

PREPARE Gathering 2010

30 August - 3 September 2010, Ohrid



- Networking in Rural Areas
- Common Agriculture Policy after 2013

“ELARD - European LEADER Association for Rural Development-aisbl “

*by Mr. Panayiotis PATRAS,
ELARD President*



ELARD

European LEADER Association for
Rural Development - aisbl



EUROPEAN LEADER ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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Identity

- International non-profit organization founded in 1999 by 5 European National LEADER networks :
 1. *French LEADER Network* - **LEADER France**
 2. *Greek LEADER Network* - **Ελληνικό Δίκτυο LEADER**
 3. *Irish LEADER Network* - **Comhar LEADER na hEireann**
 4. *Italian LEADER Network* - **AssoLEADER**
 5. *Spanish LEADER Network* - **REDR**
- Today, ELARD is representing more than 890 Local Action Groups through national and regional voluntary networks in:
 - ***France, Greece, Ireland, North Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Latvia, Hungary, United Kingdom, Belgium, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia.***
- In contact with Rural Networks in ***Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus.***



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Members

1. *Irish Local Development Network* - Ireland
2. *Društvo za razvoj slovenskega podeželja (SRDN)* - Slovenia
3. *Greek LEADER+ Network* - Greece
4. *Hungarian LEADER Alliance* - Hungary
5. *LEADERFRANCE* - France
6. *LITHUANIAN RURAL COMMUNITIES UNION* - Lithuania
7. *MINHA TERRA – Federação Portuguesa de Associações de Desenvolvimento Local* - Portugal
8. *Národní síť Místních Akčních Skupin České republiky, o.s.* - Czech Republic



Members

9. *National “Latvian Rural Forum”* - Latvia
10. *NORTHERN IRELAND LEADER NETWORK* - United Kingdom
11. *RED ESPAÑOLA DE DESARROLLO RURAL. (REDR)* - Spain
12. *The Malopolska Network of LAGs* - Poland
13. *Village Action Association of Finland (SYTY)* - Finland
14. *Association for zone development Medgidia, LAG Medgidia*
- Romania
15. *AssoGal Toscana – Associazione dei GAL Toscani* - Italy
16. *Wallonia Rural Foundation* - Belgium



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ELARD aims

- One of the most important aims of ELARD is to:
"campaign to spread the philosophy, principles and reach of the LEADER method grounded in the seven specific features in order to achieve sustainable rural development across Europe".
- The association aims also to:
"represent the interests and needs of its members in front of other international, European, and national institutions to liaise with other stakeholders and institutions working towards an integrated rural development and to influence EU policies in favour of rural development".



ELARD aims

- support rural and regional development based on LEADER philosophy;
- promote experience exchange, sharing information and cooperation activities through its members, partners and European Institutions;
- To serve as a forum for the LAG's, the various NGO, rural groups and other organisations that wish to exchange their views and experiences on rural development and the future of rural areas in Europe;



ELARD aims

- To liaise with similar networks and institutions that work towards an integrated rural development;
- To support the partners/members in their efforts to carry out innovatory actions in the field of rural development;
- To organise meetings and thematic conferences between different Local Action Groups (LAGs) at European level;
- To encourage initiatives that will lead to cooperation;



Network Presidency

- Rotation rule: each member Network gets the Presidency of ELARD for a term of two years;
- Past Presidencies: Italian Network (99-01), French Network (01-03), Spanish Network (03-05), Irish Network (05-07);
- Current Presidency: Greek LEADER Network (07-09);
- Next Presidency: Portuguese LEADER Network;



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ELARD and ENRD

- **ELARD** has been accepted by September 2008, as the European Association representing **Local Action Groups** at European level in the **European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)** set up by the Commission;
- Representatives of **ELARD** are participating both :
 - *in the Co-ordination Committee of ENRD;*
 - *In the Sub LEADER Committee of ENRD;*
- **ELARD** co chairs the **Focus Group 1**. *"Implementation of the bottom-up approach under LEADER Axis"*;
- **ELARD** is member in two **Thematic Working Groups** of ENRD:
 - **TWG 1**. *"Targeting territorial specificities and needs in Rural Development Programmes;*
 - **TWG 4**. *"Delivery Mechanisms of European rural development policy"*;



Being a member of ELARD

- Transnational level
 - Information and experience sharing through all European LAGs and other European Rural Development Networks:
www.elard.eu, Newsletter, Events
 - Contact with other European LAGs in order to proceed to transnational cooperation.
- European Level:
 - Direct information concerning Rural Development Policies and Actions and the future of Rural Development by the European Commission.
 - Brussels offices to coordinate and support members visits or actions if needed.
- Join a strong network that represents interests and value of rural development people and areas.



To get in touch with ELARD

- www.elard.eu
 - website with full content , newsletter list, forum, registration process for new members
- Offices in Brussels:
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Thank you for your attention!