

International Village Conference

13th and 14th Mai 2011 in Berlin

Villages in Action

The Power of Rural Communities and of the Village Movements

Conference Programme and information for accommodation

Aims on the conference are:

- **The interchange of experiences about village development in practice based on current issues and good examples;**
- **To make public the experiences of different European village movements in Germany and to discuss, how these experiences can be used in Germany.**

How can villages, even if they are part of a larger municipality, keep their local identity? How can village communities address their own future on a democratic base by themselves? What is the potential of villages to improve the local living conditions by civic engagement? How can village protagonists pool their strengths to face the demographic change actively? How can the relation between village and municipality be optimized? These and other themes are to be discussed by domestic and international experiences.

Village movements have their main task in strengthening village communities with unfolding their potentials and exchanging experiences in regional and national networks. At the same time they act as a national - and via ERCA (European Rural Community Association), an international - village lobby.

ERCA is – just as the in ERCA united Village Movements – part of the civil society and political party independent. By the joint conference the Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation wants to support ERCA's civil society concern to the best of its ability.

We are expecting conference participants, which are interested in international experiences on village development and may also present their own experiences,

- because they act as village chairmen or village mayors, members of village councils Ortsbeiräten, as persons in charge of village associations, as entrepreneurs or as protagonists in other rural spheres;
- because they bear responsibility for the development in villages as municipality mayors or by other functions in local politics;
- because they work in regional or nationwide associations, or networks, scientific, political and other institutions, which deal with village development.

Programme

Friday, 13. May 2011

11:00

conference-opening

Prof. Drs. Bert Broekhuis, *President of the European Rural Community Association (ERCA)*

Dr. Evelin Wittich, *Director of the Academy for Political Education of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation*

11:15 – 12:30

„Village remains village“? Changes und persistent role of the village as a rural settlement und local community

The power of the rural communities

Staffan Bond, main manager of the Swedish Village Movement and Board member of ERCA

The future of rural development from a citizen's perspective - Examples of Hessen, Nordrhein-Westfalen and Rheinland-Pfalz

Nathalie Franzen, Village Planner and lecturer at the Institute of Geography at University Mainz

Global Villages: New power, shape and attractiveness through cooperation and networking of village living

Mag. Franz Nahrada, project leader of GIVE – Globally Integrated Village Environment, Vienna; Co-founder of Transition Austria and ECOVAST Austria

Self organisation of the village in relation to the municipality

Prof. Dr. Kurt Krambach, Brandenburgian Network for Living Village; Board member of ERCA; Coordinator of a Discussion Circle for Rural Development of Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation

12:30 – 13:15

Lunch

14:00 – 15:40

Experiences of the European Village Movements

Substance and generalized experiences of the Village Movements

Vanessa Halhead, Duthchas Scotland, Secretary of the Board of ERCA

Experiences of the Dutch Village Movement on local level (including village planning activities)

Prof. Bert Broekhuis, Netherlands, president of ERCA, board member of “Landelijke Vereniging voor Kleine Kernen”

Experiences in regional networking of the villages and the cooperation with LEADER and NGOs

Sirje Vinni, Board member of the Estonian Village Movement "KODUKNAT", board member of ERCA

Experiences of the Finnish Village Action Movement on national level and as a political lobby for villages

Prof. Eero Uusitalo, president of the Finnish Village Action Movement "SYTY" and general secretary of the governmental Committee for Rural Politics

15:40 – 16:10

Coffee break

16:15 – 18:30

Discussion: Village Movements, Village networks in Europe and similar phenomena in Germany – Experiences and consequences

It is planned to organise the discussion in a "relaxed" form as "World Café" or by similar methods. Other networks, movements, organisations etc. will have the opportunity and will be asked here to express their opinions and proposals concerning promotion of a village movement in Germany, so as:

Brandenburgian network for Living villages, Federal association of Regional Movements, "Bleiwäscher Kreis" (scientific circle with annual seminars on village development at the university Essen), Village movements of other countries, ECOVAST (European Committee for Villages and Small Towns), ARGE Association for Rural Development and Village Renewal, etc.

19:30 - 22:00

Reception for the conference participants

Saturday, 14.May 2011

9:00 – 12:00

International Exchange of experiences in practical village development - Discussion in six workshops

- A. Self organisation of villages in relation to the municipality
 - *Forms of co-operation / interaction between the village actors*
 - *Local self determination and experiences with „village plans“*
- B. Networking of villages
 - *Regional networks, LEADER and others*
 - *Global networking - "global village?"*
- C. Role of farms and farmers in the village development
- D. Sustainable alternatives in village economy and local infrastructure
 - *Ecological villages and their global network*
 - *Other experiences of sustainable village development*
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- E. Active facing to the demographic change
 - *Changing share and role of different demographic groups*
 - *Cooperation between generations*
 - *Integration of new-settlers*

- F. The 50-Plus generation in the village (Experiences of an international Project – „GRUNDTVIG“)
 - *Closed session of the GRUNDTVIG-project*
 - *Public discussion of problems and experiences to the 50-plus generation as social potential in the village*

12:00 – 12:45 Break for lunch

**13:00 – 15:30 Panel discussion with politicians/ members of the
parliamentary parties of Deutscher Bundestag**

Results / Conclusions / Recommendations of the conference

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Further Information

More and updated information concerning the conference and village movements you can find at the internet:

www.rosalux.de keyword “Internationale Dorfkonferenz 2011”

www.rosalux.de/themen/nachhaltigkeit/specials/gesprachskreis-laendlicher-raum.html
(discussion circle „Rural Development”)

You can find literature on Village Movements and the “Brandenburgian Network for Living villages” (member of ERCA) at: www.lebendige.doerfer.de/Lesenswertes

Contact, Information and Questions

Conference organisation: Stefan Linke, Tel. +49 30 44310-156

Programming: Prof. Dr. Kurt Krumbach, Tel +49 30 2815408

dorfkonferenz@rosalux.de

Conference languages

German and English (with translation)

Participation

The participation, food and drinks are free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs are to be bared by the participants themselves. Addresses of hotels, where a limited number of rooms have been reserved for the village conference, can be found at:

www.rosalux.de keyword “Internationale Dorfkonferenz 2011”.

When booking, please use the keyword “Dorf”.

Registration

You can register for the participation on the conference from now on. Last register date is 15th April 2011.

By Mail: Rosa- Luxemburg-Stiftung/ Dorfkonferenz, Franz-Mehring-Platz 1, 10243 Berlin

By E-Mail: Dorfkonferenz@rosalux.de

By Fax: +49 30 44310-182 (to Dorfkonferenz - Frau Hüneburg)

Location of the conference

Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation, Conference room 1st floor

Franz-Mehring-Platz 1, 10243 Berlin (near to the railway station “Ostbahnhof” and to the Metro station U“Weberwiese” /line U5)



Advice for booking of accommodation

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

for the participants of the International Village Conference 2011, there is a limited amount of cheaper rooms in the following hotels. You have to book by yourself.

! When booking please specify the keyword “Dorf” !

1. IBIS Hotel Berlin City Ost
An der Schillingbrücke 2
10243 Berlin
Tel.: +49 (0) 30-25760-0
www.ibishotel.com/de/hotel-3108-ibis-berlin-city-ost/index.shtml
Available until 14th April 2011
2. Upstalsboom Hotel Friedrichshain
Gubener Str. 42
10243 Berlin
Tel.: +49 (0) 30-29375-0
www.upstalsboom.de/hotel_berlin/hotel_friedrichshain/
Available until 12th April 2011
3. Junkers Hotel garni
Grünberger Str. 21
10243 Berlin
Tel.:+49 (0) 30-29 33 550
www.junkers-hotel.de/
Available until 28th April 2011

Other addresses with favourable prices of accommodation (near to the conference place):

OSTEL - Das DDR-Design Hostel
Wriezener Karree 5
10243 Berlin,
Tel: +49 (0) 30 25 76 86 60,
www.ostel.eu

Pegasus Hostel GmbH
Straße der Pariser Kommune 35
10243 Berlin
Tel. +49 (0) 30 29 77 36 -0
www.pegasushostel.de

Further opportunities you will find, as usually, at internet.