



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPE INVESTING IN RURAL AREAS
Agricultural Fund for Rural
Development



Transnational cooperation agreement

Name of the project:
Circular economy in countryside
Global Eco - Inno Eco

Transnational Leader-project 2017-2020
Programming period 2014-2020

Between:

Organisation: Aktiivinen Pohjois-Satakunta LAG, Finland
Address: Keskuskatu 51 b, 38700 Kankaanpää, Finland
Identification nr FI-031
Surname and First name of the Signatory: Juha Vanhapaasto
Function: Director
Telephone: +358505206396 (Krista Antila)
Email: juha.vanhapaasto@kankaanpaa.fi

Hereinafter referred to as the **Lead Partner**.

LAG Aktiivinen Pohjois-Satakunta is a local action group implementing a strategy in line with the requirements of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

And partner 1. :

Organisation: MTÜ Lääne-Harju Koostöökogu (Western Harju Partnership), Estonia
Address: Ranna tee 8, Vasalemma 76101, Harjumaa, Estonia
Identification nr EE-004
Surname and First name of the Signatory: Rafael Milerman
Function: Chairman of the Management Board
Telephone: + 372 58085407 (Ede Teinbas, Measure Coordinator)
Email: info@vomentaga.ee

LAG Lääne-Harju Koostöökogu is a local action group implementing a strategy in line with the requirements of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

And partner 2. :

Organisation: Gal Valle Umbra e Sibillini, Italy
Address: Via C. Agostini 5, 06034 Foligno (PG) Italy
Identification number: IT-UMB-005
Surname and First name of the Signatory: Gianpiero Fusaro
Function: Chairman of the Management Board
Telephone: +39 0742340989
Email: info@valleumbraesibillini.com

LAG Gal Valle Umbra e Sibillini is a local action group implementing a strategy in line with the requirements of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

And partner 3. :

Organisation: LAG Aizkraukles rajona partnerība, Latvia
Address: Lāčplēša iela 1-52.kab., Aizkraukle, LV-5101, Latvia
Identification number: LV-002
Surname and First name of the Signatory: Alda Paura
Function: administrative director
Telephone: +371 28367981 (Ilvija Ašmane - project manager)
Email: ilvija.asmane@aizkrauklespartneriba.lv

LAG Aizkraukles rajona partnerība is a local action group implementing a strategy in line with the requirements of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

And Partner 4. :

Organisation: LAG AD ELO - Associação de Desenvolvimento Local da Bairrada e Mondego, Portugal
Address: Rua António Lima Fragoso, 22, 3060-216 Cantanhede, Portugal
Identification number: PT-022
Surname and First name of the Signatory: José Mário Fidalgo Lopes
Function: Executive Director
Telephone: +351 231 419 550
E-mail: geral@adelo.pt

LAG AD ELO - Associação de Desenvolvimento Local da Bairrada e Mondego is a local action group implementing a strategy in line with the requirements of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

And Partner 5.:

Organisation: LAG Campidano, Italy
Address: via Trento 1 - San Gavino Monreale (CA) ITALY
Surname and First name of the Signatory: Stefano Musanti
Function: President
Telephone: +39 070 937491
E-mail: GALCAMPIDANO@GMAIL.COM

LAG Campidano is a local action group implementing a strategy in line with the requirements of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The undersigned, representing the Local Action Group (LAG) partners, agree on the following:

**Article 1
Aim of the Agreement**

1.1 The aim of the present Agreement is the organization of a partnership in order to realize the transnational LEADER project "Circular economy in countryside. Global Eco-Inno Eco", in accordance to the following annex:

Annex 1: Description sheet of the project with planned activities and budget.

1.2 Annex 1 is integrated part of the present agreement.

Article 2

Duration of the Agreement

2.1 Present Agreement shall only have effect after notification by the respective National Managing Authorities of the order giving grants for the project. It will terminate upon information given by the project lead partner of the acceptance of the final report by the respective National Managing Authorities and of the liquidation of the last statement of claim.

2.2 Duration time of this agreement is three years and it enters in vigour when partners have signed the agreement. Submission of project applications of partners can not be contemporary as the European national/regional authorities timing for bureaucratic timing is different. The transnational cooperation project will finish when the final payment request related to transnational cooperation (TNC) project is approved by relevant national/regional authorities.

2.3 Maximum implementation duration/time frame of the agreement which can start from the planned dates when project partners submit their respective project proposals in relation to the TNC project to the relevant national/regional authorities and finish when the final payment request related to the TNC project is approved by the relevant national/regional authority. The technical implementation time varies between partner countries and is not considered in active implementation time of the TNC projects common part.

Article 3

Place of the project activities

3.1 All project activities will be implemented in LAG Aktiivinen Pohjois-Satakunta area and other parts of Finland (Leading partner), **Western Harju Partnership** area as well other parts of Estonia; **LAG** Campidano area and LAG Valle Umbra e Sibillini in Italy, **Bairrada e Mondego** area in Portugal and **Aizkraukle District Partnership** area in Latvia.

Article 4

Obligations and responsibilities

4.1 The undersigned, representing the LAG partners, hereby undertake to implement the cooperation project defined in the Annex and also certify the veracity of the information contained therein.

4.2 The Lead Partner LAG performs the following functions:

- leading and coordination of the project;
- financial coordination of the project: gathering information on funding requests submitted by each LAG partner;

- coordination and follow-up of the project: leading and monitoring the implementation of the project and the tasks of each partner. Tracking the financial aspects of the implementation of the project, organizing exchanges between partners, preparing progress reports of the cooperation project;

- verification of compliance with the commitments of each partner.

4.3 The role of each partner LAG:

All project partners will apply for international cooperation project in their respective LAG and all project partners will use the name of the project: "Circular economy in countryside. Global Eco - Inno Eco."

In addition to submitting the application and partners' active participation in the project, the LAG partner is also responsible for:

- the administrative and financial transactions it directs within the project;
- the establishment of project financing for the inherent part it is concerned;
- assisting the Lead partner LAG to the reporting activities by providing on time information requested;
- immediately informing the Lead partner LAG of any event likely to cause temporary or permanent discontinuing or any other deviation of the operation;
- the preservation of all records justifying the expenditure incurred and showing evidence of the nature of public co-funding;
- providing all necessary documents to a control or an audit by the competent authorities.

4.4 Project does not foresee coordination expenses paid to the lead partner. Every partner covers proper expenses and ensures funding for the actions classified to be done as common actions. If one of the partners will do the action by the part of the other and the transfer of funding is needed, this will be decided among the partners.

4.5 There is a limited liability of any cooperation partner in case of force majeure agreed within this project.

4.6 There is no liability of the other project partners due to any damages and costs resulting from the non-compliance of any of the cooperation partners. The partners are not responsible on other partners' actions or decisions taken.

Article 5

Working languages

5.1 Working language of the partnership shall be English. Any official internal document of the operation shall be made available in English language.

5.2 In national measures every partner can use own national languages. Translation of necessary documents from English to proper language whenever needed is on partners own expenses.

Article 6
Dispute resolution, applicable law, translation languages

- 6.1 First and preferred means of dispute resolution by amicable settlement.
- 6.2 Any dispute between the parties arising from the interpretation or application of provisions of the Agreement and which can not be settled amicably shall be brought before the courts of the country where the Lead Partner LAG is located.
- 6.3 In the event of translation of this agreement and its annexes, the English version shall prevail.

Article 7
Inclusion of new partners

- 7.1 Changes in partnership are possible by written amendment agreed and signed by all the cooperation partners in case of extending the partnership. Changes will be documented in agreement annex documents, if needed.
- 7.2 Modification of budget is possible without specific announcement for partners when treating the national part of the project implementation. When it treats common actions, changes must be communicated for the lead partner and partners.
- 7.3 Each partner is in charge to notify relevant authorities (nationally) as regards the change/s in projects schedule and implementing.

Article 8
Project management

- 8.1 Project management committee consists of members from each participating LAG and is chaired by the lead/coordinating partner. Each LAG can nominate maximum three persons to the management committee.
- 8.2 Secretariat of the project management committee is provided by the lead/coordinating partner in collaboration with project partners as follows common decisions.
- 8.3 At least 4 management committee meetings will be kept within the duration of the project based on written invitation by the lead/coordinating partner in collaboration with participating partners eventually in charge for organizing locally the premises and program outside of the meeting. The management committee meetings can be held in connection of study trips of the project and other activities.
- 8.4 If necessary and not possible within economic/administrative terms, partner can participate in meetings also by distance using conference technology appliances.
- 8.5. Electronic meetings will be kept if needed. The meetings will be documented each as a separate agenda.

Article 9
Amendment of the agreement

9.1 This agreement shall only be amended in writing by means of an amendment to that effect signed by all parties involved.

Annexed to this agreement and thereof part of it, is the following document:

Annex 1: Description sheet of the project with planned activities and budget.



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SIGNATURES

Partner 1 (LEAD Partner):

LAG AKTIIVINEN POHJOIS-SATAKUNTA - FINLAND

Registration code: FI15747502

Name of representative (project contact): Krista Antila

Position: Executive manager

Name of the official representative (signature): Juha Vanhapaasto

Position: Director

Place (address, including country): Keskuskatu 51 b, 38700 Kankaanpää, FINLAND

Telephone: +358 505206396

E-mail: juha.vanhapaasto@kankaanpaa.fi

Date (5.03.2018):

Signature:

Juha Vanhapaasto, Director



Pohjois-Satakunta



Euroopan maaseudun
kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
Eurooppa investoi maaseutualueisiin



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Partner 2:

MTÜ Lääne-Harju Koostöökogu (WESTERN HARJU PARTNERSHIP) - ESTONIA

Registration code: 80239761

LAG identification nr: EE-004

Name of representative (*project contact*): Ede Teinbas

Name of the official representative (*signature*): Rafael Milerman

Position: Chairman of the Management Board

Place (address, including country): Ranna tee 8, Vasalemma 76101, Harjumaa, ESTONIA

Telephone: + 372 5085407

E-mail: ede@vomentaga.ee

Date (5.03.2018):

Signature:

Rafael Milerman, Chairman of the Management Board



**LÄÄNE-HARJU
KOOSTÖÖKOGU**



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Partner 3:

LAG AIZKRAUKLES RAJONA PARTNERĪBA - LATVIA

Registration code: 40008066852

Identification nr.: LV-002

Name of representative (*project contact*): Ilvija Ašmane

Position: Project manager

Name of the official representative (*signature*): Alda Paura

Position: Administrative manager

Place (address, including country): Lāčplēša iela 1-52.kab., Aizkraukle, LV-5101, LATVIA

Telephone: +371 28367981

E-mail: ilvija.asmane@aizkrauklespartneriba.lv

Date (5.03.2018):

Signature:

Alda Paura, Administrative manager



AIZKRAUKLES
RAJONA
PARTNERĪBA

Partner 4:

LAG AD ELO - Associação de Desenvolvimento Local da Bairrada e Mondego - PORTUGAL

Registration code:

Name of representative (project contact): José Mário Fidalgo Lopes

Position: Executive Director

Name of the official representative (signature): José Mário Fidalgo Lopes

Position: Executive Director

Place (address, including country): Rua António Lima Fragoso, 22, 3060-216 Cantanhede, Portugal

Telephone: +(351) 231 419 550

E-mail: geral@adelo.pt

Date (5.03.2018):

Signature:

Executive Director



adelo
associação de desenvolvimento
local da bairrada e Mondego



PROGRAMA DE
DESENVOLVIMENTO
RURAL 2014-2020





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Partner 5:

LAG Gal Valle Umbra e Sibillini - ITALY

Registration code: UMB-005

Name of representative (project contact): Marco Parroni

Position: project manager

Name of the official representative (signature): Gianpiero Fusaro

Position: Head of the Board

Place (address, including country): via C. Agostini 5 – 06034 Foligno (PG) ITALY

Telephone: +39-0742.340989

E-mail: info@valleumbraesibillini.com

Date (5.03.2018):

Signature:

Gianpiero Fusaro - Head of the Board



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PER LO SVILUPPO RURALE
L'Europa investe nelle zone rurali



Regione Umbria
Giunta Regionale



GAL
VALLE UMBRA
E SIBILLINI

Partner 6:

LAG GAL Campidano - ITALY

Registration code: 91027190924

Name of representative (*project contact*): Stefano Musanti

Position: President

Name of the official representative (*signature*): Stefano Musanti

Position: President

Place (address, including country): via Trento,1 – 09037, San Gavino Monreale, ITALY

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Date (5.03.2018)

Signature:



**Gal
Campidano**

galcampidano.it



**Description of the project "Circular economy in countryside. Global Eco - Inno Eco"
with planned activities and budget**

1. Aims and target groups of the project

1.1. The aim of the project is:

To support the local entrepreneurs through transnational cooperation:

1.1.1 Develop knowledge in circular economy and encourage enterprises to use green and circular economy approach in their production and marketing cycle (using innovative technology and from people to people, mouth to mouth);

1.1.2 Encourage young people and younger generation of the project target enterprises to stay in rural areas and become economically sustainable.

1.2. Target group of the projects is local stakeholders in different regions, including:

- small and medium size enterprises
- farmers and/or their associations
- local municipalities and authorities
- local development organizations
- wider public in participating regions

2. Project activities

Each project partner will compose and submit project on behalf of their respective LAGs, following rules and guidelines set by their respective RDPs and managing authorities, adding activities taking place in their respective LAG's area that help to ensure achieving the goals of the cooperation project.

2.1. Main activities:

2.1.1 Best practices exchange and creating a transnational network of green economy and eco-innovation experiences,

2.1.2 Study visits, trainings and workshops in national and transnational level,

2.1.3 Networking the operators of the sector and increasing expertise on ecoinnovations and circular economy among rural entrepreneurs as well territorial stakeholders,

2.1.4 Raising awareness of a wider public in ecoinnovative approaches in participating territories

2.2 Joint activities:

2.2.1 Transnational study trips

2.2.1.1 Every LAG will organize study trip to their region for partners, showing their best practices and showcases. Every study trip also includes a management committee meeting. Altogether there is planned 7 international events - 6 study trips and one final seminar. Number of study trips may change, depending on financial and timing possibilities.

2.2.1.2. All study trips will last approximately 4 days: a seminar/workshop day, a tour day and two days for travelling.

2.2.1.3 Outputs of the study trips/meetings will be:

- Review of the activities plan and detailed time schedule for the project;
- Project activities are explained to all benefiting parties, including entrepreneurs;
- Entrepreneurs are familiar with another country (and another market);
- Entrepreneurs have new cooperation partners and communication skills have improved;
- Exchange stories (in the form of exchange diaries) and photos are available - possibility for others to learn from the experience.

2.2.1.4 Participants in the study trips: approximately 30 persons in each study trip (6 partners – each partner will have approximately 5 representatives, including entrepreneurs).

Place and time ¹	Topic ²
September 2018 in Finland	Innovation in agriculture, biogas, energy self-sufficiency
March 2019 in Italy LAG Valle Umbra and Sibillini	Waste management Agrifood sector focusing on typical local products (Biodynamic farming)
May 2019 in Estonia	Renewable energy, green economy start-ups, entrepreneur cooperation
August/September 2019 in Latvia	Forestry, crafts and home-made products
October/November 2019 Portugal	Forestry, renewables

¹ Place and time are indicative and subject to change, depending on the financial and timing possibilities. All places and times are negotiated and agreed on project management committee meetings or written discussions between partners.

² Topics listed here are indicative and may change, depending on the actual situation and needs in partner countries. Final topics of the study trips are proposed by host LAG in a written invitation before each study trip.

March 2020 in Italy LAG Campidano	Rural Smart Grid- pilot, agrifood
Final seminar in Estonia in May/June 2020	Follow-up and dissemination seminar, possibly including some media participation. Project experiences are analyzed and introduced to the wider public. Analysis of the project results and planning following cooperation activities.

2.2.2 Awareness raising and dissemination

2.2.2.1 Awareness raising and dissemination activities will be run in 2018-2020, during a whole project. These are supporting all other activities and expected results.

2.2.2.2 Outputs:

- Digital transnational material linked with participating regions and entrepreneurs/NGO-s' best practises (in English);
- Material can be in different forms, using local and social media, blogs, videos etc.
- Content: information about best practices and cases in the participant LAG's and target participants products-services;
- Local language versions are on responsibility of every partner.

2.2.3 National activities of the project partners:

In addition to agreed joined activities in the project, project partners will carry out activities in their own country/LAG which help to achieve the results of the cooperation project:

FINLAND - Aktiivinen Pohjois-Satakunta ry

Meetings with local authorities and other interest groups - networking of operators of the sector, monitoring, consulting.
Mapping of best practices.
Multi-actor workshops (local experts, farmers, micro and small size enterprises).
Bioregion branding in Northern Satakunta, focus on this region.
Raising awareness in ecoinnovative approaches with the help of positive examples.

LATVIA - Aizkraukle District Partnership

Seminars for rural youth about development of rural entrepreneurship and the generation of new ideas.

Seminars about circular economy, ecoinnovations, renewables.

Several seminars per year for local entrepreneurs (including home producers, craftsmen, tourism service providers, associations) about possibilities of Leader funding.

ESTONIA - Western Harju Partnership

Study visits, trainings and workshops on national level:

- Introduction to green and circular economy: trends, reasons, regulations
- Product development, design, redesign, circular design
- New business models, cooperation and symbiosis
- Marketing and ecolabels
- Financing and support options

Pilot actions in enterprises:

- Analyses of capacity innovation and circular design
- Workshop with consultants
- Creating a strategy plan on an action of change
- Monitoring, consulting

Networking the operators of the sector and increasing expertise on ecoinnovations among rural entrepreneurs as well as other territorial stakeholders.

Raising awareness of a wider public in ecoinnovative approaches with the help of positive examples.

ITALY - LAG Valle Umbra e Sibillini

Meetings with local authorities and other interest groups - networking of operators of the sector, monitoring, consulting.

Analysis of local agrifood sector focusing on typical local products (Biodynamic agricultural approach to agrifood).

Multi-actor workshops (local experts, farmers, micro and small size enterprises, VUS-waste's local public authorities, University of Perugia).

Waste management according to the eco-circular economy.

ITALY - LAG Campidano

Energy analysis of local agrifood sector focusing on typical local products (artichoke, asparagus, potato, tomato, rice and wheat):

Design of a piloting initiative RURAL SMART GRID: Public-private consultation forums; preliminary analysis; feasibility study.

Supporting service for SMEs of agrifood sectors to a sustainable development of the production (training workshops).

PORTUGAL - AD ELO

Study of good local intervention practices in the "green economy" (Agriculture, Industry, Institutions).

Creation of a concept "Zero-cost mobility" through the study of a model of use of electric vehicles for local institutions.

Local pilot project: Installation of solar electric vehicle charging equipment (necessary for the Creation of a concept "Zero-cost mobility").

Case studies on how to reduce "carbon footprint" (certification of entities / actions that contribute to savings Co2).

3. PLANNED BUDGET OF THE PROJECT³

Name of the LAG	Planned budget in the project (EUR)
LAG Aktiivinen Pohjois-Satakunta ry	55 328,00 EUR
LAG Western Harju Partnership	37 778 EUR (including 3 778 EUR, co-financing of participating entrepreneurs)
LAG Aizkraukle District Partnership	96 000 EUR
LAG AD ELO - Associação de Desenvolvimento Local da Bairrada e Mondego	50 000 EUR
LAG Gal Valle Umbra e Sibillini	40 000 EUR
LAG Campidano	80 000 EUR
Planned total project budget	359 106 EUR

4. Expected results and wider impact of the project

4.1 Basic principles of circular economy, resource efficiency approach and collaboration is activated between stakeholders in participating areas in all sectors of industry, SMEs, public sector and everyday living.

4.2 Best practices of ecoinnovative approach are collected in participating areas and disseminated with partners.

4.3 Networks of the operators of the sector on national and transnational level are created, increasing expertise on ecoinnovations among rural entrepreneurs as well territorial stakeholders.

4.4 Visibility and image of the regions (so-called territorial brand) is increased, economic attractiveness of the region for different stakeholders is boosted, contributing eventually to the economical situation of the local inhabitants of rural areas.

5. Detailed indicators based on the LAG's strategy will be defined in the projects written by each partnering LAG.

6. Financing of the project

6.1 The international LEADER cooperation project „Circular economy in countryside. Global Eco-Inno Eco” consists from 6 independent international LEADER cooperation projects (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Italy (2), Portugal).

6.2 All partnering LAGs in the project will cover their own travel and accommodation costs for the joint actions and project managing committee meetings (everyone will have their own budget).

6.3 During the exchange period the hosting LAG will ensure that the local costs (*local transportation for study trips, rent of the meeting rooms and catering*) of the arriving participants will be covered (*and will also include the costs in their project if necessary*).

3) Every partner's budget as well as total budget is an indication and is subject to change depending on financial possibilities and national authorities' decisions.

