



Transnational LAG Cooperation conference ***“Networking Works!”***

13–14 September, 2017
Vilnius

Background

The Lithuanian Rural Network, in cooperation with the Lithuanian LAG network and the Centre for LEADER Programme and Agricultural Training Methodology, organizes a three-day networking event „Networking works!“ that aims to fuel the cooperation among Local Action Groups (LAGs), to inspire ideas for joint actions and support LAGs in search of relevant project partners. The participants will also be introduced to a number of Lithuanian LAGs and their local projects in the countryside.

The event will gather Local Action Groups, Managing Authorities, National Rural Networks, other organizations and representatives from European Authorities. It is expected to be attended by 200 participants.

This time, we intend to meet as peers, discuss the present-day cooperation experiences, existing environment and explore paths for collaboration.

On the eve of the conference, **12 September 2017**, the participants will get to know each other and learn about what they are to experience throughout the conference.

On **13 September 2017**, we will start early with tours of LAG areas. We will offer you a possibility of visiting real-life examples of implemented LEADER projects and encourage you to interact with LAGs while admiring Lithuanian countryside. Later in the evening we will have dinner together, entertain a bit and discuss common interests as to future cooperation. We will go back to Vilnius at the end of the day.

The conference day, **14 September 2017**, will take the format of creative multi-stakeholder conversations. We will take a closer look at the current situation and requirements for cooperation across rural Europe, share the views from the European Authorities. We will take a glance at regionality issues and land on contexts of concrete countries.

The second part of the conference will engage you in proactive collaborative workshops on the themes proposed that echo the LAG tours, inspire common project ideas, reveal potential project partners. In these parallel workshops the participants will work in teams: fine-tune the topics and ideas harvested during the conference.

For those LAGs who already have a cooperation partner and project idea a special space for *tête-à-tête* will be provided for the development of the projects.

Between the intensive sessions of the conference participants will have networking coffee breaks. LAGs are invited to bring project ideas and promotional materials (space for these will be designated).

We hope that together we will create an atmosphere alleviating creativeness and willingness to collaborate.

We are positive that the conference teaches us all something. Most importantly, it facilitates cooperation among LAGs as well as searching for partners.

We believe that networking works!

Practical information:

The nearest international airport is in our capital city Vilnius.

There is no participation fee.

Participants should cover their accommodation cost in Vilnius. A list of recommended hotels will be provided later on.

Working language: Lithuanian, with simultaneous interpreting to/from English.

You can decide to stay longer in Lithuania as Vilnius will host the impressive Nations' Fair on 15–17 September, 2017

<http://www.vilnius-events.lt/en/event/nations-fair-2017/>

A detailed and updated programme & practical information about the event will be provided in www.kaimotinklas.lt

REGISTRATION: the registration will open in late July. The participants will be registered on a *first-come, first-served* basis via the registration link that will be provided in due course.

If you have any further questions, please send an e-mail to jolanta.vaiciuniene@zum.lt

On behalf of Organizing Team
Yours sincerely,

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