

European Rural Parliament

Brussels 13 November 2013

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Programme

This will be an exciting and engaging process, involving many representatives from the local level, as well as policy makers and politicians from the European Union. It starts before the event with writing proposals – which are going to influence the program. The work with decisions made at the ERP will continue for at least one month after the event, and will be reported back and included in the documentation.



On the 13 of November there will be presentations on key rural development issues and experiences, and the findings of the pre-ERP survey. Workshops will enable full discussion on the main issues raised.

The plenary will agree the content of the ERP policy statement, and the responsibilities for taking forward the consequent actions, including the organization of the next ERP.

Draft Programme – minor changes will

be made

Wednesday November 13 – The European Rural Parliament
At the European Economic and Social Committee Headquarters

8.15 Registration – security control etc

9:00 Welcome - Let's talk rural!

Dilyana Slovaba from EESC and hopefully one Commissioner will open the ERP.
Presentation of facilitator

9:20 Rural Matters!

When the impossible becomes possible – challenges and achievements for rural areas

9.40 The Rural Community Movement in Europe – *the moving force in rural Europe*

How local people organise themselves to champion rural issues – an introduction by Vanessa Halhead (ERCA) and Goran Soster (PREPARE) followed by contributions from a variety of rural people and interaction with the audience

10:40 Break – *time to chill and chat*

11:10 Local Development – *grey matter tackles rural matter*

Think Tank on best practice, methods and experiences across Europe, Peter Backa and Kim Smedslund from ERCA will present the findings of the Think Tank

11:30 Getting down to action – *the big issues*

Presentation and discussion of the motions gathered from across Europe

12.00 Lunch – *buffet*

13:30 Re-balancing territorial development In Europe

Workshops on the key motions presented to the ERP

MINGLE FOR EARLY ARRIVERS

Tuesday November 12 –
Reception at The European Parliament
16.30 - 21.00 – By invitation of the Members of the European Parliament

REPORTING BACK

Thursday November 14 – Reporting back
9.30-11.00 – Presentation of results to the Members of the European Parliament – by ERP representatives

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15.00 Break – *time for a brew*

15:30 Let's take the next step!

The European Rural Parliament and the Rural Networks: the future

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Allocation of tasks – Your opportunity to become actively involved and sign a "declaration of intent"

16.50 And to conclude. . .

Concluding statements

17.00 That's all folks!

Close of the first European Rural Parliament

The process – before, during and after the 13 November

May – October	Information, mobilisation and submission of proposals
November 13	The European Rural Parliament event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposals are processed and debated • a common statement for rural development agreed by participants
November 14	Summary, feedback and report to European Parliamentarians
Nov 14 – Dec 15	Work continues with working groups of those who express an interest at the ERP
December 15	Reports from working groups submitted – to enable implementation of the results and future plans of the ERP
January 2014	Final report and documentation disseminated



ERP is bottom-up - not only in theory!

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Welcome to the European Rural Parliament

The first European Rural Parliament, ERP, will be organized in Brussels on 13 November 2013. It will speak for the many local development groups that represent and work for the good of all the inhabitants in their area.



The European Rural Parliament is a place where decision makers and grass roots meet to discuss together ways to strengthen local development in rural areas.

ERP is a concept, an event – not an organization

The decision to hold an ERP is the outcome of an international seminar held in Sweden in September 2012, in which many European organisations and networks participated.

The ERP will become a tradition every second year, circulating between different countries.

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Why an ERP

The European Rural Parliament will present the rural movements as significant players at a European level, part of the civil society and the social economy, providing local development.

The ERP will provide a forum for exchange of ideas and experience between national rural movements and networks. The ERP will affect policy for rural and local development and address the practical implementation of the European programs.

What is a rural movement?

Rural movements exist in most countries in Europe. They represent the many local communities that are working to develop their own areas. They help to strengthen their work and raise their voice at local, national and European levels



Background

The European rural community movement is growing stronger. In some countries, the rural movements have recently organised themselves, in others they are many years old. The social change and economic challenges that every nation faces makes the need for new solutions ever more obvious.

The common challenges call for creating opportunities where the national rural movements and European rural networks meet and where the grassroots meet the decision makers. This is the origin of the rural parliament.

*A forum
where
grassroots
meet
decision
makers*

The Swedish Rural Parliament has inspired many countries to follow and organise their own rural parliaments. This has in turn led to the idea of a common European Rural Parliament to raise the challenges and opportunities for local development at European level. It is about making visible civil society, sharing common experiences and influencing policy in constructive ways, from our common and varied starting points.

The first European Rural Parliament, to be held in Brussels, is primarily a strategic gathering in the very centre of European political power.

The European Rural Alliance, ERA, the European Rural Community Association, ERCA and the Partnership for Rural Europe, PREPARE, are main organisers, who are inviting other organisations and networks to join them in Brussels.

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Outcomes

The primary outcome of the ERP will be a statement on the policies for local and rural development in Europe and a process for ensuring action.



The ERP will strengthening of the links between the rural actors and movements across Europe. We will also take decisions on future of the European Rural Parliament.

History's first European Rural Parliament will be fully documented and evaluated, to ensure the successful continuation of this very significant new process. Reports will be disseminated on the internet, by streaming on the day, and through the press.

Goals

The goal of the ERP is to provide a common voice for and to strengthen the rural movement in Europe.

It will:

- create a common statement that affects European rural policy
- improve the dialogue between policy makers and the local level
- exchange experiences of successful local development
- find a form of ERP that will live on and be continued across Europe

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