

ELARD CONFERENCE in Estonia

22nd to 23rd November, 2016

Tartu

Conference title: **Renewing LEADER/CLLD for 2020+
Celebrating 25 years of LEADER in Europe!**

Expected result: Declaration of LEADER/CLLD for the period of 2021–2027 for submitting to the European Commission and the managing authorities of the member states.

Participants: Local action groups, including also FLAGS, Urban LAGs and other actors working with the LEADER method, as well as cooperation partners across Europe, the European Commission, representatives of ENRD, national rural networks and managing authorities of the member states.

See you in Estonia!

TOPICS FOR PLENARY:

PAST:	TODAY:	FUTURE:
25-year-old LEADER method: going back to the roots and reminding us what was the philosophy and value of LEADER at the beginning? How has it been developed throughout 25 years? How has LEADER contributed to rural development and which are the biggest achievements of LEADER?	Overview about current situation of LEADER/CLLD implementation in member states. Where are we today and which are the main features that characterize LEADER/CLLD?	Future of LEADER/CLLD: what is the vision of LEADER/CLLD through the eyes of the European Commission and local action groups? In which direction are we moving? What could be the biggest benefits and challenges of LEADER/CLLD?

TOPICS FOR WORKGROUPS:

CLLD and multifunding: how to improve its implementation?

Topics and needs related to CLLD implementation are very diverse. Besides rural LAGs there are also FLAGs and Urban LAGs, which offer new opportunities to rural areas that we need to consider. It is very important to create real synergy between different funds and achieve good coherence. Additionally to Simplified Cost Options (SCO) there is a huge demand to simplify procedures (LAGs and authorities), clear description of methods and exchange the experience between other funds and countries are needed. Capacity building of authorities and LAGs is crucial as well as raising the quality of necessary support services for LAGs.

Coordination between LEADER actors and authorities: how to develop transparent and holistic coordination on a national level?

Effective and transparent coordination between different authorities and ministries at a national level has been challenging. We need to pay more attention to defining the roles of different LEADER bodies and authorities and enable better understanding about simplifying and harmonizing national rules and regulations. Tremendous issues are to ensure the continuity between program periods and smooth implementation in order to guarantee the sustainable functioning of LAGs.

Local development strategies: how to assure innovative and flexible implementation?

LDS is the tool for local communities to develop rural life in accordance with the needs and potential of their area and people. Local development strategies focus more and more on the creation of attractive, viable jobs, smart technologies, new involvement methods, regional clusters, IT possibilities. Animation activities of LAGs are very important and to achieve a reasonable proportion of administration and animation.

Transnational and inter-territorial co-operation in the EU and with third countries: how to simplify and harmonize co-operation?

Keywords under this topic are certainly simplification and harmonization of national regulations as well as drawing up good guidelines. It is important to achieve better understanding of TNC and LAGs animation activities among managing authorities – why do we need TNC, what is the added value of TNC? What are we not able to achieve without TNC? Sustainability and effectiveness of TNC is very important to achieve. Umbrella projects, inter-territorial co-operation, regional clusters and co-operation across sectors will give new opportunities for rural areas.

25-year-old LEADER method: how to renew it for the 2020+ period?

LEADER as a very successful method is celebrating its 25th anniversary. We have collected a lot of experience and contributed strongly to community led local development. We can't deny that the world is changing around us and we need to consider if we are still corresponding with real needs or if we need to make some changes to be adaptive with the changing living and working environment in rural areas. Social cohesion, migration, regional clusters, rural-urban linkages, green economy, climate change, smart solutions, technology, IT revolution and territorial cohesion are getting more and more important to be considered in community led local development. We need to pay attention to keeping the balance between new technologies and resources' management of communities. There have to be strong linkages between new, smart, dynamic development and the knowledge and skills of people in the local communities.

PROGRAM:

MONDAY, 21st November 2016	
... – 20.00	Arrival in Tartu. Hotel check-in starting from 14:00
20.00	Welcoming party at Vilde Salon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming the conference participants • Refreshments

TUESDAY, 22nd November 2016	
09.00 – 09.30	Registration of participants at Estonian National Museum
09.30 – 10.00	Opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical performance • Opening speeches: Urmas Kruuse, Minister of Rural Affairs, Kristiina Tammets, President of ELARD • Introduction of the event
10.00 – 11.30	Plenary presentations about LEADER/CLLD past, today and future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Michel Courades, has worked in European Commission since the beginning of LEADER • Hartmut Berndt, Network of German LAGs (will be confirmed) • Mihail Dumitru, European Commission • Paul Soto, European Network of Rural Development • Roman Haken, European Economic and Social Committee Plenary discussion
11.30 – 12.00	COFFEE BREAK
12.00 – 13.30	Practical workshops with 5 topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLLD and multifunding: how to improve its implementation? • Coordination between LEADER actors and authorities: how to develop transparent and holistic coordination on a national level? • Local development strategies: how to assure innovative and flexible implementation? • Transnational and inter-territorial co-operation in the EU and with third countries: how to simplify and harmonize the co-operation? • 25-year-old LEADER method: how to renew it for 2020+ period? <p>Brief overview about current situation about each topic will be provided by ELARD, regarding TNC and inter-territorial co-operation the input is provided by ENRD CP. Under topic 5 "25-year-old LEADER method" ELARD provides an overview of the past and the roots and meaning of the LEADER method and its key elements at the beginning as well as the needs and potential of LEADER/CLLD today. Group discussions and future visions' formulation about each topic by participants.</p>
13.30 – 14.30	LUNCH
14.30 – 16.00	Practical workshops continue Formulation and prioritizing of complications related to each workshop topic
16.00 – 16.30	COFFEE BREAK
16.30 – 17.30	Guided visit of Estonian exhibition at National Museum
18.00	Buses leave for Mooste, Põlva County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner • Entertainment program

WEDNESDAY, 23rd November 2016

09.00 – 9.30	Introduction of the day
09.30 – 11.00	Presentations of outcomes of practical workshops by moderators
11.00 – 11.30	COFFEE BREAK
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Practical workshops with 5 topics continue with presentation of good practices. Discussion and formulation of resolutions by participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• CLLD and multifunding: how to improve its implementation?</p> <p>Good practice from Austria and Portugal: Stefan Niedermoser, Austrian LEADER Forum Luis Chaves, Portuguese Federation of Local Development Association</p> <p>• Coordination between LEADER actors and authorities: how to develop transparent and holistic coordination on a national level?</p> <p>Good practice from Lithuania, Czech Republic and Sweden: Guoda Burokiene, Lithuanian Rural Communities Union Radim Sršen, National Network of Local Action Groups of the Czech Republic Marion Eckardt, Local Development Sweden</p> <p>• Local development strategies: how to assure innovative and flexible implementation?</p> <p>Good practice from Latvia and Finland: Valdis Kudins, Latvian Rural Forum Petri Rinne, Village Action Association of Finland</p> <p>• Transnational and inter-territorial co-operation in the EU and with third countries: how to simplify and harmonize co-operation?</p> <p>Good practice from Spain and Estonia: Maria Jose Murciano, Spanish Network of Rural Development Mercedes Merimaa, Estonian LEADER Union</p> <p>• 25-year-old LEADER method: how to renew it for the 2020+ period?</p> <p>Good practice from Estonia in inter-territorial, regional clusters, rural-urban linkages, IT: Vaido Mikheim, Estonia, Tartu Science Park in association with LAG Tartu Rural Development Association</p> <p>Good practice from Ireland in community management and involvement model. How to use local and regional resources, potential and skills of people to develop rural area: Ryan Howard, South and East Cork Area Development (SECAD) CLG</p>
13.00 – 14.00	LUNCH
14.00 – 15.00	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of declaration for 2020+ • Final speeches
15.30 – 20.00	ELARD General Assembly

You can find practical information and a few travel tips [here!](#)

