

EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT 2017



The “**Market of Initiatives**” : an opportunity for delegates to tell and share their story, inspire others and find new partners!

The aim of this session - organised and facilitated by Forum Synergies - was to give delegates the opportunity **to present and discuss with a small group of participants** during a 25-minute session, a special project, experience or initiative from their country.

It took place on **Friday 20th October**, during the lunch break (13h00-14h30) in the 1st floor of Parish hall De Horst. Around 100 delegates participated in this session.

Two presentation sessions were organised, each session offered the opportunity for 10 simultaneous presentations to self-selecting groups of delegates. The presentations were based on a 10 minute verbal presentation followed by 10 minutes of discussion with delegates.

Some initiatives will also be presented in a digital format and will be uploaded on the ERP and Forum Synergies’s website, sent to delegates and shared on social networks for a wider dissemination of these inspiring stories.

SESSION 1

Croatia Cooperation of Georgia and Croatia regarding LEADER

Croatian Rural Development Network - HMRR has just started working in Georgia, together with partners from Czech Republic and Georgia. The aim of the Project is to contribute to mitigation of rural poverty in Georgia by increasing employment and improving living conditions in Khulo Municipality through provision of support to diversification of economic activities in local rural communities. We will present our project and discuss the future rural development in Georgia..

Key-words: LEADER, LAG, Georgia, Croatia, European level

Estonia SESBA (Social Enterprise Skills for Business Advisers)

SESBA (www.sesbaproject.eu) aims at enhancing the profile of business advisors in order to better respond to the field of social entrepreneurship developing new training practices and consulting techniques cultivating new practical advisory skills by business advisors in order to be able to encourage attributes of social entrepreneurship.

Key-words: social entrepreneurship, advisory and training skills, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Bulgaria, Ireland ; European level

The Netherlands Mobility Initiatives

In the rural area of the Netherlands, public transport organised by government is reduced. There are lot of initiatives by the inhabitants to create alternative ways of travelling in a public setting.

Key-words: mobility; public transport; alternative initiatives to public transport; self organising; national and European level

Estonia Food heritage makes an inspired and lively community

Kama is an ancient dish which originates from southern Estonia. The flour of kama usually consists of different cereals and legumes, e.g wheat, peas, oats, rye and beans (Urvaste Kama). The Association of Urvaste Villages (Urvaste Külade Selts) prepares home made kama within the walls of our community kitchen. Producing KAMA has brought us many cultural contacts, and also parnterships with local ecological farmers, food networks etc.

Key-words: Food heritage, culture, sustainability, communication, ecological, local level

Finland Wanted: Place-based Policy

This is an initiative to develop Place-based Policy, practically as well as theoretically. We have started a blog for that reason. We hope to make not a definition but a practical description of this concept involving local actors as well as authorities and researchers. .

Key-words: Place-based Policy, Governance, Community, Granulation, Smart Specialization, national level.

Republic of Moldova Implementing the CLLD/LEADER approach in rural Gagauzia and Taraclia

We will present the results of implementation of the CLLD/LEADER approach in the EU-funded "Support for agriculture and rural development in ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia" (SARD) Programme in Moldova, implemented by UNDP. It aims to boost collaboration between central and local authorities, as well as among regional organizations from ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district in order to foster social and economic development in the region, in particular, and in Moldova in general. Apart from the eight LAG-s formalized in frame of the SARD Programme, national NGO-s have also started to implement LEADER initiatives and the relevant ministry has a plan to set up the national LEADER Programme in Moldova next year.

Key-words: LEADER and CLLD, Youth; national level

Hungary Village and homestead caretaker: community based services in tiny villages and remote rural areas

Its goal is to assist those living in tiny villages with a population of fewer than 1000 people and in satellite settlements far removed from densely populated locations. The village caretaker is usually a local person who is provided with a minimum eight-seat minibus and whose task is to meet the needs of the settlement's inhabitants. Since small settlements lack even basic services such as post offices, schools, shops, pharmacies or medical centers, the village caretaker's most frequent service is to transport people to these facilities. However, the potential service capability is broader than that: it can link up with the existing social services, such as meals on wheels for elderly people, school transport, transport to medical centers and pharmacies and transport to railway stations for those who work outside the village or to further education centers..

Key-words: Integrated (social, health and community) service in tiny rural areas; partnership between civil society and government; inclusion; development of basic democracy, national level.

Iceland**Tools and methods to engage young people in Rural Creativity**

How do we make it more desirable for young people to live in Iceland - to become good citizens? By using common sense! - Listen to them. FORD's Icelandic way is to encourage Rural Youth to think about their neighbourhood, about their hometowns - about their future! We have to inspire them to participate in our FORD project Our Future is now! - and at the same time encourage them to become innovative entrepreneurs.

Key-words: Creativity - My Hometown - Innovation, Youth; national level

Bulgaria**HNV Link: High Nature Value Farming: Learning Innovation and Knowledge**

High nature value farmland encompasses areas in Europe where agricultural activities support, or are associated with, exceptionally high biodiversity. These farmlands are also important for cultural heritage, quality products and rural employment and are priority sites in European agriculture conservation. HNV Link project and network (www.hnmlink.eu) is dedicated to developing and sharing innovations that support HNV farming systems and communities by simultaneously improving their socio-economic viability and environmental efficiency. The project collects innovations in high nature value farming that are focused on market organization and initiatives, social interaction and engagement, technical and technological improvements and innovative implementation of the existing policies. The Bulgarian Learning Area is Western Stara Planina covering the municipalities of Berkovitz, Varshetz, Godech, Georgi Damianovo and Chiprovtsi.

Key-words: High nature values farming, innovation, small farms, biodiversity conservation, networking, European level

SESSION 2**Bulgaria****Creative Entrepreneurship Network**

The project aims to increase the competitiveness through stimulating creativity among young people and cultural and community centres, to build capacity of creative entrepreneurs for development of creative products and services and to equip them with entrepreneurial mind-set and skills and encouraging development of network for creative industries promotion. <http://www.bi-gd.org/site/projects-2/current-projects-2/83-creative-entrepreneurship-network>.

Key-words: creativity, youth, community, culture, entrepreneurship, network, regional level

Latvia**Villages on move**

Idea of the initiative is to activate people to give ideas to promote everyday physical activity. Collected ideas are developed by means of culture of experimentation. We visit village events and promote healthy lifestyle, but what is not less important - to feel the community spirit and strength through the activities. Our goal is to activate inhabitants in rural areas to have more movement and more joy of active lifestyle.

Key-words: community spirit, culture of experimentation, Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA), active lifestyle, Finland, Denmark, Lithuania, Estonia, European level

Slovakia**VIPA SK and Lisov Museum: training and teaching on cultural heritage.**

We will present the work we do in the museum, how we support village, villagers and Roma people, local artists, producers, how we train and teach young students and adults from abroad, who came for a placements to village Lišov on traditional wall restoring, traditional house building, fencing, art and wall sculpture, hand - sewing, and painting.

Key-words: Traditional skills, culture, art, rural life, production; European level

Moldova LEADER approach and Local Action Groups in Moldova

The project facilitates the implementation of the LEADER approach along some basic steps: capacity-building, bringing together local actors, territory analysis, identifying existing activities/initiatives, creation of partnership, and preparation of a local development strategy.

Key-words: LEADER, LAGs, partnership, national level

The Netherlands Future of our Village

In Kloosterhaar (eastern part of the Netherlands) people look for the near and more far away future and the vitality of their village. So they make plans for the short run and are looking towards 2030; what does the village need; how to realise; what is the role of the inhabitants.

Key-words: vital village; plans for the future; inhabitants responsibility, local level

Hungary Hungarian Network for Roma Inclusion

The Hungarian Network for Roma Inclusion aims at facilitating the inclusion of rural Roma communities in local governmental decision making processes in order to develop their housing, employment, health and educational circumstances and opportunities. The initiative provides facilitators and professional experts to local governments and marginalized Roma communities, who support the integration of the Roma with such services like: mapping up the needs of the marginalized communities and the problems which the municipalities have to face related to marginalization, assessing the municipalities' capacities to support Roma inclusion, prioritising the needs and problems of both parties, forming their action plans, identifying financial resources for implementing joint actions etc..

Key-words: Roma inclusion, housing and social services, employment, health and medical care, education, poverty, marginalization, national level

Georgia Rural Development Strategy in Georgia: Role of Civil Society and LAGs to face challenges and opportunities

Georgia has passed the Strategy and Action Plan for Rural Development in 2016 and the implementation process faces many obstacles in a country like ours. We will describe directions, key challenges and implementation approaches of the National Strategy and highlight the role of civil society in promotion of rural development, networking and advocacy of local needs. It will help sharing of best practices of LAGs activities in the rural communities in Georgia.

Key-words: Leader approach, Rural development strategy, civil society role, national level

Ireland Local Transport for Local People at Low Cost

I will give an overview of low cost local transport for local people trying to get to their local town / village and to attend for health and hospital appointments and for leisure activities in rural areas. We work in conjunction with our Local Authority and the National Transport Authority.

Key-words: local transport, low cost, local people, regional level

Romania Regional food hub for local products

The project addresses the needs of peasant farms by establishing a regional food hub in North East region of Romania, as a social enterprise. This food hub contribute to viable development for 100 small farmers in the region, having alongside the classic role of aggregating production "Farm-to-consumer" - by building a direct sale system, supporting the individual development of the peasant farms involved, offering information on how to address new functions in peasant farms, of conversion to local products,

traditional products, Slow Food production, ethical products, conversion of social capital into tourism and diversification of the farm through specific activities.

Key-words: Local products; small farms; slow and good food;
consumer producers partnerships; regional level

Estonia

Burnout in Rural Voluntary Work - "Fresh blood to network" project

There are lot of people in Estonia who are involved with village movement already 10 and more years. Talking with active people raised the issue about burnout in the voluntary work. People are tired, sometimes unmotivated but they have strong sense of responsibility. They do everything but do not have capacity to engage new people or do not have enough knowledge about delegation. My professional interest (graduated in psychology) lead me to the project to avoid and mitigate the situation.

Key-words: voluntary work; stress; noticing voluntary leaders;
psychological self-development.; regional level

EU

Action to Strengthen Small European Towns (Asset) - ECOVAST

The impetus for this initiative arose from a conference held in the small town of Retz in Austria in 2005. It was established that there were no specific policies for 'small towns' in Europe. There were plenty of policies for urban areas and policies for rural areas. ECOVAST decided that it would set up a project to look at evidence about small towns across Europe – not just the European Union – and formulate policy for small towns between its members and the rural networks across Europe. In 2006 the ASSET project was born. ECOVAST discussed small towns at many conferences in many different countries during 10 years that this initiative was active. The purpose was to try and influence the European Union and other countries in Europe about the important contribution that small towns make to both rural and urban areas – both in economic and cultural terms.

Key-words: small towns, European level,