



Europeiska jordbruksfonden för
landsbygdsutveckling:
Europa investerar i landsbygdsområden



A Swedish, sparsely populated, Leader area is looking for partners for exchange of experience and mutual learning.

The Leader area 3sam (www.3sam.eu) is running the project "Collaboration and Development" in the rural municipalities of Ragunda (www.ragunda.se) and Strömsund (www.stromsund.se). They are sparsely populated and situated in the north of Sweden dominated of forests and mountains reaching to the Norwegian border. The project is looking for European partner areas with the same geographic and demographic features facing the same challenges and restraints.

"We have an ageing population since most of the youth is moving out from the area. The basic business sector has always been forestry and small scale farming with cattle and sheep. Most of the farms are not in production any more. Most of the inhabitants are getting their incomes from micro enterprises in service and trade and of course within forestry and semi subsistence farming. Many are commuting at a weekly basis to work in cities around Sweden or even in Norway. During summer time, especially in July, many home comers and tourists are arriving to the area causing the small villages and the whole area to flourish for a while. There are also some new-comers, immigrants wanting to avoid densely populated areas in Europe.

When ordinary service is declining and sometimes does not even exist any longer, we have to look for new solutions. But we have a strong belief and confidence that we together, all the inhabitants, can change the course of development to a more positive one. To be able to do this we need to learn more from others and create wider networks to get greater visions and new input in the work for the development of the area. That is why we are looking for European partners.

If we find one or two partners with similar situation and challenges, we would like to cooperate starting with a creative conference in our area in spring 2012. The conference will be held at "Tåsjöberget". www.hoting-tasjodalen.com

For more information please contact Ms Hervor Dahlén hervor@bygdensframtid.se or Hans-Olof Stålgren at the National Rural Network. hans-olof.stalgren@jordbruksverket.se