



Euroopan maaseudun
kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
Eurooppa investoi maaseutualueisiin.

Transnational cooperation in the rural areas of the Baltic Sea Region

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Advantages

- experiences on similarities and differences in new dimensions
- opens up people's minds
- leads to knowledge exchange
- provides new perspectives

(Lukesch & Schuh 2007)



Challenges

- How to keep it simple but effective?
- How much to invest in cooperation?



Budget for transnational cooperation

Rural Development Programme Mainland Finland

- Total public funding for transnational cooperation 12 MEUR
 - EU 45 %
 - National public funding 55 % (state 35 %, municipalities 20 %)
- Estimated private funding 3 MEUR

- Total funding for LEADER 259 MEUR



Themes of transnational cooperation projects

- 111: Vocational training and information actions
- 124: Cooperation for the development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector

- 311: Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- 312: Creation and development of micro-enterprises
- 313: Encouragement of tourism activities
- 321: Basic services for the economy and rural population
- 322: Village renewal and development
- 323: Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
- 331: Training and information



Current progress in transnational cooperation

- 27 transnational cooperation projects approved
- 55 feasibility studies ongoing
- All feasibility studies will not necessarily be developed to real transnational cooperation projects

- Most common themes of transnational projects: involvement of young people, rural tourism, local traditions

- Most common partner countries: Estonia (9) and Sweden (6)
- Other partner countries in the Finnish TNC projects: Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Austria, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Norway, Denmark.



Some examples of transnational projects & actions

- "CULTrips" creates new concept for socio-cultural village trips in Europe by using local tourism enterprises, training local people as tourist guides as well as by exchanging ideas and experience with villages from other countries.
- "Dreams and courage" aims to find new innovations and methods for local enterprises in handicrafts, natural products and rural tourism. The objective is to encourage potential entrepreneurs to make their ideas reality and find new opportunities to rural areas through transnational cooperation.
- Amaze me Leader: The international Amaze me Leader adventure seminar toured central and eastern Finland at the end of August. The idea of the week-long event was for teams to take part in activity points related to rural development by carrying out playful tasks. Many of the participants are involved in rural development in some way in their own countries and they took an enormous amount of new ideas and enthusiasm back home with them.



Next steps

- How else can we provide possibilities for international cooperation in the RDPs except through the Leader approach?
 - How can we utilize more the RDPs in the Baltic Sea Region?
- + good experiences
+ common interests
+ short distances
+ cultural and historical similarities etc.

Thank you for your attention!

More information at the programme website:
www.rural.fi

