

Slovenian LAGs Festival 2018 - Together for local development

Kamnik, September 7 and 8, 2018



Skupaj
za lokalni
razvoj Festival
slovenskih
LAS 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

SRDN – the network of Slovenian LAGs – organizes the Slovenian LAGs Festival every two years. The festival is a two-day event that combines expert meetings and a festival programme; its aim is to promote the operation of and cooperation between LAGs. The festival has been an international event for some time now and is held in one of the larger Slovenian towns.

This year's festival will take place between September 7 and 8 in the Kamnik area. We are expecting more than 70 participants from 8 European countries; in addition to Slovenian representatives, the representatives from Croatia, Poland and the Czech Republic have already confirmed their attendance. The co-organizers of this year's festival are the **LAG "Heart of Slovenia"** and the **Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Food – the Slovenian National Rural Network**.

The main theme of this year's expert meeting is The Evaluation of Strategies for the Local Development of LAGs, which is currently a hot topic throughout Europe. We wish to define and unify the methods and models for evaluating the performance of LAGs and therefore facilitate LAGs' work and especially unify their operations, at least on the regional level if not wider. For The main **guest experts** will be **Mrs. Jela Trdonov**, A-EDUCA, Slovakia and **Mr. Robert Lukesch**, ÖAR GmbH, Austria, which will present EU framework and importance of evaluating strategies of the CLLD Programme.

During the afternoon part of the festival, we will continue with the theme of evaluating strategies with the design of the evaluation model of Local Development Strategies in Slovenia. In parallel there will be a **discussion group on the (Un-)availability of Agricultural Land in Slovenia (NEWBIE project)**.

International Cooperation Conference between LAG – Market of ideas and projects will be held as a **Horizontal panel throughout the Festival**. We cordially request that you submit your proposals for collaboration projects via the attached form and mark who you would like to conduct bilateral talks with, in order to maximize the efficiency of our work.

The second day of the festival will take place under the auspices of the biggest ethnological festival in Slovenia – Days of National Costumes and Clothing Heritage, which attracts more than 30,000 visitors from all over Europe to Kamnik each year. In order to present the participating LAGs and their local producers, **we have reserved 15 stands**. The stands will be allocated to LAGs in order of application. On this day **additional fieldtrip with Good Practices examples in the Area of the LAG "Heart of Slovenia"** will be organized, which will conclude with the visit of the Days of National Costumes and Clothing Heritage in the city centre of Kamnik.

The programme and the application form, as well as more detailed information about the LAG Festival, are published on the association's website (<http://www.drustvo-podezelje.si/en/content> and <https://tinyurl.com/LAG-Festival2018>). **Applications will be accepted until August 15, 2018** via e-mail sent to info@drustvo-podezelje.si. Booking for rooms at the Snovik Spa and stands need to be confirmed till July 30., 2018.

The slogan of this year's festival is "Together for local development" and we believe that it will bring agreements that will improve the future of both rural areas and LAGs.

Sincerely,

LAG "Heart of Slovenia"
Željko Savič, president

The Slovenian Rural Development Network
Aleš Zidar, president