



# 2023 European LEADER Congress

## 18-19 December 2023

---

### Agenda

#### Monday 18th December

Place : *European Parliament*

12:00 pm **Registration**

1.30 to **Introduction to the Congress**

2.30 pm

- 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 **Congress plenary – An exchange of views on Rural Development policies**

4.00 pm

- 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 **LEADER awards for best added value**

5.30 pm

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

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

6.30 pm





## 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
- Alexia Rouby, Policy coordinator at European Commission's DG Agriculture and rural development
- Luis Chaves, National coordinator of the Portuguese Federation of Local Development Associations (Minha Terra)

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"
- Christian Prip, LAG Bornholm (Denmark)
- 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 Marczis, 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
- 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
- Monika Smetanová, LAG Krajina srdce, Czech Republic

**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
- Terry Stavropoulos, Joint Research Centre
- Maria Pianezzola, LAG Tradizione delle Terre Occitane (Province of Cuneo)
- Carlo Salot, LAG Escartons and Valli Valdesi (Province of Turin)

**e) Cooperation fair**

