

European Rural Parliament

Brussels 13 November 2013



Announcing the first European Rural Parliament

Dear friends and colleagues working for local development!

We wish to draw your attention to the first European Rural Parliament, to be held in Brussels on 13 November 2013, and request your support in publicising this to your networks now.

We are informing you at this early stage, because you are an important partner in the European rural movement. Our ambition is that together we will be able to create strong representation and participation in Brussels. The European Rural Parliament, ERP, will present the rural movements as significant players at a European level.

Why a European Rural Parliament?

Our common rural challenges call for opportunities where the grassroots can meet the decision makers, and for dialogue between the national rural movements and European rural networks. This is the origin of the European Rural Parliament.

It is a focus for exchange of ideas and experience, providing a forum, at the heart of European decision making, to influence policy for rural and local development and to address the practical implementation of the European programs.

**“ A forum where
grassroots
meets
decision makers!**

Background

The European Rural Parliament is an outcome of an international seminar at the Swedish Rural Parliament in September 2012. Many national and European organisations and networks participated and decided to organise the first ERP at the end of 2013. The European Rural Alliance, ERA, European Rural Community Association, ERCA and Partnership for Rural Europe, PREPARE took on board the task of organising the event in cooperation with other interested parties. The first European Rural Parliament will be hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee, EESC and conducted in cooperation with members of the European Parliament.

Participation

Participation will be limited to a few people per country, representing national rural movements and networks as well as representatives from the European Parliament and institutions, a total of approximately 150 persons. Application will be made through an on-line process, planned to start on August 15, 2013. Notification of the process will be sent to you in due course.

“ Please give us your ideas and get involved!

Contributions to the discussion are invited NOW

All who are interested in local development are invited to contribute to the discussions through a questionnaire on our website. www.europeanruralparliament.com

It's important that this opportunity is spread to your networks and we would appreciate your help in sending out information and posting on your website as soon as possible.

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On the website you will find more information. It will be updated regularly.

www.europeanruralparliament.com