

**ENRD Seminar on
Stakeholder Involvement**

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The experience of the Estonian Rural Parliament

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The practice in 3 lines!

- Estonian Village Movement Kodukant made a public address regarding to Rural Development Plan (RDP) for 2014-2020 to the Rural Life Committee of Parliament and Ministry of Agriculture.

Main purpose - *Why?*

- According to village communities the planned measures were not efficient enough for to develop rural enterprise and entrepreneurship and not enhance creating new jobs in rural regions.
- Significance of diversified rural economy (not only agriculture, forestry and fishery business in Estonian rural areas)

Stakeholders concerned - *Who & how?*

- Before Rural Parliament (RP) there were a lot of common meetings with other social and civil society partners preparing the RDP: Estonian Small Farmers Union, Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonian LEADER Forum, NGO Estonian Rural Tourism etc. – the goal of these organisations was enlargement possibilities for the RDP priority called “Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and the rural economic development”
- During RP the representatives of county organisations and the Board of Estonian Village Movement- preparing the text of Address

Lessons

- It is hard to get public and press attention speaking about quite specific theme – RDP and CAP are not the „small talk“ and common topic
- Handling with clash of interests – small farmers versus agricultural corporations; SMEs on the field of agriculture and other sectors; civil society and public sector...
- Village Movement have a responsibility to develop all spheres in village: voluntary work, encouragement to develop work places, social entrepreneurship; making advocacy in different level (state, regional)

Achievements/Results

- Better cooperation with other stakeholders (social partners), understanding each other problems and goals
- Getting agreement, that LEADER part in RDP budget is 10%
- Special attention to measure of non – agricultural entrepreneurship in rural areas (1. application period in April 2015)