

## Partners in the European Rural Parliament 2016-17 campaign

### Co-initiating European organisations

European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD)

European Rural Community Alliance (ERCA)

PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe

### European partners

European Council for the Village and Small Town (ECOVAST)

Forum Synergies

### National Partners:

Quodev, Albania

LEADER-forum Austria

Network for Rural Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina

STEP, Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity, Bulgaria

Croatian Rural Development Network

Troodos Network of Thematic Centers, Cyprus

National Network of Local Action Groups in the Czech Republic

Landdistrikternes Fællesråd (Council of Rural Districts), Denmark

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

Estonian Village Movement Kodukant

Village Action Association of Finland (Suomen kylätoiminta ry SYTY)

Federal working group of LEADER Action Groups (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der LEADER)

Village Movement Brandenburg (Dorfbewegung Brandenburg Netzwerk)

Rural Workshop Foundation, representing Hungarian Rural Network

Irish Rural Link

Network of Organisations for Rural Development of Kosovo

Latvian Rural Forum

Lithuanian Rural Communities Union

Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia

Pro Cooperare Regională NGO, Moldova

Network for Rural Development of Montenegro

Landelijke Vereniging voor Kleine Kernen (LVVK), Netherlands

Polish Rural Forum (Forum Aktywizacji Obszarów Wiejskich FAOW)

MINHA TERRA Network, Portugal

Scottish Rural Action

Network for Rural Development of Serbia

Rural Parliament in Slovakia (Vidiecky parlament na Slovensku VIPA SK)

Slovenian Rural Development Network

Spanish Network for Rural Development (REDR)

Hela Sverige ska leva, Sweden

Development Foundation of Turkey (Türkiye Kalkınma Vakfı)

PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development), Wales



*Under the auspices of  
the Secretary General of  
the Council of Europe,  
Mr Thorbjørn Jagland*

## European Rural Parliament

### Statement to the Cork 2.0 Conference

September 2016

The European Rural Parliament welcomes the debate generated by the Cork Conference.

We reaffirm the convictions, the concerns and the commitment that are expressed in the European Rural Manifesto which was adopted at the Second Europe Rural Parliament in November 2015, as the outcome of the widespread gathering of ideas from 40 European countries.

We believe that the rural areas of Europe, with their diverse natural and human resources, represent a major asset which must be fully deployed at a time of severe social, economic and political tension on this continent.

We are deeply concerned about the lack of political attention from governments and institutions to the condition of many rural areas, notably those regions which are affected by narrow rural economies, loss of population as young people move away, decline in services, poverty and social exclusion.

We believe passionately that these challenges must be addressed, for the benefit not only of the rural communities but also of the whole population of Europe. We all depend on food, timber, fibre, energy, water and minerals produced in rural areas. Farmers, enterprises and other rural actors create a common wealth for Europe. Rural areas contribute greatly to amelioration of climate change, recreation, public health and social or spiritual well-being.



Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union

The action that is needed, across the width of rural Europe, must take the form of partnership between people and governments. The role of the European Rural Parliament is to raise the voice of rural people, but also to raise their awareness of the action which they can take in the pursuit of their own well-being.

Rural people and organisations know that we have a responsibility to give leadership and to act towards our collective well-being. But we can fairly demand that governments at all levels, including the European institutions, work to make this crucial partnership effective.

We use the Cork 2 Conference as the signal for launching the next phase of the European Rural Parliament campaign. The aim of this campaign is to build on the widespread consensus reflected in our report “ALL Europe shall live” and in the European Rural Manifesto of November 2015. In recent months, we have consulted national partners about the way ahead. We have secured funding from the European Commission’s Europe for Citizens fund to launch an Action Programme which will culminate in the third European Rural Parliament to be held in October 2017.

### **European Rural Parliament 2016-17 Action Programme**

This programme, centred on a series of multi-national projects, has a highly practical focus. Through our network of European and national partners we will gather, exchange and synthesise practical ideas from many countries. We will identify practical solutions, and clarify the factors which enable rural communities, enterprises and other stakeholders to shape and apply those solutions in a manner suited to each locality.

National Rural Parliaments will be held in many countries during 2017. The climax of the programme will be the third European Rural Parliament in October 2017

The ERP 2016-17 Programme is expected to focus on the following themes:

- A European Rural Youth Parliament, and provisions for youth in rural areas
- Contribution to a major conference on LEADER and Community Led Local Development
- Welcoming and integrating refugees and economic migrants within rural communities
- Tackling poverty and exclusion in rural areas
- The sustaining of rural services and infrastructure
- Strengthening local and sub regional economies
- The well-being of small and family farms
- The crucial role of small towns, and rural and urban cooperation
- Climate change and its implications for rural areas
- The role of civil society networks in rural areas
- Leadership in rural development
- Education in rural areas
- Partnership between civil society and governments in rural development
- Rural development in the western Balkans and the Black Sea region.

Our website [www.europeanruralparliament.com](http://www.europeanruralparliament.com) will contain details of the projects focused on these themes, together with reports as they emerge. It already contains the report “ALL Europe shall live” and the European Rural Manifesto of November 2015, translated into 27 European languages. The Website gives access to our Facebook page and enables subscription to our Newsletter. We welcome interest in our activity.

#### Joint Coordinators of the European Rural Parliament

Vanessa Halhead (ERCA) *e-mail: [vanessa@duthchas.org.uk](mailto:vanessa@duthchas.org.uk)*

Kirsten Birke Lund (ELARD) *e-mail: [kirsten@birke-lund.dk](mailto:kirsten@birke-lund.dk)*

Michael Dower (PREPARE) *e-mail: [mdower6@btinternet.com](mailto:mdower6@btinternet.com)*