



Identification, Dissemination and Exchange of good practice in
Local Employment development and promoting better governance

SWEDEN
RURAL RENEWAL PROJECT

General details

Name of contact	Ulf Brangefeldt
Organisation	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences/Grangarden Rural Development
Address	Box 7034, SE 75007 Uppsala
Telephone no.	+46-70-2140872
Fax	+46-18-673420
Email address	Ulf.brangefeldt@telia.com (also ulf.brangefeldt@omv.slu.se)

Details of activity

Background to the case study	<p>Aims and objectives This Equal project aims to change systems that restrict local development in sparsely populated areas.</p> <p>Brief rationale Primarily, the partnership wants to change recruitment systems and to counteract obstacles to enterprises in order to give people the opportunity to stay and earn a living in the areas concerned.</p> <p>Implementing organisation Development partnership (Equal) with 16 partners</p> <p>Funders Equal (EC) 50 %, County Councils 25 %, Private 25 %</p> <p>When activity started / end date? 1.5 2002 – 1.7 2005 (Just now we plan to continue with dissemination activities</p>
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	during 2006 – 2007)
Description of activity	<p>Outline of programme / activities and approaches used The target group is made up of public authorities and organisations that are responsible for local issues and that are able to influence the local labour market. Rural Renewal worked with 12 subprojects and three theme areas The theme areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local working methods how to help individuals to develop their own ideas • Young people • Commercialisation (tourism, co-operation between entrepreneurs, marketing of the area) <p>Origins – how it came about – bottom up / top down, grew from previous initiative (if so what) From previous initiative in Leader II and ADAPT. It was a bottom up approach. The earlier experience was the background to the Equal project. But the Equal project has the focus on the local labour market and how the village groups (local communities) can find a strategy for their work at the local level.</p> <p>Who was involved in the design, management and delivery of the programme A collaboration between local villages groups, rural organisations and research (universities). In Sweden we have today over 3500 so called village groups or local communities. These groups are a result of a mobilization process during the last 30 years.</p> <p>Recognition – has the programme been recognised as good practice? If so, by whom? Yes from municipalities, local organisations and regional level</p>
Policy context within which the programme operates	<p>Is there an explicit relationship between policy priorities local activities? Not very well developed. The aim is to cause an impact on the systems and local level</p>

	<p>Is the policy context supportive / prohibitive? From previous project (LEADER II) we had experiences which we have developed. In Equal we have a similar partnership as in Leader II. But to increase the influence of our work we add research to improve our capacity. Important is also innovative actions with our experience from Leader and to meet the specific questions in the Equal project.</p> <p>Has the policy context changed during the life of the activity Yes but not enough. It is the reason why we want to continue during 2006 - 2007</p> <p>Which came first – local activities or policy priorities (i.e. is activity leading or following policy priorities)? Our starting point is the local level and the systems which have influence on the local development</p>
<p>Geographical focus of the case study</p>	<p>At what level does the programme operate? Local level but also at other levels depending how to influence the systems</p> <p>The project is concentrated to Sweden's four northernmost counties (Jämtland, Västernorrland, Västerbotten and Norrbotten)</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Outputs – scale and scope of people reached through the programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has changed attitudes among relevant authorities. Many authorities works sectorial and have not enough information to see all consequences of their decisions. • Interaction between the levels – a better understanding of the local problems. The learning of the local situation and a better understanding can increase the position for the local level. People on local level are villing to take a responsibility for a national/regional policy if they also have a influence on it. • Models for a better cooperation. The interaction between the level had/has to be more developed for a more sustainable process. In the project we have developed with different models. The evaluation of

	<p>this work we like to use for further implementation activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation between entrepreneurs. To create new jobs in sparsely populated areas the existing entrepreneurs are important. Very often their cooperation is very weak. New opportunities also open the doors for unemployed people. The cooperation also brings synergi. <p>Outcomes: at local level – what difference at local level and at regional and / or national level – what difference made?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment. • Changing the decision process (regional level) • A new examination at the national level in order to change systems for better opportunities how to use nature resources . One obstacle for the development at local level in nature protected areas is that people not are allowed to use nature resources. In our project we have developed a model for a cooperation between the local and regional/national level. The name in our project of this activity is “local management”. Important here is the balance between conservation interest and local economic interest. As one activity we had a workshop in the Swedish Parliament 2005. As keynote speaker we had the minister of Environment. During the conference the examination was launched and is still in progress. The aim of this examination is to use results from the Equal project and other relevant information to be used more general in Sweden. <p>Any impact at European level? Not yet (We are also involved in thematic group regarding “Partnership” maybe our experience also will have a impact and the European Level)</p>
Partners’ details	<p>Partners are of three kinds</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsible for subproject (local action groups (village groups), municipalities, organisation for rural advisers 2. Strategic partner to facilitate the impact of the results (National organisations; Entrepreneurs,

	<p>Municipalities and the Organisation in Sweden for Same people)</p> <p>3. Research to make analysis of local problem and develop a methodology ; The Swedish University of Agriculture, Mittuniversity, Umeå University and the University of Luleå</p>
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Theme-Specific Questions

Who was targeted by the programme?	Local and regional authorities
Which levels of government were involved, informed or consulted?	Regional level but also the national level. Above some examples are mentioned. But in general they were invited to follow our work. We have also delivered our results and reports to national commission with the aim to develop a national strategy for future rural development actions. At the regional level it is county council but also public offices. These offices have participated in our seminars and continues got information.
What actions resulted in mainstreaming?	This is a process what we want to do just now.
Sustainability	<p>The use of methods</p> <p>We can see a difference between result from our subprojects in the short terms and method used for the activity. If we can implement the method to be used it will also led to a more sustainable change.</p> <p>This kind of strategy has been used are for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the municipalities to offer youth opportunities • The way of working for the local health insurance office and labour market office to be more involved in the development process and understand the individual situation and possibilities. • Regional/National offices to work together with the local level and see their actions as and interplay with the local level and also learn and accept that people at the local level has knowledge and experience very important for the offices work. <p>The question of sustainability is mostly to change values and attitudes. Also people in the local action groups need to change attitudes to be more successful in their activities.</p>

	<p>With an increased interaction between the levels the local level will have better understanding of the society and knowledge of the environment.</p>
<p>Successes / lessons learned</p>	<p>What contributed to the programme's success?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The model cooperation between Research – actors – and local level • The participation of different level and also the focus <p>What lessons have been learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To influence public sector takes a long time. To facilitate the process it should have been useful with more alliances. <p>If they had their time again what would the do differently? See above – but we hope to continue with the lesson we have learnt</p>