

The project «ROAD» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Communities development and volunteering - 7 events with a total of 722 participants have been carried out within this theme

Event 18 – Estonian Rural Parliament (Main event)

Participation: The event involved 102 citizens, including 89 participants from Estonia, 6 participants from Finland, 2 participants from UK, 2 participants from Russia and 1 participant from Denmark, Greece and Sweden each

Location / Dates: The event took place in Rāpinā, **Estonia** from 26-28.7.2019.

Short description: The event was arranged in cooperation with the ROAD-project and the European Rural Parliament. The international part of the event had 102 participants from 7 countries. The Estonian Rural Parliament included plenaries and workshops among the latter the international workshop: "Volunteer work and village leadership in Nordic and Baltic countries" where participants from all countries represented were sharing experiences on how to define, value and appreciate volunteer work and its importance. Also various ways of structuring the volunteer work in different countries were discussed – all to share, and to bring back inspiration. Village elders, ombudsmen or regional village NGO's in partnerships with different decisionmakers were considered as good support systems.

Event 19 subevent Communities and volunteering workshop

Participation: The event involved 10 participants including 4 participants from Kosovo, 2 participants from Albania, Serbia, 1 from Croatia and 1 from Czech Republic.

Location / dates: The event was organised in Peja, Kosovo 30-31.10.2018.

Short description: The participants discussed NGO's roles and voluntary work cases in different countries. The appreciation, value and support systems to voluntary work are not similar in different countries. Solutions to better integrate voluntary work in the local development processes were discussed.

Event 20 – support event GA HSSL Sweden

Participation: The event involved 65 citizens, including 64 participants from Sweden and 1 from Norway.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Stockholm, Sweden 16.4.2019

Short description: Information on ERP and communities/volunteering was given to the participants by the Chair. Also the upcoming event in Estonia was discussed in the meeting

Event 21 - subevent - International WS on Smart villages Poland

Participation: The event involved 79 citizens, including 65 participants from Poland, 3 participants from Latvia, 2 participants from Ukraine, 1 participant from Lithuania, Montenegro, Romania, Finland, Estonia, Austria, Denmark and Hungary each.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Warsaw, Poland 21.22.10 2019

Short description: The Polish Rural Network held a workshop in Warsaw, Poland on Smart Villages - as an effective way to address key challenges in rural areas. Many rural communities

are starting to look for innovative smart solutions to a variety of local challenges and many interesting cases were shown. The winner of a smart village competition was declared.

Event 22 – support event Lokaali Finland

Participation: The event involved 128 citizens, including 125 participants from Finland and 1 participant from Slovenia, Denmark and Canada each.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Kauhava, Finland 23-25.5.2019

Short description: People from villages came together for 2 days to discuss about village development and solutions for future. In the workshops were discussed local solutions as to services. The main themes were digitisation, traffic and transports, village schools and the future of youth in rural areas. A 18-page report on solutions was provided. Below some solutions:

- everyone does not have access to internet and thereby to digital services. capacities of elderly should be enhanced. Why not activate youth?
- Mobility to be made easier - cars in common use, mobility apps, service car for the village, on-line cooperatives
- Public support for village schools, teleteaching, multiservice points in village schools
- Capacities for youth in cooperative and social entrepreneurship

Event 23 - subevent – Scottish Rural Parliament

Participation: The event involved 334 citizens, including 329 participants from UK, 3 from Ireland,

Location / Dates: The event took place in Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland 14-16.11.2018

Short description: The national Rural Parliament addressed several issues like climate, entrepreneurship, refugees, services, land regulations with a certain emphasis on Brexit. One main result was the 10-point policy statement “Engaging Scotland’s rural communities on Brexit”.

<https://scottishruralparliament.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/SRP-POLICY-STATEMENT-FINAL.pdf>

Event 24 – Sub-event Road partners and non Road partners. Meeting to ensure/improve future cooperation and setting procedures for same

Participation: The meeting had 4 participants (Was meant to include more participants, but last minutes changes made this impossible), including 1 participant from the city of Brønderslev, 1 participant from Horsens, 1 participant from Aarhus and 1 participant from Copenhagen (all from Denmark)

Location / Dates: The meeting took place in Odder, Denmark on the 13th January 2020

Short description: The aim of the meeting was ensure good future cooperation with the members of LDF especially the new members: the Danish LAGs and how to ensure the best possible use of our active and shared participation in ELARD, European LEADER Association for Rural Development and ERP, European Rural Parliament. Our common goal is to support participation and good communication supporting stakeholder involvement in decision-making at national level as well as at EU-level.

Main suggestions or policies: ELARD and ERP representative will report to LDF who will make use of their in-house channels of communication (mail, Website and FB) to ensure the information is shared with stakeholders / members. LDF will ensure information also from members to the European representatives. All this to ensure the best possible benefits for stakeholders and with special focus on active involvement.