



GUIDELINES FOR CASE PRESENTATIONS

at the international conference **“Supporting Local and Sub-regional Economies”**

within the 4th Slovenian Rural Parliament (4th SRP)

Rural parliaments in general

By placing participative democracy right alongside representative democracy, rural parliaments make a significant contribution to democratic processes in society. They make it possible for a wide range of interested organisations and individuals, i.e., all actors engaging with rural life, to directly share their views on their living space with others. By confronting different views, rural parliaments build bridges between civil society and the state, which is one of the cornerstones of modern democracy.

Purpose of the introductory day of the 4th SRP

The working title of the introductory day of the 4th SRP is “Supporting local and regional economies”. The purpose of the introductory talks is to encourage discussion among participants about vital needs, challenges, and the possibilities deriving from these challenges, especially on the local level. Thinking about local potentials, initiatives and programmes (CLLD), whose common feature is a “bottom-up” approach, is also an opportunity to weave a network of initiatives and interlink them on a global level. The conference on local economies at the 4th SRP will undoubtedly add to such a network, which is spontaneously coming into being in different parts of the world. Results of the discussion will be presented in October 2017 at the European Rural Parliament.

Participants

Workshop participants are incredibly diverse and range from simple rural folk to renowned experts and opinion leaders, politicians, non-governmental organisations, representatives of the public sector and industry representatives. The projected number of participants is fifty, twenty of whom will be participants from abroad. The conference will be held in the English language; interpreting will be provided only in rare cases.

Conference on local economies

The conference will start with theoretical fundamentals and continue with presentations of successful examples of good practice. The first part of the conference on local economies will be dedicated to domestic topics, with special emphasis on LEADER/CLLD. Introductory presentations will be followed by brief discussions. In the second part of the conference, we will hear about successful foreign practices and finish with a general discussion.

Participants are invited to prepare the case presentation. Each case speaker should present the case **in a condensed manner (one A4 page)**, whether they focus on theoretical aspects or concrete examples and research results. The prepared and submitted materials will provide the baseline for discussion.

Recommended structure of the case presentations:

- **A short description** of the topic, with an overview of trends and processes present locally and in the society at large.
- **The needs** of target interest groups which are met locally, and the (in)ability to implement them on the national and global levels.
- **The potential of individual initiatives and examples of local economies** that could be transposed to other environments. Description of the motivation behind a given example of good practice and its results.
- **Suggestions** to governments and professional services for the advancement of local economies and, indirectly, suggestions of measures that should be implemented to improve the well-being of the local population.
- **A vision** of the future development of local economies and their support programmes (e.g. LEADER/CLLD).

Deadline for the submission of the case descriptions

The submission deadline for case descriptions is **Thursday, 14 September 2017**.