



Story of Estonian Rural Parliament

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Once upon a time...



... in early 1990s met some friends from Estonia and from Sweden

... they talked about rural life and village communities and about how to rise the voice of rural people. The Swedes sowed „a seed“ to the Estonians heads

... and they decided to organize the first Estonian Rural Parliament

... it happened 1996

...but this is not the end of story...

Estonian village life

- Population 1,3 milj
- 1 / 3 of Estonians live in rural areas
- There are 4438 villages in Estonia
- Village Movement Kodukant have the first village-based data in Estonia:
 - village elders (ca 1100)
 - village centers (ca 400)
 - village NGOs (ca 1200)



Estonian Rural Parliament– parliament of Estonian Villages (1)

- ▶ From 1996 village movement Kodukant **brings together** village leaders, organizations, local and national representatives and politicians with the aim **to discuss the issues and look for solutions** to the problems facing rural development.
 - ▶ During opening ceremony will be announced **The Village of the Year** (based on national competition)
 - ▶ Estonian Rural Parliament will provide also a good platform for discussion and exchange of ideas and best practice between international organizations connected with the rural development in different European countries.
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Estonian Rural Parliament (2)

- ▶ Traditional event every 2nd year
- ▶ Organized by Kodukant`s team and one county organisation (Venue of the RP „travelling“)
- ▶ Participants approx 400 – county delegations 15 x 20 pers, international and local guests



Making decisions for next 2 year in rural development and Kodukant`s action

12th Estonian Rural Parliament August 4.-6. 2017

Ca 350 participants – 15 delegations from Estonian Counties, guests, partners, politicians, President of Parliament, President of Republic, Prime Minister, minister of Rural Affairs and 40 international guests from 8 countries: Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Scotland, Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Moldova.

The result of RP, Rural Manifesto, was given to the Estonian Government.



Results of 12th Estonian RP

- ▶ Rural Manifesto of Estonian villages– Declaration with suggestions, plans and proposals based on former discussions in regions and on RP workshops results
- ▶ Manifesto was given to the Prime Minister and Minister of Rural Affairs during closing ceremony of RP
- ▶ Important milestone in the history of Estonian RP – in the end of November 2017 the Manifesto will be discussed in the Cabinet meeting of Estonian Government



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
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International guests with Estonian Prime Minister



Thank You!

