

The national rural network **NEWSLETTER**

april 2019 / number 1 / year 1



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articles

*The national rural network
has celebrated its*
10th anniversary

Village of the year

Smart villages
*as presented by the national
network of local action groups
and territorial partners*

Looking back
at the year 2018



Website



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Evropský zemědělský fond pro rozvoj venkova
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Dear readers,

you are holding in your hands 1st issue of the National Rural Network Newsletter where you will find a lot of interesting information about its history, events which it organized and what is being prepared for you in the year 2019. We are also going to reveal to you where you can find inspirational examples of good practice in projects carried out with the financial support of the Rural Development Programme, we will introduce to you the competition Village of the Year and many other things.

We wish you a pleasant reading of the first issue of the National Rural Network Newsletter.

THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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Ing. Vítězslav Krček: Sunset over the River Berounka

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About the National Rural Network

Text: Team of authors

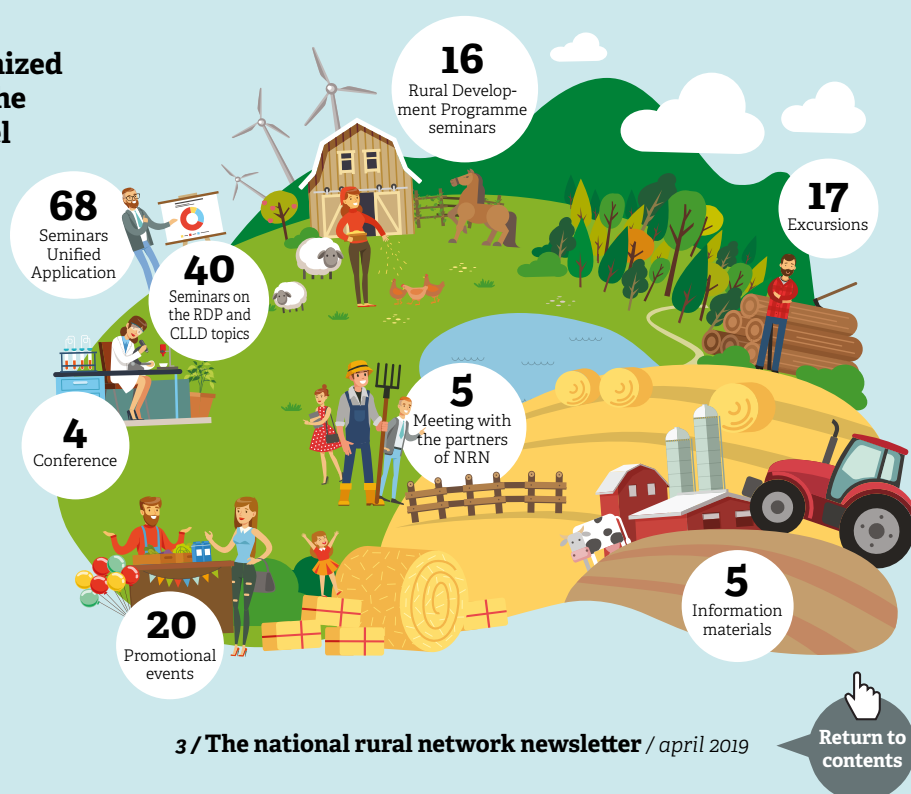
The National Rural Network (the Network, NRN) was established by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in 2008. Its purpose is to make the implementation of the subsidy programmes, especially those that have a positive influence on the development of the Czech countryside, easier. The main idea of the Network is to share experience with drawing subsidies and their passing on to the potential applicants.

The Network functions on two levels. MoA carries out the activities of the Network on the national level and participates on the preparation and implementation of the events which have an international character. It organizes the Conference for the Countryside which is intended for those who are interested in the Czech countryside, agriculture and its development. Another event on which the Network organisationally and financially participates is Leaderfest. This event is aimed at the Local Action Groups (LAG) and the main theme is Community-led Local Development (CLLD). The Network is presented also at one of the biggest exhibitions with agricultural theme which is the Bread Basket agricultural exhibition in České Budějovice. The State Agricultural Intervention Fund (SAIF) arranges the preparation and realization of events at the regional level – in the whole of the Czech Republic it is 7 regions altogether. In each of these

regions there are Network coordinators who, with the active partners in their region, plan activities which help to develop Czech countryside and share towards the public examples of good practice in receiving financial resources from the Rural Development Programme (RDP).

In 2018 the Network prepared for you many events in the regions for example 16 seminars which were part of the 6th and 7th round of RDP and where over 900 participants received specialized training. The Network also devotes itself to supporting LAGs which is proved by further 16 seminars and workshops in which more than 700 people participated. You had the opportunity to take part in 17 excursions (5 of them abroad) and 5 conferences. You could also see the Network at 23 promotional events for the wide public. You can learn more about some of these events on the following pages of this newsletter. ■

Events organized by NRN on the regional level in 2018



National Rural Network has celebrated its 10th anniversary

Text: Team of authors

The Network has prepared in connection with its 10th anniversary apart from traditional workshops, seminars, conferences, promotional events and excursions aimed at promotion of RDP 2014-2020 also something non-traditional – a photo competition “Photograph the villages and countryside”. The purpose of this competition was to increase interest in the Czech villages and countryside and RDP which encourages its development and promotion of the Network activities. The announcement of the results of the competition took place on 11th September 2018 on the premises of the Wallenstein Garden in Prague and was connected with a ceremonial encounter of those who partake in the activities of the Network and thus encourage the development of the Czech villages and countryside.

The garden party for the anniversary of the Network was opened by the chairman of the permanent committee of the Senate for rural development Miroslav Nenutil, the secretary of the Minister of Agriculture Pavel Sekáč and the general director of SAIF Martin Šebestýn who agreed on the fact that the Czech villages and countryside are very varied and there are now challenges which might influence their future. Some key factors like ensuring a stable amount of inhabitants, preventing young people from leaving village areas, ensuring jobs and suitable environment for entrepreneurship not only in agriculture is possible with the help of RDP. And it is the Network which ensures its promotion and spreading examples of good practice of those who have been getting financial support from this subsidy programme. The garden party was organized for those who are actively developing Czech villages and countryside and actively cooperate with the Network. One part of the celebration was the announcement of the results of the photographic competition “Photograph the villages and countryside” organized by the Network. The competition was open for everybody who sent their photograph on the topic of Nature and people in the Czech and Moravian countryside, development of villages and countryside, Czech villages and countryside and Rural Development Programme



10th anniversary of NRN (source: NRN)

between 19th March 2018 and 31st May 2018. It wasn't easy to choose the winner of the competition and it was very difficult for the jury to decide. First of all they chose a winner from each region and then these photographs were submitted into the big finale where a jury of specialists chose the winner of the whole photo competition. The winner was Ing. Michal Skalský with the photograph “Spring treatment of the fruit orchard”. We thank all the competitors for sending their photos in the name of the National Rural Network and we are sending our hearty congratulations to the winners. ■

On the 10th anniversary of the Network there was also a brochure which presents examples of successful events organized in the regions created.



**HERE
TO BE SEEN**



Absolute winner:

- 1 / Ing. Michal Skalský**
Hradec Králové Region
Spring treatment of the
fruit orchard
- 2 / Ing. Vítězslav Krček**
Central Bohemian Region
Sunset over the River Berounka
- 3 / Milan Prikner**
Plzeň Region
On the edge





4 / Milan Andreas
Karlovy Vary Region
Kiss

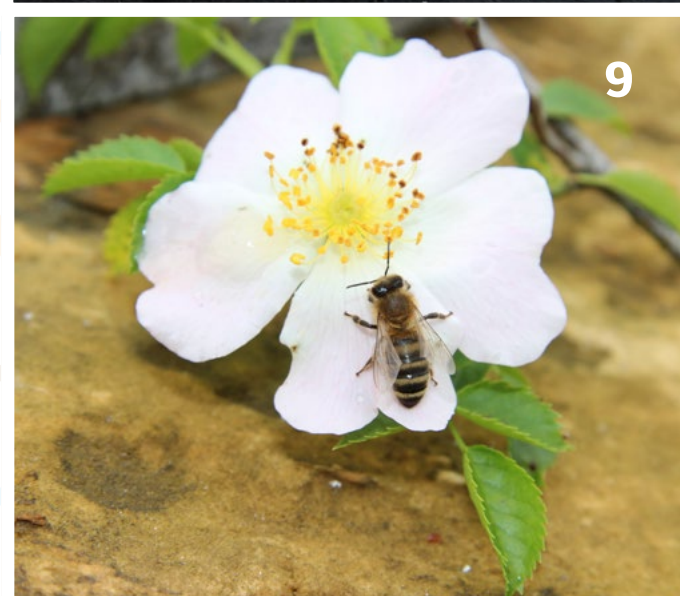
7 / Tatiana Janoušková
Pardubice Region
Loaf of bread

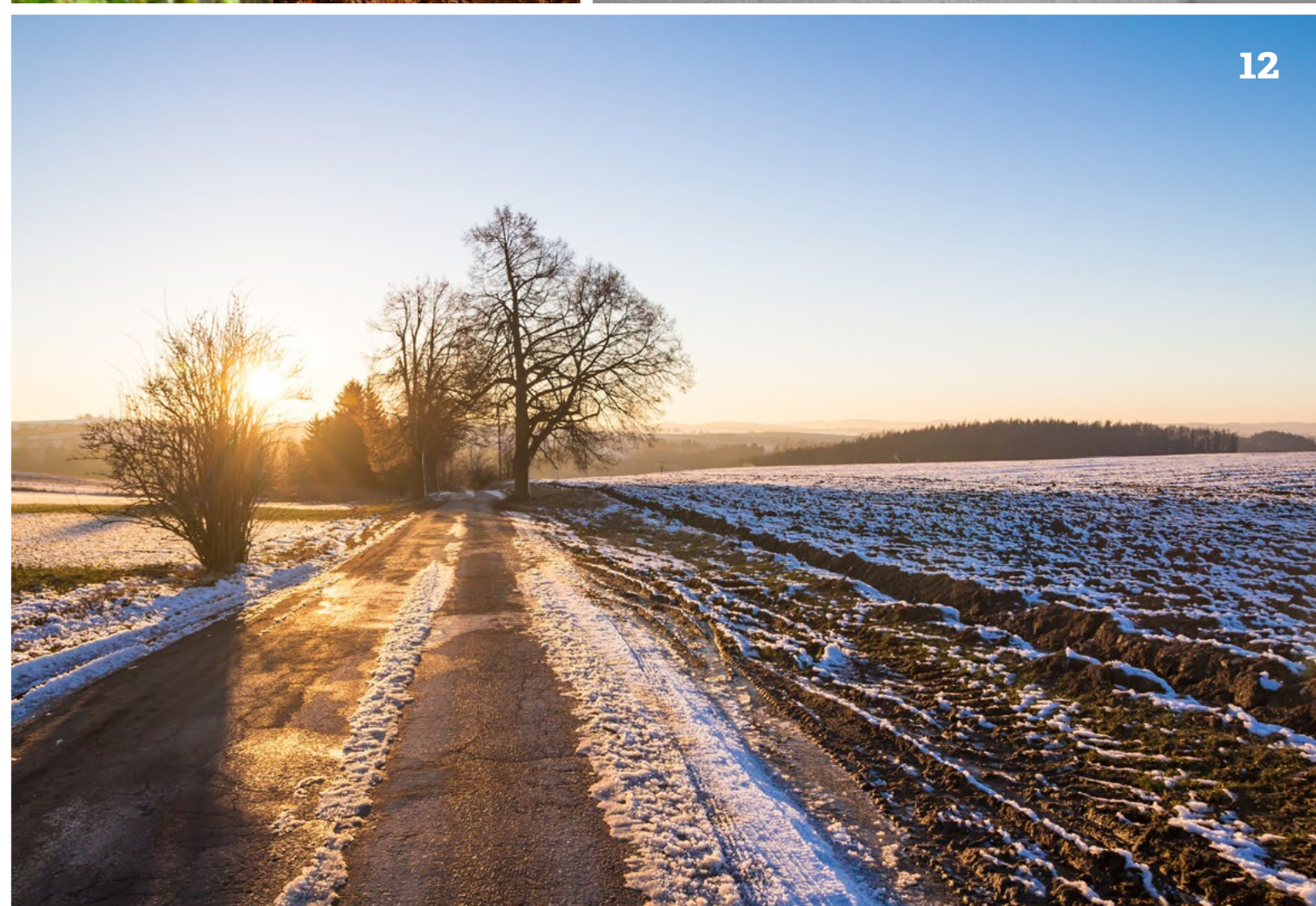
5 / Mgr. Radek Nikl
Ústí nad Labem Region
Where there is no
mining

8 / Martina Krotilová
South Moravian Region
In the place where time
has stopped

6 / Lucie Štukheilová
Liberec Region
Little Calves

9 / Martin Lukáš
Zlín Region
Maya the bee



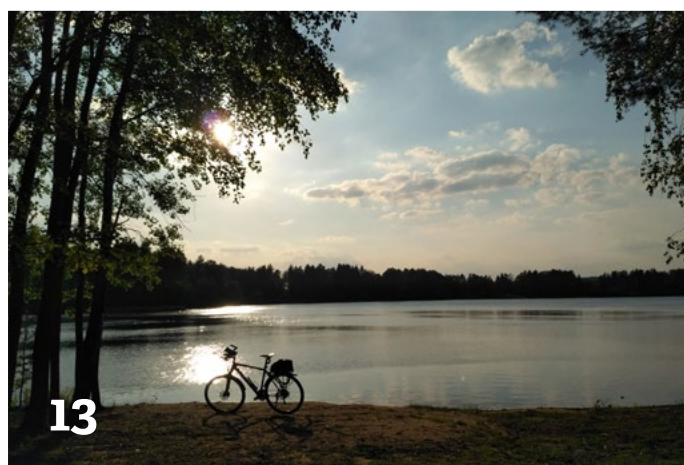


10 / Jaroslava Tempírová
Olomouc Region
Autumn still life

11 / Miroslava Čiržová
Moravian-Silesian
Region
To have the same
direction

12 / Vojtěch Benáček
Vysočina Region
Look at the Sun and you
won't see a shadow

13 / Michal Jiráček
South Bohemian Region
On the dike of the
Spolský pond



Village of the Year

Text: Team of authors, **Photo:** František Šafránek, Věra Libichová

The competition Village of the Year is organized by the Ministry of Regional Development (MRD) and this year is its 25th. The purpose of the competition is to interest the inhabitants of the villages in their development and show the wide public its significance.

The whole competition has two rounds, regional and national. In the regional rounds all the competing villages are assessed on the basis of conceptual documents and presentation of social life, activities of the citizens, enterprising, caring for the building activities and image of the village, amenities, utility networks and energy savings,

caring for the public spaces, natural elements and greenery in the village, caring for the countryside, forthcoming plans and information technologies of the village. A specialized jury in each region chooses the winner from those who applied in each year and in each field. The villages can be awarded these prizes:

**THE BEST AND MOST BALANCED PRESENTATION
OF ALL JUDGED FIELDS OF ACTIVITY**

SOCIAL LIFE

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

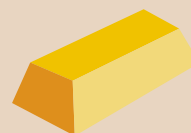
**CARING FOR THE GREENERY
AND ENVIRONMENT**

**COOPERATION OF THE VILLAGE
AND AGRICULTURAL SUBJECT**



THE HOPE PRIZE

for lively villages with
local group activities
and civil society



GOLD BRICK

in the Rural Development Programme –
awards for exemplary buildings carried out
in line with the spirit of the Rural
Development Programme .



Those villages which were awarded Gold, Orange and Green Ribbon in the regional rounds qualify to go into the national round. The villages present within the framework of the competition their plans, successes, exceptionality of the Czech villages but also the creative work of their inhabitants. The competition emphasizes folk traditions, varied nature of the Czech culture and points out the tendency to develop the villages to the European level. The competition at the same time draws the attention of the public and the politicians to the fact that the space of the villages is a significant and essential part of the Czech Republic. It also presents the effort of the representatives of the villages to strengthen their position in the politics and society, it clearly proves that the villages manage to work on their development even in the uneasy conditions, they manage to build their infrastructure, improve the quality of environment, develop the economy and protect natural and cultural heritage.



VESNICE ROKU
V PROGRAMU OBNOVY VENKOVÁ



**MINISTERSTVO
PRO MÍSTNÍ
ROZVOJ ČR**

Orange Ribbon – We award exemplary and well functioning cooperation between the village and agricultural subjects

Within the framework of the competition Village of the Year MoA together with the other inviting parties and co-inviting parties decides on granting the award Orange Ribbon in the regional rounds where as members of the awarding jury are, in addition to others, the regional coordinators of the Network.

The regional rounds usually take place in May or June. The prize winners of the regional Orange Ribbons proceed to the national round which is held in September. The awarding jury evaluates the cooperation of the villages and agricultural subjects, cooperation and partnership with the voluntary alliance of villages or Local Action Groups (LAG) in the field of agriculture and cooperation with the local voluntary organisations from the resort of agriculture like fishermen, beekeepers, hunters, etc. As the village which is being evaluated has only 120 minutes in the framework of the national round to present the above mentioned, the programme is usually very tight and very precisely planned.



Orange Ribbon of the Village of the Year 2018

The members of the national evaluating jury of the Orange Ribbon are the representatives of the

MoA, Czech-Moravian Association of Agricultural Entrepreneurs, Czech Landscape and Garden Society, SAIF, Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic, the Society for Rural Development of the Czech Republic and the National Network of Local Action Groups of the Czech Republic (NN LAG), therefore real specialists. But even so there is always in front of them an uneasy task of choosing the best from the best. Apply to compete in the competition Village of the Year and encourage the inhabitants to work actively on the development of their home, show us its variety and diversity and draw the attention of the wide public to its importance (more about the rules and conditions of the competition on www.vesniceroku.cz).

Orange Ribbon through the eyes of the winners

Bc. František Šafránek, the mayor of the village Svrkyň which can be found in the region Prague-West, about 15 km northeast of Prague, will answer the question how he evaluates taking part in the competition. His village with 299 inhabitants was awarded the Orange Ribbon in the competition Village of the Year in 2018 in the Central Bohemian Region and also won in the national round of the Orange Ribbon.

Mr Mayor, where did you first learn about the competition Village of the Year?

We have known about this competition for a long time but we had been thinking just like many others that the only ones who can enter this competition are the ones who have the whole village in absolutely perfect order, where even "the stone verge stones by the ditch are painted white" Therefore we supposed that we would never be able to take part because there will always be so many things to be improved.

What made you to apply then?

It was a challenge. Challenge to overcome the myth of the perfect villages. This was our first application so our joy over this great victory was even bigger.

How did you prepare for the competition and who did you get involved in the competition and how?

More or less everybody in the village got involved in the preparations. From seniors who at least



Orange Ribbon of the Village of the Year 2018

swept outside their own houses to the citizens who were bringing ideas and also actively helped with the preparations. It was really nice to see that everybody got interested and that nobody saw it as a crazy idea of the representatives of the village.

How much time did the preparations for the whole presentation of the village in the regional round of the Village of the Year and the national round of the Orange Ribbon take?

It is impossible to estimate timewise. From the application until the competition it was, I suppose, a month or two. It was necessary to determine the priorities and direction in which we were going to present ourselves and the points in which we were different and better than other villages. And we had the whole summer holiday for the national round. At that point it was clear that we were

competing for the Orange Ribbon therefore also the presentation narrowed down to this category.

How do you cooperate with the agricultural subjects in the village, do you have any collaborative plans?

Without the cooperation with the agricultural subjects Svrkyně would not be the real countryside Svrkyně. We would not be able with our limited budget to bring waterpipes into the village of Hole, which is our part, to maintain the landscape and permanent village character of the village. We have collaborative plans longterm, at the moment we are occupied with building the sewerage which is the last utility network which we lack. And this "big morsel" would be impossible to carry out without the cooperation.

Which voluntary associations are active in the village of Svrkyně?

The biggest and also with the longest, 70-year tradition is the Hunters Association Svrkyně-Velké Přílepy, then there is among others Fishermen's Association and free time dance group Sisinky.

What do you think makes your village stand above others in the sphere of agriculture?

That's exactly what we came into the competition with. Regarding that we are mere 15 km from the centre of Prague we are one of the last villages untouched by the massive building development and with preserved functional and traditional agricultural character with the typical primary production. And this is true both longterm and historically. And we are duly proud of this and appreciate the mutual encouragement of everybody with the same thinking be it the big farmers or small scale gardeners.

What type of presentation did you decide on?

In both rounds of the competition we chose the presentation directly in the area by the tour of the village of Svrkyně and Hole and in the form of "Seven stations". Here the jury could shortly get to know our agricultural subjects in the village, voluntary associations and also important historical buildings and at the same time see the countryside. Only during the national round due to the lack of time and rainy weather we also added a short videopresentation.

What would you recommend to the other villages which want to enter the competition the Village of the Year?

The main thing is not to be afraid to apply. Each village has surely something to show and is unique

in some respect. And then it is only a matter of showing it to the evaluating jury.

Were there any celebrations after winning the Orange Ribbon in the regional and national round?

After the regional round there somehow wasn't time to celebrate anything but after the national round we, of course, wanted to share our joy with all the citizens of the village. In the autumn there was therefore a "neighbourly" meeting with the citizens in the clubroom of our Hunters Association where we together celebrated this collective success in the competition the Village of the Year. We also joined it with the celebration of 100th anniversary of the creation of Czechoslovakia.

Do you have any idea how you are going to use the finances from the award?

That is simple. We are starting the building of the sewerage so I suppose we will probably use the prize money for project documentation.

How do you evaluate partaking in the competition in hindsight?

It was a step into the unknown territory but with joint effort we managed to do the main thing. We managed to show that even at this hectic time there still exists neighbourly togetherness in the countryside, it is possible to maintain the village to be both modern but with its original agricultural and countryside character. It is possible to live a good quality life in the countryside in harmony with nature and traditional values and all the bonuses of the country life. We also got to know a certain added value of the whole competition and that is above all the new energy and desire to continue working with people and for the people. The inspiration from the other villages which took part is also an enormous impulse and motivation for the future. ■



Orange Ribbon of the Village of the Year 2018

Let's be smart, let's have Smart Villages

Text: Team of authors

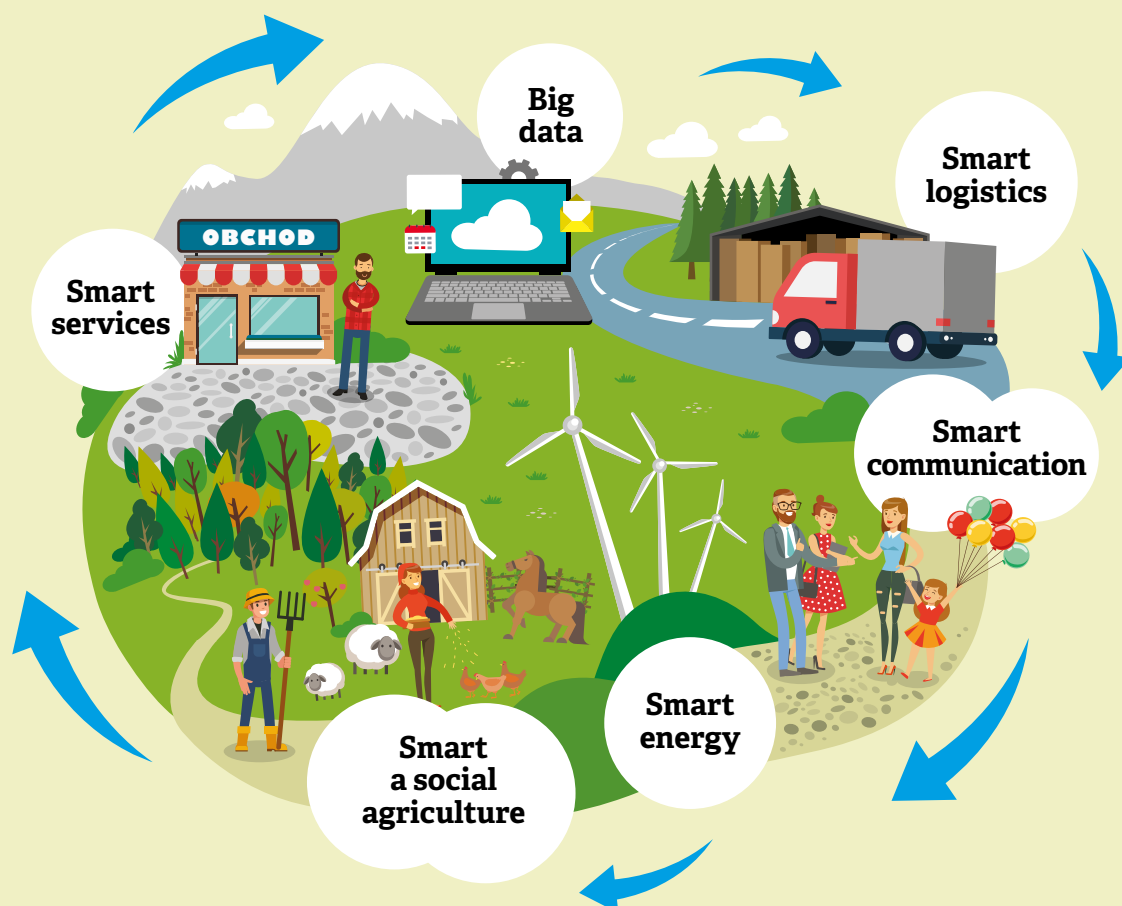
Smart countryside is not only about smart technologies but above all about smart people who are not waiting for someone to solve their problems but who actively try to solve them themselves. It is obvious that at the present modern time it is important for self-sufficient and independent villages to use smart technologies but it is never just about them.

The principle of the smart villages is the ability to create communities which are trying to solve their own problems, which use their potential and are not afraid to cooperate with other villages or cities. The communities should use all knowledge and innovations which are available to them. There is no universal model of development using the money from the European funds but there are thousands of them and it is entirely up to each village how it is going to use all of the offered options. As this is a very current topic there are many organisations which are occupied with it including the MoA, which founded the Thematic Working Group (TWG)

with the name Smart Villages. The members of this TWG are representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations which are affected by this topic. TWG is going to bring the news from the European TWG which is already functioning and should contribute to bringing the good practice into the Czech Republic which is going to help with the development of our smart villages. ■

More information about Smart Villages

European Network of Rural Development



Smart Villages in the concept of NN LAG and regional partners

Text: Ing. Stanislav Štumpf, working group Smart Villages at NN LAG, Local Action Group Zálabí, z.s.

Photo: archive of NRN

Lately we have been hearing about smart solutions (SMART CITY) very often. Not a week passes by without a seminar or a conference being held on this topic. More and more cities have their managers who are responsible for the development of SMART CITY. The projects of SMART CITIES are simply "in".

Moving the boundaries of modern technologies in cities is definitely a journey in the right direction. All of us would like to have a better and more comfortable life. But it also has its obstacles which start immediately behind the boundaries of the cities. According to the United Nations Organisation by 2050 there will be 73 % of inhabitants living in European cities and cities are already getting ready for it. Unfortunately, it is anticipated that it will be mainly more educated and more enterprising people who will be moving into the cities from the villages. Not only the National Network of Local Action Groups (NN LAG) but also the other regional partners consider as important that the cities do not move too far away from the villages with their smart solutions and smart technologies. NN LAG, Association of Regions of the Czech Republic, Czech Bishop Conference, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Association of the Local Self-Governments of the Czech Republic and Society for Rural Development agreed that they will together protect the interests of villages and will do everything so that alongside with the cities the villages were developed too. People and communities must be on the first place, according to the regional partners. Modern technologies are only a means which should with its complexity improve the lives of all the citizens. People, the final users, must be in the first place. Searching for the solution suitable also for the villages has started already in spring 2018. Within half a year a concept of transferring the knowledge of innovations into the space of the countryside had crystalized and with NN LAG there was created a working group Smart villages, whose members are also the other regional partners. And how to ensure with this system the coverage of the whole rural area of the Czech Republic? It is thanks to the Local Action Groups, their knowledge of the area a possibilities of networking. The knowledge of 82 % of the area which the Local Action Groups of the Czech Republic cover is a rather strong argument.



Bringing smart solutions into villages will be based on the cooperation between the specialist "smart" advisors, innovation centres, universities and commercial sector. The main carrier of the solution will therefore be the smart advisor, so called inovative broker who will be the joining link between the specialized institutions and villages. But even the most capable advisor is not able to cover all the knowledge in the sphere of SMART CITY. For this reason there will be advisors specializing in the fields which are close to them from the professional point of view e.g. social services, power engineering, transport, etc. The practice is going to be the following. The innovative broker visits the mayor of the village and listens to what the village needs to solve. Then if needed he/she contacts specialized institutions or other innovative brokers from other LAGs, looks up already implemented examples of good practice and at the next meeting introduces the mayor to a comprehensive solution suggestion. A special emphasis will be put on the cooperation and networking. Also the inhabitants of the village can join in the smart projects. The workers of LAG educate themselves in cooperation with the Central Bohemian Innovation Center. They visit examples of good practice like the already held excursion to University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings in Buštěhrad or in energetically self-sufficient village of Kněžice. The four educational seminars were concluded at the laser centre in ELI Dolní Břežany. It was the first conference on Smart villages in the Central Bohemian Region. All of this was undertaken so that they could offer a good quality and professional service. The project is gradually being introduced to the representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development, MoA, Central Bohemian Region and other subjects without whose support it would be unthinkable to start the project. We would like to say a big thank you to all of them for their present support. The target for the year 2019 is to launch the first pilot project which will concern some chosen LAGs and villages in the Central Bohemian Region. If it turns out that this project has sense then it will be gradually spread into all territories of LAG. Villages are unable to catch up with the cities in their smart solutions but that is not even desired. The cooperation with the cities will, however, be the key factor in the success of the project. Villages should preserve their character and what might be true for the cities does not have to be true for the villages. If there will be smart people living in the villages, people using smart technologies then life in the villages has future. ■

Regional events organized by NRN

Looking back at the year 2018

Text: Team of authors, **Photo:** NRN archive

The Network prepared a lot of interesting events in the year 2018 which were attended by more than 10 000 participants. We are going to present some of them in this article. You can learn more about the course of other “networking” events on the websites of SZIF and eAGRI.

Inspiration from our neighbours

On 4th and 5th September 2018 the Network organized an excursion to Slovakia which was attended by more than 20 participants interested in inspiration from the projects of Rural Development Programme. During the first day they visited Gazdovský dvůr in Turá Louka where they had the opportunity to see a homestead from the end of 19th century which presents the traditional

ways of life and living in the Myjava Region. This homestead was reconstructed within the frame of the Programme INTERREG V-A Slovakia-Czech Republic and with the cooperation of the village of Dolní Němčí.

The facilities of the homestead, bread baking oven and fruit drying house, were financially supported from the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. The next stop was the old orchard with traditional fruit tree varieties. The excursion continued in the spirit of the regional products to the Chamber of Folk Traditions, Crafts and Regional Products where there was the project to introduce the regional brand Kopanice regional product presented. The running of the farm and processing of the locally grown fruit was shown at the stop in Ovosad Myjava.

On the first day the excursion finished at Agropension Podyklava where the owner spoke to the participants about the cooperation with LAG and universities, about the planned projects, land consolidation of villages and newly built fruit processing facility. The second day of the excursion was started at the Biofarm Charolais. The next stop at the farm Etelka was finished by the tour of the Memorial Room of Dušan Samuel Jurkovič in Brezová pod Bradlom. The exhibition itself was created with the help of the financial support from the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. The presentation of the examples of good practice allowed the participants to become acquainted with successful projects of RDP directly at their locations and also with the agricultural diversification both at a family farm and at a factory farm. ■



Inspirace od susedů



From the field straight to the kitchen

From the field straight to the kitchen

There was a seminar for agricultural producers, processors, consumers and specialized agricultural public held in the beautiful space of Food Atelier in Moravská Ostrava. More than 40 participants came to absorb information and inspiration. They learnt how the subsidy title 16.4.1 Horizontal and vertical cooperation between the participants of short supply chains and local markets from RDP can help with the success at the market.

The participants of the event were able to learn from the owner of the ecologically run family farm why it is important to sell from the farmyard, how RDP positively influenced conduct of business and many other things. The whole seminar was interconnected with inspirational examples of good practice and personal experience of the lecturers. Thanks to networking of the participants during the seminar there was also a cooperation of some of the participating subjects started. Will you take part too next year? ■

Festival of fruit 2018 in Chelčicko-Lhenický microregion

Traditional fruit fair which took place on Saturday 20th October 2018 was visited by more than 4 000 people and it confirmed that this is an important event in the Chelčicko-Lhenický microregion.

Many sellers of regional products participated in this fair, the event was accompanied by a varied cultural programme and the Network had its stall there too. Inspirational projects financed from RDP were presented there. The Network is the traditional partner of this regionally important event and has its space there to prominently present its activities, RDP and its inspirational projects. Thanks to

this event the Network had the opportunity to present itself in the live broadcasting of Czech Radio České Budějovice. ■



Festival of fruit



Countryside 2018 (Ing. Soňa Roškotová)

Regional conference Countryside 2018 took place in Trutnov

The aim of the conference which was held on 15th – 16th November 2018 in Trutnov was to bring to the attention the possibilities of farmers educational programmes in Hradec Králové Region for students and public.

Part of the conference was devoted to support of education within the framework of MoA and RDP subsidy options. The lecture on functioning and management of Local Action Groups with focus on drawing from subsidy programmes especially from RDP was welcomed and appreciated very much. There was an excursion to RDP projects prepared for the following day. First of all the participants visited the company Maso Kazda s.r.o. from Úpice which presented directly on the shop floor the projects accomplished from RDP: Obtaining technology for production and Technology of meat produce. The next stop was the presentation of the modernization of machinery and farm with the financial support of RDP in Agricultural cooperative Velké Svatoňovice. The theme of the conference and practical experience of the lecturers together with practical samples of projects at the location of their implementation were valued as rather beneficial for all the participants. ■

The National Rural Network organized a seminar with excursion with the title Modern Past in Hřčava

The village where the seminar took place is situated on Moravian-Polish-Slovak border (so called Tripoint). The theme of the seminar was agritourism and putting emphasis on tourism and providing other services and local products in the region.

Production of meat, cheese, milk and beer occupies most inhabitants who, thanks to this, remain in the region of the Moravian-Polish-Slovak tripoint and do not have ambitions to distribute their products far away. Ing. Petr Staňo, the mayor of the village of Hřčava, spoke about their experience with the utilization of RDP subsidies and presented his last project from RDP- Processing of milk and production of traditional milk products, for which he applied as a physical person through SAIF. Another presented project was the project of a young farmer Igor Sikora within the frame of the operation 6.1.1 – Launching the activities of young farmers.



Modern Past

The presentation of the activities of LAG Jablunkovsko was prepared by its manager Mgr. Petr Karlubík who aimed it especially at the administration of projects within the provision of LEADER. The second half of the programme was commenced by agricultural advisor Roman Borovička. The overview of the currently announced grant headings from the point of view

of the major changes of the 7th round of RDP 2014-2020. A pleasant ending of the whole day was a field excursion into the nearby countryside of

the so called Tripoint with the aim of visiting the newly built milk processing plant and production of traditional milk products. ■

Breeding, processing and Rural Development Programme

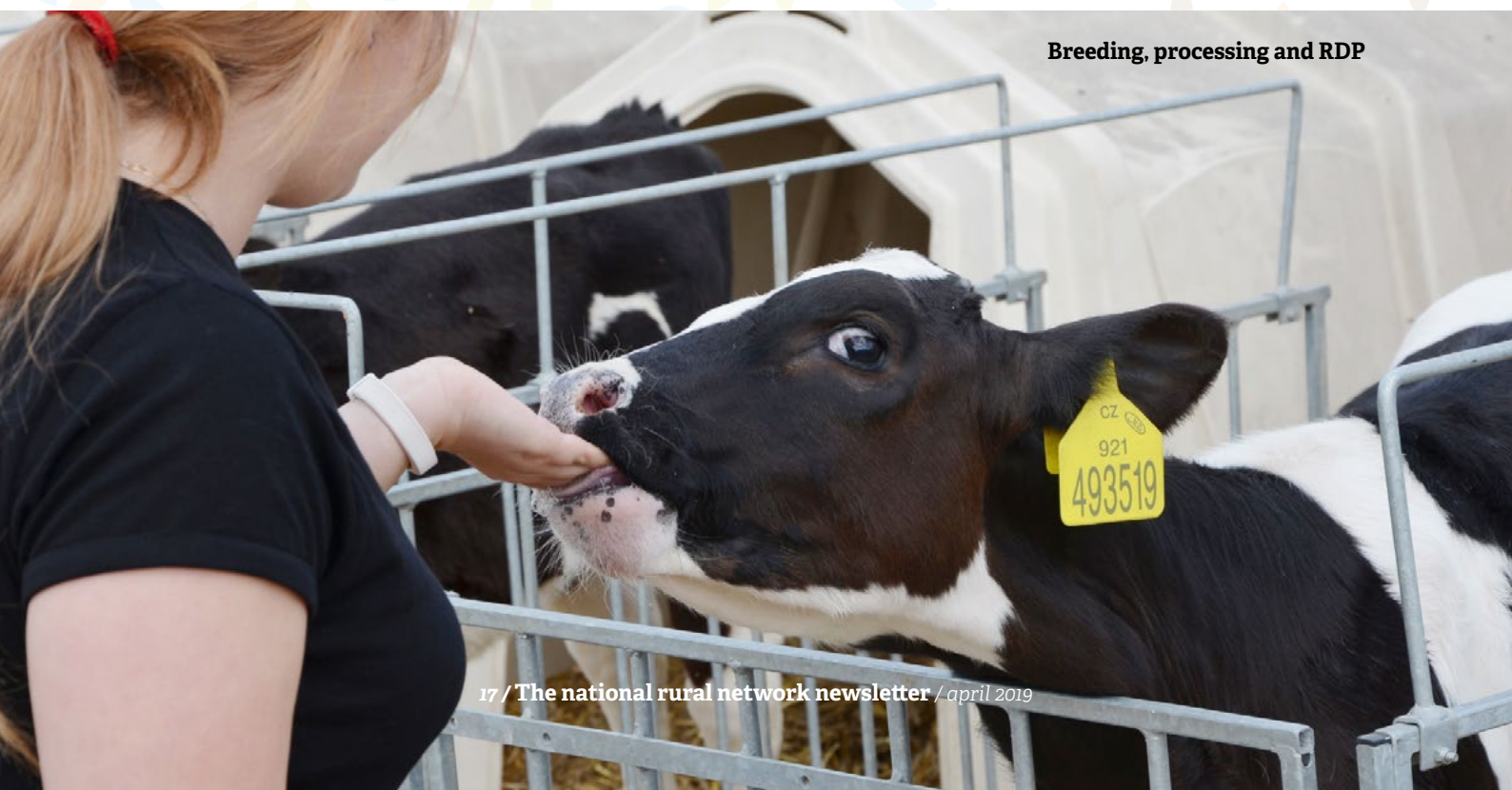
The main aim of the excursion was to present the successful projects and subsidy options of RDP which might inspire young farmers and at the same time future applicants in their agricultural activities and it was shown on the examples of two large successful projects of the applicants from the company CHOVSERVIS and Agricultural company Sloveč.

The participants met up on 2nd May 2018 and together went to visit CHOVSERVIS (division TORO Hlavečník) where they became acquainted with the history and running of the modernized company and with the technology of meat products processing. The participants were introduced to an RDP project which was dealt with in cooperation with the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brno called "New operation for the production of innovated meat products".

The purpose of the project was to develop new products, innovate technological processes in production and packing of meat and products.

The next stop of the excursion was an agricultural company Sloveč where the participants became acquainted with the running of the newly modernized stable for breeding of dairy cows in robotic milking shed. Young farmers learnt about the results of breeding and production in the company which is on a fairly high level. Understandably there was a great interest in the technology which plays an important part in livestock farming. The excursion linked theoretical knowledge of young farmers with the specific demands of practice and helped them to understand the complexity of agricultural management. An interesting part of the excursion was the possibility to see an elevated cistern for manure slurry and reconstructed main manure holding facility, reconstructed stable for milk cows, all this supported from RDP subsidies. Another discussed topic was the information about some other possibilities of financing agriculture by European Union and the Czech Republic. They were mainly non-project subsidies – direct payments, payments as compensations for farming in less favourable regions, farming within the framework of ecological agriculture and subsidies to improve the living conditions of animals. ■

Breeding, processing and RDP





We are learning to cooperate

We are learning to cooperate in South Moravian Region

In November there was a meeting of LAGs of the South Moravian Region with the aim of sharing and discussing information and examples of good and bad practice within RDP, procurement process and regimes of support.

During the lectures there was heard information about the Common Agricultural Policy which is being prepared, the outcomes of the TWG Fruit Trees in the Countryside with links to short supply chains (SPC), information about administration and approving of Fiches and Challenges, survey of administration of applications for subsidies RDP, evaluation of administrative control and checks of acceptability, evaluation of the phases of administrative control, ways of proving newly established jobs within a company, etc.

The first day of the seminar was concluded by the presentation of Jan Florián, NN LAG CR, on the topic of up-to-date information, mid-term evaluation, CLLD 2020+, sharing examples of good and bad practice with the funds of European Union, public procurement and rules for the use in RDP. The second day was started with the lecture of Mgr. Gustav Charouzek, LAG Královská Stezka, on the topic of Potential of the concept of SMART VILLAGES within the frame 2021+. The representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development then continued with the lecture on administration of CLLD in the Integrated Regional Operational Plan – good and bad practice. Especially the problematic fields were discussed – challenges of LAG and criteria, control sheets for evaluation, changes of strategies of CLLD, suggestions arisen during checks. After lunch there were bilateral talks between the participants and specialists. ■

The Journey to Ribbon

Motivational seminar about the participation and support of mayors in the competition Village of the Year took place in the Central Bohemian Region on the premises of Hvoždany village hall. The seminar was in the spirit of inspiration for everybody who wanted to enter 24th year of the competition.

The underlying topic of the motivational seminar was how to draft the presentation of the village, what to show to the jury and how to manage the presentation within the limit of two hours. ■



News in the Rural Development Programme

Text: Team of authors

In 2019 there will be only one invitation to submit an application for subsidy from RDP 2014-2020. The applications will be accepted during October 2019 and will concern the following operations:

Planned invitations in the year 2019

- **1. 1. 1** Educational events
- **1. 2. 1** Informative events
- **4. 2. 1** Processing of agricultural products and their introduction on the market
- **6. 4. 1** Investments into non-agricultural activities
- **6. 4. 2** Support of agritourism
- **8. 3. 1** Introduction of preventative measures in forests
- **8. 4. 1** Renewal of forests after natural disasters
- **8. 4. 2** Clearing away the damages caused by floods
- **8. 5. 1** Investments into the protection of land improving and strengthening trees
- **8. 5. 2** Non-productive investments in forests
- **8. 5. 3** Change of the forests of substitute trees
- **8. 6. 1** Technique and technology for forest management
- **16. 3. 1** Sharing of equipment and resources
- **16. 4. 1** Horizontal and vertical cooperation among the participants of short supply chains and local markets

**For further
information**

go to website
of SAIF and eAgri

Update of rules

On 4th March 2019 there was an update of the measure 19 Support of the local development on the basis of the initiative LEADER. The update touched the operation 19.2.1 and 19.3.1. The changes in Rules 19.2.1 concern mainly supplementing the implementation of article 20 Basic services and renewal of villages in the countryside locations European Parliament and Council directive No. 1305/2013 from 17th December 2013 about the support of the development of villages from European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and abolishing the Council directive no. 1698/2005. The widened support regards mainly these spheres: public spaces, nurseries and primary schools, firehouses, shops for villages, chosen cultural monuments, social and cultural establishments including libraries, footpaths and museums and expositions for villages.

The changes of Rules 19.3.1 concern adding further support of 50 % of eligible expenses.

Further information

[Download PDF](#)

LEADER in numbers

Operation 19. 2. 1.

- Up to 20th February 2019 there were within the period RDP 2014-2020 announced 380 Calls with allocation of 4,25 billion CZK.
- In the Calls there were submitted 4 751 applications for subsidies with the overall allocation of 2,27 billion CZK and the success rate of fulfilling the allocation of Calls is thus 67,58 %.
- LAG collected 3782 applications for subsidy with the allocation of 1,78 billion CZK with the success rate of 79,60 %.
- There was an Agreement with allocation of 1,07 billion CZK signed with 2573 applications for subsidy.
- The finished realization i.e. a submitted application for payment was carried out with 1253 projects with allocation of 0,5 billion CZK. There were 700 projects paid for with the allocation of 0,3 billion CZK.

Operation 19. 3. 1

- There were 9 projects with allocation of 6,57 billion submitted.
- The Agreement was signed with 5 projects with the allocation of 3,75 billion CZK.
- There was one submitted application for payment for one project of the value of 0,33 billion CZK.



PROGRAM ROZVOJE VENKOVA

The Managing Body of NRN - information

Text: Team of authors, **Photo:** NRN

NRN on the central level has realized and also prepares a number of interesting activities for the year 2019. The basic information is published on the website of MoA www.eagri.cz/Venkov. In this informative article we are going to introduce three from a whole number of realized events.

Conference COUNTRYSIDE

In September 2018 there was 10th National Conference Countryside held in Strážnice at Slovácko Region.

The participants discussed the topics of “water and trees in the countryside”, “community led local development”, “renewal of the centres of small towns” and “RDP and common agricultural policy”. The particular parts of the programme are presented [on the website of the conference](#).

Excursions which took those who were interested into beautiful parts of Strážnice region, Hodonín region, Kyjov region and Horňácko region were an important part of the conference. Within each route of the excursion there were planned visits of villages with the history of drawing subsidies from RDP (or other grants), villages successful in the competition Village of the Year and villages with important cooperation with local farmers who also have experience with the support from RDP. The participants visited among other projects RDP also “Grazing site Travičná – modernization of the Řiha farm”, “Technology of wine processing and production of wine”, “Reconstruction of greenhouses”, “Equipment of catering facility in an agritouristic facility”, “Machines and constructions for the orchards in Moravský Písek”, etc. A number of other projects was also presented during the workshops.

The past years have shown that it is necessary to allow the people who try to develop villages and countryside to meet regularly and have the opportunity to exchange their experience.



Excursion



Conference

Presently there is a project being prepared on basis of which there will be future years of this important event organized in other regions of the Czech Republic. The up-to-date information will be published (and not only for this event) [on the website of Moa](#). ■

Social agriculture and entrepreneurship

Within the last few years a whole number of entrepreneurs in our regions has started to deal next to the financial part of their activity also with the effect of their activities on the region where they live. One of the spheres which is getting into the forefront of the attention of active people in the regions is social agriculture/ entrepreneurship.

This topic did not escape the attention of the partners of regional Networks therefore within the frame of NUTS2 Southeast (South Moravian



Květná



Lavandia

Region, Vysočina Region) the Thematic working group “Social agriculture – suggestion of the system of measures for the conditions of the Czech Republic” has been functioning for 3 years. Contacts and further information about its activities are available **on the website of MoA, in Tab Thematic working groups**. A recent outcome is a leaflet called “Manual for farmers and public administration in the sphere of support and realization of social agriculture in the Czech Republic”. There were four workshops on the national level realized in 2018 aimed at the topic of social agriculture/entrepreneurship. Altogether 91 persons took part in these events.

Also for the year 2019 there are within the Plan of activities of the National Network on the national

level some events prepared on this topic. You can find particular programme and details including the individual presentations on the website of eAgri:

Social agriculture – Practical seminars and excursions to social farms for the support of social agriculture/entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic

Social agriculture/entrepreneurship – České Budějovice

There will be two outcomes of the workshops – a basic brochure and a manual. Both these materials will be published during 2019

on the website of MoA. ■

Members of the European Networks met up in the Czech Republic

The employees of the secretariat of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) prepare during the year regular meetings for the employees on the central level of each National Network. These meetings take place in various European countries where the members come from and the representatives of the concerned parties exchange their experience and best ideas from their countries which help the development of European rural areas.

The meeting for the representatives of each National Network for Rural Development and representative of DG AGRI took place from 30.5. – 1.6. 2018 in Prague and in the Central Bohemian Region. The materials for 11th meeting of Networks which took place on 31.5.2018 are published [here](#). Altogether 70 representatives from 23 European countries applied to take part in this meeting.

There were for example these topics discussed:

- good and bad approaches/procedures in “networking” which arise during work of individual national Networks,
- possibilities of improving procedures in creating contacts during the activities of individual national Networks,



Meeting

- Network activities on the top (European) level were introduced,
- there were discussions in discussion groups which were aimed at LEADER and creating contacts with the agricultural players in the rural development.

At the end of the whole day the participants of the meeting could learn something about the history of agriculture (and not just Czech one) in the exposition of the National Agricultural Museum (www.nzm.cz).

Before the meeting itself there was on 30.5.2018 a specialized excursion prepared by the National



Farm Novák Jarpice-Kamenice

Rural Network of the Czech Republic as a host country. It was aimed at the presentation of successfully realized projects of the Rural Development Programme in our republic and at the same time it provided space for the discussion among the visited applicants and foreign participants.

There were representatives of roughly 15 European countries and the places where the foreign participants could get to know the realized projects were in Slaný – in the processing company “EKOFRUKT Slaný” and in Horní Kamenice in the agricultural company “FARM NOVÁK JARPICE – KAMENICE.”

On the last day, 1. 6. 2018, there was a workshop prepared for the participants from the coordinating units of each national Network, which was aimed at exchange of experience in the sphere of communication activities. They spoke for example about how to correctly address certain target groups, how to use social media in preparation and organization of events, how optimally use digital communication in their work, etc.

Further information about that day is [here](#).

Further information about ENRD and its activities can be found in the brochure (in Czech language) “**ENRD 2014-2020 JOINING EUROPEAN VILLAGES**”.



EKOFRUKT Slaný

Kids 'Corner

Spring herbal egg

Text: Team of authors, **Photo:** NRN

When the spring comes, when nature awakens, everything becomes green and light. Prepare spring atmosphere also at home and watch how the little plant slowly changes from seed into a herb full of vitamins.

You will need:

- Eggshells
- Cotton wool
- Seeds of garden cress



- 1.** Carefully break the eggshell and remove the top part of the shell.
- 2.** Put cotton wool into the washed eggshell, cover with water and densely spread water cress seeds on it.
- 3.** Water regularly and keep moist. In a few days the water cress will germinate.

CONTACT

for NRN in the Czech Republic

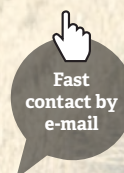
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