



ANRD

ALBANIAN NETWORK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Albanian Network for Rural Development



Agricultural University of Tirana

1st Albanian Rural Parliament

20th October, 2017

3rd European Rural Parliament

Venhorst, Netherlands

1st Albanian Rural Parliament

- Three day event, held under the auspices of the Speaker of Albanian Parliament on 28-30 of September 2017 in Tirana, Albania;
- A joint effort by the **Albanian Network of Rural Development (ANRD)** in partnership with the **Agriculture University of Tirana (AUT)**;
- Components: advocacy, capacity building, networking
- The first two days, at the premises of the Agricultural University of Tirana - plenary sessions, guest speakers, discussion panels, networking opportunities, workshops and working groups, offered a great opportunity to discuss, network, transfer know-how and exchange ideas and best practices on rural development - locally, regionally and internationally.
- The third day, the concluding session - at Albanian (real) Parliament.



Objectives and participants of the 1st ARP

ARP aimed at:

1. bringing together rural development stakeholders with the objective **to accelerate the country rural reforming process** in approximating EU policy of Community Led Local Development (CLLD).
2. offering a space for **know-how transfer and sharing experiences on LEADER LAGs** from different European countries and of those in the region.
3. **making governance** of public institutions of the sector at the national and local level **more proactive and accountable in promoting EU policies and practices** in rural development

The 61 municipalities were represented by public officials, farmers, rural entrepreneurs, women and youth and different economic and social agents

Government officials of national, regional and local authorities; regional development agencies, donors and academia, experts and students

Representatives of rural development networks in the Western Balkan Countries

Guests and international experts in rural development

The 1st ARP brought together more than 300 delegates



One year road trip: Towards the 1st ARP



Main outcomes

1. Advocacy efforts: Setting the government agenda
2. Evidence-based policy making in rural development
3. The 1st Albanian Rural parliament – an inclusive and nation-wide advocacy platform applying a ‘bottom-up’ perspective
4. Giving a voice to rural communities
5. Finding the right moment to give the message to the newly established government
6. Building on best practices and positive models in the region and EU
7. Adopting Joint DECLARATION
8. Launching the Friends of Rural Parliament Group
9. Higher confidence on the potentials of the Network; enhanced awareness of member organizations on why the Network stands for.

Next steps

- The Albanian Rural Parliament intends to become an inclusive practice and serve as an instrument to influence and accelerate reforming processes in rural sector, for revitalized and reborn rural areas.
- Its bottom-up and national-wide features will be strengthened through the four decentralized regional forums as regional rural parliaments which will pave the way to the second national rural parliament.
- The 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament will be organized in 2019 as a way to assess the achievements to date, to further inspire and promote them as well as to identify challenges ahead;
- Convening the second ARP will require incessant efforts by ANDR and its member organisations and other partners as well; The Joint Declaration of the First Alb. Rural Parliament represents the current challenge for the next two years.
- The Albanian Network for Rural Network will organize its membership based on regional representation as a way to stimulate an internal dynamics that requires active grass-root CSOs.



Thank your for your attention!

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