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# **The Swedish approach to good practices on rural development**

4th of March 2010, Rome

Nils Lagerroth, National Rural  
Network, Sweden



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- 1. Swedish Rural Network**
- 2. Leader plus experience**
- 3. Nomination process**
- 4. Examples of Good Practice**



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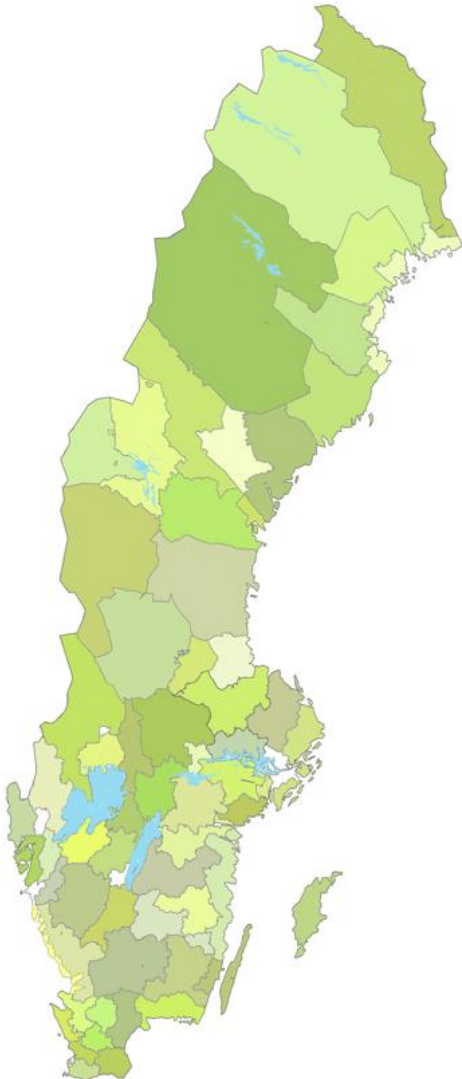
# Swedish Rural Gala





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# Sweden

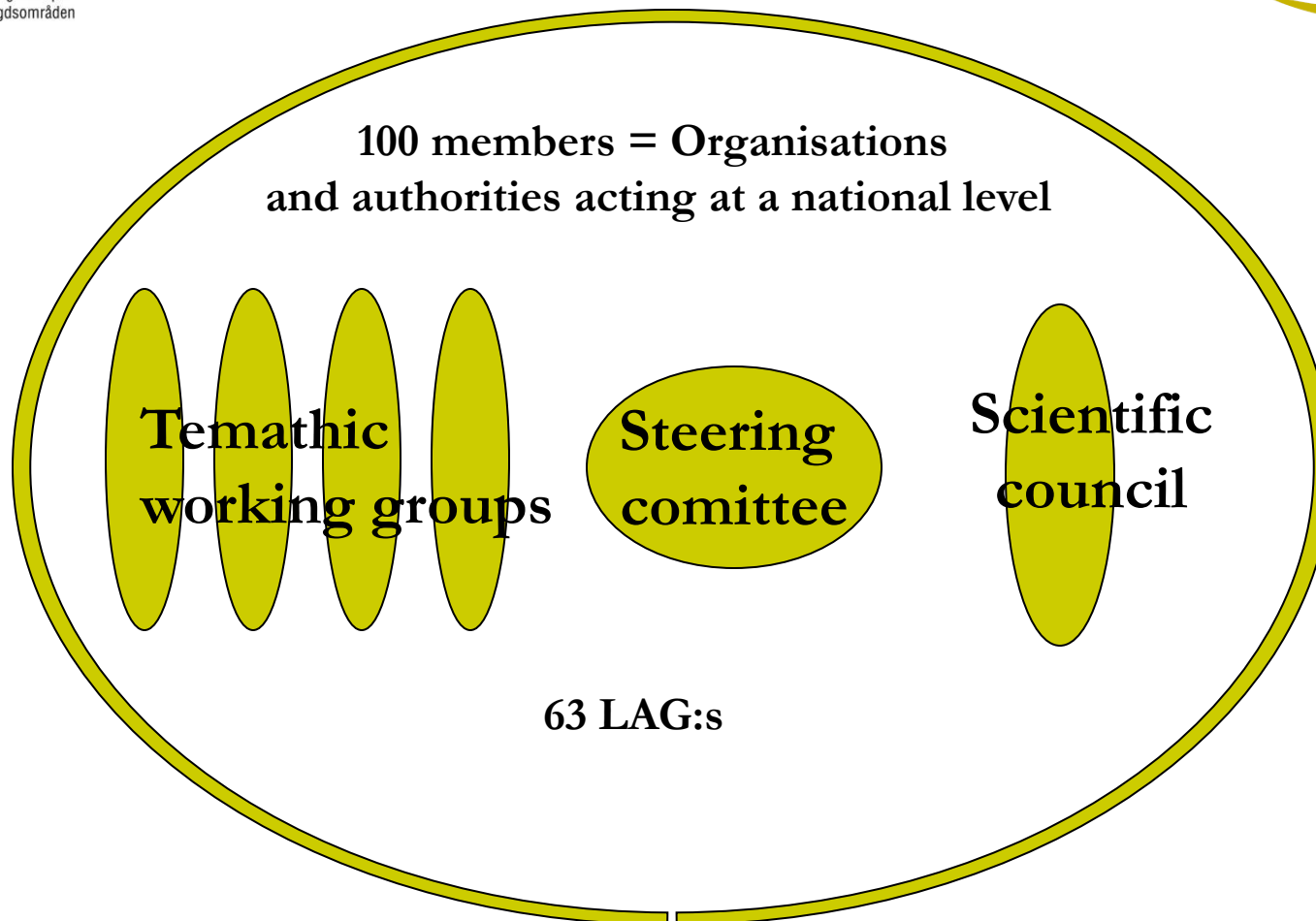


- 9 Million inhabitants
- 63 LAGs
- 3.2 Billion € in Rural Development Program
- 7 Million € for National Rural Network



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# Swedish NRN - Organisations and activities



**Today:**

- almost 100 national actors represent stakeholders + 63 LAG:s
- 50 on-going activities



# www.landsbygdsnätverket.se



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# Swedish Leader Award

## 2002 - 2006



- In total 54 projects were nominated
- Only the 12 Leader Plus groups could nominate
- Leader criteria were used
- Award ceremony at the yearly political week
- Important when informing for the new programme period
- Projects can be found at [www.leaderplus.se](http://www.leaderplus.se)



# Rural Awards objectives



The main objectives for the Rural Awards are:

- Give inspiration and ideas to local actors
- Inform the general public about the results in the Rural Development Program

and also:

- Create a discussion on the implementation of the program
- Provide information to researchers about success factors





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# Rural Awards categories



Categories for the Rural Awards are:

- Rural Project of the Year
- Rural Entrepreneur of the Year
- Leader Project of the Year

and for actions related to rural areas:

- Environmental initiative
- Youth
- Integration of new citizens
- Gender equality



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# Nomination Process



- 21 county administrative boards nominate in all categories except for the Leader Award
- 63 Leader groups nominate for the Leader Award
- The nomination period is January 20:th to April 15:th
- Criteria is based upon the objectives in the Swedish Rural Development Program



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# Jury



- 21 county administrative boards can vote for one project in each category except for the Leader award
- 63 Leader groups vote for the Leader of the Year
- The jury is working May 1:st - May 30:th
- The Rural Network steering group makes the final decision



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# Common Criteria



- Preserving and/or creating employment
- Creating conditions to increase the number of companies that develop, produce and/or commercialize new products and services
- Increased tourism
- Village renewal and development
- Strengthening the local infrastructure, increased access to basic services and broadband
- Maintaining and upgrading the natural and cultural heritage



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# Common Criteria



## Improvement of the environment and the landscape:

- Improving biodiversity
- Preserving the natural and cultural values
- Improving the water quality
- Tackling the Climate Change
- Promoting organic production
- Converting to renewable energy



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# Extra positive if the project or activity:



- is based on collaboration between multiple stakeholders and different sectors
- involves young people
- involves people with different ethnic backgrounds
- contributes to gender equality



## Leader criteria:

- Local involvement
- Bottom-up approach
- Innovative
- Networking
- Transferable as inspiration or role model for others
- Based on collaboration between multiple stakeholders and different sectors
- Contributes to the implementation of the Leader strategy
- Has the potential to influence the structures and practices in their area



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# Challenges for collection and dissemination of Good Practices



- How to secure good quality and good results in selected practices?
- How to define the needs of good practices among the target group?
- How to find efficient ways of dissemination?
- How to do research on methodology and success factors?



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# RURAL award winner 2010 – Biogas Brålanda



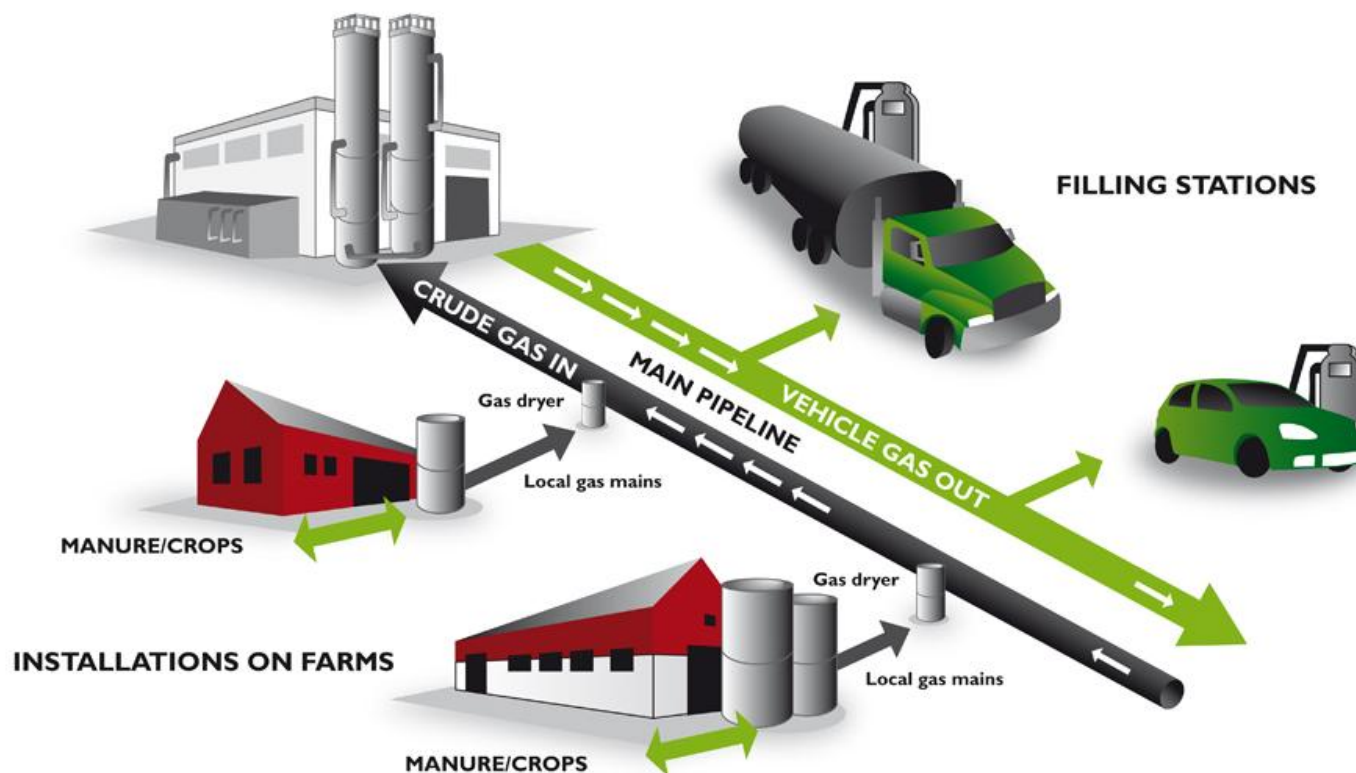


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# RURAL award winner 2010 – Biogas Brålanda



## INSTALLATION FOR UPGRADING THE GAS







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# RURAL award winner

## 2010 – Biogas Brålanda



### • CALCULATION 1st. STAGE

- 18 digestion plants
- 130 000 tonnes of manure

**20 GWh**

2,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of biogas for  
motor vehicles

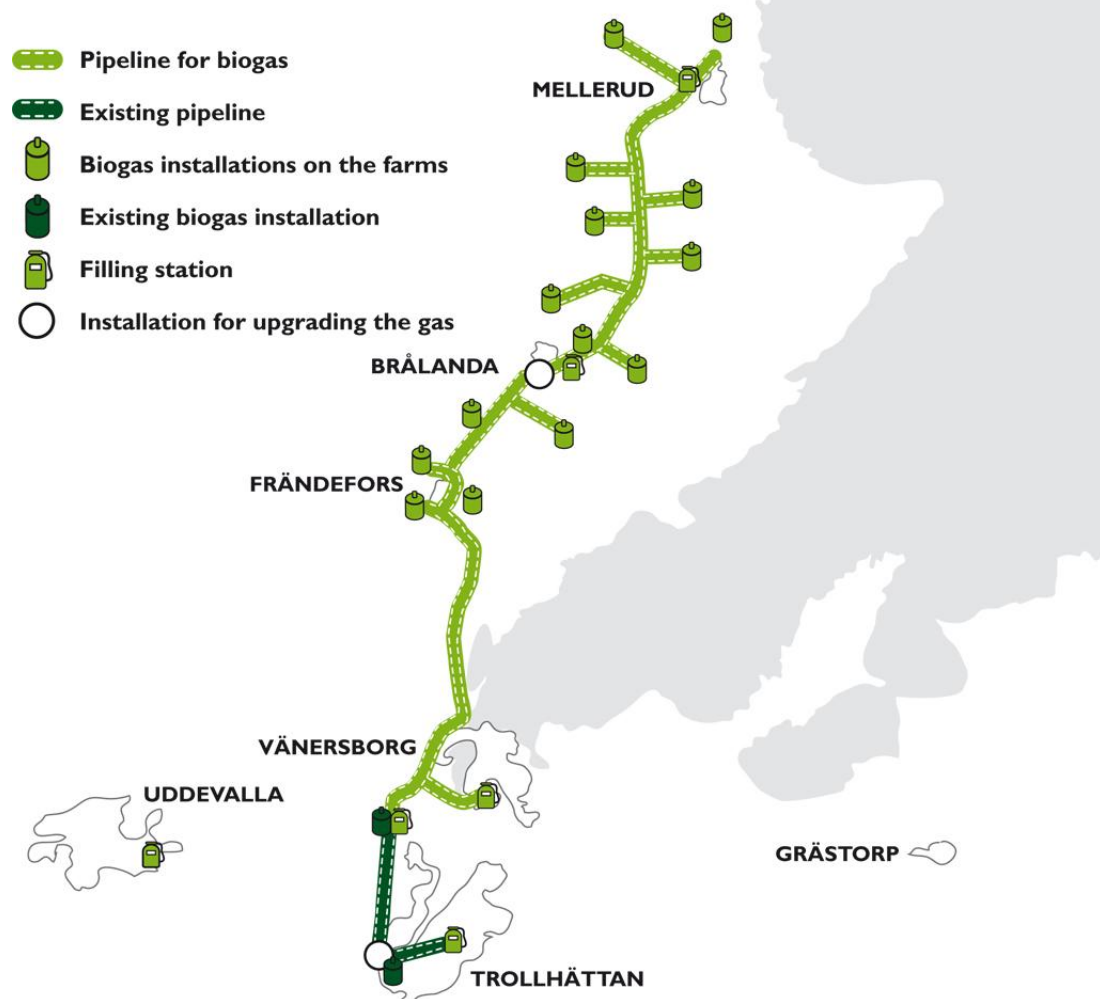
30 buses

30 lorries

250 personal vehicles

**FUTURE POTENTIAL**  
**VÄNERSBORG - MELLERUD**

**210 GWh**





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# RURAL award winner 2010 – LOMIS







# Local Food In Svartådalen - LOMIS



- Encourage the production of local and organic food
- Highlight local food traditions and improve conditions for locally manufacturing and processing of raw materials
- Encourage entrepreneurs to develop food businesses
- Provide culinary experiences for tourists
- Facilitate and strengthen the individual producer and the consumer's ability to make well-informed choices that are in line with sustainable development
- In collaboration with the local agricultural school provide opportunities for international exchanges and networking