

Invitation to the international conference

Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems (RAAS): Best Practices and Experience in the Eastern Partnership **Lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvās sistēmas: labākās prakses un pieredze Austrumu Partnerībā**

**April 15-16, 2015
Riga, Latvia**

Bellevue Park Hotel Riga
Slokas iela 1, Riga, Latvia

The Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Agriculture and Rural Development organize the international conference.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia organizes this conference together with:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia;
- European Commission;
- Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre which serves Latvian Rural Network

The conference is meant to share experience and best practices on advisory and extension systems in rural areas, discusses their different organisation structures, ways of setting-up, sources of financing and best practices in improving the quality and efficiency of their intervention.

The event will aim at:

1. agreement on common declaration by Ministers for forwarding it to the organisers of the Eastern Partnership Summit in May 2015;
2. strengthening the cooperation between the decision makers and stakeholders involved in rural and agricultural advisory in EU Member States and Eastern European partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

Therefore, after the plenary part the conference will be organised in two parallel sessions – one for Ministers and the other – for high-level representatives.

Ministers and high level representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, state organizations, advisory and extension bodies, farmers representatives and other civil society groups active in rural areas in the EU Member States and Eastern European partner countries are invited to exchange views on the following main topics:

- Preconditions for successful development of rural and agricultural advisory systems (RAAS);
- Success factors in development of sustainable and efficient RAAS;
- Benefits and opportunities for cooperation between RAAS within the Eastern Partnership.

Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems (RAAS): Best Practices and Experience in the Eastern Partnership

Lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvās sistēmas: labākās prakses un pieredze Austrumu Partnerībā

Provisional High-level Representatives Program

Riga, 15-16 April 2015

Tuesday, 14 April

	Arrival of the ministers and their delegations in Riga, transfer to the Hotel
	Check-in at Bellevue Park Hotel <i>Rīga or Slokas street 1, Rīga</i>
19:00	Welcome dinner at the Bellevue Park Hotel

Wednesday, 15 April

9:00 – 9:10	Opening of the conference Mr Jānis Dūklavs , Minister of Agriculture of Latvia Mr Mārtiņš Cimermanis , Chairman of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre Konferences atklāšana Jānis Dūklavs , Latvijas Zemkopības ministrs Mārtiņš Cimermanis , Valdes priekšsēdētājs, Latvijas Lauku konsultāciju un izglītības centrs
9:10 - 9:30	The role of rural and agricultural advisory services in rural development and promotion of agriculture Mr Mario Milouchev , Director for Rural Development Programmes in DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission Lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvo dienestu loma lauku attīstībā un lauksaimniecības popularizēšanā Mr Mario Milouchev , Lauku attīstības programmu direktors, Lauksaimniecības un lauku attīstības ģenerāldirektorāts, Eiropas Komisija
9:30 – 9.50	The role of higher education and science in the development of agriculture and rural development Ms Irina Pilvere , Professor, Dr.oec. Rector of Latvian University of Agriculture Augstākās izglītības un zinātnes loma lauksaimniecības un lauku attīstībā Irina Pilvere , Profesore, Dr.oec. Latvijas Lauksaimniecības universitātes



	rektore
9:50 - 11:00	<p>Ministers' Panel discussion</p> <p><i>Moderated by Aivars Lapiņš, Deputy state secretary, Head of Latvian Presidency team for Agriculture, Food, Veterinary, Forestry and Fisheries</i></p> <p>Paneldiskusija ar ministru piedalīšanos</p> <p><i>Diskusiju vada Aivars Lapiņš, valsts sekretāra vietnieks, lauksaimniecības, pārtikas, veterinārijas, meža un zivsaimniecības politikas prezidentūras komandas vadītājs</i></p>
11:00 – 11:15	Tea and Coffee break
11:15 - 12:00	Transfer to lunch
12.00 – 13.30	<p>Lunch at restaurant “AitiņLauvas”</p> <p><i>Valgundes parish, Jelgavas county, http://aitinlauvas.lv/eng/</i></p>
13.30 – 14.15	Transfer to the enterprise
14.15 – 16.00	<p>Farm visit – LTD “Lestene”</p> <p><i>LTD “Lestene” (Egils Senkāns - Chairman of the Board) was established in 1992. The farm manages 1872 hectares of land out of which 800 hectares are used for grain growing, 300 hectares for rapeseed and 100 hectares for beans feed as well as for Lucerne and corn growing. The farm has herd of 412 milk cows. The average milk production in 2013 was 8506 kg of milk per cow, but in 2014 – around 9400 kg. There are 60 people working at the farm. A contemporary milk farm “Pienenes” was additionally opened in 2012 with 500 places for milk cows meeting all comfort requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Farm visit will provide an insight on the advisors work of Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre. The Centre provides advisory and training on agricultural production, forestry and fisheries, providing services in bookkeeping, business planning, research, education etc. that are adapted to the needs of clients. The guests will have an opportunity to discuss farming related issues with the farmer and advisors.</i></p> <p>SIA “Lestene” saimniecības apmeklējums</p> <p>SIA “Lestene” (Egīls Senkāns – valdes priekšsēdētājs) dibināta 1992. gadā. Saimniecība saimnieko 1872 ha zemes, no kuriem 800 ha audzē graudaugus, 300 ha audzē rapšus un 100 ha audzē pupas lopbarībai, kā arī lucernu un kukurūzu. Saimniecībā ir 412 slaucamās govīs. Vidējais izslaukums no govīs 2013. gadā bija 8506 kg, 2014. gadā</p>



	<p>– ap 9400 kg. Saimniecībā strādā 60 darbinieki. “Pienenes” ir moderna piena ferma, kas darbu uzsāka 2012. gadā un nodrošina komfortablus apstākļus 500 slaucamajām govīm.</p> <p>Saimniecības apmeklējums sniegs ieskatu Latvijas Lauku konsultāciju un izglītības centra konsultantu darbā. Centrs nodrošina konsultācijas un apmācības lauksaimniecības produktu ražošanā, mežsaimniecībā un zivsaimniecībā un sniedz pakalpojumus grāmatvedībā, uzņēmējdarbības plānošanā, pētniecībā un izglītošanā, apmierinot klientu vajadzības. Apmeklējuma laikā būs iespējams diskutēt par lauksaimniecības jautājumiem ar saimnieku un konsultantiem.</p>
16:00-17:15	Transfer to Riga
17:15-18:30	Free time
18.30 – 19.00	Transfer to Dinner place
19:00-22:00	Dinner at restaurant “Lido” <i>Krasta steet 76, Riga, http://lido.lv/eng/about_us/</i>
22:00-22:30	Transfer to Hotel

Thursday, 16 April

8:45-9:00	Transfer to the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia <i>Republikas square 2, Riga</i>
9:00-9:30	Signing of the Joint Statement by the ministers or vice ministers Zemkopības ministru vai viceministru kopīgā paziņojuma parakstīšana
9:30-10:00	Press conference at the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia <i>23rd floor</i> Preses konference Zemkopības ministrijā
10:00-	After the press conference – time for bilateral contacts and free time before departure

Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems (RAAS): Best Practices and Experience in the Eastern Partnership

Lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvās sistēmas: labākās prakses un pieredze Austrumu Partnerībā

Provisional Program of the Conference

Riga, 15-16 April 2015

15.04.2015. Wednesday, Bellevue Park Hotel, Riga. Slokas iela 1, Riga

8:30-9:00	Registration.	
9:00–9:10	Opening of the conference Konferences atklāšana	Mr Jānis Dūklavs , Minister of Agriculture of Latvia Mr Mārtiņš Cimermanis , Chairman of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre Jānis Dūklavs , Latvijas Zemkopības ministrs Mārtiņš Cimermanis , Valdes priekšsēdētājs, Latvijas Lauku konsultāciju un izglītības centrs
Section 1. The role of rural and agricultural advisory systems		
Lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvās sistēmas loma		
9:10-9:30	The role of rural and agricultural advisory services in rural development and promotion of agriculture Lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvo dienestu loma lauku attīstībā un lauksaimniecības popularizēšanā	Mr Mario Milouchev , Director for Rural Development Programmes in DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission Mr Mario Milouchev , Lauku attīstības programmu direktors, Lauksaimniecības un lauku attīstības ģenerāldirektorāts, Eiropas Komisija
9:30 – 9.50	The role of higher education and science in the development of agriculture and rural development Augstākās izglītības un zinātnes loma lauksaimniecības un lauku attīstībā	Ms Irīna Pilvere , Professor, Dr.oec. Rector of Latvian University of Agriculture Irīna Pilvere , Profesore, Dr.oec. Latvijas Lauksaimniecības

9:50-11:00	<p>Ministers' Panel discussion "Contribution of Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems for sustainable rural development".</p> <p>Mr Armen Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Armenia Mr Leanid Marynich, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food, Republic of Belarus Mr Otar Danelia, Minister for Agriculture, Georgia Mr Ion Sula, Minister for Agriculture and Food Industry, Republic of Moldova Mr Volodymyr Lapa, Deputy Minister for Agrarian Policy and Food, Ukraine Mr Jānis Dūklavs, Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Latvia</p> <p>Ministru paneļdiskusija "Lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvo sistēmu devums ilgtspējīgai lauku attīstībai". Mr Armen Harutyunyan, Lauksaimniecības ministra vietnieks, Armēnija Mr Leanid Marynich, Lauksaimniecības un pārtikas ministra vietnieks, Baltkrievija Mr Otar Danelia, Lauksaimniecības ministrs, Gruzija Mr Ion Sula, Lauksaimniecības un pārtikas industrijas ministrs, Moldova Mr Volodymyr Lapa, Agrārās politikas un pārtikas ministra vietnieks, Ukraina Jānis Dūklavs, Latvijas Zemkopības ministrs</p>	<p>universitātes rektore</p> <p>Moderated by Mr Aivars Lapiņš, Deputy state secretary, Head of Latvian Presidency team for Agriculture, Food, Veterinary, Forestry and Fisheries Diskusiju vada Aivars Lapiņš, valsts sekretāra vietnieks, lauksaimniecības, pārtikas, veterinārijas, meža un zivsaimniecības politikas prezidentūras komandas vadītājs</p>
11:00–11:20	Tea and Coffee break	<i>From this point ministers follow separate programme</i>
<p>Section 2. Preconditions for successful development of rural and agricultural advisory systems</p> <p>Priekšnoteikumi veiksmīgai lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvo sistēmu attīstībai</p>		
11:20-11:40	<p>Theories and models of advisory services – advisory and extension Konsultatīvo sistēmu teorija un modeļi – "advisory" un "extension"</p>	<p>Mr Erich Waldmeier, Delegate of International Academy of Rural Advisors (IALB) Mr Erich Waldmeier, Starptautiskās lauku konsultantu akadēmijas (IALB) delegāts</p>
11:40–12:00	<p>The sustainability of advisory services - experiences, instruments and approaches Konsultatīvo dienestu ilgtspēja – pieredze,</p>	<p>Mr Henry Jørgensen, Senior Adviser, Business Development. SEGES, Denmark</p>

	instrumenti un pieejas	Mr Henry Jørgensen , vecākais konsultants, uzņēmējdarbība attīstība, SEGES, Dānija
12:00-12:20	Development of rural advisory system in Latvia: challenges and changes Lauku konsultatīvās sistēmas attīstība Latvijā: izaicinājumi un izmaiņas	Mr Kaspars Žūriņš , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre Kaspars Žūriņš , valdes loceklis, Latvijas Lauku konsultāciju un izglītības centrs
12:20-12:35	Panel discussion Paneldiskusija	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre Diskusiju vada Edgars Linde , valdes loceklis, Latvijas Lauku konsultāciju un izglītības centrs
12:35-13:40	Lunch	
Section 3. Success factors in development of sustainable and efficient rural and agricultural advisory systems Ilgspējīgas un efektīvas lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvās sistēmas izveides veiksmes faktori		
13:40-14:00	The role of state and municipalities in development of advisory services Valsts un pašvaldību loma konsultatīvo dienestu izaugsmē	Ms Barbara Odrobińska , The Chief Specialist in the Agricultural Advisory, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Poland Ms Barbara Odrobińska , vecākā speciāliste lauksaimniecības konsultāciju jautājumos, Polijas Lauksaimniecības un lauku attīstības ministrija
14:00-14:20	Agricultural and rural advisory services - challenges for Eastern European partner countries. Lauksaimniecības un lauku attīstības konsultatīvie dienesti – izaicinājumi Austrumeiropas partnervalstīs	Mr Michael Kuegler , EUFRAS (European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services) Mr Michael Kuegler , EUFRAS (Eiropas Lauksaimniecības un lauku attīstības dienestu forums)
14:20-14:35	Panel discussions	
Section 4. Benefits and opportunities for cooperation between rural and agricultural advisory systems within the Eastern Partnership Ieguvumi un iespējas sadarbībai starp lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvajām sistēmām Austrumu Partnerībā		
14.35-14:55	Rural advisory services in Armenia and	Mr Gagik Sardaryan , Director of

	<p>outlook into the future Lauku konsultatīvā sistēma Armēnijā, tās attīstības perspektīva</p>	<p>the Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development foundation, Armenia Mr Gagik Sardaryan, Agrobiznesa un lauku attīstības centra direktors, Armēnija</p>
14:55-15:15	<p>Rural advisory services in Azerbaijan and outlook into the future Lauku konsultatīvā sistēma Azerbaidžānā, tās attīstības perspektīva</p>	<p>Mr Eldar Guliyev, Head of the Department, Institute of Economics and Organization of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Azerbaijan Mr Eldar Guliyev, Departamenta vadītājs, Lauksaimniecības ministrija, Ekonomikas un lauksaimniecības organizēšanas institūts, Azerbaidžānā</p>
15:15-15:35	<p>Rural advisory services in Belarus and outlook into the future Lauku konsultatīvā sistēma Baltkrievijā, tās attīstības perspektīva</p>	<p>Mr Aleksei Smirnov, Counsellor, Embassy of Belarus in Latvia Mr Aleksei Smirnov, Padomnieks, Baltkrievijas Vēstniecība Latvijā</p>
15:35-15:55	<p>Tea and Coffee break (15:40-15:47) Poster presentation "Farm Advisory System in Lithuania" Stenda referāts "Saimniecību konsultatīvā sistēma Lietuvā"</p>	<p>Mr Jan Žukovskis, Assoc. prof., Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Lithuania Mr Jan Žukovskis, Assoc. prof., Aleksandras Stulginskis universitāte, Lietuva</p>
15:55-16:15	<p>Rural advisory services in Georgia and outlook into the future Lauku konsultatīvā sistēma Gruzijā, tās attīstības perspektīva</p>	<p>Mr Zviad Bobokashvili, National Scientific Research Center, Georgia Mr Zviad Bobokashvili, Nacionālais zinātniskās pētniecības centrs, Gruzija</p>
16:15-16:35	<p>Rural advisory services in Moldova and outlook into the future Lauku konsultatīvā sistēma Moldovā, tās attīstības perspektīva</p>	<p>Mr Gheorghe Cainarean, Representative from National Agency of Rural Development (ASCA), Moldova Mr Gheorghe Cainarean, Nacionālās lauku attīstības aģentūras pārstāvis, Moldova</p>
16:35-16:55	<p>Rural advisory services in Ukraine and outlook into the future Lauku konsultatīvā sistēma Ukrainā, tās attīstības perspektīva</p>	<p>Mr Roman Korinets, President of Association, National Association of Agricultural Advisory Services of Ukraine Mr Roman Korinets, Ukrainas Lauksaimniecības konsultāciju</p>

		dienestu nacionālās asociācijas prezidents
16:55–17:15	Panel discussions	
17:15-17:25	Identification of future project needs, ideas and topics for development of rural and agricultural advisory services Nākotnes projektu vajadzību apzināšana, idejās un tēmas lauku un lauksaimniecības konsultatīvo dienestu attīstībai	
17:25–17:30	Conclusions of the first day	
18:30	Transfer to dinner	
19:00	Dinner at Restaurant “Lido”	Krasta Lido, Krasta iela 76, Rīga

16.04.2015. Thursday.

Participants' program		
8:00-9:00	Drive to Zemgale region Zaļenieki Parish.	
9:00-10:00	Best Practices and Experience. Farm "Mežacīruļi" visit. It is a multidisciplinary farm: dairy farming, biogas plant, vegetable gardening, and wetlands. Farm "Mežacīruļi" is winner of an international competition "Farmer of the Year in the Baltic Sea Region 2014". Labākās prakses un pieredze. Saimniecības "Mežacīruļi" apmeklējums. Daudznozaru saimniecība, kas nodarbojas ar piensaimniecību, biogāzes ražošanu, dārzkopību. Saimniecībā izveidota mākslīgā mitrzone. Saimniecība ir starptautiskā konkursa "Baltijas Jūras reģiona gada lauksaimnieks" 2014. gada uzvarētājs.	Family farm is managed by Mr Juris Cīrulis, Mrs Vija Cīrule, Mr Oskars Cīrulis and Mr Pēteris Cīrulis.
10:00-10:45	Drive to Ozolnieki.	
10:45-11:00	Tea and Coffee break at Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre.	
11:00-12:00	Visit Ltd "Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre". Informative groups. Iepazīšanās ar LLKC.	Mr Kaspars Žūriņš , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
12:00-13:00	Return to hotel Bellevue Park Hotel	
13:15-14:15	Buffett lunch. Closing of the conference. Transfer to Airport.	

Practical information:



Working languages of the conference will be Latvian, English and Russian.

Conference Costs

Conference attendance is free of charge; however, participants are responsible for arranging accommodation and travel.

Travel costs for Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (up to 2 high level representatives and 2 experts from each country) will be covered by the European Commission.

Accommodation costs for Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (up to 2 high level representatives and 2 experts from each country) will be covered by the European Commission.

Catering during the conference will be provided free of charge only for the registered participants.

Accommodation and transportation

Accommodation for a special price is available (nights from 14.04 to 15.04 and 15.04 to 16.04) from **Bellevue Park Hotel** Latvia.

For booking please contact Bellevue Park Hotel Latvia, e-mail reservations@bellevue.lv, or call +371 67069053 When booking the room please use the **code RAAS**. Participants are welcomed to stay at Bellevue Park Hotel Riga for a special room rate (code RAAS) - Standard single room: 40 EUR /per room/ 1 night; Standard double room: 50 EUR/ per room/ 1 night. Business class: Superior single room: 60 EUR/ per room/ 1 night; Superior double room: 70 EUR/ per room/ 1 night.

Conference participants, who need accommodation after the end of conference (16.04 at 14:30) are welcomed to contact **Hotel Primo** (Special rates: single room 35 €; double room 40 €, for booking use **code RAAS**). Address of **Hotel Primo**: 62 Nometnu street, Riga, LV-1002, Latvia phone: +371 25888777, +371 67454571 fax: +371 67454572; info@primohotel.lv, www.primohotel.lv

Airport transfer. For your convenience, Bellevue Park Hotel Riga is pleased to offer following transfers Airport – Hotel and Hotel – Airport. Transfer cost: 10 EUR/per transfer (1-3 persons in a car), 20 EUR/per transfer (4 – 7 persons in a minibus).

You are welcome to contact Bellevue Park Hotel to order transfer service reservations@bellevue.lv, payment for the transfer at the Hotel.

Free parking. The Bellevue Park Hotel Riga is one of the few hotels close to the Old Town that offers free parking for all clients, with ample space.

Contacts:

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Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

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REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



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Latvian Rural Network