

March 2008

Leader in the Swedish Rural Network

Leader is an important part of the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013. This is why networks between various Local Action Groups, (LAG) and also between LAG and other rural actors, are a natural part of the Swedish Rural Network. For this reason, the LAGs have a representative in the Steering Group of the Swedish Rural Network.

Most of the LAGs are still in the phase of being formed. Through dialogue with them the Swedish Rural Network has identified a need for several efforts aimed at the LAGs. These concern both groups that are in the process of writing their strategy, and those that have already been approved.

Network cheques for international exchange of experiences

There is much to learn from how LAGs operate in other countries. In order to exchange experiences and prepare for international cooperation projects, planning and travel costs may be reimbursed by means from the Swedish Rural Network.

Information and inspiration

Ten or so of the Rural Network's member organisations have employed certain people to provide information and inspire new ideas, in order to increase the involvement of their own organisation in the Leader effort. These projects with inspiration and mobilisation agents are funded by so called Network cheques.

Mentors

We now go from 12 Leader areas to around 70. In order to benefit from previous Leader experience, there are around 20 mentors who used to be LAG managers, other staff or LAG members during the Leader+ period. Each new group can get help from a mentor. The costs for

working time and travel are funded from the Rural Network budget.

Training

The Rural Team at the Board of Agriculture will provide basic training to new groups, so that their Leader work can get started. The Rural Network and the Rural Team will together identify additional training needs and, to the extent possible, provide that training.

Network meetings

LAGs are welcome to participate in meetings organised by the Rural Network. The calendar at the Network's website shows current activities. There will also be special meetings for people involved in Leader. The County Administrative Boards can use means from the Network to arrange regional and interregional meetings. Twice a year the Rural Network invites all Leader chairpersons and LAG managers to a national Leader conference.

www.landsbygdsnatverket.se

At the website of the Network, there will be information specifically aimed at LAGs. Among other things, functions are being developed that will allow users to search among experiences from projects in the future project database of the Board of Agriculture, and also among other organisations' databases. The EU also wants Member States to develop tools for finding international project partners.

Another aspect of developing the Rural Network's website is that a LAG or a regional Leader network will be able to create a sub-domain. It is also intended to have functions like a calendar that a LAG can import to their own website. In addition, the website shall of course also be a forum for dialogue between groups.



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

Contact persons Leader

Swedish Rural Network

www.landsbygdsnatverket.se

Marie Söderström marie.soderstrom@sjv.se	Network Administration	+4636 155098
Marie Ramnér marie.ramner@sjv.se	Network Administration	+4636 156156
Jennie Malm jennie.malm@sjv.se	Network cheques	+4636 155689
Maria Gustafsson maria.gustafsson@sjv.se	General network issues	+4636 155104
Jessica Hagård jessica.hagard@sjv.se	Webbsite editor	+4636 156116
Hans-Olof Stålgren hans-olof.stalgren@hush.se	Method training International cooperation	+4670 3304237
Nils Lagerroth nils.lagerroth@hush.se	Method training International cooperation	+4670 5349164
Mikael Lindau mikael.lindau@glesbygdsverket.se	Legal Leader issues	+4663 576705

The Rural Team at the Board of Agriculture

www.sjv.se

Beata Allen beata.allen@sjv.se	Management Process support	+4636 155928
Johan Fors johan.fors@sjv.se	Management Process support	+4636 155978



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