

European Countryside Movement

Mouvement Européen de la Ruralité
Europäische Bewegung für die Ländlichkeit
Movimiento Europeo de la Ruralidad
Movimento Europeo della Ruralità
Movimento Rural Europeu



The orientations of the European Countryside Movement

- Rural territories, like urban centres, must be recognized as poles of development and, in that approach, as necessary partners of the European building and its social, economic and territorial cohesion. The restriction of rural space to purely agricultural or recreational functions constitutes overall social impoverishment
- Europe is rich of its dual specificity, rural and urban. Maintaining a living countryside, complementary and different from urban spaces, is a condition for a sustainable development of the continent.
- Rural areas in Europe - just like urban ones - must base their future on strategic development plans that give all participants a common direction, providing them with recognition as partners adding value thanks to their potential.
- A balanced relationship between town and countryside is necessary in order for human society to flourish and for the harmonious development of Europe's regions. That interrelation is to lead in a balanced manner and in accordance with their complementary interests.
- Agriculture and forestry are major sectors for rural development activities; therefore farmers and foresters must be involved and included as partners with other countryside interest groups involved in territorial development.

The European Countryside Movement is a collaborative platform, open to representative Non Governmental Organisations with an international focus. It valorizes the specificities of the associated NGOs with respect for their identity and their diversity.

The E.C.M. is coordinated and chaired by the international association Rurality-Environment-Development (R.E.D.), which organizes its meetings and projects.

Its partners are :

- International Association Rurality-Environment-Development- RED
- Assembly of European Regions – ARE
- Association of European Regions for Products of Origin - AREPO
- European Association for Mountain Areas- EUROMONTANA
- European Association for Rural Development Institutions - AEIAR
- European Committee of Property Owners - CEDIP
- European Council for rural law - CEDR
- European Federation of Rural Tourism - EUROGITIS
- European Greenways Association – EGWA
- European Leader Association for Rural Development - ELARD
- European Network of Outdoor Sports - ENOS
- European Rural University – URE
- International Association of Family Movements for Rural Training – AIMFR
- International Federation of Equestrian Tourism - FITE
- Peri Urban Regions Platform Europe - PURPLE

The aims of the European Countryside Movement

- to promote an integrated rural development policy which can mobilise and bring together all sectoral interests, by participative approaches of local development ;
- to enter into useful dialogue with the international institutions, particularly those of the European Union, in order to protect the interests of all countryside socio-economic sectors, especially in the application of Community policies;
- to maintain the social and economic multi-functionality of the countryside in a positive relationship with urban areas;
- to contribute to the improvement of the overall quality of life of rural populations and preserve the autonomy of their actions;
- to ensure that the rights and uses linked to public and private property contribute positively to the socio-economic and environmental management of the rural areas;
- to bring together town and countryside, ensuring that both are involved on an equal footing in the development and implementation of land management policies at national and regional levels;
- to make aware of the added value of rural territories to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The actions of the European Countryside Movement

The European Countryside Movement supports, in the spirit of its abovementioned orientations, the following actions :

- to inform the general public, media, political realm, European and national officials and all other decision-makers and shapers of opinion about the realities of the countryside;
- to stimulate dialogue between representatives of all socio-economic sectors involved or concerned with the countryside;
- to encourage or support work, studies or other projects likely to contribute to the achievement of its objectives;
- to promote concrete and contemporary schemes for local development in rural areas.

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