

## PROGRAM

Ērgļi, Madonas district

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2023.



The Latvian Rural Communities Parliament (LRCP) takes place every two years and its goal is to jointly find successful solutions, as well as new opportunities for rural development, promoting cooperation between different stakeholders, identification of challenges and priorities at local, regional, national and European level. The principle of the Community Parliament is based on an equal dialogue, bringing together representatives of local and regional authorities, business, policy makers, academics, rural development professionals and enthusiasts to foster systematic changes by gathering practices and views. Several hundred interested people who have one goal: to find solutions for the sustainability of Latvia's countryside and to promote the well-being of the rural population. The LRCP will take place for the 6<sup>th</sup> time this summer, not only in search of answers, but also in connecting community leaders and good practices, creating positive impact becomes even stronger and resonates more widely. Conclusions will be summarized in a Resolution, which will serve as a roadmap for decisions on rural areas for the next two years.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

- 15.30** Smart villages – living library
- 17.17** Innovations in rural economy and social services –living library
- 19.30** Get the closer look at Ērgļi – local community initiatives, innovations. Evening networking at the renovated Station

### THURSDAY, JUNE 15

- 9.00** Opening ceremony. Keynote speeches. High level panel session.
- 11.00** Break
- 11.30** Speeches and discussion on key elements and effective methods of rural development. Multilevel governance.
- 13.00** Break
- 14.30** Thematic working groups, including good practices and priorities
- 16.00** Break
- 16.30** Working groups with the participation of experts on experiences, challenges and necessary actions
- 19.00** Networking and evening activities at the outdoor museum. National and regional product degustation. Cultural activities.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 16

- 09.00** Individual and action. Strength of action. Discussions and empowerment.
- 10.30** Break
- 11.00** The great culmination of the Community Parliament. Expert opinions on the future actions.
- 12.30** Break
- 13.30** Field visits of local practices and initiatives in Ērgļi and Madona region

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## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

### 15.30 SMART VILLAGE LIVING LIBRARY – IN THE STATION AND CASTLE HILL

Experience stories and insights from village initiatives all around Latvia - the "Smart Village" recognition mark candidates. Expert insights and highlights from Latvian Smart village taskforce. Announcement of the Recognition Mark "Smart Village 2023".

*IN LATVIAN. NO SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION ENSURED, BUT POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL TRANSLATION FOR INDIVIDUALS OR SMALLER GROUPS.*

### 17.00 INNOVATIONS IN RURAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL SERVICES - LIVING LIBRARY IN THE STATION AND CASTLE HILL

Experience stories of success and lessons from failures and insights from initiatives all around Latvia.

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### 19.00 DIVING INTO LOCALITIES OF ĒRĢĻI

Walking tour and visits to local community initiatives, innovations and community lifestyles in Ērģļi.

Final stop – tourism, active lifestyle and culture hub at the renovated Station with networking with locals, organizers and other participants of the Parliament.

*IN ENGLISH.*

## THURSDAY, JUNE 15

### 9.00 OPENING CEREMONY OF LATVIAN RURAL COMMUNITY PARLIAMENT.

Opening speeches of the organizers and high-level speakers from Latvian Government.

#### KEYNOTE SPEECHES.

Edwards Smiltēns, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia (tbc)

Kimberly E. Zaracor, professor of Iowa State University

*Additional speakers to be added after approval*

#### HIGH LEVEL PANEL SESSION.

Moderator: Tālis Tisenkopfs, professor at University of Latvia, head researcher of Baltic Studies Centre (tbc)

Experts:

Anita Seļicka, Executive Director of Latvian Rural Communities Parliament

Elīna Pinto, international public policy professional, OECD expert on governance (tbc)

Mario Milouchev, Director of Directorate D "CAP Strategic Plans II" in DG Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (tbc)

Māris Sprindžuks, Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (tbc)

Radim Sršeň, Deputy Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Member of the European Committee of the Regions

*Additional speakers to be added in the second session after approval*

*IN LATVIAN AND ENGLISH WITH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION.*

### 11.00 Break

### 11.30 SPEECHES AND DISCUSSION ON KEY ELEMENTS AND EFFECTIVE METHODS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE.

Guoda Burokienė, Member of the Lithuanian Parliament

Joanna Gierulska, Deputy President of Paying Agency in Poland (tbc)

Pascale van Doren, Team Leader, Rural Pact Support Office (tbc)

Andris Gobiņš, member of European Economic Social Committee (tbc)

*Additional speakers to be added in the second session after approval*

*IN LATVIAN AND ENGLISH WITH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION.*

### 13.00 Break

### 14.30 THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS, INCLUDING GOOD PRACTICES AND PRIORITIES

Local development approaches and initiatives – TeritoriAll2030, Village Councils and Smart villages

Climate and local sustainability – agroecology and gender renewal

StartUp villages and food supply chains

*WORKING GROUPS IN ENGLISH. TITLES CAN BE SPECIFIED.*

**16.00** Break

**16.00** **WORKING GROUPS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS ON EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND NECESSARY ACTIONS**

Holistic and place-based development within EU funds and policies – CLLD/LEADER, ITI etc.

Strategic models for changing the path of development – bioregions, smart strategies, forecasting

Reloading governance and action models for depopulated areas

*WORKING GROUPS IN ENGLISH. TITLES CAN BE SPECIFIED.*

**19.00** **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PRODUCTS. NETWORKING AND EVENING ACTIVITIES AT THE OUTDOOR MUSEUM BRAKI**

Rural tastes from Latvian regions and Europe – local identity products brought by participants.

Local cultural performance with local brass band. Networking. Local craft markets.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 16

**09.00** **RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS AND DISCUSSIONS. EXPERT OPINIONS AND DEBATE ABOUT FUTURE. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTION. EMPOWERMENT.**

**10.30** Break

**11.00** **RESOLUTION. CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING CEREMONY.**

**12.30** Break

**13.30** **FIELD VISITS OF LOCAL PRACTICES AND INITIATIVES IN ĒRĢĻI AND MADONA REGION**

**18.00** **RETURN TO RIGA**

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*The 6<sup>th</sup> Latvian Rural Communities Parliament is organized by the Latvian Rural Forum in cooperation with Madona district municipality and the Madonna County Foundation. The event is financially supported by the Society Integration Fund from the Latvian state budget allocated by the Ministry of Culture, Latvia. Baltic-American Freedom Foundation and National CAP Network.*

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