

INVITATION



Lithuanian Cultural and Culinary Heritage Project
„Panemunių žiedai“ (“Panemuniai blossom”).
International LAG’s Fair.
25 – 26 May 2012, Lithuania.

Dear Colleagues,

With great pleasure we invite you to the International LAG's (local action groups) Fair to be held on 25 – 26 May 2012 in Lithuania.

Here you will get acquainted with the projects carried out by the LAG, farms and rural tourism homesteads, traditional handicrafts and culinary heritage. During the fair you will be able to establish new ties of cooperation, present the local projects being implemented, discuss current and future project ideas.

We believe that the greatest value is to meet creative and active people, to learn about different countries, their traditions, share experiences and develop creatively.

Lithuania can boast of a very deep history, which, especially during the last decades, is being presented in a new light. You will be surprised, but in the fourteenth century Lithuania was the largest country in Europe. Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas wrote letters to European cities, invited merchants and artisans to come. In the middle of the fifteenth century Hanseatic merchants' firm was founded in Kaunas. Hanseatic trade routes were used to transport to Lithuania Rhine and French wine, English and Flemish cloth, Flanders and Rhineland iron ware, as well as wood, hides, wax, flax, corn, hemp and fish from Sweden, Russia, Prussia and Livonia. In 2011, Kaunas, the second largest Lithuanian city, was entrusted with the honour to organize the 31st New Hanseatic League event.

With the great challenge for the past, we want to introduce you the location where the fair will take place. This is the place of ancient boroughs on the river Nemunas, castles and manor ensembles, picturesque landscape area. Fair will be held near the historic Raudonė castle of the end of the sixteenth century. The castle was built at the water trade route, on the shore of the largest Lithuanian river Nemunas, by a rich merchant Krispin Kirschenstein, who had come from Prussia. Several generations of Kirschenstein family, who resided in the castle, were engaged in forest products manufacturing and marketing. The old trades, crafts and culinary heritage products are this years' presentation topics. We allow you to present your local products such as cookery, crafts and cultural programs. We want that memories of our country's traditions would be even more stronger, so the fair attendees will be invited to watch the theatrical castle celebration "Panemuniai blossom" programme.

Lithuania will wait for you with all hospitality. Traditional national evenings will be held there. Upon arrival, guests are invited to taste the national dishes and drinks, to learn more about classical Lithuanian cuisine, folk customs and traditions. National programme is continued with singing, music, stories, Lithuanian games. We invite you to experience all this! To learn baking Lithuanian bread, cakes, dancing folk dances, seeing traditional crafts demonstrations, tasting Lithuanian national dishes, making warm and friendly relations! We hope to welcome you in Lithuania!

Sincerely, Minister of Agriculture of Lithuania





PROGRAMME

DAY 1. 25 May.

Meeting of EU Member States' national rural networks and LAG's. International conference will be held in the first part of the program. The second part of the program is designed to share best practices and for the trips to introduce our successfully implemented national projects.



Day 2. 26 May. International LAG Fair

Lithuania has 51 LAGs. LAG's territory of activity covers 99 per cent of Lithuanian rural areas. All LAGs in Lithuania implement local development strategies. All LAGs in Lithuania are provided with the possibility to implement cooperation projects, both at territorial and international level.

The fair will take place in one of the most beautiful places in Lithuania, near Raudonė castle of the end of the sixteenth century. The castle was built at the largest Lithuanian river Nemunas, by Krispin Kirschenstein, rich merchant from Prussia.



The aim of the fair is to strengthen and develop international collaborative links, share best practices. Fair guests are welcomed to prepare presentation or a cultural program of their countries (traditions and customs).

Attendees will be given the space, to represent their country, the uniqueness of the country through culinary heritage products and traditional crafts. Fair participants will have the opportunity to interact with each other, to establish international links, to present local projects being implemented, to discuss the already existing or future project ideas. Together with local action groups, representatives from the national rural networks are also welcome; they will help representing the countries of local action groups, developing initiatives promoting international relations.



Fair is organized by the Lithuanian Rural Network member VSI "Panemuniai blossom" in cooperation with the Lithuanian Rural Network Secretariat.



Fair participants will see "Panemuniai blossom" program, for the 11th time organized theatrical festival of Raudonė castle. This is the Lithuanian cultural and culinary heritage project, attracting annually in the spring, on the last Sunday of May, thousands of visitors from all over Lithuania. Spectacular historic courtyards, Estate Kitchen, Dairy and Creamery, Manor Farm, Brewery, Pharmacy, Fishermen Village, Beer Brewery, Castle Bakery, Manor Lady's Arts Workshop, Flavour Yard, Candy Shop, Manor Suit Room, Castle Post Office, Craft and Culinary Courtyard of Surrounding Villages will be found around the castle. This year is dedicated to Krispin Kirschenstein, who built the castle in the sixteenth century, and his family. The program includes theatrical performances, concerts, fire and pyrotechnics show.

We invite you to come to Lithuania: to learn about rich rural areas of the country, castles and manors diversity, to meet people who create real values! You are welcome with the luggage of experience and good knowledge! We expect for two LAGs from each country with presentation of their country, LAG area, local food, traditional trades, articles of domestic merchandise informational material, 3 persons are welcome from each LAG.

We will provide free:

- Participation in the pavilions, arranged during the fair
- Meals for attendees
- Accommodation for LAG representatives
- Transport within the country.

Notify us:

- About your participation before 23 March
- What program you plan to show on specially arranged stages for attendees
- Are there special requirements for fair place, i.e. for LAG stand installation.

Arrival. Lithuania is accessible by plane, train, ferry, bus or car. There are three international airports: in Vilnius (<http://www.vilnius-airport.lt>), Kaunas (www.kaunasair.lt) and Palanga (www.palanga-airport.lt). Two first are the main.

Registration and information:

Lithuanian Rural Network

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