

Rīga, 27 May 2010

## Latvian Rural Forum POSITION Paper on Common Agricultural Policy post 2013

*“About what we eat, what we see and how we live”*

Association “Latvian Rural Forum” is national level organization that associates 40 rural nongovernmental organizations, including 35 local action groups that work according to the principle of partnership, and represents interests of NGOs of different fields and sectors, non-formal community groups, as well as biggest part of Latvian municipalities and rural entrepreneurs.

Latvian Rural Forum as a representative of Latvian rural civil society acts according to the vision that Latvian countryside is a place where satisfied people live and they are able to perform their economic and social needs at their place of living.

That is why we see that Latvia’s rural areas after 2013:

- are the base for preserving Latvian basic values: strong family, Latvian lifestyle, diverse local traditions and guarantee for further existence of Latvian nation;
- are populated with educated, active, responsible, creative and competitive inhabitants;
- still preserve diverse landscape of the countryside that is traditional and typical for different regions in Latvia;
- is a place that supplies inhabitants with natural, qualitative, safe food that is also typical for local environment and traditions;
- is a place that provides opportunities for diverse economical activities based on local resources (environment, infrastructure and knowledge);
- is lifestyle that is voluntary chosen by families and recognized by society, and not a necessity enforced by economic and social conditions;
- form sustainable local communities that are self-regenerative, able together aware their needs and priorities and implement them.

In order to reach our vision, we consider, that LEADER approach has to be expanded and applied for integration of national and EU policies (*agriculture, fisheries, social, cohesion, environment, business development, education, health etc.*) on local level, where it is the best place to link them with local needs. Or area based development has to become a third pillar of Common Agricultural Policy with its separate legal regulation and appropriate financial instruments, and not a compromise between agricultural and environmental policies which is balancing between first and second pillar.

1. To preserve Latvian basic values: strong family, Latvian lifestyle, diverse local traditions, and to guarantee further existence of Latvian nation, there is need to:
  - a) create infrastructure that is appropriate for family needs and is accessible in rural areas and

- which provides place of residence that is adequate for family needs and family (specially children and mothers) accessibility to health care, education, social care services;
- b) identify local territory cultural heritage (traditions, food, oral and written folklore, architecture that is characteristic for different regions, craft etc.) and to provide its maintenance and vivacity.
2. To ensure that Latvian rural areas are populated with educated, active, responsible, creative and competitive inhabitants, there is need to:
    - a) provide lifelong learning opportunities for rural inhabitants irrespective of age, gender, social status, level of income and place of living;
    - b) encourage mutual communication of inhabitants by respecting diversity of group interests, but at the same time promoting commonly agreed actions;
    - c) ensure inhabitants with access to varied information resources and to ensure that information is easy understandable;
    - d) ensure easy, safe and valuable participation in decision making processes and expression of inhabitants opinions about important questions for them and society, and which are respected in policy making and implementation;
    - e) support research that promotes competitiveness of inhabitants and justifies advantages of local development;
    - f) support activity of high qualified and educated people in rural areas.
  3. To preserve diverse landscape that is traditional and typical for different regions in Latvia, there is need to:
    - a) define rural territories where intensive agriculture and industrial activities as well as urban settlements are allowed;
    - b) support traditional environmental friendly land management methods and lifestyle that saves diverse landscape of typical Latvian countryside;
    - c) develop infrastructure that provides access to environmental resources, but at the same time does not diminish quality of Latvian rural landscape and biodiversity.
  4. To provide inhabitants with natural, qualitative, safe food that is also typical for local environment and traditions, there is need to:
    - a) support production of biologic food;
    - b) support development of diverse food production that is typical for the region;
    - c) adapt standards of hygiene and welfare requirements to production of food, that is based on local traditions;
    - d) promote competitiveness of local production in local retail trade;
    - e) support use of environmental friendly and pollution restricted methods in food production.
  5. To provide opportunities for diverse economical activities that are based on local resources (environment, infrastructure and knowledge), there is need to:
    - a) promote development of micro enterprises, especially paying attention to innovations based on sustainable development of nature and cultural resources;
    - b) promote cooperation between diverse economic activities, that offer complex/integrated solutions;

- c) support knowledge based entrepreneurship that is build on needs of inhabitants;
  - d) provide infrastructure that reduces physical barriers to diversification of business activities.
6. To support rural areas as lifestyle voluntary chosen by families and recognized by society, and not a necessity enforced by economic and social conditions, there is need to:
- a) promote mobility of inhabitants in rural areas;
  - b) increase quality and accessibility of existing services;
  - c) promote rural lifestyle;
  - d) provide privileges for families who live on countryside in order to keep balance between household expenses in cities and in rural areas.
7. To form sustainable local communities that are self-regenerative, able together aware their needs and priorities and implement them, there is need to:
- a) promote active involvement of civil society organizations and communities in local, national and EU policy development and implementation;
  - b) ensure local level partnership in making decisions that are related to investment of resources into the development of respective territory;
  - c) support association initiatives of inhabitants within the community as well as creating networks of civil society;
  - d) strengthen local level structures (partnerships), that are based on democratic and bottom-up oriented approaches, and are able to integrate national and EU policies on local level and to link them with local needs.

#### Members of Latvian Rural Forum:

1. Abula Rural Partnership / Abulas lauku partnerība,
2. Aizkraukle District Partnership / Aizkraukles rajona partnerība,
3. Alūksne Rural partnership / Alūksnes lauku partnerība,
4. Balvi District Partnership / Balvu rajona partnerība,
5. Bauska District Rural Partnership / Bauskas rajona lauku partnerība,
6. Cēsis District Rural Partnership / Cēsu rajona lauku partnerība,
7. Let's Do Ourselves / Darīsim paši,
8. Partnership of Daugavpils and Ilūkste Agglomerated Areas „Neighbors” / Daugavpils un Ilūkstes novadu partnerība „Kaimiņi”,
9. Dobeles District Partnerhip / Dobeles rajona partnerība,
10. Gauja Partnership / Gaujas partnerība,
11. Jelgava Rural partnership “Lielupe” / Jelgavas lauku partnerība „Lielupe”,
12. Jūdaži Lake Costal Development Association – Mežlauki / Jūdažu ezera piekrastes attīstības biedrība - Mežlauki,
13. Jūrkante / Jūrkante,
14. Nighbour Business / Kaimiņu būšana,
15. Kandava partnership / Kandavas partnerība,
16. Krāslava District Partnership / Krāslavas rajona partnerība,
17. Rural Partnership “Sēlija” / Lauku partnerība „Sēlija”,
18. Rural partnership “Ziemeļgauja” / Lauku partnerība „Ziemeļgauja”,

19. Liepāja District Partnership / Liepājas rajona partnerība,
20. Ludza District partnership / Ludzas rajona partnerība,
21. Ludza District Knowledge Centre / Ludzas rajona zinību centrs,
22. Madona Community Foundation / Madonas novada fonds,
23. For My Town Aknīste / Manai mazpilsētai Aknīstei,
24. From Salaca to Rūja / No Salcas līdz Rūjai,
25. Partnership Daugavkrasts / Partnerība Daugavkrasts,
26. Partnership "For Rural Areas And Sea" / Partnerība „Laukiem un Jūrai”,
27. Preiļi Association of Farmers / Preiļu lauksaimnieku apvienība,
28. Preiļi District Partnership / Preiļu rajona partnerība,
29. Public Private Partnership Association "Sernikon" / Publisko un privāto partnerattiecību biedrība „Sernikon”,
30. Public Private Partnership Association "Zied Zeme" / Publisko un privāto partnerattiecību biedrība „Zied Zeme”,
31. Rēzekne District Communities Partnership / Rēzeknes rajona kopienu partnerība,
32. Rīga District Rural Development Association / Rīgas rajona lauku attīstības biedrība,
33. Saldus District Development Association / Saldus rajona attīstības biedrība,
34. Sateka / Sateka,
35. Stopiņi and Salaspils Partnership / Stopiņu un Salaspils partnerība
36. Talsu District Association of Farmers / Talsu rajona lauksaimnieku apvienība,
37. Talsi District Partnership / Talsu rajona partnerība,
38. River 8 / Upe 8,
39. Vidzeme Rural Partnership "Brasla" / Vidzemes lauku partnerība „Brasla”,
40. Northern Kurzeme Business Association / Ziemeļkurzemes biznesa asociācija,.