



Dear friends,

Today, we have exciting news to share with you, on which we have been working for the past couple of months...

Get ready to join us on 18 and 19 December in Brussels, for the 2023 European LEADER Congress! We thought it was about time another European LEADER event was put together, to give us a chance to all meet and bring our voices forward and vest our European capital, and Parliament - more precisely with the Parliament's hemicycle itself! 🤓 This is a save the date for now but more information will follow shortly.

In parallel, we keep on advocating among European Institutions and actively participate in ongoing dialogues on LEADER's added value, our LEADER logo, and plenty more.

Don't hesitate to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#), and [Twitter](#) to get more of our news live!

Kind regards,
Thibaut and the ELARD team

SAVE THE DATE! 2023 European LEADER Congress

Let's meet on 18 December in the European Union's hemicycle to debate on the future of LEADER within European policies. Be ready to compete with your best projects in our European LEADER awards, share your wishes for the

future of LEADER, learn from others in workshops on all of the new programming period's hot topics and meet LEADER stakeholders from all around Europe. the event is organised jointly with the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee.

More information will follow shortly.

What we've been up to in the past three months

Joining the CAP LEADER subgroup

ELARD was nominated within the EU CAP network LEADER and territorial development subgroup, and subsequently as representative of that group within the CAP network Steering Committee. Through this group, ELARD is bringing forward the voice of all of its members directly to the EU table.



[Click here to find updates of CAP strategic plans for 21-27 and of the implementation of the 14-22 programming.](#)

Swedish Rural Pact Conference

More than 100 participants from Managing Authorities, LAGs, national and regional networks, experts and youth representatives gathered to talk about their work to strengthen cooperation and unite actions to foster development within rural areas.

The conference was also the opportunity for ELARD members to meet and take the time to discuss how the new programming period is evolving in their respective countries. Current hot topics included simplification measures and the revolutionary simplification system put together in Estonia, where project reimbursement will be made looking at project progress instead of invoices; how to treat conflicts of interest within LAGs; and equal rights when it comes to support preparing new Local Development Strategies.



[Read the lessons learnt from the conference here!](#)

2023 LINC Conference

At the start of May, more than 300 people from LAGs from all over Europe gathered to share experiences about LEADER and discover the traditions and gastronomy from Basilicata, Italy. All our members present had exciting contacts to kickstart cooperation projects for the 21-27 period!



Rural pact coordination meeting

Last week, the Rural Pact launched the Rural Pact Coordination Group, and invited ELARD to be part of it. This group will be the key governance body of the European Rural Pact. For the next three years, it will steer and develop the pact, and encourage learning and actions in rural areas.

LEADER & Smart Villages' European Stakeholder Platform Event

As part of the Smart Rural 27 programme, an initiative mandated by DG Agri and implemented by EU40 Europe, the organisation has launched a platform for LEADER stakeholders to share their experiences regarding smart villages.

[Find more information here](#)



Updates on ELARD projects



Introducing the EU Horizon project DigiMedFor

We are delighted to announce that ELARD is a partner in the DigiMedFor project! We are responsible for work packages 7 - stakeholders' engagement, dissemination and communication!

“Communication is fundamental to being able to spread the project's results and knowledge further to a wider target group” - Laura, project manager DigiMedFor - ELARD.

DigiMedFor is on a mission to enhance how we monitor and manage forests! Using cutting-edge digital solutions, we'll improve sustainability in wood production and make certain ecosystem services are delivered efficiently.

Join us and DigiMedFor on this journey towards a greener future!





Exciting report on defining Functional Rural Areas & transitions!

As a partner on the [RUSTIK](#) project, ELARD is happy to share an exciting report with the latest findings on a methodological framework to define FRAs & rural transitions. Explores concept, differences/similarities with functional European rural area definitions.

Visit [RUSTIK](#) website to find out more about this project and the report!



Let's empower more women to break barriers, ignite innovation, and shape the future of sustainable farming!

As a partner of Fliara, ELARD want to encourage you to use [#FLIARAEU](#) in your own posts to share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences. Let's create a ripple effect of change!

Stay tuned for exciting updates, inspiring profiles, and opportunities to get involved at www.fliara.eu.

Together, we can cultivate a brighter future for agriculture and rural areas!





Next events

27-29/09/2023
@Sigüenza, Spain

[Register here until 30 June](#)



Shaping the Future of Rural Areas: High-level Rural Policy Forum

Organised by the Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Commission, it will be an opportunity to gather key political actors to advance the political agenda for the future of rural areas, prepare a fruitful debate in the Council of the EU, and support Member States to take action to unlock the potential of rural areas in achieving the LTVRA objectives. The Forum will gather 200 participants, from policy makers and public authorities to EU networks and initiatives, regional and local authorities, stakeholder groups, civil society organisations as well as academic institutions.

Beating the odds with LEADER - The visionary Rural Europe

This year, ELARD will run a workshop at the European week of Regions and Cities. Rural development must be considered from a holistic point of view. We will hear how a holistic tool like LEADER, a humanized rural policy, can prove successful and essential in driving rural development. From Spain to Serbia and France, we will hear how LEADER promotes social capital and entrepreneurship in places left behind by traditional policies. With the future of the Cohesion Policy in mind, we will also reflect on how LEADER can help reconnecting policies to territories and societies.

11/10/2023 from 11:30 to 13:00

@ European Committee of the Regions, Brussels

Save the date!
Registrations will open shortly.



Partner information

Wondernig how the new programming period is going?

The EU CAP network has compiled information from all CAP Strategic Plans produced a summary of key numbers of figures. [You will be able to find them here.](#)

Key figures: LEADER in CAP Plans 2023-27



ELARD is currently producing a live view of how the programming period and selection processes is evolving in each of its members. Stay tuned till the next newsletter for a summary!



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

FRENCH
PRESIDENCY
2023-2024



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