

Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title	"Leader in Pratica"		
Theme	Training		
NRN	Italy	Coordinator	NRN- Task Force Leader
Partners	LAGs		
Period	From February 2011	Resources	About 6,000 Euro for each study visit (local transfers, lunches / dinners, shooting and editing video reports. are excluding travel expenses).
Geo-location	LAG VALLI DI TURES ED AURINA (Provincia di Bolzano); LAG Delta 2000 THEME (Regione Emilia Romagna); LAG Terre SHARDANA (Regione Sardegna); LAG Rocca di Cerere (Regione Sicilia)		

Background

Leader in practice is a series of study visits organized by the LEADER Task Force of the NRN and addressed to all the LAGs available to share valuable experiences of their territory and learn from others.

The purpose of this new initiative is to provide for a range of actors concrete experiences, addressing key issues of innovation in the development of rural areas such as: the creation of value added by local production, multifunctional tourist services, new forms of renewable energy usage, the creation of new economic activities, the attractiveness and accessibility of rural areas, quality of life and the defense strategies towards depopulation, the development and use of 'cultural identity, land and biodiversity of rural landscapes.

The visits have been prepared to offer attendees the information necessary to use experiences presented in different ways:

- *Project. Every experience is accompanied by a set of operational tools available to its reference (regulations, examples of communication, income statements, list of experts, indicators, etc.);*
- *Animation. Every experience is presented in detail with texts and images that can be used by the animators of the LAG to submit it in their area; and,*
- *Training. Provides all the information needed to use the experiences examined to organize training activities, study visits etc. for local operators.*

The study visit is organized with a standard formula:

- *Limited to a specific subject which examines specific operational issues told by the protagonists;*
- *Two full days, including "field visits";*
- *Limited number of participant; and,*
- *Each participant has access, through Leaderbook, to a collection of documents (descriptions, images, processed, tools, etc.) for each of experiences presented.*

The examples have the following characteristics:

- *They are in an advanced stage and now self -financially supporting;*
- *They relate to a specific issue;*
- *They have positive effects throughout the local community (not only for entrepreneurs but for the whole population / community);*
- *They have created local innovation; and,*
- *Leader funding has played a strategic role but the LAG has been able to use other resources from other funds / projects.*



Each LAG visited also had the task of creating a discussion group on Leaderbook. For each LAG that hosted a study visit, the LEADER TF is making a video documentary.

Main activities

Realization of the following study visits was attended by 40 LAGs;

1. LAG VALLI DI TURES ED AURINA (Provincia di Bolzano); TOPIC: Renewable energy, energy policies; Title: "enertour - Territorial policies for the development of renewable energies", date: 30/31 March-1 April.
2. LAG Delta 2000 THEME (Regione Emilia Romagna): Exploitation of natural resources, sustainable tourism, environmental policies; Title: "Spring Slow - How to design and implement an integrated sustainable tourism in rural areas of high environmental value, date: 29/30 April 2011 .
3. LAG Terre SHARDANA (Regione Sardegna); theme: local productions, biodiversity, employment, regional marketing; Title: "In search of lost taste - The enhancement of food chains and networks to create local employment opportunities and enhancing the area"; date: 27/28 May , 2011.
4. LAG Rocca di Cerere (Regione Sicilia) ; theme: Enhancing cultural resources, rural tourism, local area networks; Title: "Geopark - a cooperation project with the organization of natural resources, cultural, economic and entrepreneurial land Ennese"; date: 15/16 June 2011

The video documentaries for each visit (in progress)

Main results/benefits

- LAGs that participated in the study visit are in contact and are launching initiatives for cooperation and / or helping each other in carrying out their projects; and,
- Currently 15 other LAGs have volunteered to organize a study visit in their territory.

Contribution of the partners

The LAGs:

- organized the visit at the local level;
- involved local experts;
- prepared reports and presentations;
- started and managed a group discussion in Leaderbook; and,
- covered part of the expenses .

Additional information

<http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/4950>

