



LEADER

Mansikka

Mrs Riikka Pehkonen
Executive Manager
+358 40 532 5310
Local Action Group, LAG
Inner Savo
www.mansikkary.fi

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Kalakukko

Mrs Jaana Paananen
Executive Manager
+358 40 510 3258
Local Action Group, LAG
North-East Savo
www.kalakukkory.fi

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**Ylä-Savon
Veturi**

Mrs Sari Hyttinen
Executive Manager
+358 40 868 0998
Local Action Group, LAG
Upper Savo
www.ylasavonveturi.fi

LEADER programming period 2014 – 2020 in Finland:

- A total of 54 LEADER group has an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, and this covers the whole of Finland
- LEADER is a well-organized, local and international activities, with over 20 years of experience in Finland
- In December 2014, the Commission adopted the Mainland Finland Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 **and funding application opened in May 2015**
- The overall budget is EUR 462 million was distributed as follows: EU EUR 126 million (42%), the state or national 114 million (38%) and municipalities EUR 60 million (20%) and private funding of EUR 162 million (target 35% of total financing)

Three Local Action Groups in North Savo:

- LAG Mansikka, LAG Kalakukko, LAG Ylä-Savon Veturi each with its own strategy and budget
- Operating range is 19 municipalities (of these 10 municipalities is a sparsely populated rural areas, rural heartland areas six and three urban area), which are important partners of the LEADER groups, and also funding the program (cooperation agreement)
- approximately 146 000 people living in the rural area
- The total budget is EUR 14.8 million of public financing (EU, national and municipalities)
- Strengths may include a multi-disciplinary small entrepreneurship, milk production, forest and unspoiled or pure nature, tourism, berry production, as well as a strong and communal village activities
- Area weaknesses are residents of rural to urban migration trend, an aging population, migration from rural to urban basic services and rural industries poor traction and low profitability
- Project funding decisions based on local people, local entrepreneurs and representatives of public organizations assembled in the work of the Board of Directors in local action groups
- Some important partners of LEADER groups are a local advisory organizations (agricultural and business advisory services), Confederation of Agricultural Producers (MTK) and Economic Development, Transport and the Environment Centre (ELY) as well as educational and research organizations. Not to forget the Europeans Leader groups.