



The Rural Parliament in Slovakia was established in 1999 as the Civic Association of the Rural Parliament in Slovakia

***OZ RURAL PARLIAMENT IN SLOVAKIA***



# **The mission of OZ VIPA SK is:**

Promoting the improvement of the quality of life  
in rural areas to support rural initiatives in  
managing rural development.



# The mission of OZ VIPA SK is:

VIPA SK approached this mission mainly by promoting integrated rural development through professional advocacy and information and communication activities through a dialogue conducted at a national level by identifying rural needs at the national level.



# Advocacy activities include in particular:



A. Reviewing state legislation and strategy papers to meet rural needs



B. Participation in the work of evaluation and monitoring bodies in order to comply with the law, transparency in decision-making, equal treatment, and respect for rural interests



C. Protests against decisions that do not match the interests of the countryside and defend the parties concerned.

In particular,  
information  
and  
communication  
activities  
include:



A. Convening the Forum of the Rural Parliament once every two years



B. Obtaining, processing, and disseminating rural and rural information



C. Exchange and dissemination of rural development experience and knowledge D. the development of rural education.




# The Rural Parliament Forum - History




- The first idea of establishing the RPF in Slovakia emerged at the end of 90's years, after the speech of Swedish specialist Kjell-Roger Karlsson.
- VIPA became familiar with the Swedish experience and apply it to Slovak conditions.
- The first RPF was held in Levoča in October 2000: There were 4 working groups, encompassing the following themes: Landscape, Policy, Economy, and Human Being.
- The event has been organized under the auspices of President of the Slovak Republic

# The Rural Parliament Forum – Aims and Objectives

One of the most important objectives of RPF is to unite the voice of rural areas in order to be able to influence politics.



The RPF is the place to catch up on the latest developments and a place to expose current issues, worked in rural areas, to the authorities, the Government, and the National Parliament.



It is also an important forum for the exchange of experiences, a meeting place, and a source of inspiration.

# The Organisation of Rural Parliament Forum

- Frequency: every two years
- Duration: two days (usually Friday and Saturday)
- Location: the event takes place in different regions across Slovakia, the location is selected by Presidency of VIPA
- Participants:
  - The Organisations at the national and regional level
  - Specialists and experts from the area of rural development
  - The public sector: municipalities, micro regions
  - The political sector: politicians at local, regional and national levels
  - International guests
  - In average 100 participants



# Methods and processes of the event

- Plenary session: providing a summary of the previous forum and the implementation of the passed resolutions
- Workshops: working in a chosen working group according to the themes, it includes presenting a positive example of rural development, the introduction of the topic by lecturers, discussion
- Evening Reception: cultural programme, informal discussion
- Working groups: Presenting outcomes of workshops, proposals of resolutions of the RPF (to be followed in next two years)
- The event includes an accompanying exhibition of traditional folklore, cuisine, the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the host region

# After the event

The Presidency communicates with participants and resolutions of the RPF are passed to relevant ministries and institutions.

The Presidency and the VIPA members define the funding, resources, implementations of projects, with the aim to comply with the resolutions passed by RPF.



# Advocacy

- Conclusions from the Forum are sent to the relevant Ministries.
- Last year we were invited to the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic for a working meeting on the document Strategy for the Development of Sustainable Tourism until 2030.
- Then in February 2020, we were at a meeting of the working group to support the endogenous growth of the regions. (the same Ministry)
- A member of the working group of the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic for the method of applying the basic conditions in the preparation of the implementation mechanism of the EU cohesion policy after 2020 in the conditions of the Slovak Republic
- A member of the working group for the preparation of the Strategic Plan CAP 2021 – 2027
- A member of the Government Council for NGOs, we are part of advocacy for the third sector, which regularly challenges the government and issues requests and statements



# The result of RPF (output of CAP working group)

Sheep and Goat Breeders Association –  
VIPA's board members (Ms. Kováčiková, Mr.  
Herian)

Slovak lamb is returning to the counters of  
Slovak shops after many decades. This  
happened after negotiations between the  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural  
Development of the Slovak Republic, and  
representatives of the Association of Sheep  
and Goat Breeders in Slovakia and traders.






# The 11th Rural Parliament Forum

- Will be held in Zvolen, Slovakia on 23 – 24 October 2020
- Four main topics of RPF will be:
  1. Climate change
  2. Family farming
  3. Rural Youth
  4. Sustainable development of rural areas and local initiatives



An aerial photograph of a small village in the Slovak countryside during sunset. The village features numerous houses with red-tiled roofs, surrounded by lush green trees and fields. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a sky with warm, golden light from the setting sun. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and text.

# The Vision of rural areas

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Participants in public discussions agreed that the Slovak countryside in 2025 should be a clean and healthy environment, built both technical and social infrastructure, providing sufficient employment opportunities and conditions for small and medium-sized businesses built on the sustainable use of local resources, for example in organic farming and forestry, agro and ecotourism, crafts, using modern technologies to create the highest added value. The development of the Slovak countryside will be based on good cooperation of different subjects and on educated and active citizens with an interest in public affairs and with respect to ancestors and traditions. To achieve this goal, the Rural Parliament in Slovakia will promote support for the following measures and activities from European and national financial resources.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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