LEADER Transnational Co-operation Project

Medieval Festivals

Poland, April 2014

























Applying old-world solutions to new-world problems

- What have Middle Ages got to do with innovation in rural life?
- Rural life in Baltic and Nordic countries and medievalism in Western Europe

 how could they possibly have something in common?

Project Partners

- LAG Pärnu Lahe Partnerluskogu/Pärnu Bay Partnership, Estonia – Lead partner
- LAG Karhuseutu / LC Ulvila Finland
- LAG ADIRN Portugal
- LAG ADRITEM Portugal
- LAG "Darīsim paši!" Latvia
- LAG Pays ruthénois France

Objectives and desired results

- At least one medieval festival in every partner area with presence of other partners
- Cultural exchange on European level
- New knowledge and experience about medieval style and events
- Young people in rural areas will be involved for better future perspectives – even in professional aspect

Objectives in the Agreement

- Reform of medieval festivals programmes
- More local, regional and international performers and more visitors
- More sellers of authentic products and handicraft workshops
- Nationally and internationally well known events
- Innovation in transnational cooperation projects

Project venues

- Pärnu Hanseatic Days, Estonia 29.6.- 1.7.2012
- In Kuldiga, Latvia 21.7, 2012
- In Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal 9.-11.8, 2012
- In Torres Novas, Portugal 24.-26. 5 2013
- In Sauveterre de Rouergue, France 29.-30. 6. 2013
- In Ulvila, Finland 3.-4. 8 2013

Main planned activities

- Medieval Camp for introducing medieval lifestyle
 accommodation, open fire, common cooking...
- Medieval Evening dinner in medieval style with entertainment by project participants
- Handicraft and artisans' workshops in medieval style – materials, tools, styles, skills, know-how...
- Cultural exchange Nordic-Baltic-Western
 Europe; medievalism of castles and peasants
- Exchange of event organising know-how and festival programme and animation ideas
- Leader-tour in partners LAG areas

Duration of the project

- Project will be implemented from 1.5.2012 to 31.10.2013
- During this period 6 medieval festivals have been organised by project partners or their local associate partners and stakeholders

Financing

- Every partner organisation applied for project grant in their own countries, with different results
- Average project budget for every partner was estimated to be 40 000 – 50 000 euro
- Project budgets cover travel cost and hosting other partners, conditions have been agreed – all partners hosted/sent to other partners up to 10 participants, extra persons paid themselves
- Financial conditions were different for all partners

Results achieved

- All planned events were organised and visited
- Cultural exchange in different levels –
 performing arts, medieval heritage, working
 methods
- Many new ideas, attractions, practical arrangements for partners' festivals
- Young people were largely involved as volunteers helping organisers, performers, workshop moderators, parades...

Benefits for PLPK area

- Cooperation between local partners
- Database of people with different skills (musicians, hobby actors, artisans, local food)
- Several participating artisans have started making new medieval-style handicraft products for sale
- More opportunities for selling products at Hanseatic Days and Medieval festivals in different Estonian and European towns
- Much experience working with partners from different European regions – attitudes, methods
- Set of 10 medieval costumes to use in the future activities – and trained people in the region able to sew them

New ideas (used in Ulvila at the final event)

- Information stands in town from Pärnu
- Programme brochures from Portugal
- Animal park for children Pärnu
- Knight sword fight from Sauveterre
- Medieval banquet from all partners
- Medieval buffet and outside interactive dance show – from Kuldiga
- Medieval camp from Santa Maria da Feira and Sauveterre

There's more...

- Estonian blacksmith was engaged in Sauveterre also as Jew's harp player and was invited to perform at the closing of the Pärnu Film Festival
- Ulvila is now a member of the Association of Hanseatic Cities
- Participating in partners' events will continue:
 LAG PLPK in Kuldiga in 2013, LC Ulvila will particiapte in Pärnu Hanseatic Days in 2014
- All partners satyed in the project in spite of different financing situation

Lessons learned

- Different financing and application rules, need to start the activities before all partners' financing approved
- Medieval camp was not organised during all project events – different reasons
- Medieval dinner finding suitable places, health authorities' rules, authentic medieval food
- Musical instruments limited choice due to air travel luggage rules
- Availability of artisans and performers all busy at summer season

Project Activities and Results























































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