



Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title *Exchange in practice: Visit of Flemish Leader delegation to an English LAG (LAG Eastern Plateau)*

Theme *Network communications; Knowledge exchange; Cooperation*

NRN *BE-Flanders* Coordinator *Flemish Rural Network*

Partners *English LAG Eastern Plateau*

Period *28 – 30 September 2011* Resources *Approx. €3,000*

Geo-location *Hertfordshire, UK*

Beneficiaries *Leader and Axis 3 beneficiaries*

Background

At the end of September 2011, the Flemish Rural Network travelled with 15 interested Leader and Axis 3-persons from Flanders to England. The aim was to see LEADER outside Flanders and to enable exchanges with an English LAG.

Main activities

After travelling almost a day, the bus stopped to pick up two representatives from the. With them on board, we went directly to a first project visit "Deer Initiative", in Hatfield Forest, to see how they benefit from the RDP. The next day a common LAG meeting was organized in order to get to know each other programmes and to exchange opinions on LEADER approaches. After this, we visited a LEADER project "Stevenson Bros reservoir" on water management and the LEADER project "Pearces Farm Shop". The last day, the LEADER project "Jepps Barn" (rural tourism) was visited before we started the bus ride home.

Main results/benefits

During this short visit, both the participants and the Flemish Rural Network learned a lot on how LEADER and RDP work in England and in the LAG Eastern Plateau in particular. Apart from the noticed differences in approach on LEADER and projects we strongly felt the coherence and similarities between the two countries.





Contribution of the NSU

Organization, overall arrangements, presentation of Flemish RDP.

Success factors

- The organization of the study exchange was realized starting from the needs of the Flemish LAGs and Axis 3 stakeholders;
- The choice of the visited region in England was made in cooperation with the stakeholders, so it was clear for the participants what to expect from this visit;
- The overall success could only be possible due to the good cooperation with the LAG Eastern Plateau and the time they wanted to invest in our visit.

Additional information

A report is available in Dutch on the website of the Flemish Rural Network:

<http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/activiteitenverslagen/activiteiten-vlaams-ruraal-netwerk/leader-excursie-naar-hertford-28-30>

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