

”EVERYDAY LIFE” WITH TNC LEADER-projects in 2007-2013



SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT PROJECTUAL PROCESS AND PROPOSALS



Euroopan maaseudun kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
Eurooppa investoi maaseutualueisiin

Viimsi 16.02.2010
Krista Antila

www.aktiivinen.fi



- LAG Aktiivinen Pohjois-Satakunta ry
- Leader+ - implemented 25 international projects, 13 TNC-projects (most active Finnish LAG in Leader+ - period)
- Now in LEADER – implementing/implemented actually 11 preparatory projects and 2 TNC-projects (over ten TNC- projects in applying phase actually + before the finish of LEADER maybewe have completed 25 TNC + 15/20 other projects)
- LAG-coordinator working since 2003 steadily (personal experience in partecipating in over 40 international projects in LEADER and helping other Finnish/European LAGs).



Mainlines and medicine ?



1. Why TNC – projects in LEADER-program ?
 2. TNC LEADER – Aching points and some proposals
-
3. Some example of photos on "What can be done in TNC-projects" giving idea...

1. Why international work in LEADER-program?



The progress has always inside it the seed of internationalisation...



The internationalisation is the bedrock of our common EUROPE...

LEADER



- LEADER – highlights networking and changing of experiences and in this context extremely good tools are:”
” Transnational collaboration projects”



- *The transnational approach is inborn quality of LEADER and Local Action Groups should remember that when implementing projects.
- *Very few LAGs actually understand the significance of COMMON EUROPEAN working and the need to create also unity. (Still less in the medium term administration...)

MEDICINE ?

Overall...in every level...

THE "BASIC MESSAGE"



**MORE ATTITUDINAL INFORMATION FOR CIVIL
SERVANTS AND LAG'S**

**HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER
AREAS DEVELOPMENT, BUT ALSO THE BEING A
PART OF THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT AND
WORKING FOR THE COMMON WELLBEING IN
OUR EUROPEAN AREA.**

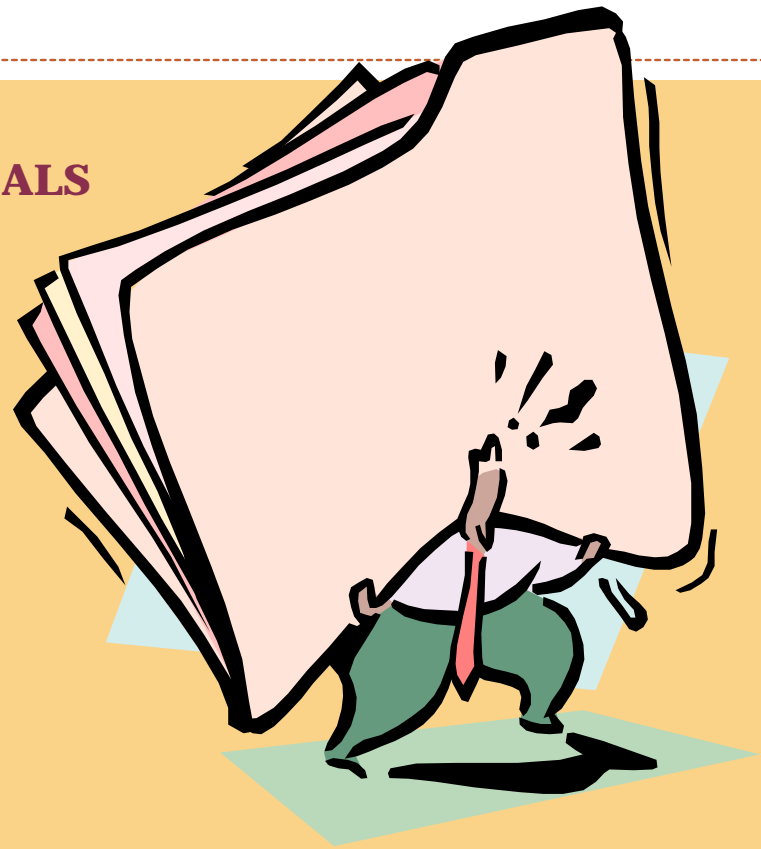
**(* TNC-PROJECTS POSITION AS A TOOL IN CREATING
UNITY AND OVERALL WELLBEING SHOULD BE
UNDERSTOOD AND EXTENDED!!!)**

2. TNC LEADER

Some aching points



AND PROPOSALS



1) The LAGs' different roles in TNC-project



Actually in most LAG's

- **Guarantee**
- **Activator**
- **Supervisor** (dictator...)

Actually in most LAG's in European level the LAG itself is the project **implementer** also!!!

- Different roles create chaos .!!!!!! (Disparity)

LAG's ROLE should be...

- Activator as a local reference
- Supervisor (partly)
- Guarantee, catalysator

BUT activate mainly local actors to implement the project and help in that process + "transnational red tape"

(and LAG's only in some projects the implementer)

The LOCAL ACTORS' role in TNC



Actually

- In most projects in European level there are not directly involved local actors...but only few local actors have opportunity to be involved in TNC – projects.
- **In Finland in most projects the "Local Actor" as implementer and LAG "helps" : YES!!!!**

Should be...

- **Direct project implementer in collaboration with the LAG (Grassroot level LEADER-approach)**

TNC LEADER- project (Finland)



- **TNC LEADER- project pretends more close working relation between a LAG and the local actor (applicant) as a national project in every projectual phase.**
- A) Ideas and developing (LAG + LOCAL ACTOR)
- B) Search of partners Europeanwide and contracting (LAG)
- C) Projectual writing (LAG + LOCAL ACTOR)
- - Process of applying in LAG + European level
- D) Implementation (LOCAL ACTOR) LAG supports.
- E) Conclusion (LOCAL ACTOR) LAG supports.
- F) "Post projectual work" (LOCAL ACTOR + LAG)

2.) Timing – what to do?

VERY IMPORTANT!

- **NON STOP APPLYING TIME FOR ALL EUROPEAN LAGS AS REGARDS TNC-PROJECTS !!!!**

***** "PUBLIC CALLS OF TENDERS "WILL KILL THE ACTIVITY AND WILLINGNESS OF GRASSROOT LEVEL.**

- The grassroot level activity is that what must be incentivated – not KILLED by increasing bureaucracy!
- **LEADER**-approach should give "time" to move and reflect for applicants in the phase of applying (it has been done it up to now in Finland.)

**TIMING: Waiting the decisions after LAG Council decision:
PROPOSAL IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE "DECISIONAL PLAYING":**



**This would eliminate
"the lose of time"!!!**

**The decision process
should had a clear
"dead line" if not
decision within 3
monthes –
automatically permit to
start the project and
"YES"-decision from
"upper level"
authorities .**

3.) TNC –projects position and project work



- The importance of TNC project should be increased!!!
"We are in our common Europe – we should collaborate more" !
LEADER gives the opportunity for grassroot level actors to collaborate. The projectual TNC-work shouldn't be restricted only for something made between LAG's , but "with the help of LAG's"
- **In Finland best results in TNC- work in LAG-areas which have a steady international coordinator working as personnel of LAG's and coordinating the internationalisation process in own LAG's area. (Approximately in 25% of Finnish LAGs)**
(*** LAG-managers are lacking many times the knowledge on international working methods or language skills. Moreover they have the administrative procedures of office to be run. They haven't time to deal with TNC –projects. TNC's will be scarce as long a time there's no serious approach (steady personnel) on them in the LAGs'.)

PROPOSAL:TNC- PROJECT WORK in LAGs



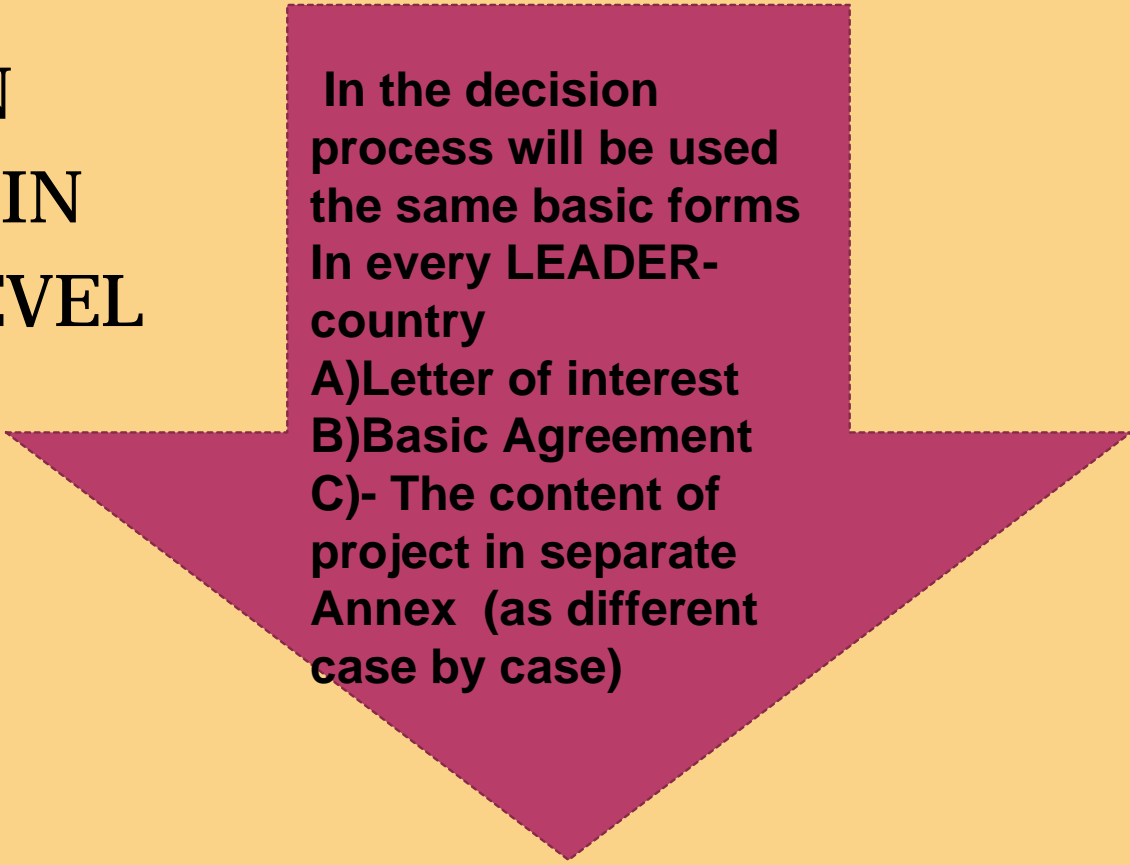
- **CREATES
SECURITY FOR
LOCAL ACTORS.**

**TNC- project sector
should be incentivated
in every LAG by
professional staff
employed to help and
develop the
internationalisation in
proper rural territory.**

- **Long term
development possible**
- **Projects are
supported/contracted
in a professional way.**

4.) PROPOSALS : COMMON FORMS

- HELPS
DECISION
PROCESS IN
EVERY LEVEL



In the decision
process will be used
the same basic forms
In every LEADER-
country

A) Letter of interest
B) Basic Agreement
C)- The content of
project in separate
Annex (as different
case by case)

5.)PROPOSAL: Economical side of TNC-projects:



- **NOT minimum/maximum restrictions in TNC –projects finance ; this permits different participations in projects.**
- **(“The money has still ”different value” in different countries”.- Needs are different and actions to be implemented as well.)**

6. Preparatory technical support



- Very good projectual tool when examining new partnerships and new projectual thematic
- Not needed always with already consolidated LAG-partnerships!
- Preparatory technical support should be available also for LAGs in order to participate in seminars and meeting with each others when needed! The face to face meeting helps to work together (technical solutions are excellent, but they doesn't replace personal contacts always).
- **SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN ALL COUNTRIES!**

7.)PROPOSAL: NOT FIXED TNC PROJECT IDEAS

- In some countries LAGs must present in the programming phase for the Local Action Plan the TNC project ideas and partners for all the programming period.
 - THIS IS NOT REASONABLE!
- The general thematics of development should be enough as "the project thematic planned in 2006 can be out of need completely in 2010 or already done by other implementers in the same area.This causes delays, new decisional processes etc.

8.) TNC project ideas



- PLEASE , DON'T CREATE "SEVERAL RESTRICTED THEMATICAL AREAS" for TNC-projects
- In every project should be driven many things – it's the method "how to implement" a TNC-project.
- The TNC can be made for instance on thematics of sport or culture but it advances for instance * ecotourism, entrepreneurship, youth work and a pool of different other things...

Simplifying the "RED TAPE" in LAG-level



- **THE STATUS OF LETTER OF INTEREST SHOULD BE SERIOUS ENOUGH FOR TNC PROJECT APPLYING PROCESS.**
- (LAGs are serious administrative units, not cheaters...)
- Process of setting up the TNC project: the LAG' should have when the LAG's Council decides on the project the following documents:
 - 1) National level forms (in own language)
 - 2) **Letters of interest** (copies later for "upper authorities")+ Preparatory action plan and projectual description (attachment)

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS:



- The start up of a project is not always easy. Actually different timing in approval-process causes delays of first common steering meetings and the organizing can be hard because of the timetable of project.
RESULT: the project suffers and the results as well...
- **Minimum three steering meetings** (start, in the middle and in the end).
- Possibility to write "open and free enough" the common actions part in order to be able to opt better solutions in the implementation of TNC-process
- Possibility to accept new LAGs to participate within the project (if serves the projectual aims) and there's enough time to set up common actions.

Simplifying "RED TAPE" in intermediate level



- Clear and simple enough process and a common system for persons making decisions in intermediate level on TNC/projects.
- **UNIFORM INFORMATION "HOW TO DO AND WHICH CRITERIA USE WITH APPROVAL" – IN THIS PHASE MAINLY THE IMPORTANCE IS TO MAKE THE "SECOND" VERIFICATION THAT THE PROJECTUAL PARTNERS REALLY APPLY IN PARTNER AREAS.**

IMPLEMENTATION of TNC -projects



The implementation and conclusion of a project and the "after implementing"-phase :

- Evaluation of project?
- Reports? – VERY NEEDED SIMPLY REPORTING FORMS FOR THIS PROGRAMS TNC-PROJECTS (LEAD-LAG COLLECTS REPORTS)
- Diffusion of knowledge
- Extremely important would be the disponibility of the projects in electronical form also after?

Risks and possible difficulties in TNC-projects



- Pretends time and resources
- Lacking of cultural understanding
- "Red tape"
- Estimation of final costs can be difficult in the applying phase.

THE MAIN ERROR OF A LAG IS TO PARTECIPATE IN A TNC – PROJECT BECAUSE "IT MUST BE DONE OTHERWISE WE LOSE FINANCE..."

TNC PROJECT FINANCE MUST BE UTILIZED IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT OUR RURAL AREAS

- Very much also abstract work
- Too ambitious projects
- Language skills
- TNC-projects jugded "only travelling and keeping fun"- not real work (absolutely not true)
- The significance of TNC is not well understood – it something which makes authorities to be afraid of ...
- The results can be visible within a time, not always immediately and they can't be measured by normal mapping of Bruxelles...



LEADER- projects still quite simple to implement : the relatively small size of projects and high support percentage gives a real opportunity to participating (small associations, or organizations).

* Reinforcing also the existing networks of local actors.



NETWORKING AND LEARNING ON EACH OTHERS' WORKING



**Enrichment of
working methods -
Diffusion of good
practises**

**The collaboration
between persons
with different
cultural background
produces
continuously new
things and
connections and
savings(time/money)**

**Local Action
Groups are able to
put in net different
local actors in order
to stimulate the areal
/economical
development from
the very grassroot
level.**



**Profits from TNC-
actions**



Reaching the critical mass

(” Together more force : areas, resources and people)

With the help of projects can be searched resources which are not available in the proper area (areas complementing each others),

GAINING UTILITY of globalisation process and preventing of negative effects.



TNC- actions can be :

***Youth work in the most different ways...
(Orienteering – sport and innovation-project
Italy-Finland)**



With TNC project
can be created
new enterprises
and the existing
enterprises can be
supported.

TNC- projects
create
employment also
for highly
educated persons
in rural areas.

LEADER
innovative and
adaptable !!!



**Direct economical influences on
rural areas; promotion of tourism
(TNC "A network of European Wetlands")**



TNC-projects can create additional value for many things/areas outside of the proper projectual thematical range.

Projectual visits can originate strong networking for instance between enterprises.



**TNC-project work can be:
Identification of new products and
market areas (TNC Orienteering – sport and
innovation)**



Unification of European area and changing of best practises between authorities of rural areas

TNC LEADER-project generally launches many other initiatives and projectual work.



Networking between local authorities in European level in rural areas (TNC Thermal tourism, culture)

TNC Street theater (Workshop)





Coordination project – Active North
Satakunta – Slovakian group visiting
LAG Aktiivinen



TNC – Street theater (KATU)– Culture lives in North Satakunta

TNC International Bridge : Culture actors visit in North Italy



**Collaboration
"european town
twinning" as a
consequence of
LEADER**





Krista Antila

Primus Ikaalinen – International event







Krista Antila

Twining of rural schools – Spoleto – Karvia Kantti





Krista Antila

TNC "Natureblog"



Coordination project - Interactive



TNC International Nordic Walking Events (Germany-Finland)





**TNC –
Twinning
European
Villages**



Presentation of Ecological Park Circuit for Polish

Still...to the very end...



- The implementation of an international collaboration process can be like to learn swimming in the start...

AND



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR KIND
ATTENTION!**