



European LEADER Association for Rural Development – AISBL

Finnish Presidency January 2011 – December 2012

LAGs Global Networks Seminar

INVITATION

The LEADER method for bottom-up rural development was born in the EU 20 years ago. From few hundred Local Action Groups (LAGs) during the first programming period it has now extended to cover some 2 200 rural areas in all 27 Member States.

New groups are continuously emerging in the pre-accession countries but also outside the EU. In many cases individual Rural Networks and LAGs have been active in “exporting” the experience and launching pilot LEADER groups overseas. What can we learn from this experience? Can LEADER overcome the cultural barriers and socio-economic differences between the EU and the developing countries? Is the cooperation mutually fruitful or rather about solidarity and development aid? What can we reflect back to the EU concerning the methodological development?

The European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD) warmly welcomes You to the “LAGs’ Global Networks” seminar in mid-summer Finland, the Island of Ellivuori (www.ellivuori.fi) 15th-16th June 2011. You will hear about exotic LEADER piloting experiences from Africa, South America and Russia commented and analyzed by the OECD and European Commission experts.

And first of all, you’ll definitely extend your own global networks as well as your mind regarding the transnational rural cooperation.

In Sastamala, Finland 29th March 2011

Petri Rinne
ELARD President