



INVITATION



Lithuanian Cultural and Culinary Heritage Project
„Panemunių žiedai“
International LAG's Fair
24 – 25 May 2013, Lithuania

Dear participants of the fair,

With great pleasure we would like to invite you to the 2nd International LAG's (local action groups) Fair to be held on 25 May 2013 in Lithuania.

The meeting of the EU Member States' representatives of national rural networks and LAG's, which purpose is to share best practices and cooperation development, will be held a day before the fair on 24 May during the international conference.

You will have a possibility to get acquainted with the projects carried out by LAG's as well as with the rural tourism homesteads, traditional crafts and culinary heritage. During the fair you will be able to establish new cooperation relationships, present the local projects being implemented and discuss the ideas of current and future projects.

We are very proud of and appreciate the experience gained in the last year's fair. It was a huge challenge and responsibility for us. However, with your assistance and support we organized the first international LAG's fair. We would like to thank the participants from different countries for the great evaluation of the event and sincere words of appreciation. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Lithuanian LAG's whose level of participation was high and who gained more experience and demonstrated the best we have and are proud of.

We are glad to have the opportunity to invite you to Lithuania once again! The country is proud of cultural values which are included into UNESCO World heritage List: the old town of Vilnius which is one of the biggest and most beautiful old towns in the Eastern Europe, the Curonian Spit, Kernavė Archaeological Site, cross crafting and the symbolism of crosses, traditions of song festivals. Every year we would like to introduce you at least a small part of our traditions.

Lithuania is unique in one more aspect – it has five ethno-cultural regions. The regions will be presented in the fair this year. The regions formed many centuries ago. Largely they were influenced by the different natural and cultural resources of these regions. We are confident that the biggest impact was made by the people who lived and created there and preserved traditions so as to pass them from generation to generation and made those traditions alive today. Customs and traditions connect grandparents and their grandchildren, parents and their children, brothers and sisters, the experience of the older is passed to the younger, therefore, the theme of this year's fair is: "From Generation to Generation, Preserving Regional Identity."

We are proud of our history and preserve our old traditions. Come and let us share them with you!

We cordially invite you to participate in the 2nd International LAG's Fair. We sincerely believe that the cooperation established in Raudonė will provide our local action groups with new challenges and incredible possibilities creating attractive environment for living and working.

We will do our best so that you would have unforgettable time here, get acquainted with wonderful parts of the country, meet interesting and creative people!

The attendees of the fair will have the possibility to participate in the theatrical "Panemunių žiedai" festival of Raudonė castle which is organized for the 12th time.

With best wishes and sincerest invitation

Sincerely

Minister of Agriculture of Lithuania

Vigilijus Jukna



PROGRAM

Day 1. 24 May. Meeting of the EU Member States' national rural networks and LAG's.

International conference will be held in the first part of the program. The second part is designed to share best practices and for the trips to introduce the successfully implemented national projects financed by the Lithuanian Rural Development Program 2007-2013.

Day 2. 25 May. International LAG's Fair. The aim of the fair is to strengthen and develop international collaboration, provide possibilities for sharing best practices, present projects and for the LAG's and the representatives of national rural networks to introduce themselves.

The participants of the fair will be given the space to represent their country, its uniqueness, projects implemented, culinary heritage and traditional crafts. The attendees will also have the possibility to interact with each other, establish cooperation, present local projects being implemented and discuss the ideas of current and future projects. We invite you to participate in the fair together with the representatives of the national rural networks.

The fair is organized by the member of the Lithuanian Rural Network Public Institution "Panemunės žiedai" in cooperation with the Lithuanian Rural Network Secretariat.

The fair will take place in one of the most beautiful places in Lithuania, near the Raudonė castle which dates back to the end of the sixteenth century. The participants will see "Panemunės žiedai" program for the 12th time organized theatrical festival of Raudonė castle. This is the Lithuanian cultural and culinary heritage project, attracting thousands of visitors from all over Lithuania annually in spring, the last Saturday of May. More information about the event may be found on www.panemuniuziedai.lt

We invite you to come to Lithuania: to learn about rich rural areas of the country, the diversity of castles and manors and meet the people creating real values!

We are looking forward to meeting you!

We are expecting for LAG's from each country with the presentation of their representative country, LAG's region, local food, articles of domestic merchandise and informational material. Three people are welcome from each LAG.

We will provide free of charge:

- participation in the pavilions during the fair;
- meals for attendees;
- accommodation;
- and transport within the country.

Please notify us:

- - about your participation before 1 May. The application form may be found on

Lithuania is accessible by plane, train, ferry, bus or car. There are two main international airports in Vilnius (<http://www.vilnius-airport.lt>) and Kaunas (<http://www.kaunas-airport.lt>).

