



## **Project: Coordinated cooperation between LAGs (CoCoBeLA) - a “two-day” conference with the round-table debates**

### **General information:**

Both HRA (Hranice Development Agency) and LAG Hranicko are members of the Workgroup on International Cooperation of National Network of LAGs in the Czech republic. LAGs in the EU member countries can obtain financial support for international cooperation activities from the EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). Based on the evaluation of the 2007 – 2013 period, most LAGs (Visegrad + Slovenia) are directed in cross-border cooperation with neighbouring states and lack information and skills to outline larger-scale cooperation schemes which could have greater impact concerning shared experience and transfer of rural development knowledge.

The aim of the proposed activity is to discuss possible cooperation activities and establish tools or network for regional cooperation between Slovenia and Visegrad countries on one hand and Balkan countries on the other hand. Except for Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia are not members of the EU, but are keen to be part of broader regional cooperation. Using the financial resources from EAFRD, Visegrad countries and Slovenia can establish long-term inter-regional cooperation with Balkan countries, transferring their experience and knowledge related to building a partnership between regional institutions, private sector and public and engage them in local and rural development. Envisaged fields for cooperation are: support and encouragement of networking of citizens and local communities; cross-border bonding of civil and business sector; facilitation of cooperation of public sector and application of international cooperation in supporting and encouraging locally based development initiatives, mutual visits, interships and youth workcamps.

Nevertheless, our goal is not address our current or former project partners but invite LAGs into cooperation and spread the network of contacts in order to create new possibilities for regional cooperation and partnership. The role of LAGs in rural development is crucial. Creating the basis for mutual sharing, information and experience exchange is the foundation for the following spontaneous and autonomic LAGs networking. Envisaged conference will be the impetus for such a scheme, resulting in follow-up LAGs Cooperation activities financed from their own budget in the framework of the EAFRD.



**Summary:**

**Date:** 9 – 11 September 2018

**Venue:** Hranice na Moravě, Czech republic  
<https://www.mesto-hranice.cz/clanky/podzimni-hranice>

**Topic:** Slovenia + V4 and Balkan countries cooperation on rural development

**Target group:** LAGs and representatives of the local rural development from EU and non-EU CEI countries

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**Conference Programme:**

**DAY 1: Arrivals**

**DAY 2:**

Speakers presentations – CEI – Central European Initiative, EESC (European Economic and Social Committee), ELARD (European LEADER Association for rural development), EC – ENRD (European Commission (ENRD – European Network for Rural Development), CoR (European Committee of the Regions), National Rural Network (Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech republic)

10 CEI countries (Albania, Croatia, Czech republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia – Speakers presentations on LAGs/local possibilities of cooperation; there will be 2 representatives from each country (from 2 different institutions) – 1 participant, 1 speaker

**DAY 3:**

Slovenia + V4 and Balkan countries cooperation on rural development



**Roundtable discussion topics:**

A) LAGs networking, discussion on the creation of the shared website (common space for sharing knowledge and information, materials, enabling mutual networking)

B) Workcamps in local communities for young volunteers (Age 18 – 26)

C) Study & Business visits – target group: LAGs members and representatives of the local business sector (knowledge and know-how transfer)

D) Internships – mutual exchange of LAGs workers

**Departures**