

Amaze Me Leader Change Makers

Project Description

Amaze me Leader – Change Makers is a rural development project that combines local, interregional and transnational activities. In August 2018, the Dumfries & Galloway LAG in Scotland will host an AML adventure seminar for young people aged 18 to 29 in EU member states. The Finnish Leader groups participating in the project send young people of their own areas to Scotland's Amaze Me Leader event organized by the partner LAG.

The objective of the project is:

- to raise young people's awareness of the Leader approach and rural community development,
- to encourage young people to get involved in community development initiatives and local decision making in their own local areas, but also at a wider national and transnational level,
- to enhance young rural entrepreneurship through experience-based learning and
- to promote intercultural interaction and European cooperation.

The project will increase the participation of young people, networking and international experience. Through the adventure seminar visits and experience pedagogical approach, young people learn about local development and the impact of Leader funding. Young people gain new knowledge, cultural understanding, courage and ability to work for their home region, and get the opportunity to exchange experiences of working and living in rural areas with each other and with decision makers.

The project is implemented by LAGs Piällysmies ry (coordinator), Veej'jakaja ry, Rajupusu Leader, Leader Länsi-Saimaa ry, North Kymen Kasvu ry and Dumfries & Galloway LAG in Scotland with its own project budget. The target group is the young people living in these LAG areas and, more broadly, the project will also benefit the stakeholders and project developers who need ideas from young people.

An expert in assessment, methodology and conceptualization is the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences, XAMK, which also arranges a Finnish seminar and a final seminar as a student co-operation.

The AML 2018 adventure on 5th - 12th of August 2018 in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland

During the week-long event LAG D&G hosted altogether over 50 young people age 18-30 from across Europe. Each participant represents a Leader Action Group from their own area, visiting local host agencies providing Leader-related tasks and problem solving based on young people's own experiences and learning.

AML gives young people an excellent opportunity to be part of an active group of young people who want to learn new skills, improve cultural competence, gain understanding of rural communities, businesses and what can be achieved with LEADER funding. Amaze Me Leader provides a springboard to highlight and to promote the value and contribution that young people can make to the development of the economic, social and environmental sustainability of our rural communities.

Within the transnational project "AML Change Makers" 20 young people from Finland gained new experiences and international contacts during AML in Scotland. The AML Change Makers project included three separate events to participate:

1. **Training weekend 16.-17.6.2018** where the group of participants will meet to give the basic understanding of LEADER activities and tools to make notes and generate ideas to be reflected and processed during the adventure seminar in Scotland.

2. **AML Event in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland 5.-12.8.2018** delivered by D&G LAG, Sleeping Giants Community development CIC and host organizations.
3. **Post-seminar/Think Tank in Kyyhkylä Manor, Mikkeli 22.-23.9.2018** discuss and spread ideas and experiences with local organizations, communities and decision makers, to report of what was learned along the way, and learn about processing ideas to Leader projects.

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