

LAG RIESKA-LEADER

Rieska-Leader is a rural development association, one of the 52 Local Action Groups in Finland. It is a nonprofit organization established in 1996. The LAG has the task of encouraging rural inhabitants to develop their local area. It also supports preservation of local services, as well as promoting of livelihoods and employment under the principle of sustainable development.

The association cooperates with local people, enterprises, communities, organizations and authorities. Over 50 new projects are financed annually by the LAG Rieska-Leader.

The association distributes grants to non-profit development projects and enterprise projects. Its tasks also include information and advising of rural inhabitants, enterprises and communities on EU funding as well as on planning and implementation of projects.

LEADER

Rieska



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LEADER

Rieska



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and check out
our activities!



THE AREA OF THE LAG RIESKA-LEADER

The area of the LAG Rieska-Leader consists of the following seven communities: Alavieska, Kalajoki, Kannus, Merijärvi, Oulainen, Sievi and Ylivieska. About 50,000 people live in this area of 4,400 km². The area is situated in the middle of Finland, on the west coast by the Gulf of Bothnia.



The economic structure of the area is as follows: services 56 %, industry 31 %, primary production 12 % and others 1 %. Earlier this area was agriculture-intensive, but nowadays trade and services are clearly dominant.

The nature in the area of the LAG Rieska-Leader is diverse with its wild forests, beautiful rivers and lakes. Also the sea is nearby. The topography consists of low-lying plain. The diverse and clean nature offers a wonderful opportunity to many activities close to nature, such as fishing, hunting, picking berries and mushrooms. These are important ways of spending time and relaxing for the local people.

The STRATEGY of the LAG Rieska-Leader consists of the following four themes in the period 2023 to 2027:

MAIN PILLARS

- **Vitality and Welfare** including cultural life, heritage, tourism, services
- **Diverse Entrepreneurship** goal to have blooming small businesses
- **Being a "rieskalainen"** meaning locality and local specialities
- **Smart Renewal** innovations, new green ideas

HORIZONTAL THEMES

- **Environmental Wisdom** learning new and relearning old ways of living and working
- **Youth Participation** youth activation, voice of the youngsters
- **International Cooperation** TNC projects, other EU funds, learning from each other, creating something new together
- **Being Effective** participation, active citizenship