



Albanian Network for Rural Development



Agricultural University of Tirana

Albanian Rural Parliament - a “window of opportunity” for improving life in rural areas

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1st Albanian Rural Parliament

- Three day event, held under the auspices of the Speaker of Albanian Parliament on 28-30 of September 2017 in Tirana, Albania;
- A joint effort by the **Albanian Network of Rural Development (ANRD)** in partnership with the **Agriculture University of Tirana (AUT)**;
- Components: advocacy, capacity building, networking
- The first two days (plenary sessions, guest speakers, discussion panels, networking opportunities, workshops and working groups) offered a great opportunity to discuss, network, transfer know-how and exchange ideas and best practices on rural development - locally, regionally and internationally.
- The third day, the concluding session - at Albanian (real) Parliament.



Objectives and participants of the 1st ARP

ARP aimed at:

1. bringing together rural development stakeholders with the objective **to accelerate the country rural reforming process** in approximating EU policy of Community Led Local Development (CLLD).
2. offering a space for **know-how transfer and sharing experiences on LEADER LAGs** from different European countries and of those in the region.
3. **making governance** of public institutions of the sector at the national and local level **more proactive and accountable in promoting EU policies and practices** in rural development

The 61 municipalities were represented by public officials, farmers, rural entrepreneurs, women and youth and different economic and social agents

Government officials of national, regional and local authorities; regional development agencies, donors and academia, experts and students

Representatives of rural development networks in the Western Balkan Countries

Guests and international experts in rural development

The 1st ARP brought together more than 300 delegates



Main outcomes

1. Advocacy efforts: Setting the government agenda
2. Finding the right moment to give the message to the newly established government
3. Giving a voice to rural communities
4. Building on best practices and positive models in the region and EU
5. Joint DECLARATION both as an advocacy outcome and action plan
6. Interest, enthusiasm, confidence and trust in ANRD

Next steps

- The Albanian Rural Parliament intends to become an inclusive practice and serve as an instrument to influence and accelerate reforming processes in rural sector, for revitalized and reborn rural areas.
- The 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament - a decentralized platform - will be organized following four regional rural forums concluding stakeholder advocacy efforts at all levels.
- The regional forums strengthen its bottom-up and national-wide features.
- The 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament will assess the achievements to date, to further inspire and promote them as well as to identify challenges ahead.

