Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Maria Szemplińska

The Swedish Rural Network

Hans-Olof Stålgren

European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region - flagship project "Sustainable rural development"

The Strategy....

„ The Baltic Sea Region has an established history of networking and cooperation in many policy areas. This strategy offers the opportunity to move from words to action and to deliver real benefits for the region as a whole."

„We are convinced that a strategy for the Baltic Sea Region,consisting of the approach and actions described above are essential to protect the Baltic Sea and to exploit fully the opportunities open to the region". (COM(2009) 248 final; Coclusion)

Four pillars /challenges

- to enable a sustainable environment
- to enhance the region's prosperity
- to increase accessibility and attractiveness
- to ensure safety and security in the region

Rolling Action Plan with 15 priority areas/actions and flagships projects

Examples of flagship projects

Source: presentation of Andreas Lindholm; European Commission

- Remove phosphates in detergents
- Create marine protected areas
- A fund for innovation and research
- Promote environmental technologies
- Encourage sustainable aquaculture

- Connect the Baltic States to the energy networks
- Improve transport infrastructures
- Establish joint curricula in universities
- Integrate the maritime surveillance systems
- Better cooperation in case of marine pollution

Implementation

- Simple implementation system: making better use of existing institutions, funding, and legislation.

- Policy development: European Council
- Coordination, monitoring and follow-up: European Commission

- Implementation on the ground: Member State or equivalent to coordinate Priority Area; Ministry, agency, or other body to lead flagship projects

- Annual Forum with stakeholders

Source: presentation of Andreas Lindholm; European Commission

The Strategy- a one year of implementation

14-15 October 2010 Tallinn- first Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

First draft report on implementation

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/events_en.htm

Priority 9
To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

- coordinated by Finland and Lithuania for rural development and Sweden for fisheries;
- 07-08.10.09, kick-off meeting; Finland
- 21-22.01.10, Finland
- 18.11.10, Finland

Priority 9
To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

- **9.3. "Sustainable rural development"** Projects must be developed that bring together people in the region for sustainable rural development and livelihood, such as supporting the environment for innovations, youth, rural tourism, agriculture and forestry. New practices on using an integrated approach should be developed. (<u>Lead</u>: Poland and Sweden; <u>Deadline</u> for progress review: to be determined)

State of the play – the flagship „Sutainable rural development"

Helsinki 21 -22 January 2010

selection of topics (discussion based on outcomes of the questionnaire)

- rural youth
- creation of friendly environment for innovation

Decission on screenig of existing project

28 - 30 April
Apšuciems, Latvia

- Captain`s Crew established
- Further discssion on project
- Criteria

Criteria to select projects

General:

Local and interregional projects vs. transnational projects (**higher priority is given to cooperation projects, transnational as well as interregional**);

General principles:

- Accepting new projects;
- The size of the project budget has no influence on the selection

Criteria to select projects Youth

- Inclusion - the key is to be a model for inclusion and involvement of youth in planning and implementation of development activities

- Age,15-25 years
  These age limits are not mandatory there might be good reasons in some projects to accept participants a few years younger or a few years older.

Criteria to select projects Innovation

- Definition of innovation "*A new technical solution to a problem or a new way to perform a service or a combination of both. An innovation exists when the solution has reached the market, i.e. has come to a use*".

- Support to innovation - higher priority is given to projects promoting the methods to support innovative entrepreneurs in rural areas; the support can exist in many forms; creating an entrepreneurial and innovative atmosphere (training and education in innovative thinking, practical training etc)

Screening, Projects from 4 countries – LV; DK; SE; PL

- 26 youth projects
    - 9 transnational
    - 4 national / interregional
    - 13 local
- 7 innovation projects
    - 3 transnational
    - 1 national
    - 3 local

- How many are really good model projects?
- Does any of them include both youth and innovation?

Youth projects

- How many are really inclusive and involve youth in planning and implementation?

- What are the age ranges?
  Do all have approx 15 – 25?

- Can we see some common features in several projects?

- Could it be?
  Supporting young people in rural areas to have visions and take steps to form their rural future

Innovation projects

- Do they promote innovations as "*new solutions that have reached the market i.e. come to use*"?

- Are there projects about a support structure for innovations and innovative entrepreneurs?

- What about young innovative entrepreneurs?

Financing

- Can we relay on only Leader funding?
- Is there a need to look for other (larger) funding?
- What about Interreg South Baltic?

Results of survey (2)

List includes several projects for young enterpreneurs; different types of youth projects; 72-hours race and virtual innovation back office; thematic villages

Objectives of the seminar

- some ideas to be presented more detailed;
- input from researchers, esp. on rural youth topic;
- some examples of good projects;
- networking; new persons to be involved;
- to discuss the possible further steps