



Dear Members,

As you probably already know, as of the 1st of July Croatia will become officially a member of the European Union.

In preparation for this, over the past few years local organisations and associations such as the HMRR and the Croatian LEADER Network have aided the operation of numerous LAGs which up to now have been financing their projects and activities through programs such as IPARD. Our association has also played a significant role in their preparation as both aforementioned networks are members of ELARD.

Given that a useful way to learn and adapt is through sharing knowledge and best practices, in an effort to further advance the LEADER method in Croatia, we recently took the initiative to invite Croatian LAGs to express their interest in participating in "study visits" to LAGs that are part of the ELARD network. These visits we believe that will provide Croatian LAGs with a great opportunity to gain further knowledge and knowhow from experienced LAGs as well as start establishing their first networks at an EU level.

Having said this, I would like to kindly ask you to provide us with a list of LAGs (including contact details) that would be in principle interested to host a colleague from Croatia. Once we have this list ELARD will get in touch with the suggested LAGs and provide them with all the necessary information and details concerning their Croatian colleagues.

Some further info on this:

- These visits do not need to be reciprocal (like they are in the case of our Staff Exchange Program)
- The hosting LAG will not be financially burdened
- The duration of the visit is determined by the host (we would recommend a week)
- The period of the visit is determined by the host

We would very much appreciate your full cooperation on this occasion, it is after all one of our Association's main aims to disseminate good LEADER practices and aid new LAGs in the implementation of the method. Please send us the list of interested LAGs no later than the end of July.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance

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