

PARTNERSHIP OFFER

Topic / title of the proposed project

ENRICHING VILLAGE HOUSES AND LIFE

Development of use of village houses and village services through a transnational cooperation

Objective:

Initial position / background / local context of the proposed project

Kainuu region is located in eastern Finland, along the Russian border. There are two LAGs operating on this area: LAG Living Kainuu and LAG Oulujärvi. Most of the area is very sparsely populated (3.9 inhabitants per km²), the profile of the area is mainly woodland, lakes and untouched nature with wild animals (bears, wolves, reindeer).

Villages are quite small and there are long distances between them. In the villages there is often a village house ("kylätalo" in Finnish language), which is usually owned by a non-profit organization/ association from the third-sector. The typical Finnish village house is usually an old, big building in good condition (renovated). It operates as a living room of the village: it is a meeting place for dwellers, workshop for hobbies, clubs and place for various events.

To purchase a village house in our region is relatively easy and inexpensive, but the maintenance of a village house is a big challenge. You can buy a beautiful romantic village house in Kainuu for very cheap price! But actually you are buying maintenance cost of about 10.000€ annually. So the owner (non-profit association) must find and provide versatile services and action that generates income, in order to be able to cover the maintenance costs of a big building. There is a need to develop a variety of new activities (services or products), which bring customers to the village house also from the outside of village.

We would like to carry out this development through a transnational cooperation by seeking and exchanging new ideas, new approaches to local and international networking. In a transnational co-operation we would like to provide to our partners special strengths and competences of our villages: 3D modeling as a new innovative marketing tool for villages; our event arrangements, networking experiences and ICT-competences are strong too.

Proposed objectives / activities

The main goal of the co-operation:

To find new ways to a more efficient and economically productive use of village houses through a transnational cooperation.

Activities:

1. Finding co-operation partners (2-4 different countries), who has same interests and willing to cooperate with Finnish villages
2. Preparing with them a co-operation project plan, in which as a result all partners will have new ideas, tools, and experiences how to use a village house more efficiently.
3. Making preparatory visits to the region of the partners: designing collaboration and drawing up contracts
4. Organizing a meeting or seminar in Kainuu for the cooperation partners

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Country and /or kind of partner you are looking for

We are looking for co-operation partners according to the following criterions:

- villages with "kylätalo" / village house or a house, which operates as a "living room" for dwellers
- owner is an association or other, non-profit, third-sector-body (not for private or corporate ownership)
- small villages with inhabitants not more than 1000, or the village has a remote location
- on the area of the partner there is a working Leader Group and it has an interest in designing a co-operation project on this subject

WE WILL GLADLY ACCEPT CONTACTS THROUGHOUT EUROPE.
(Possibly until the end of August 2010.)

Offering LAG:

Country / Region

LAG Living Kainuu
Finland, Kainuu region

Contact details

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