



Rural development with the Leader approach

Do you have an idea?

If you have an idea that can help your region to develop in the right direction, the Leader approach may be the thing for you. Leader can help you if your idea would benefit more people than just yourself. It could for instance be about forming a network to promote local business, developing new local solutions for environmental or energy concerns, increasing the attraction of the area, encouraging young people to get involved, or developing natural or cultural heritage values.

Leader can support your idea in various ways. One is through financing, but it may also be a matter of arranging meeting places and training. In order for you to get Leader support, you must shoulder some of the financing yourself. This you can do through unpaid work or by providing resources; it does not have to mean that you put money into the project. Leader supports projects that may result in environmentally, financially and socially sustainable development.

Cooperation is the key

The Leader approach is based on cooperation with other, local conditions and initiatives.

You bring knowledge and ideas about what is needed to develop your region. Leader

embraces your knowledge and you have the opportunity to influence the work.

Leader gathers people from public, private and non-profit sectors into a partnership. Together they form a Local Action Group, often called LAGs. In this way, entrepreneurs and rural citizens can work with each other and with the public sector in order to promote rural development. Through LAGs, you come into contact with other people who strive for rural development in your region.

What is a Leader area?

LAGs always work within a limited geographical area called a Leader area. LAGs also decide what projects to support. Their choice is guided by the local development strategy that applies to their particular Leader area.

You can use the Leader office as a sounding board and get ideas about how to proceed with your idea. If we are to succeed in developing rural areas, many hands are needed to do the work.

For more information:

www.jordbruksverket.se (Swedish only)

www.landsbygdsnatverket.se

What is Leader?

In Sweden there are 63 Leader areas, and in each area a Leader office is the hub for development efforts. Leader is an abbreviation of a French sentence, "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale". This means "coordination between activities for developing the rural economy". Leader is part of the Swedish Rural Development Plan 2007-2013, and gets its basic financing from the EU, the Government and the municipalities.