



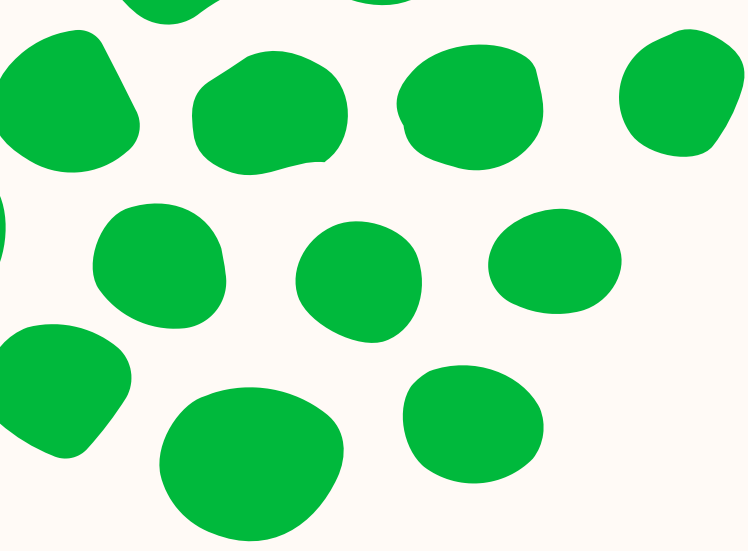
*Youth Leader*

Finland

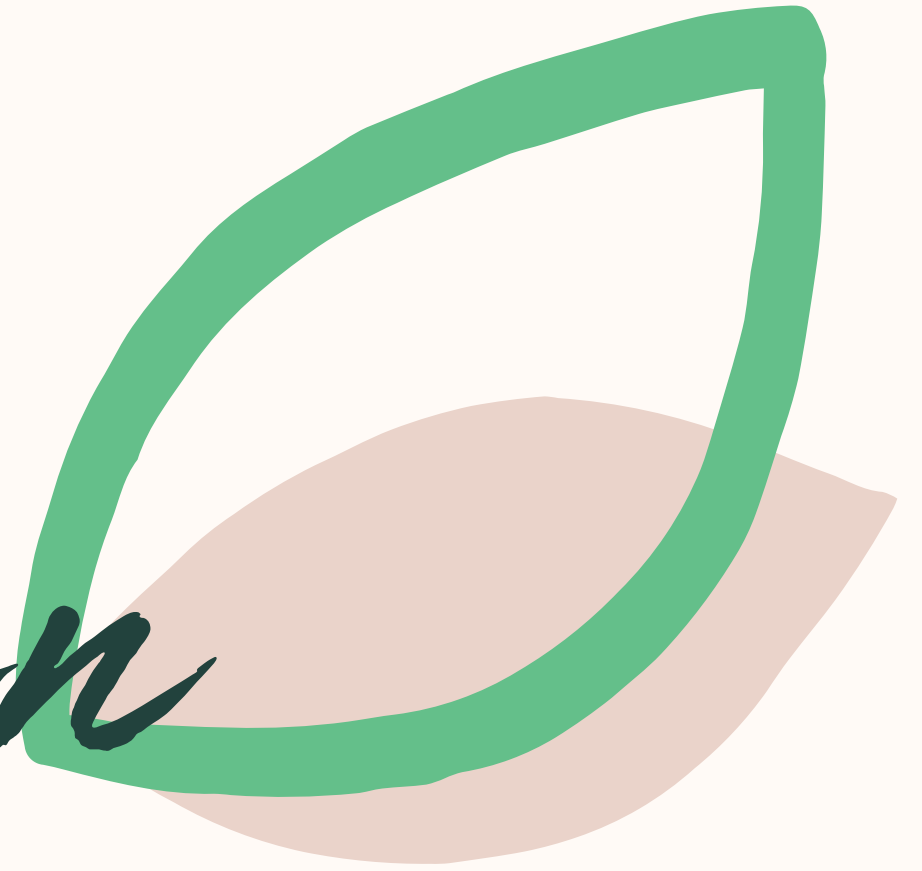
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# *Introduction*



# About youth Leader

There are over 31 Leader LAGs that offers Youth Leader Action - either funding or other influencing activities or both.



# Introduction

- The Youth Leader fund started back in 2010 in 2 North-Ostrobothnian Leader groups for supporting youngster's own project ideas
- Right now 21 of the Finnish LAGs have a Youth Leader fund or youth activities
- The network around Youth Leader and youth activities in Finnish LAGs started to built up about 3-4 years ago
- In 2021 we founded the Coordination group



# Introduction

## BACKGROUND

- The idea behind the Youth Leader fund is to be able to give a concrete tool for the local youth aged 13-29-years to develop their home area.
- With the fund they are able to start or develop activities they find important.
- Because of the Youth Leader fund we are more able to engage youngsters in our own development strategies and include them in our decision making processes.



# Youth Leader fund



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# Youth Leader fund

## WHAT IS IT?

- Youth Leader fund provides financial support for the local youngsters' own projects.
- Young people aged 13-29-years can apply for the fund to organize an event or buying hobby equipment. Young people can also apply the fund for implementing their own business ideas.
- The rules and the amount of the fund varies within different Leader-groups. Approximately youngsters can apply projects for 100-1000€

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# Examples of Youth fund

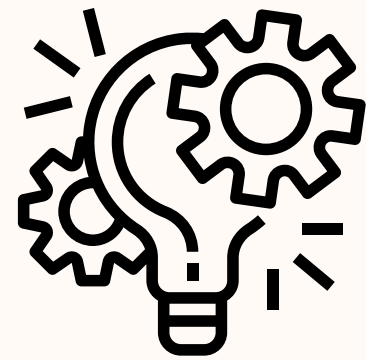
- escape rooms
- events
- sport equipment
- theatre
- materials
- advertising



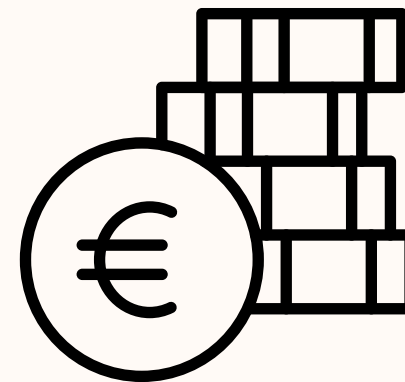
# Statistics



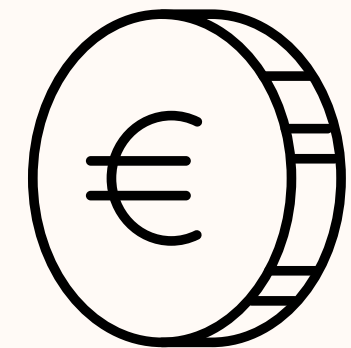
Approximately 13 youngsters own project applications in a year per Leader LAG



367 youth project fund application in total in Finland



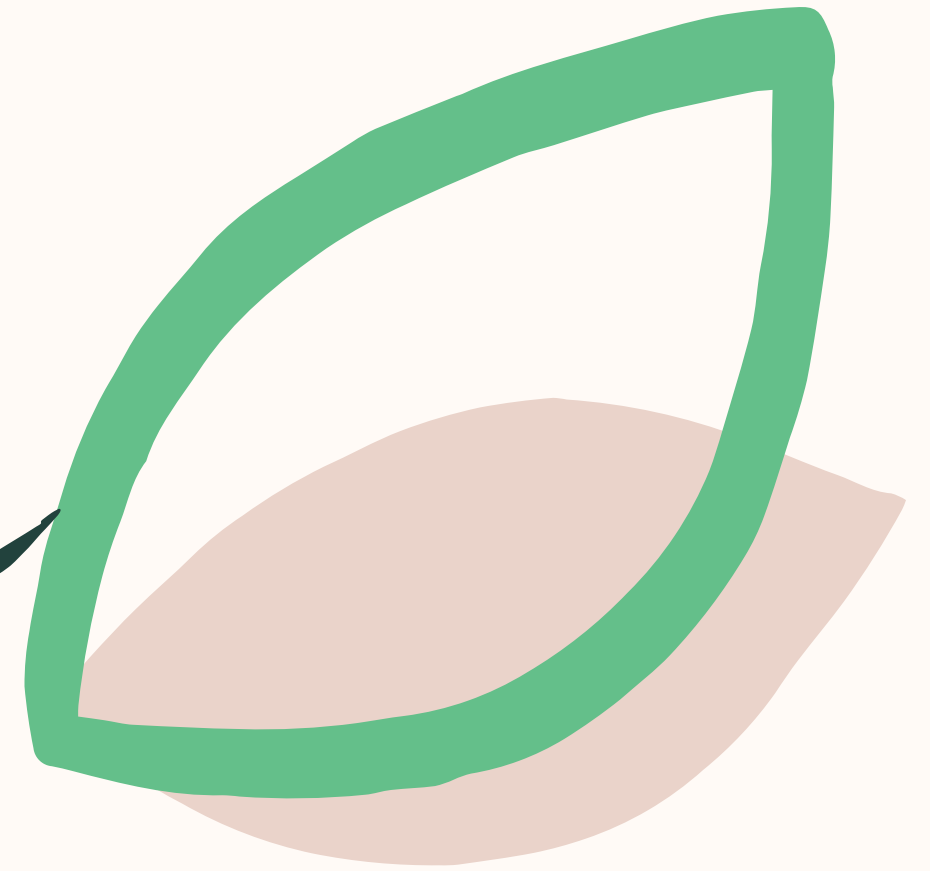
Within a year in Finland we have funded youth projects for 177 330€



Average youth project funds are 483€ per project



# Youth Action Group



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# Youth Action inspires

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# Youth Action Groups

## WHAT IS IT?

- With the Youth Action Groups we want to offer diverse possibilities to young people living in the area to get involved in rural development. Youth action groups are politically and religiously independent.
- Leader youth action groups are open for all youngsters that are interested in developing their local rural areas or in decision making.
- In the youth action groups youngsters evaluate the Youth Leader fund applications. In some groups youngsters are engaged in rural development without the fund. 12 Leader LAGs have youth members in their decision making board.

# Youth Action Groups

## YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

- The focus is on the participation of young people.
- Cooperation with municipal youth work, schools and other organizations/associations/LAGs is important for reaching young people.
- Also in Leader funds the Youth Action Group is included in decision making about projects that are involving young people.



# The best things in Leader Youth Action



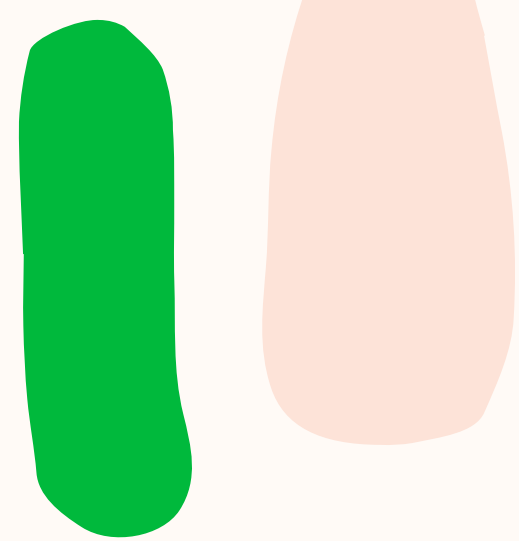
**VEETI KONDRATJEFF,  
LEADER KÄRKI RY**

- The opportunity to have impact on local matters has been always interesting for me.
- It's really rewarding work.
- I've made a plenty of new friends along my journey.
- It gives me valuable working experience for my future life.



**LAURI HAMMARÉN,  
LEADER KÄRKI RY**

- Got many new friends and connections
- New friends from local area and from further parts of Finland and also few friends from Sweden
- I have had the opportunity to influence the surrounding area
- I was able to bring local young people's ideas and thoughts into decision-making



# International cooperation

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# International youth actions

## WHAT?

- The youngsters are generally interested in international actions and are a very good target group to work with and for in international cooperations.
- Youth cooperation can be funded by Leader or from other funds, like Erasmus+.
- 17 Leader LAGs implement international cooperation that includes youngsters. Finnish LAGs have cooperated with Germany, Romania, Scotland, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Estonia and Latvia.



# Coordination group

The group consists of Leader youth workers and the idea is to produce training and information for the network.

In the group, we also think about current issues together and share experiences.

The group includes 10 Leader groups, which initially wanted to develop Youth Leader.



# Conclusions

## WHY TO DO YOUTH WORK?

- The youth is the future!
- We have to take into consideration the youngsters needs and wishes for what is happening in their home area.
- Youngsters have new and innovative ideas, that can help development inside the organization, locally and regionally.
- We can show throughout our actions that the region is liveable, vivid and interesting. That helps the youngsters to have a better picture of the area, which helps to keep them in the area or brings them back after their studies

# Conclusions

- We offer Youth Action and Youth Leader funds for the youngsters so they can really influence in rural areas.
- Youth Leader funds is all about trusting the youngsters, they usually have great ideas! The main thing is about learning important life skills and project work.
- In Finland we want to develop Youth Leader in Coordination group so that these good practices could be spread throughout Europe.

*Keep in touch*

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@leaderkarki



Etelä-Karjalan Kärki-Leader

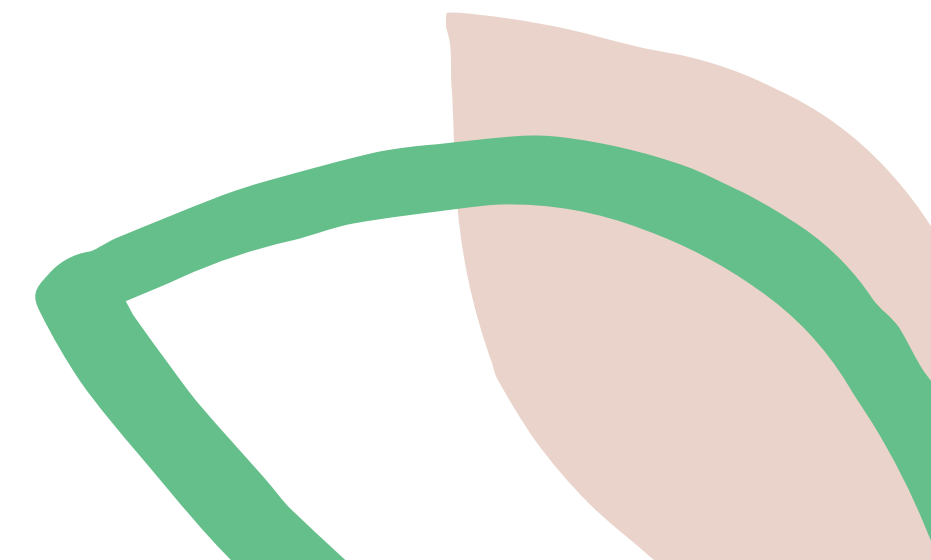


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**Kärki**

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*Thank  
you!*