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**International seminar**

**Rural development and CLLD**

**12 -13th September 2018**

**Valmiera, Latvia**

*Background:* The seminar reflects to the need to encourage rural area (space) stakeholders for being more innovative, to take advantages of possibilities and to be more strategic for regional and rural development.

Objective: To identify impulses (influencing factors) and possible solutions for unlocking the potential of development of the rural area.

*Target groups: Managing authorities, national rural networks, local action group representatives.*

**September 12**

| **Time** 🕐 | **Agenda item** 🗓 |  |
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| 09.30-10.00 | Registration |  |
| 10.00-14.00 | LEADER , European Regional Development Fund, Rural development plan project visits:  1. Circle Limbaži  2. Circle Smiltene  3. Circle Valmieras |  |
| 14.00-15.00 | Lunch |  |
| 15.00-18.30 | Project visits continues |  |
| 19.10-19.50 | Time for transnational cooperation |  |
| 20.00-21.30 | Social dinner |  |

**September 13**

| **Time** 🕐 | **Agenda item** 🗓 |  |
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| 08.00-09.00 | *Registration at Valmiera Cultural Center* |  |
| 09.00-09.30 | **Welcome and introductory remarks** | ***Jānis Baiks****, Chairmen of Valmiera City Council*  ***Gints Kaminskis****,* *Chairman of Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments*  ***Mārtiņš Cimermanis***, *Chairmen of the board of Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre*  ***Edgars Linde***,*Head of the Latvian National Network Unit* |
| 09.30-09.50 | **The development of rural space and interaction with the urban areas (Latvia 2030)** | ***Māris Kučinskis,*** *Latvian politician and the current Prime Minister of Latvia* |
| 09.50-10.10 | **Centralization and regionalization, future challenges - in the context of regional and rural development** | ***Raivis Bremšmits****, Director of the Regional policy department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia* |
| 10.10-10.30 | **Main challenges and objectives for rural development in Latvia** | ***Liene Jansone,*** *Director of the Rural Development Support Department**of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia* |
| 10.30-10.45 | **Discussions and questions** | *Moderator* |
| 10.45.-11.45 | **Value-based regional development** | ***Ing. Josef Ober,*** *Mayor of the Neue Stadt Feldbach, Austria* |
| 11.45-12.15 | **Coffee break** |  |
| 12.15.-12.35 | **LAG’s role in value-based region** | ***Michael Fend,*** *Association for the promotion of the Styrian volcanic land* |
| 12.35-12.55 | **Feedback from thematic work of smart villages** | *ENRD Contact point* |
| 12.55-13.25 | **Concept and development of Smart villages in Finland** | ***Lauri Hyttinen,*** *Network expert from Finnish National Rural Network* |
| 13.25-14.15 | **Lunch** |  |
| 14.15-14.25 | Introduction to the working sessions | *Moderator* |
| 14.25-15.55 | **Parallel working sessions**  *-The development of rural space*  To notice influencing factors which are important for rural and regional (including value-based) development, to identify necessary activities and objectives for joint advancement.  *-Smart villages and it’s role in rural development*  How to make it work? Identification of necessary instruments for making smart solutions.  *-Joint action plan for rural development*  Realization of common strategy by taking into account all possibilities, resources. How to use all possible funds for development processes including multi-funding approach? |  |
| 15.55.-16.25 | Feedback session on the group discussions |  |
| 16.25-17.00 | **Coffee break and closing session** |  |