

Title: "The Village full of treasure"

We would like to invite Local Action Groups from the EU to participate in our cooperation project "Village full of treasure".

The theme would be: supporting the development of tourism in rural areas through the integration and appropriate use of diverse resources in rural areas (the value of cultural, natural, historical, and social infrastructure). We would like to cooperate on issues related to the potential for innovative use of tourism, which is one of the greatest treasures of the countryside – including people, their culture, skills, passion, often unique knowledge and values posed by life in a traditional rural community and closeness with nature.

The project involves the organisation of a series of festivals under the title "The village full of treasure", sequentially within each of the cooperating LAGs. Each of the festivals will last for about 10 days (preferably during the summer) and would be filled with workshops, tours and events organised and carried out by community organisations, groups, and interesting personalities (such as local artists) acting on the LAG's area. The festival program should provide the fullest range of all the "treasures", social and cultural wealth of villages in the area.

The genesis of the project ...

The LAG "Valley of Sola" is realising a project called "Treasure Valley" in its area. The project aims to identify and integrate local resources to develop and promote tourism. Our aim is to launch a joint action between actors in the areas of tourism infrastructure, the wider culture, folklore and recreation in order to prepare and promote attractive tourism. Particular emphasis is placed on those opportunities which are to develop tourism based on cultural values of villages, interesting skills and activities of its inhabitants, groups and local organisations. As part of the project, a joint action related to tourism is planned to be prepared including a few days festival that could attract visitors from other countries of the EU. Part of the local actors will prepare a varied and rich program of activities: workshops, excursions, etc. This event will allow guests to participate in the festival, to have a closer look at the richness of cultural life in our rural area, and to have fun and to relax.

Activities under the project ...

We would like to encourage LAGs to cooperate and to participate in our upcoming event. We would like to draw such a program (filled with a diverse program of workshops, events, trips, etc.) that would give all of us an opportunity to gather experiences and insights on innovative ways to develop tourism in rural areas - not only on the basis of natural beauty but also the richness of cultural and social life in the countryside.

Our goal is to attract more partners who are interested in attending in a festival organised by us and in collaboration with the other LAGs also willing to participate in organising a series of similar festivals under the title "treasures of our village", so that project partners could visit each other's countries. We would like to ensure that all partners participate in and join the preparation of the program of the events, so that the preparatory process and organisational aspects are suitable and attractive for all the project partners.

Duration of the project...

According to our plans, the first festival "Village full of treasures" could be organised in the second half of August 2010 in Poland. The organisation of subsequent festivals would be based upon the readiness of the partners.

Program and organisational details of the festivals:

We present below our vision and ideas related to the planned festival:

1) Examples of attraction program:

A) Workshops conducted by local organisations, groups, and people with related background
(participation to be chosen by festival participants):

Host	Sample topics
1. Local Fishing Society	"ABC fishing - my first rod", "Fishing using medieval methods"
2. Stud farms	"Riding lessons" "ABC of horses - my own foal"
3. Local authors, artists and craftsmen	"Wickerwork - art of wicker" "Polish landscapes - painting and drawing workshops"
4. Local artists	"The art. of decoupage – workshops" "Lace - forgotten folk art" "Folklore, art decoration and manual production of ornaments "
5. Gastronomic restaurant offering traditional, organic and healthy Polish cuisine	"Traditional Polish cuisine" "Traditional methods of food production" "Healthy Kitchen - nature's gifts"
6. Apiary beekeeping	"Breeding bees, manufacture and processing of honey - the real deal apiary"
7. Local folk bands	"Polish village rituals in music, dance and singing - to prepare a traditional staging of the ritual theater"
8. Association of filmmakers and photographers	"Report from the Festival Village Full of Treasure" - film and photography workshops.
9. Hunting Society	"Before You shoot a bear—practices at the shooting range and taking part in the hunt"
10. Local housewives	"Domestic manufacturing method of traditional flavored spirits - workshops."
etc.	

B) Tours and explore the area

- walking tours of Krakow;
- sightseeing of the Auschwitz-Birkenau;
- tour of the Wieliczka Salt Mine;
- visiting the city of John Paul II. – Wadowice (including his house)
- monuments of wooden architecture in the LAG area.

C) Integration events, joint activities, evenings. Participation in a local music festival "Rock Reggae Festival." Participation in folk ceremonies held every year at the end of harvest.

2) Accommodation reviews: Local farms, guesthouses and camping:

Please contact us:

Local Action Group "The Valley of Sola"

(we are situated on the south Poland, near Krakow, one mile away from Oswiecim, with the number of inhabitants: 85 000)

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