

ELARD

LEADER Congress and activities

January 2024



**European Leader Association
for Rural Development**
Brussels, www.elard.eu

**FRENCH
PRESIDENCY**
2023-2024





What is ELARD?

33 members from EU and wider Europe

2600 LAGs

Mission

- to improve the quality of life in rural areas
- to maintain rural population through sustainable, integrated local development

Purpose

- to promote unique method LEADER and CLLD (*Community-Led Local Development*)
- to support rural and regional development
- to promote cooperation
- to influence EU policies





2023 European LEADER Congress

- 650 participants from 36 countries
- 2 days event:
 - 1st day: **plenary session** in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament
 - 2nd day: **16 workshops** in the Committee of the Regions and, European Economic and Social Committee
 - **One award ceremony**
 - **ELARD's Resolution post 2027**





2023 European LEADER Congress

OUTCOMES

- **Rural areas are entitled to their share of Europe;**
- **LEADER & local development led by local players are one of the answers for a Europe closer to its citizens;**
- **EU institutions support rural development actors;**
- **Advocating for the recognition of the role & importance of the LAGs;**
- **Strengthening the position & role of LEADER/CLLD in EU policies;**
- **Developing new financial resources for LEADER/CLLD;**
- **Simplifying the framework for LEADER/CLLD & better working conditions;**
- **Reforming the ESI Funds for the programming period post 2027;**





Involvements and activities

- European representation:

- Participation to the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU, and to the working groups
- Member of the EU CAP Network Steering Group and General Assembly
- Member of the European Rural Parliament
- Represented in the Rural Pact Coordination Group
- Participation to the high-level group on the Future of Cohesion Policy
- Part of the ongoing Thematic Working Group on Added value
- Participation in three Civil Dialogue Groups: Quality and Promotion, Climate and environment, CAP Strategic Plans

- Reflexion on the future of rural development policies in the EU,

- Strengthened collaboration with non-EU member states and expanding the use of LEADER



Launch meeting of Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU, January 2024



New membership of the All-Ukrainian Association of Communities





ELARD Knowledge Hub



- Founded in 2022 (Swedish presidency of ELARD)
- Formerly called "EKEP"
- a platform for members, stakeholders, and communities to come together, share knowledge, promote innovation, and drive progress in rural development, both within and outside the framework of the LEADER program
- Involvement in 8 projects so far
- More information on projects and staff: <http://elard.eu/elard-knowledge-hub/>



ELARD Aisbl

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ELARD Knowledge Hub

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