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## SUMMARY

### GALAG TRAINING PROGRAMME MODULE II

#### “GALAG as cooperation and communication platform”

Time and place: from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2018, Tbilisi

Participants: GALAG representatives and LAG coordinators, ELARD trainers Kristiina Tammets (Estonia), Marion Eckardt (Sweden), Goran Soster (Slovenia), Kadri Tillemann (Estonia).

#### **1<sup>st</sup> training day, Friday 14th of December**

##### Introduction session:

- Welcome speeches and practical information from Mercy Corps.
- Introduction round.
- Speed dating session, concentration on personal (hobbies, inspiration) and GALAG (challenges and vision) issues. Main reflections: GALAG's need to develop into functional organization, GALAG's joining of CAARD platform is seen as a positive development, GALAG members are sharing interests and motivated to contribute into efforts to develop their regions, there is a need to accelerate decentralization and enhance/promote bottom-up approach, GALAG provides platform for co-operation for mature and newly established LAGs in Georgia.
- Overview about the training program and the progress of the project's GALAG-related activities and plans.

##### Morning session on communication:

- Presentation by Kristiina Tammets about ELARD analytical report related to cooperation and communication. Overview about ELARD survey on LEADER advocacy and communication activities in ELARD member countries in 2018. Q&A session.
- Presentation by Kadri Tillemann about principles of participatory communication, practical exercise and discussion.

#### LUNCH BREAK

##### Afternoon session:

Goran Soster's PRESENTATION and Marion Eckardt's PRESENTATION about Slovenian and Swedish experience regarding the LEADER network operations in general and more specifically regarding communication. Q&A and discussion.

Participatory session to map GALAG's members individual views related with main pain-points of GALAG's operations. Following aspects were mentioned by participants:



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- To make connections between GALAG members
- To raise GALAG's responsibilities, to make it operational
- To make GALAG "attractive" for governing bodies
- GALAG should start work to be recognized
- To have funds available for LAGs that also allow to finance GALAG
- GALAG should start communication with target ministries to plan our action plan
- GALAG to share responsibilities
- LAG's initiatives should be collected and prioritized, then lobbied in front of the government
- Establish strong organization
- Prioritize lobby and advocacy
- Recognizing of GALAG in international level
- Different sources for finances are needed, project funding is ending soon
- To support decentralization
- To increase the involvement of women in decision making
- GALAG should start implementing planned activities
- Most urgent is to introduce and implement micro & pilot projects
- GALAG should take part in decentralization process, GALAG & LAG can benefit from effective decentralization
- To be involved in advocacy and lobby, to protect private land (animals enter the territory, owners can not do anything), 200 farmers in one region were facing damages
- Recognition on national level
- State financing for LAGs, GALAGs
- Awareness raising, society should know about LEADER and importance of the approach
- Active co-operation with NGOs
- Fundraising, to have specific group in GALAG to deal with that
- Creation of co-operation projects, to ensure sustainability
- We have to create a sub-group that makes connections with government, competent people are needed
- Find investors (with governing bodies)
- Lobby and advocacy to find investments and funds
- Residents in region are not well aware about GALAG, more vivid communication on local level, so far they do not know a lot
- To make state to take us more seriously
- To make LAGs stronger, to provide them trainings and support (from national authorities?)
- To advocate for sustainable financing, to make financial independence possible
- GALAG to become a platform that is interesting for the state
- Implementation of visible of tangible projects



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- Need to raised fundraising skills, GALAG should support activities that ensure LAG's independence
- To be recognized by donors, to have relationship with donors
- LAG should be recognized on legislative level, to involve them in decision making process properly
- Co-operation with other LAGs, to make common decisions

## **2<sup>nd</sup> training day, Saturday 15th of December**

### Morning session:

Marion Eckardt's presentation about funding challenges on the LAG level.

Group work to collect input into GALAG's communication plan based on pre-prepared matrix that addressed following topics – **recognition of LAGs and GALAG, decentralization, pilot projects & fundraising, policy-making and international activities**. Specific needs (or assets), target groups, tools and timing issues were discussed.

LUNCH BREAK

### Afternoon session:

Social program that involved visits to National Museum and Chateau Mukhrani.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> training day, Sunday 16th of December**

### Morning session:

Kristiina Tammets introduces the results of group work from the 2<sup>nd</sup> training day. The main aspects to be considered for GALAG's effective communication and co-operations are reflected in Annex 1 below.

Goran Soster's presentation about the practical example of a functional communication plan of the Slovenian national network.

Open Space exercise carried out by Marion Eckardt and Kristiina Tammets to map burning questions that related with practical work in GALAG/LAG.

### Closing session:

Formation of the following working groups were decided and key representatives nominated:

- **Policy design working group** - first task is to start drafting GALAG's policy paper together with ELARD's team to prepare outline, draft, representative(s) to facilitate information exchange between ELARD & GALAG.



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- **Financial working group**, to start with baseline study to address the budgetary issues and draft the budget with allocations from different sources for LAGs and GALAG to be operational for coming years.
- **Legislative working group**, to work with legislative initiative about the recognition issue.

Feedback round from the participants and trainers, re-confirmation about preliminary information about the follow-up activities.

#### Annex 1.

Systematized input into the GALAG's communication plan

#### **Additional information/contacts:**

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