in the Neusiedler See region and with the volunteers who support them in the integration process into Austrian society. During the project the language skills, expertise and experience of the asylum seekers are assessed, volunteers are recruited and groups are formed along various topics. Great attention is paid to supporting and accompanying the volunteers in their work.

LEADER as a platform for intercultural encounters

The "Literaturhaus Mattersburg", a public library, is implementing a project that fosters cultural exchange between people living in the northern Burgenland region and asylum seekers who need hospitality and protection. The participants organise discussion groups, led by a trained language trainer as well as "everyday excursions" for asylum seekers and interested parties. Moreover, local people together with asylum seekers make contact with authors and artists from the asylum seeker's home countries, this should help in getting to know the different cultures.

LEADER as a learning sphere: the habitat orchard meadow

The fruit garden of Rohrbach, which was opened in 2014, is an information and advisory centre and is concerned with the direct protection and preservation of old regional fruit varieties. The area of the fruit garden shows many different fruit trees and serves as a recreation facility for local people as well as tourists. One main aim is a playful knowledge transfer for children and youth groups. Wild bees are the second thematic focus. Different display boards show value and life of these important insects and you can learn how to support reproduction and hibernation. The fruit garden will be the location for this field trip.

Valorising and protecting the region´s natural potential: nature tourism, biodiversity and digitisation

Area: LAG nordburgenland plus

Due to its geographical location with extraordinary climatic conditions, the area of the LAG nordburgenland plus offers a broad and diverse variety of flora and fauna. Sixty different protected areas such as a national park, nature parks, Natura2000, Ramsar-wetland protection and a number of local protected sites can be found within the LAG´s 1.800 km². The special climate also helped the area to become one of Austria´s most famous wine production regions. The history of wine making in the region together with the special way of forming the landscape, building houses, working with reed, etc. has led to UNESCO granting the cross-border region (together with Hungary) the "world heritage" status (www.welterbe.org) in 2001.The members of the LAG recognised this potential of wine and nature and defined these as their two main strategic directions.

In this field trip representatives of protected area managements, world heritage managements and tourism marketing organisations will explain how LEADER helped them to strengthen their attempts for sensitising people to the value of nature and utilising it´s tourism values – whilst trying to keep a balance between both sides.

LEADER supporting two nature parks and one national park to cooperate – The "NaNaNa" project

The "NaNaNa"-project was successfully launched during the last LEADER period. The focus here was on increasing networking between the project partners through shared exchange of knowledge and experience as well as introducing unified visual identity for all three project partners, e.g. in the form of information desks with a uniform layout. The partners developed a common smartphone app "Pannonian Slow Routes" that helps visitors getting around in the area, discovering interesting areas and determining species. Now they also offer a common nature tourism program.

"Nature–hub" – the LAG as the node to connect partners and to ensure visibility

The LAG sees itself as an organisation that provides basic tools and resources for the partners so that they can generate added value. For example, the LAG collected all nature "hot spots", described their particularities and positioned them geographically in an online and offline map. If tourists want to have guided tours, each of these "hot spots" shows a list of guides that can be booked. The hub also helps in product development and quality management. This is especially necessary since the LAG also collects and displays "nature accommodation", businesses with a special connection to nature.

UNESCO World Heritage: LEADER helping to sensitise

The "outstanding universal value" of the Fertö – Neusiedler See region describes the reason for being World Heritage site mostly in terms of its cultural landscape, the design of the local houses, the village ensembles of houses and stables, wine making, etc. To preserve these valuable aspects, people have to be aware of them and of what they can do. One LEADER project focusses on this kind of sensitisation, showing pupils in a playful way how to identify elements of the world heritage, like special roof-tops, windows, architecture, etc. Another aspect is increasing private house-builders awareness of key considerations when planning their houses in an "world-heritage-friendly" way. A third element of this project is to enhancing the tourism related added value of world heritage status.

"Online-coach": LEADER making small tourism business fit for the digital age

Tourism businesses are the backbone of all nature-tourism attempts in the Nordburgenland region. They are in closest contact with the tourists – prior to, during and after their trip. Since most of the tourists collect information about their holidays online, it is of utmost importance, that the businesses know how to present themselves in the world wide web. The "Neusiedler See Tourismus" – the local tourism management organisation – together with the LAG established an intense training programme to enhance "on-line" competences.

Field Trip 3

Sustainable community development: youth, participation and vital villages

Area: LAG Römerland Carnuntum

The LAG Römerland Carnuntum is located between the northern Burgenland region (the main location of the LEADER seminar), the Austrian capital of Vienna and the Slovak Capital of Bratislava. This leads to numerous "suburban" phenomena like fast population growth with the need for different types of social integration, rivalry between different forms of land use and providing basic services. This field trip deals with this special issue and shows how to support sustainable development.

LEADER supporting sustainable municipal development – the projects LENA and G28

LENA is the acronym for a project that aims at sustainable design for the living environment for the people in the area. In cooperation with the Vienna Technical University the LAG launched different measures in order to find a common understanding of the sustainable building of settlements and buildings amongst the 28 municipalities.

The G28 project provides communities with knowledge, tools and support to define and reach community development goals and work together to further the region's development. The set of measures covers further education programmes, networking and know-how transfer amongst the municipalities e.g. as field trips to see "good practices".

With LEADER from "youth = problem" to "youth = chance"

In the year 2000 the LAG started working on the youth topic which was related to a number of local problems in the beginning. The LAG succeeded in establishing a sound portfolio of offers for young people. This comprises mobile youth work, a youth counselling centre and open youth work. Open youth work can be viewed as being located between social work, education, cultural work and health promotion and is an important place of socialisation for young people in Austria. Latterly the LAG took one further step ahead and offered tailor-made modules for the municipalities to assist them with their specific needs.

"Living diversity" with LEADER

This LEADER-project "Vielfalt Leben" (living diversity) wants to improve the social coexistence of "old" and "new" inhabitants in a changing environment. It helps in maintaining the sense of belonging to the region / municipality. The project supports volunteers who are facing challenges in their work in integrating asylum seekers and people entitled to asylum and also assists schools in addressing the emerging challenges, focusing on pedagogical support for leaders and educators.

Club of Rome Carnuntum

The Club of Rome Carnuntum represents a community of committed people in the "Römerland Carnuntum" region. With its core tasks – research, education, dialogue – the Club of Rome Carnuntum will contribute to transforming people, the region and the world into a livable and sustainable future, taking into account the four pillars of sustainability. With a variety of annual events, as well as training and research opportunities, the LEADER supported Club of Rome Carnuntum supports the region´s evidence based rural development processes by systematically generating and adding (scientific) knowledge.