

International EU Leader groups wanted in the field of bioeconomy!

Introduction

Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK) has launched a preliminary project which is developing bioeconomy in the area of Kuudestaa ry, Finland. The project, called "Vitality from international forest bioeconomy – preliminary project in Kuudestaa area", is targeting to improve the knowledge about bioeconomy and entrepreneurship based opportunities within. It is financed by EU Leader+ Fund. International Leader groups are invited, especially from Sweden, Czech Republic, Slovakia or Austria to join and design future cooperative project in the field of bioeconomy.

Bioeconomy is one solution to replace fossil resources and mitigate environmental problems such as climate change. Consequently, Finland has been made a political statement to support bioeconomy at governmental stage. In Finland, the bioeconomy is emphasized especially in forest industry, because there the biggest individual biomass resource is wood. Even though, there are large resources of biomass in Finland, it is not obvious that resources could be under effective utilization. There are e.g. logistical problems involved and practical challenges to overcome. The project brings international actors together and reflect biomass availability based problems at practical level. Main fields are bioenergy, bioproducts and green wellbeing such as nature tourism.

The ongoing project lasts 6 months (from 1. January to 30. June 2016) and the budget is 20 000 €. The organization behind, SeAMK, is a multidisciplinary institution of higher education and an efficient actor in education and research, development and innovation (RDI) in the region of South Ostrobothnia in West Finland. The number of full-time students is 5000 and academic and other staff members 380. SeAMK has 19 Bachelor and 7 Master degree programmes. SeAMK plays significant role in the field of bioeconomy, food and agriculture in South Ostrobothnia. - See more at: <http://www.seamk.fi/en>

Goals in the preliminary project

1. To find other international Leader groups who have similar needs concerning bioeconomy
2. To make a survey for the landowners of cutaway peat production area in Kuudestaa area
3. To organize bioeconomy related workshops for local people in Kuudestaa area

What kind of Leader groups are wanted?

International Leader groups (1-2 groups) which have similar needs to increase the role of bioeconomy in rural areas. The co-operator could be e.g. higher educator, research institute or other rural actor. The future project is planned to last 2 years.

Contact person:

Mr. Kari Laasasenaho (M.Sc)

Project assistant

Tuomarniementie 55, 63700 ÄHTÄRI, FINLAND

puh. +358 40 680 7631

kari.laasasenaho@seamk.fi

www.seamk.fi

