

Issue 55

31 March, 2007



European Commission



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FlashNews

Leader+ Observatory

focus



Sweden

All Sweden's twelve Leader+ LAGs are situated in the southern part of the country, and almost half were involved in Leader II. The average LAG population is about 60 000 and their individual budget is among the biggest in the EU. The total budget for the Leader+ program, including EU funds, national funds and private co-financing, comes to about EUR 132 million. There is Swedish participation in 35 transnational cooperation projects.

The Leader+ National Network Unit (NNU) started in 2002 following a call for tender from the Swedish Rural Development Agency (Managing Authority). The contract to run the NNU was won by the Swedish Federation of Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies. The NNU's steering group has representatives from all LAGs and other important actors such as: the Farmers Union (LRF); the Popular Movements Council; and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

The NNU employs four people on a part time basis: Hans-Olof Stålgren, Nils Lagerroth, Gunilla Sandberg and Ulrika Månsson. Though the office is situated in the centre of Stockholm much of the work is decentralised.

From the [website](#), you can find the project database and the weekly digital newsletter, which is sent to approximately 300 subscribers. Every year the NNU organises two national network conferences and the "Leader-project-of-the-year-award". The NNU and LAG offices have recently been involved in an information campaign to transfer experience and knowledge, gained under Leader, to the new LAGs expected to be formed under the new program. The Managing Authority has so far organised more than 20 information meetings, covering the whole country with network representatives and the regional county administrations. The number of LAGs will increase significantly to 60-70. For more information, please contact [Hans-Olof Stålgren](#).



German NNU workshop:

**"Ways of setting up cooperation
with Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary"**

8 – 10 May, 2007

Bad Staffelstein, Germany

The workshop will offer the participants a chance to meet new partners, exchange ideas and it will focus on the first steps in launching common cooperation projects. Existing cooperation projects will be presented as case-studies and practical problems and solutions will be discussed in working groups under the guidance of people with experience in cooperation.

Please note that the deadline for registration is 13 April 2007. For more information, please contact Anke Wehmeyer of the [German NNU](#).

Planning day on rural development

Mechelen, Belgium

31 May, 2007

This year's annual event, organised by "the Stichting Planologische Discussiedagen" will enable the Flemish and Dutch planning worlds to meet each other and exchange ideas. This year's focus theme is on rural development issues. If you have ideas and concerns about the future on this topic, the organisers also invite you to write a paper on the subject in any of the main EU languages which will be published, and may also be awarded a prize of EUR 1000. For more information about: the theme, submitting a paper, and the prize, you can find [here](#). You can also contact [Xavier Buijs](#).

FLASH NEWS

links

[Leader+ website](#)

[Leader+ Magazine](#)

[New Rural Development
Regulation 2007-2013](#)

*For more information please
click on the headlines*



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**The Tallinn workshop:
Efficient management of coastal regions and cities**
17 – 18 September, 2007
Tallinn, Estonia

This workshop will bring together professionals from the public administrations of coastal regions and cities and from the space technology service sectors. The two-day programme will allow the sharing of good practice on specific management issues related to coastal regions. This will be done using space application-based services to evaluate specific needs and difficulties linked to implementing such services. Specific future service developments will also be identified. The workshop will help participants to better understand their work in context of EU common maritime policy, and shape future cooperation between users from public administrations and industry. It will also contribute to developing satellite-based services by providing feedback to the relevant European institutions. For more information, please contact the [workshop organisers](#).

**The OECD's Vienna action statement
on partnerships is now available on-line**

This statement on partnerships was adopted during the recently held annual meeting of the OECD LEED forum on partnerships and local governance. The statement aims to enhance governance by improving dialogue and co-operation between policy makers themselves, as well as between other stakeholders at the local, regional and national levels. It thereby seeks to improve the contribution that local partnerships can make in: fostering economic development; social cohesion; environmental sustainability; and quality of life. The statement is meant to be used as a practical tool. For more information, please contact [Anette Scoppetta](#).

**Funding for European intelligent energy projects:
2007 call for proposals**

The first call for proposal under the new IEE II programme is scheduled for publication in April 2007, with the deadline for submission 28 September 2007. Around EUR 55 million will be available to support promotional projects and so-called 'integrated initiatives'. European co-funding will be up to 75% of the eligible costs compared to 50% in previous years.

This year's work programme covers three themes: energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and transport. It will focus on five policy objectives: enabling policies; market transformation; behavioural change; access to capital; and training.

[An information day](#) held in Brussels on 19 April 2007 will give information and advice on how to apply for IEE funding under this call. It will present ongoing projects and first results and explain the broader policy context. For those unable to attend a morning session will be broadcast live on the internet by <http://www.managenergy.tv>. Video recordings with sound and integrated slide presentations will be made available on-line after the event. For more information, please contact the [Intelligent Energy Executive Agency](#) (IEEA).



**COOPERATION CORNER
Partner search tool**

Finding partners for cooperation on Leader+ projects concerns many LAGs. If you have specific information about a cooperation event or project, you can send us details. Remember also to use the partner search tool, which you can find on both European and national Leader+ sites.

A LAG in Greece is looking for partners for a project that wishes to create an informal network between producers of quality beef. The aim is to exchange know-how and best practice on issues such as production, certification, handling, distribution and promotion.

A LAG in Turkey is looking for partners for a project on the environmentally friendly production of biological beef and milk.

These projects are looking for partners. You could be one of them! Learn more about these proposals by consulting the partner search tool via the above-mentioned link.



"Flash News" contributions

Don't forget "Flash News" is your news too! Help us to keep you informed by telling us about what you are doing in rural development in your area. Please send to flashnews@leaderplus.org.

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European Commission

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This publication does not necessarily express the official
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