

Évora / Portugal

—
26th – 28th
september
2018

+ info

<http://leaderconference.minhaterra.pt>

<http://www.elard.eu>



LEADER RELOADED

The ELARD conference
on the heartbeat
of the LEADER community

2021 is approaching at a rapid pace – and with that the beginning of a new programme period.

Therefore, questions that will be discussed will include the following:

- *What is the present state of play of **CLLD**, and which future policies and tendencies will affect us and how, especially in the context of the new legislative proposals by the Commission and the financial framework for post-2020? What are the strengths of multi-funded **CLLD** and how will local development benefit from that? How can we make it work well and simple? How can we more and better cooperate?*

In this conference organised by **ELARD** under the 2018/19 Portuguese presidency the participants will be able to engage in a mix of discussions, analysis work and creativity, including the construction of cooperation initiatives between rural territories of the EU.

Topics to be discussed will include the new approach imposed by the smart villages concept, exchanges on how to face the demographic changes, to ensure that young people stay in or move to rural areas, and how **LEADER/CLLD** and **LAGs** can contribute to these challenges, last but not least by cooperating with each other. The Portuguese **LEADER** groups want to discuss these topics with all the other European **LEADER** groups in a creative atmosphere and they also want to show their work!

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It is now time to analyse, to reflect and to become creative!

But the conference will also be a moment to reflect on the experience with more than 25 years of work with the **LEADER** approach: When looking back to the Final Conference of the **LEADER+** Community Initiative which took place on Evora in 2007, is it true that many of us in the **LEADER** areas happier. How did we make it work then and how did we think about our rural areas at that time? What happened when the **LEADER** approach was mainstreamed? For this, the conference will make use of the outcome of the 2007-conference *LEADER achievements: A diversity of territorial experience*, enabling us to better understand what has happened to the **LEADER** method since then.

For *national delegations* from **ELARD** members we hope to be able to provide the possibility to be hosted by a **Portuguese LAG** a few days before and then to travel to the conference in Evora. If you are interested in such a “travelling workshop”, please let us know as soon as possible!





Preliminary programme

26 September

Afternoon

Arrival of the participants, from travelling workshops hosted by Portuguese LAGs and study visits in the Alentejo region

19:00

Registration, warm-up activity and dinner with regional specialties

27 September

09:00–10:30

Welcome and Setting the scene

- Maria Joao Botelho, President of ELARD and Minha Terra Federation
 - Ministry of Agriculture; Forestry and Rural Development, Portugal
 - Local hosts
 - European Commission
 - Portuguese Member of the European Parliament
 - ENRD Contact Point
- Keynote speech by Robert Lukesch, Local development expert and evaluator

10:30–11:15

Coffee break & visit of the delegation stands and exhibition area

11:15–13:00

Moderated panel discussion

- with participants of different countries and LEADER generations reacting on the keynote speech and the challenges provided by the perspectives post 2020

13:00–14:30

Lunch

14:30–16:15

Mini plenaries (MP) on the following topics

- MP 1: LEADER/CLLD advocacy and the objective of *Europe closer to citizens*
- MP 2: LEADER/CLLD and the social & environmental challenges in rural areas
- MP 3: LEADER/CLLD and the *Smart Villages*
- MP 4: Evaluation of the Local Development Strategies in a results-oriented programming

16:15–16:45

Coffee break

16:45–18:30

Transnational cooperation

- Partner search, project ideas, match-making – interactive session

20:00

Dinner in the city of Évora

28 September

09:30–11:00

Restitution of the mini-plenaries

- Analysis by experts – main messages and debate with the participants

11:00–11:30

Coffee break

11:30–12:30

Closing session

- Final comments by Robert Lukesch
- Closing words by Maria João Botelho, President of ELARD and Minha Terra Federation and the Secretary of State for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

13:00

Lunch & Departure