

ELARD European LEADER Association for Rural Development.

-MODIFIED STATUTES-

I. NAME, SEAT, AIM, OBJECTIVES

Art.1.- Name

There shall be set up an international not-for-profit Association with international application under the name of "European Leader Association for Rural Development", abbreviated "ELARD", in French "Association Européenne Leader pour le Développement Rural".

This association shall be governed by the Spanish Organic Law 1/2002 of 22 March 2002.

Art. 2.- Seat

The registered office of the Association shall be at the office of the Spanish Network for Rural Development, C/ Constancia, 38 local, 28002. Madrid (Spain).

Art. 3.- Aims

The Association has as its aims the promotion of strategies and the local and national initiatives for the rural development, especially for disseminating the rural communities before of Europeans and international institutions, the methodologies of rural development and the integrated approach to favour the recognition of the rural society.

The Association will favour, through the available means or for the means that may be granted, the promotion of actions as regards rural development at European and international level, by means of the communication, the diffusion of results, and any other means that it helps to the development of the initiatives of the rural development.

Art. 4. - Objectives

The Association pursues the following objectives:

General objectives:

- To promote the solidarity among the citizens of the rural areas of the European Union, in particular of those arisen in the framework of the community Initiative LEADER or of other initiatives and national programs related with the rural development, with regards to the endogenous and sustained development of the rural areas, the strengthening and diversification of its economy, the

maintenance of its population, the enhancement of the value of sites and the social well-being of its inhabitants, and the conservation of the living space and the natural resources.

- To promote the philosophy, the principles and the dimension of Leader or of other programs and similar initiatives and of their future evolutions.
- To support and to promote among their members their efforts to carry out innovatory actions in the field of rural development.
- To advise to the European and international institutions in the elaboration of political and innovative programs as regards rural development.
- To serve as forum for the NGO rural groups and organisations interested in sharing their ideas and their experiences related with the rural development and with the future of the rural development, especially in what refers to Europe, but with a spirit of transnational cooperation.
- To represent the interests and the needs of its members before other international, European and national institutions.
- To serve as connection with the other actors and institutions that work towards an integrated rural development.
- To organize meetings between different Local Action Groups (LAG's) at European level.
- To encourage initiatives that will lead to cooperation.
- To help associated Groups that may be interested in locating partners for their cooperation projects.
- To divulge experiences from the associated Groups.
- To create a database of innovative projects previously carried out, so that they can be used as a reference for the rest of partners.

In order to carry out the objectives described previously, the Association will be able to request as many aids, grants, funds, donations, or contributions that are necessary to this end.

Specific objectives:

- Conservation, protection and appraisal of the environment and the rural environment areas, understood not only as a physical milieu but as a human milieu, in connection with the conservation of the landscape and the forest agrarian economy, as well as the improvement of animal welfare.
- Support to those experiencing rural disadvantage: women, young people, people with disabilities and elderly people.
- Use of new know-how and new technologies to make products and services more competitive in rural areas.
- Adding value to local products, in particular by facilitating access to markets for small production units via collective, as well as the diversification of activities in the farmer area and similar areas, with the aim of increasing employment possibilities and off-farm incomes.
- Making the best use of natural and cultural resources, including enhancing the value of sites.
- The development and improvement of infrastructure related to the development of farmer production.
- Cooperation in international and transnational projects.
- Cooperation with developing countries to carry out research, training and starting cooperation projects activities.

- Encouragement of tourism in rural areas, mainly to keep a sustainable tourism model vibrant.
- Promotion and support of small companies in the rural areas and initiatives related with the sector services.
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas. Increase the services to the population.
- Inheritance. Enhancement of natural, cultural and architectural heritage.
- Training and employment. Acquisition of competencies.
- Renovation and development of villages, maintaining population levels, protection and conservation of rural heritage.
- Building up of networks related to the above described objectives.

II. Members

Art. 5.- Membership

The Association is composed of active members and of associated members. Only the active members will be entitled to vote. The active members are legally constituted juridical people, according to the laws and customs of their origin countries. The active members are represented by a titular and a substituted designated by the Association. In the case of change during the period of rule of this represents, the Association shall be advised of this change, in order to proceed to new elections. During this interval, the new designated representative will assume the predecessor's functions.

It can be active members the Rural Development Groups, also called Local Action Groups (LAG), and their representative networks to regional or national scale, as well as any other entity that credits that it works in favor of the rural development of their territory and that it shares the objectives of the Association.

The active and associated members will proceed from organizations belonging to Members States of the European Union (UE), as well as of the future members or third countries, whenever facilitate they favor the development of the objectives of the Association.

Art. 6.- Admission and exclusion of members

The admission of a member of the Association is made in General Assembly, to proposal of the Steering Committee.

The exclusion of members of the association may be proposed by the Steering Committee, and will be submitted in the General Assembly, once the member in question has been given an opportunity to defence.

The General Assembly can agree the observer's statute to the organizations and people that have similar objectives, included those of outside of the European Union.

Art. 7.- Lost of member condition

The members that stop to belong to the association will no longer be entitled to claim on any on the association's assets.

Art. 8.- Duties and obligations of members

Members have the following duties:

- To share the purposes of the Association and to collaborate in the consecution of them
- to adjust their performance to the statutes
- to carry out the decisions of the General Assembly and rules established by the Steering Committee.
- To provide the necessary collaboration in order to get a good functioning of ELARD.

Members have the following Obligations:

- Members are required to pay an annual membership fee, whose quantity will be decided each year by the General Assembly, as well as any pecuniary obligation that settles down.

Art. 9.- Dissolution of the Association

The dissolution of the Association must emanate from the Extraordinary General Assembly with the majority of, at least, 2/3 of the active members.

III. Bodies of the association and its functions

Art. 10.- General Assembly

The General Assembly is endowed with all the powers necessary to achieve the aims of the association. There are two types of General Assembly:

- Ordinary General Assembly
- Extraordinary General Assembly

The Ordinary General Assembly is endowed with all the necessary powers to reach the objectives of the Association.

The Ordinary General Assembly will meet regularly at least once in each calendar year in the place convened by the Steering Committee

The Secretariat shall convene the Assembly by fax, phone, electronic mail or by any other suitable means of communication at least 15 days before the Ordinary General Assembly. The convening documents shall include the place, the date and the agenda which shall be determined by the Steering Committee.

The questions of the agenda must be approved by simple majority of the present members or validly represented people that are entitled vote. In the event of not having obtained an enough majority any candidate, the President has the decisive vote.

The Extraordinary General Assembly should be summoned by the President or through an application signed for at least 1/4 of actives members, and will have the essential responsibility of modification of the statutes and the dissolution of the Association. The convocation of Extraordinary Assembly will be sent to all the members by the Secretary General of the Association at least 30 days before the meeting.

Art. 11.- Quorum and Voting in the General Assembly

Only the actives members are entitled to vote in the General Assembly. The associate members can attend the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies, but without right to vote.

The observers are only entitled of attending the Ordinary General Assembly and they are not entitled to vote.

An active member can grant delegation written to be represented in the General Assemblies by another active member. Each active member cannot be payee of more than one delegation.

Art. 12.- Decisions of the General Assembly

The decisions adopted by the General Assembly are valid on condition that at least half of the actives members are presented or represented.

All the decisions will be adopted by simple majority to exception of the admission of a new member, or the exclusion of a member and the dissolution of the Association. All the decisions are communicated to all the partners.

Decisions and minutes adopted by the General Assembly shall be recorded in a register signed by the Secretary General and lodged with the Secretary, who will make them available to members on request.

Art. 13.- The Steering Committee

The Association will be administered by a Steering Committee. The members of the Steering Committee shall be appointed for a term of office of two years and shall be renewed at end of the term. Each member shall design a titular or a substitute to the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee is composed by a President, a Vice-president, a General Secretary and a Treasurer. The same person cannot occupy President's position during more than two consecutive years. The Presidency of the Association is rotational among the member countries.

The Steering Committee meets to proposal of the President.

Art. 14.- Steering Committee functions

The Steering Committee assures the management and the daily administration of the Association according to the decisions of the General Assembly. The Steering Committee can delegate in its President this task and is endowed with all the legal means to execute its mission.

The Steering Committee may set up international working groups in order to achieve the aims of the Association. The work groups shall regularly report information about its activity to the Steering Committee.

Art. 15.- Decisions of the Steering Committee

The decisions of the Steering Committee are adopted by simple majority, and they will be recorded in minutes lodged with the Secretariat and signed by the President and General Secretary. In the event of not having obtained an enough majority, the President has decisive vote.

Art. 16.- Delegated powers

Only a member of Steering Committee, designed by it, shall have delegated powers.

Art. 17.- Secretary General

The Secretary General will be appointed by the General Assembly for a period of two years. This period can be renewable. The Secretary General shall be in charge of the Secretariat and the general administration of the Association.

Any official documents affecting the Association shall be signed by the Secretary General who is not required to justify this vis-à-vis third parties. In pursuing or defending legal actions, the Secretary General will act on behalf of the Association.

Art. 18.- Secretariat

The Secretariat, under the direction of the Secretary General, will be responsible for the administration of the Association and its account. The Secretariat will draw up an annual budget plan for general running costs which is approved by the General Assembly for the following calendar year.

IV. administration of the patrimony and economics resources

Art. 19.- Economics resources and financial exercise

The financial exercise begins January 1 and it concludes December 31.

The Steering Committee should subject the previous financial year and the budget of the next financial year to the General Assembly for its approval.

In order to achieve its aims, the Association shall count with the following resources:

- The incomes that it generates its patrimony.
- The annual contributions of each member, ordinary and extraordinary.
- The donations of physical or juridical person or civil entities.
- The grants or contributions of Public Administration.
- Any fund managed through its participation in programmes or initiatives
- The incomes of trading activities and companies in which the Association may participate eventually.
- The services developed by the Association.

V. Modification of the Articles of Association and Dissolution

Art. 20.- Modification of the Articles of Association and Dissolution

Any proposal which aims to modify the articles of Association or will lead to the dissolutions of the Association must emanate from the Steering Committee or at least 1/3 of actives members.

The Steering Committee shall inform of this proposal to all members in a term mentioned in art. 7.

The Proposal of modification of dissolution shall be accepted by the simple majority of Steering Committee in order to be approved in the General Assembly

In the case of dissolution, by any case or by any cause, the General Assembly shall design the members whose shall receive the eventual assets of the Association.

In the case of demand of 1/3 of actives members of the Association, the proposal of modification or dissolution shall be submitted by the approval of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly shall meet the half of the members and to submit it to the quorum. In the case of double quorum is not submitted, the General Assembly shall automatically recall in a period of a month.

The General Secretary of the Association shall send, in a term f at least 60 days before the meeting, a written and motivated notification with the detailed proposal of the Agenda. In the case of indecisive vote, the President will have the decisive vote.

The General Assembly shall settle the manner of the dissolution or liquidation of the Association.

Art. 21.- working language

The working language of the Association is English. Any official document of the Association shall be drawn up in English.

LIST AND SIGNATURE OF FOUNDER MEMBERS

1. ASSOLEADER

Representated by: **Maurizio GIANINNI**
ASSOLEADER
Via dei Gigli d' Oro, 21
IT-00186 ROMA

2. GREEK LEADER NETWORK

Representated by: **PANOS PATRAS**
Kenakap SA
Centro de Desarrollo de Kalambaka-Pyli S.A.
38 Kondyli Street
GR- 42200 Kalambaka

3. IRISH LEADER NETWORK

Representated by: **JACK ROCHE**
IRD Duhallow Ltd.
James O'Keeffe Institute
Newmarket
Co. Cork
Ireland

4. LEADER FRANCE

Representated by: **JEAN PAUL STORAI**
GAL Leader Hérault
Conseil General, 1000 rue d' Alco
FR-34087 Montpellier cedex

5. RED ESPAÑOLA DE DESARROLLO RURAL

Representated by: **ANTONIO GONZALEZ CABRERA**
REDR
C/ Constancia, 38 local
ES-28002 Madrid

6. RED PORTUGUESA DE DESARROLLO RURAL

Representated by: **REGINA LOPEZ**
MINHA TERRA
Rua Marquesa de Alorna, 34, 2º esquerdo.
Lisboa.