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TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

Åland Rural Development Program 2014-2020
58 million euros (EAFRD+NAT.)

Leader 2014-2020
1,6 million euros (EAFRD+NAT.)
62 projects (so far)

Leader 2007-2013
1,6 million euros (EAFRD+NAT.)
77 projects

(+ FLAG, EMFF, 2007-2013, 2014-2020)

ÅLAND



- Autonomous, Swedish-speaking region in the Baltic Sea (Finland)
- 30 000 inhabitants
- 16 municipalities



The archipelago and rural Åland are depending on a healthy nature and clean water, for food production, tourism and a well-being island.



BACKGROUND

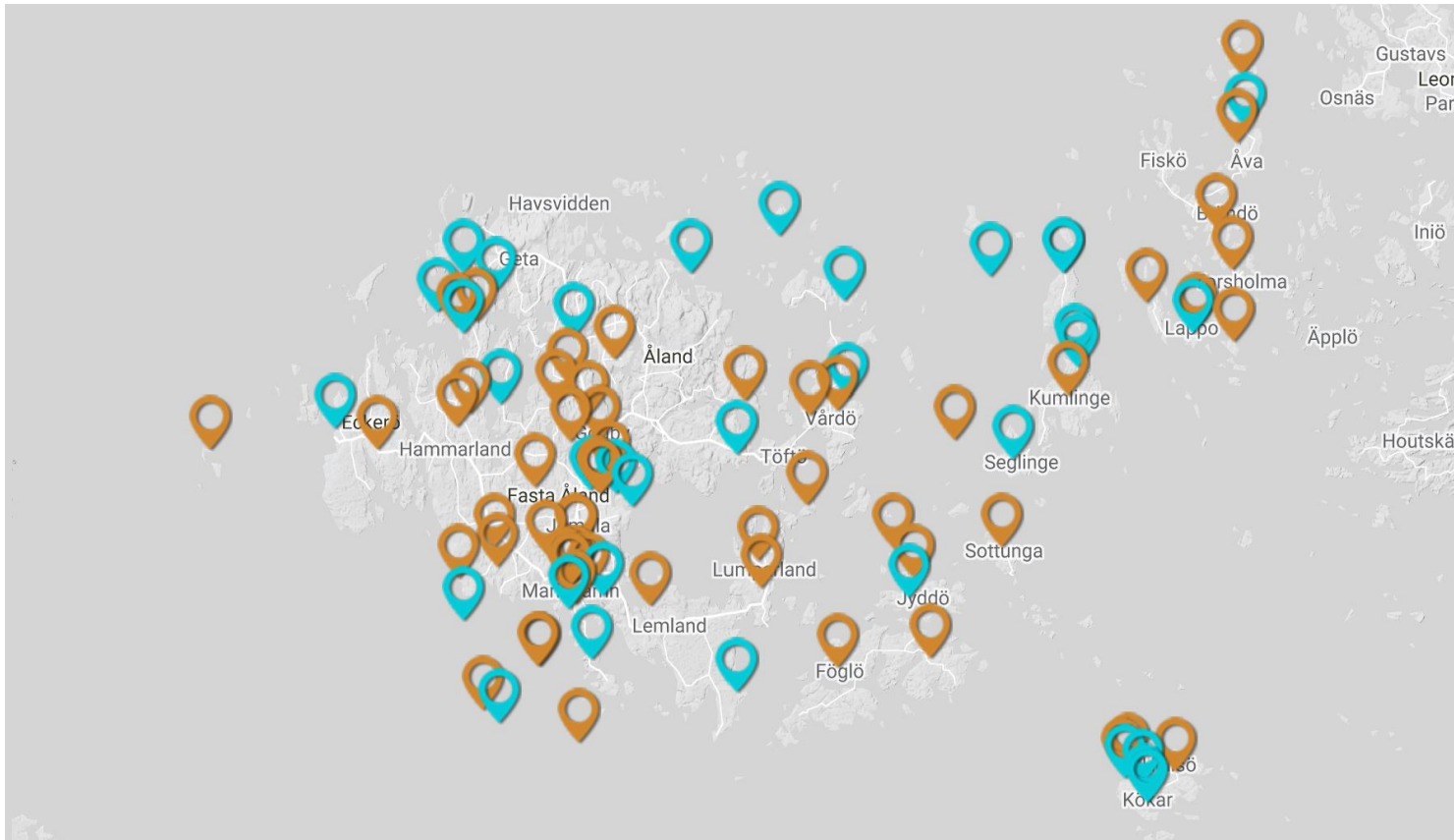
REGULATION (EU) No 1305/2013

- Art. 14 (Knowledge transfer and information actions)
- Art. 20 (Basic services and village renewal in rural areas)
- **Art. 17 (non-productive investments)**

..are implemented only with the Leader method and cannot receive other funding from the Rural Development Program of Åland 2014-2020.

Why LEADER?

- Enables creative solutions
- Creates new collaborations
- Transparent and accessible
- Voluntary work is valued
- Available consultation to simplify bureaucracy
- Networks between sectors



More than half of all 60 projects in Åland 2014-2020 have an environmental theme:

- New pastures (natural & cultivated pastures)
- Sedimentation ponds combined with communication materials
- Wetlands combined with recreation
- Local awareness-raising and capacity building; workshops, lectures, courses and educational measures for circular economy, increased biodiversity and improved soil health
- Nature as a resource for leisure and recreation (ex. Nature paths)
- Solar energy, aquaponics, beekeeping and cultivation projects for children and young people

Communities, associations, municipalities, interest groups and farmers have worked together

IMPLEMENTATION

- A new group of potential beneficiaries
- Practical advice and guidance requested
- New regulations to get acquainted with, both for LAG staff and the managing authority
- More responsibility for the local action group
- Less money for administration

CHALLENGES





CONCLUSION

Locally led development works! The most important tools are advice, communication, networking, a good composition of the various sectors in LAG - and of course sufficient funding.



THANK YOU!



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