

Summary Report

Trainee:	Leotrim Gërmizaj, Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo
Host organization:	Kim Smedslund, LAG EMO-Finland
Period of programme:	27 May 2019 – 11 June 2019

Executive Summary

The host programme 27.5-11.6.2019 and implementation

1. Leader-work (in practice) and administration (2-days) - Analysing and reporting
The host told about LEADER work in Finland and in LAG EMO in theory and through some projects implemented by the LAG.
2. Visit of 6 RD projects in the LEADER-group area (2 days)
We had time to visit some projects in Finland (also in Estonia and Latvia): In LAG EMO area eg, we visited a lake and environment related project where village inhabitants learn more on how to take care of your local nature.
3. The Finnish system of RD 1 day (Ministry, Management, payment authorities)
The host explained the Finnish LEADER-system. We visited the ministry (legislation) and the regional authority responsible for legal evaluation of the projects and payments)
4. The Finnish RD system for villages and communities (1-2 days) with visits to villages, to the Finnish Village Movement Association. The regional village ombudsman's role.
The host explained the Finnish village development system and we visited some villages
5. The Finnish farmers organisations and their work (possible visits) 1-2 days. We met a local farmer's NGO in Tuusula
6. The 4H and Rural Youth Europe (If time) and their functioning 1 day. We visited 4H Tuusula (on a summer camp day to see them in action and talk with the manager and Hyvinkää Youth council (their meeting). Leotrim presented Kosovo and Kosovo youth activities.
7. Study tour to Estonia (youth activities, health paths, youth entrepreneurship) and to the Latvian rural parliament (New paradigms of RD) 4 days altogether. We had the opportunity to visit as well some Estonian actors (an active village with organised afterschool activities, outdoor activity paths and a multifunctional open office for entrepreneurs and young entrepreneurs. In the Latvian Rural Parliament new paradigms of rural development were explored.

Altogether LAG EMO considers that the 2-week traineeship was valuable for both as we learned about the situation in Kosovo and its Rural development. The problems are similar, the solutions are mostly similar, or at least a common understanding on the solutions was quite clear. Finnish village practices (over 3000 registered as NGO's, regional NGO's and a national Umbrella) and the tripartite LEADER-board including also just citizens from rural areas could be transferable ideas. Also the importance of good relations with decisionmakers and rural grassroot is supporting RD in Finland.

Leotrim Germizaj participated actively in the meetings and gave comments to the hosts of the visits we made, especially the youth visits. It was a good mutual learning process and understanding each others work and challenges.

Kim Smedslund

LAG EMO
