

Partnership for rural areas – Rural Twinning

(CoCoBeLA – Coordinated Cooperation Between LAGs)

10 – 11 September 2018, Hranice, Olomouc region, Czech republic

Please, accept the invitation to the Conference on International Cooperation through Local Action Groups. The LEADER/CLLD Programme is important for rural development throughout the European Union and in the candidate countries. This event will allow for in-depth discussion of opportunities for future thematic cooperation.

The working language of the conference is English.

10 September, Monday – **What are the starting points for international cooperation through LAGs in rural areas?**

09:30 – 10:00 *Registration of participants, welcome coffee*

10:00 **Opening of the conference**

Jiří Krist, Chairman of the NN LAG Czech republic /National Network of Local Action Groups in the Czech Republic/

10:10 – 10:20 **EESC** /European Economic and Social Committee/ – CLLD for the Future, Roman Haken

10:20 – 10:40 **ELARD** /European LEADER Association for Rural Development/ –The Present and the Future of LAG Cooperation in the EU, Radim Sršeň

10:40 – 11:00 **ENRD** /European Network for Rural Development/ – International Cooperation in Rural Development, Veronika Korčeková

11:00 – 11:30 **SMS** /Association of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic/ – The Benefits of International Cooperation, Radim Sršeň

11:30 - 13:00 *Lunch break*

13:00 Opening of the afternoon session

Introduction to the presentation of Balkan countries and their practices

(how LAGs cooperate internationally in different countries, how LAGs select suitable partners from abroad, what resources they have available within the CLLD in the 2014-2020 period and for what activities, what other resources being are used and which activities are seen as important in the future) *One speaker per each country delegation will summarize the experience of the country.*

13:00 – 13:15 **Serbia**, LAG Fruška Gora, Sandra Macura

13:15 – 13:30 **Macedonia**, LAG Agro Lider, Daniela Cvetanoska

13:30 – 13:45 **Bosnia a Hercegovina**, Centar za ekonomski i ruralni razvoj, Miodrag Matavulj

13:45 – 15:00 **Albania**, Association of Albanian Municipalities, Agron Haxhimali

15:00 - 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 – 16:00 Introduction of **Workgroup on International Cooperation of National Network of LAGs in the Czech republic** /National Network of Local Action Groups in the Czech Republic/, Gustav Charouzek, Radim Sršeň

16:00 – 17:00 Roundtable discussion: **Cooperation between the LAGs**

Facilitation: Radim Sršeň

Presentation: Gustav Charouzek

Cooperation between LAGs exists within the national network but also internationally. Usually it is an ad hoc cooperation on someone's initiative (lead partner). Where should cooperation develop in the future? Should it be more focused on narrow issues (geoparks, regional labels, employment of women in the countryside...) or rather applied to certain priority countries (e.g. in line with state policies)? Do we need coordinators for international cooperation – i.e. for several LAGs simultaneously? If so, how do we pay for their work? What resources are available for the international cooperation of LAGs? Is their set-up functional or do we need to change something? Would it be advisable to create a dedicated website for offers of collaboration?

17:00 **Wrap-up of the first day, question and answers**, Radim Sršeň

Introduction of the second day agenda, Roman Haken

Rest until dinner

19:00 – 23:00 Joint diner - Archa Hranice

11 September, Tuesday – **How do we envisage international cooperation for rural development in the future, what are the resources and possible tools?**

09: 00 – 09:15 **Opening**, introduction of the day's agenda, Roman Haken

Introduction to the Presentation of the Visegrad Countries + Slovenia and Croatia and their practices

09:15 – 09:30 **Latvia**, LAG Pierigas Partnership, Alina Lukjanceva

09:30 – 09:45 **Hungary**, The Hungarian National Rural Network, Walter Weidel

09:45 – 10:00 **Poland**, LAG Kraina Dinozaurów, Marianna Dylka

10:00 – 10:15 **Slovakia**, LAG Stredné Ponitrie, Darina Krausová

10:15 – 10:30 *Coffee break*

Round tables

10:30 – 11:30 **Mutual visits and possibilities of cooperation of business entities**

Facilitator: Lucia Matlová, LAG LVA

Presentation: Czechinvest, Martin Marek, Tereza Všečeková; CzechTrade

Can the international cooperation between LAGs have the side effect of emerging international business opportunities? What must every study visit include if there is an interest to evolve businesses? How to organize exchanges of business opportunities in the framework of such cooperation? Do LAG managers need to be trained and in what?

11:30 – 13:00 *Lunch break*

13:00 – 14:00 **Interships and study stays**

Facilitator: Monika Hienlová, LAG Krajina srdce

Presentation: ERASMUS Programme, Petra E. Votočková

What interships are needed in LAGs, how many days long and for which positions in LAGs? Will interns prefer longer interships in one LAG, or rather short visits in several LAGs? What resources can be used for such interships? What should be paid for the party sending the intern and what should be arranged and secured by the receiving party?

14:00 – 15:00 **Workcamps in LAG territory**

Facilitator: Roman Haken, EESC

Presentation: INEX-SDA, Jana Koňasová

Can we use this tool as part of the international cooperation (preferably for the target group of people 18-26 years of age)? Is this a way to achieve greater involvement of youth and greater interest in LAGs among the younger generation? What are the prerequisites of a good camp, what needs to be prepared? What resources are available?

15:00 – 15:10 **Closing discussion, Conclusion of the conference;** Roman Haken

15:30 Hranice Abyss /the deepest flooded pit cave in the world; departure of participants interested in visiting the new Information centre by the Hranice Abyss, hike to the Hranice Abyss/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hranice_Abyss

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