



LEADER

Ykkösakseli



Almost
200
villages



4
cities/ municipalities



Population
of rural areas

122 500
population altogether
140 000

Leader Ykkösakseli

LOCAL ACTION GROUP

YKKÖSAKSELI operates in Southern Finland in the rural areas of Western Uusimaa and Southwest Finland and in the municipalities of Karkkila, Lohja, Salo and Vihti. This area has valuable cultural environments and meaningful local cultural heritage. There are historic attractions, building heritage and numerous landmarks. There are also diverse bodies of water and lively villages.

Our main focus

is to create a stronger local identity and encourage local democracy. We develop local communities and associations by strengthening their activities and expertise. We emphasize biodiversity as a value. Local entrepreneurship is supported through investments and networks.

Our projects

SusiAita

In 2016 the SusiAita, 'wolf fence', project shared information and organised expert panels and public events on protecting domestic animals from wolves and preparing for wolf attacks.



Repairing the Ahmoo Community Hall

The Ahmoo Community Hall has been repaired to function as a meeting space for locals and a location to organise events. The renovation began in 2010 and ended in 2018 and took several projects to finish.

Nuukсион Taika

An adventure activities and services company Nuukсион Taika in the Nuukсион national park invested in refurbishing their sauna facilities and revising their energy solutions.



What is Leader?

Leader is a local development method used to engage local actors in the design and delivery of strategies, decision-making and resource allocation for the development of their rural areas. The method has been in use for more than 20 years and it is implemented by around 2 600 Local Action Groups (LAGs). It covers over 54 % of the rural population in the EU and brings together public, private and civil-society stakeholders.

In the rural development context, LEADER is implemented under the national and regional Rural Development Programmes of each EU Member State, co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Leader in Finland

Mainland Finland has 54 Leader groups and the autonomous area of Åland has one. All rural areas in Finland have their own Leader group. The Leader network in Finland is very extensive and Finnish LAGs have more than 12 000 members.



LEADER

Ihmisten kokoisille ideoille!

Did you know...

That all the 54 Finnish Leader Groups have a Leader flag in their logo? This collective Leader brand was created in 2013.

About Finland

97%

of the Finnish population can reach all crucial services in 30 minutes by car, e.g. primary school, pharmacy, library, postal service, nearest grocery.

FINLAND IS one of the most rural countries in the EU. **95 %** of Finland can be considered rural, **30 %** of Finnish people live in the countryside and **40 %** of Finnish enterprises are situated in rural areas.

THERE ARE 187 888 lakes in Finland and almost as many islands.

THE AVERAGE FINN will consume as much as **12 kilos** of coffee annually.

78% of Finland's total area is forestry land.

THERE ARE more saunas than cars in Finland. Even the Burger King in Helsinki has a sauna.



YOU CAN FIND the highest point in Uusimaa in Karkkila. This ridge in Loukkumäki reaches 174 metres above sea level.

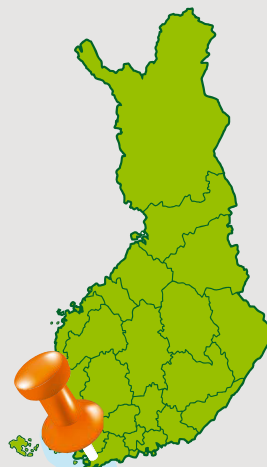
THE PRESIDENT of Finland Sauli Niinistö is from Salo.

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The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas