

2023 European LEADER Congress

18-19 December 2023

Draft programme

Monday 18th December

Place : European Parliament

12:00 pm **Registration**

1.30 to 2.30 pm **Introduction to the Congress**

- Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture
- Carolina Gutierrez, representative of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of Europe
- Isilda Maria Prazeres GOMES, President of Cor NAT commission
- Peter Schmidt, President of the NAT section of the European Economic and Social Committee
- Irène Tolleret, MEP, vice-president of Leader France
- Thibaut Guignard, President of ELARD

2.45 to 4.00 pm **Congress plenary – An exchange of views on Rural Development policies**

- Radim Sršeň, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and Deputy Minister for Regional Development of Czech Republic
- Isabel Carvalhais, MEP, Rapporteur on the Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas for the AGRI Committee, European Parliament
- Lidija Pavić-Rogošić, Rapporteur of the Opinion on the Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director General DG AGRI
- Hartmut Berndt, Chairman of BAGLAG and Vice-President of ELARD

4:30 to 5.30 pm **LEADER awards for best added value**

Award ceremony for the best LEADER projects accross Europe in 2014-2022

5.40 to 6.30 pm **Congress plenary – ELARD's resolution post 2027**

Tuesday 19th December

Hosted by the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee

Parallel sessions

10.00 to 11.15 am a) **Taking stock of what works in LEADER to strengthen the approach for the Future**

- Stefan Niedermoser, LEADER-forum Austria
- Wolfgang Berger, LEADER-forum Austria
- Barbara Stumpf, LAG Zeitkultur Oststeirisches Kernland
- Iwona Listwan, DG AGRI

b) **How to assess LEADER added value: approaches and experiences?**

- Marili Parissaki, European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP
- Valdis Kudiņš, European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP

c) **Implementing the Rural Vision & Pact: The value for LEADER**

- Urszula Tabor-Budzich, Rural Pact Support Office and LDnet
- Enrique Nieto, Rural Pact Support Office
- Lidija Pavić-Rogošić, Rapporteur of the Opinion on the Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas of the European Economic and Social Committee
- Radim Sršen, Rural Pact Coordination Group
- Eduard Trepas, Associació d'Iniciatives Rurals de Catalunya
- David Armellini, Agence nationale de la cohésion des territoires ANCT
- Terry Stavropoulos, Joint Research Centre

d) **How to integrate Erasmus + in LEADER Cooperation - Examples from Estonia, Serbia and France**

- Quentin Legouy, Le Controis en Sologne
- Bojan Kovac, Serbian Network of LAGS
- Triin Kallas, Estonian Network of LAGs
- Vincent Rousval, French Erasmus + Agency
- Alexis Lebrat, LEADER France

e) **Engaging youth in rural areas**

- Annie Linsemark - European Youth Parliament
- Nicoletta Merlo - Rapporteur on upcoming EESC opinion "The role of youth in rural development"
- Klaus Hansen Petersen - LAG Bornholm (Denemark)
- Irene Martín García, Red Española de Desarrollo Rural
- Maria Gafo Gomez, DG AGRI,
- Vilis Brūveris, Cowork for youth

f) **How to implement LEADER in countries beyond Europe and how to cooperate with them**

- Patricia Vazari, LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova
- Marina Albu, LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova

- Sandra Macura, Serbian Network of LAGs
- Petar Gjorgievski, Rural Development Network of North Macedonia
- Serhii Zamidra, Ukrainian association of Communities
- Marta Marcziś, AEIDL and representative of the Armenian initiative
- Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA

11.45 am
to 1pm

a) European Elections: challenges of rural areas and how to involve them

- Adrien Licha, ALDA and TAKE the Lead in the European Elections project
- Piotr Styczen - "Stand for more in 24"
- Bertrand Trepo, elected representative in the French Marne department
- Irène Tolleret, MEP, and Leader France

b) Rural proofing: science and national examples

- Kadri Tilleman, RUSTIK project
- Francesco Mantino, Council for Research in Agricultural and Agricultural Economics, Centre for Policies and Bio-economy (CREA-PB)
- María José Murciano, Red Española de Desarrollo Rural

c) Exploring the benefits of cooperation and collaboration with LEADER

- Hanane Allali – French Managing Authority (MASA)
- Dr. Konstantinos Zapounidis, GAL Pieriki
- Tom Jones, ERCA
- Vanessa Halhead, Scottish Rural Action and ERCA

d) LEADER and simplification – talking about Simplified Cost Options

- Peter Toth, European CAP network
- Alistair Prior, European CAP network
- Olavi Petron, Republic of Estonia Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture

e) The importance of LAG managers in the success of Local Development strategies

- Ana Manrique Morales, LAG Valles Pasiegos, Spain
- Rita Triinu Peussa, LAG Raplamaa Partnerluskogu and Estonian Union of LAGs
- Michael Spada, LAG Îles et Estuaires Charentais, France
- Monika Smetanová, LAG Krajina srdce, Czech Republic
- François Galabrun, LAG PNR de la Narbonnaise en Méditerranée, France

f) The future of gender equality in rural areas and how LEADER can contribute to it

- Maura Farrell, Galway University, Ireland and FLIARA Project
- Tuomas Kuhmonen, Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC)
- Louise Weir, FLIARA
- Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development Clg
- Marion Eckardt, ELARD
- Margaret Bateson, DG AGRI

2.30 to
3.45 pm

a) How to apply multi-fund with LEADER - hearing from success stories

- Peter Toth, European CAP network
- Alistair Prior, European CAP network
- Marjeta Jeric, Slovenian Managing Authority
- Renáta Kučerová - CZ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, MA OP EMPL+ (ESF+)
- Simona Rulcová – CZ Ministry of Regional Development, MA IROP (ERDF)

b) Developing interactions between rural and urban areas - and CLLD urban

- Florin Preda, urban LAG Radauti and Romanian Association of Urban LAGs
- Stefan Kah, Local Development Network, Ldnet

c) Unlocking potential: Enhancing Impact in Regional Development

- Gerry Murray, Assemblée des Régions d'Europe AER
- Wouter Peeters, Vlaamse Landmaatschappij
- Conor Judge, Nuffield College, University of Oxford
- Quentin Legouy, Le Controis en Sologne

d) The implementation of Smart Villages through LEADER

- Edina Ocsko - Smart village network
- Maria Hell, Mariazellerland – Mürtztal
- Terry Stavropoulos, Joint Research Centre

e) Cooperation fair