Members Meeting ELARD
13:00-16:00 CET, 5.10.2021

I. **Attendees:**

1.	Marion Eckardt ELARD President	LUS, Local Development Sweden	Sweden
2.	Hartmut Berndt ELARD Vice-President	German LEADER Association (BAG LAG)	Germany
3.	Bojana Markotić Krstinić	Leader Network Croatia	Croatia
4.	Jan Florian	Narodni sit MAS CR, o.s.	Czech Rep.
5.	Christian Prip	LAG Bornholm	Denmark
6.	Kirsten Birke Lund	Council of Rural Districts (Danish LAGs)	Denmark
7.	Pedro Brosei	German LEADER Association (BAG LAG)	Germany
8.	Anastasios Perimenis	Hellenic Network CLLD/LEADER LAGS/FLAGS	Greece
9.	Iro Tsimpri	Hellenic Network CLLD/LEADER LAGS/FLAGS	Greece
10.	Timea Nemeth	Hungarian National Rural Network	Hungary
11.	Terry Keenan	Irish Local Development Network	Ireland
12.	Leotrim Germizaj	Network of Org. for Rural Development of Kosovo	Kosovo
13.	Anita Seļicka	Latvian Rural Forum	Latvia
14.	Santa Harjo-Ozoliņa	Latvian Rural Forum	Latvia
15.	Virginija Šetkienė	Lithuanian Rural Communities Union	Lithuania
16.	Françoise Bonert	NRN Luxembourg	Luxemboug
17.	Patricia Varzari	National LEADER Network of the Republic of Moldova	Moldova
18.	Rene Perton	LEADER Network Netherlands	Netherlands
19.	Piotr Sadlocha	Polish LAG Network	Poland
20.	David Canaveira	MinhaTerra Network (PT)	Portugal
21.	Jela Tvrdoňová	National Network of Slovak LAGs	Slovakia
22.	Goran Šoster	Slovenian Rural Development Network	Slovenia
23.	Maria Jose Murciano Sanchez	Spanish Network for Rural Development	Spain
24.	Mia Lundqvist	Leader Mälardalen	Sweden
25.	Thibaut Guignard	Association Leader France	France
26.	Alexis Lebrat	Association Leader France	France
27.	François Galaburn	Association Leader France	France
29.	Annie Linsemark	Lokal Utveckling Sverige	Sweden
30.	Beata Styczeń	ELARD Administrative Coordinator	

II. **Agenda:**

1. Start and welcome

Marion Eckardt, President of ELARD, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the online Members Meeting held via the Zoom platform *(Meeting ID: 849 5460 0876)*.

A special welcome was given to representatives of LEADER France, who in the speeches presented their organisation, scope of activities, main achievements and current projects and expressed interest in joining ELARD back after two years absence.

2. Agenda

The Agenda has been presented. No changes were proposed.

3. ELARD event 01-03 December

The President gave the general update concerning event preparation. The programme was briefly presented: two panels on the first day (Long Term Vision for Rural Areas and future Leaders); on the second day - inspiring excursion (Local Action Group area) showing Leader in projects and actions.

Ideas for celebrating Leader 30 years – there was a proposal made for discussion and the decision to share the stage with all ELARD members. All possible options are available, from the classic presentation, through personal speeches, to artistic performance.

Actions:
The Presidency will prepare communication regarding collecting proposals and coordinate this part of the celebration evening.
Members to prepare their proposals to be ready to discuss with the conference team.

The main theme of the Conference – Long Term Vision for Rural Areas – was discussed in the context of the survey *(Attachment 1)* prepared to gather feedback from members regarding the status of communicating and implementation of the strategy.
Main outcomes:

- There was concern expressed that it might be difficult to gather detailed information due to the short time after the announcement of the strategy and starting stage of the implementation,
- Financial data may be difficult to gather at this stage,
- The level of details was suggested to be revised, as well as the length of the whole survey,
- Some questions need to be more clearly formulated; they should not leave space for interpretation,
- All funds to be included in the research; however, there should be an option to choose relevant funds; if the fund is not applicable for the respondent, there should be possible to skip and move forward to another fund.

Actions:

- Suggested amendments will be incorporated in the survey form before sending to respondents.
- Members are asked to respond without delay, as the results will need work to summarise, and this needs to be ready for the presentation and discussion at the conference.

4. Communication #LEADER30years

The campaign is designed to emphasise LEADER 30 years and draw attention to the LEADER method and its benefits across Europe from the local perspective.
The range of tools and materials has been prepared with guides on how to use them.
All of them were presented by Annie Linsemark, Communication Officer, who explained the mechanism and introduced the materials available.
All campaign-related materials and information can be found on ELARD's website: http://elard.eu/positions/

Actions:

- Members are encouraged to disseminate the information, graphics and instructions within their organisations.
- In case graphics with national language is needed, it can be prepared on individual request. Contact regarding the campaign: annie.linsemark@lluh.se

5. Added value working group

LEADER/CLLD Added value activities:

- Marion Eckardt gave an update on working group tasks and meetings,
- Information on the webinar conducted on 23/06/2021was presented. Video materials, presentations and workshop group reports are available at: http://elard.eu/leader-clld/added-value/
- Jela Tvrdonowa presented the results summary of the ELARD's survey on LEADER/CLLD added value conducted in July (the presentation *is Attachment 8*),
- The discussion concerning the interest in the preparation of a brieh manual highlighting the application of criteria to safeguard the proper application of LEADER method and principles was conducted in four groups. After that, the rapporteurs presented a summary of the group's conclusions. (*Questions for discussion – Attachment 9*)

Actions:

- The presentation on survey results in an open format, which will let using the material for further dissemination, will be attached to the Minutes of the meeting,
- The rapporteurs will prepare the written notes of group discussion and send them to Jela Tvrdonova,
- Members interested in joining the added value working group are welcome. Regarding this subject, they should contact Marion Eckardt directly.

6. EKEP (ELARD Knowledge Exchange Platform)

Up to date information was presented. The status of activities is available for review in the attached presentation *(Attachment 10)*

7. Compilation of meetings

Meeting and actions executed since the last meeting in May:

- Advocacy – Article 71
- Outgoing letters (Wojciechowski, Jahr and Maria do Céu Antunesi)
- Article ESPON
- Thematic Working group on LTVRA (5th of May)
- Local Action for Rural Development in Africa (25th of May)
- RN Steering group meeting (25th of May)
- Ireland event (27th of May)
- Die Transformationskraft von LEADER – Austrian event (1st of June)
- CLLD conference with RUMRA (2nd of June)
- ENRD LEADER 30 years and added value (3rd of June)
- Regional Growth Conference, Greece (4th of June)
- Community-Led Local Development projects and regional EU funding, The Greens (10th of June)
- ERP-EESC-event (18th of June)
- Meeting Colm Markey (24th of June)
- Workshop: How to include added value in your strategy (23rd of June)
- Bürgerdialog des Bundesministeriums für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft: „Die Zukunft Europas entscheidet sich auf dem Land“ (30th of June)
- Startup Olé (7th of September)
- LEADERfest Kutna Hora, Czech Republic (22nd of September)
- Health and well being in rural areas (23rd of September)
- International Forum of LAG and Conference: Smart Villages for a Green, Digital and Resilient Europe, Slovenia (30th of September -1st of October)

8. Budget report 2021

- The President presented the budget report (*Attachment 2*) and 2021 Balance sheet (Attachment 3). This was for information purposes; no decisions were expected to be made at the members' meeting. The budget discussion is planned for General Assembly, and all relevant documents will be sent in advance, in line with procedures to let representatives discuss them internally and be prepared to make financial decisions.
- Member fees 2021/2021 status was presented (*Attachment 4&5*).
- Due to the expected ELARD's bank account change, members who did not pay the fee yet will get the new invoices with the new account number for the transfer.

9. Presidency 2022

There is no information on countries planning to run for Presidency or Vice Presidency so far. According to the solution approved by General Assembly in May, Sweden is starting preparation for their extended Presidency for 2022.

- Proposed activity plan (Attachment 6)
- Proposed budget (Attachment 7)
- Proposed members fee 2022

The is no change in members' fees recommended by the Council for 2022. The rules should be kept as for 2021. This will be a transition period, and new rules shall be applied after the new programming period is in force (with budgets, number of LAGs, etc.)
There will be a need for discussion on that subject with the next budget.
There was no objection from the members at this stage. Moreover, there is a willingness to higher contribution if only it would be followed by actions and activity on the European level and will bring long-term benefits. However, it should be executed in steps and will be up to the approval of the action plan, which should prove more visibility of the organisation and its members.

- The financial constraints due to becoming a full member for neighbouring countries need to be considered.

Actions:

- The meeting with members from the neighbouring countries will be held to discuss possible solutions on fees and payments.

10. Other points of interest

No subjects were raised.

11. Next meetings

Council Meetings: 2nd of November 13-16, 22nd November 15-17
General Assembly: 30th of November, Halmstad Sweden
Celebration of LEADER 30 years 1-2nd December

12. End of meeting

The President, who conducted the meeting, thanked all for their participation and contribution and closed the session.

Marion Eckardt
President

Beata Styczeń
Administrative Coordinator