



**European Rural Parliament 2015 Gathering  
to be held at Schärding, Upper Austria, 4 to 6 November 2015**

**Programme**

(as at 29 October 2015)

**Tuesday**

**3 November** Afternoon/evening Arrivals of participants who opt for field visits  
Reception/registration + dispersal to accommodation  
No communal catering

**Wednesday**

**4 November** 08.30 Formal greeting to field visit participants in Schärding town square

09.00-18.00 7 different Field Visits to see rural enterprises, farms and Local Action Groups and meet rural communities in Upper Austria, Bavaria (Germany) and southern Bohemia (Czech Republic) (total of 200 participants expected)

Afternoon/evening Arrival of other participants  
*Opportunity to mount displays in the 'Ideas market' in the Big Tent*  
19.00 shared supper in the Big Tent, Marquee, Schärding town square

**Thursday**

**5 November** from 08.30 Registration  
09.30 Plenary session  
- Formal welcome by co-initiators, Austrian hosts, and government representatives from Austria, Upper Austria and Czech Republic  
- Self introduction by national delegations  
- Explanation of programme for the Gathering

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 First session of Thematic Workshops  
*(focused on the draft Manifesto and Report)*

12.30-14.00 Lunch break and 'Ideas market'

14.00-15.30 Second session of Thematic Workshops

15.45 -17.30 Tea and 'Market of Initiatives' in the Big Tent

*Rapporteurs gather to improve the Manifesto and report*

18.30 Buses leave to take participants to the Danube harbour

19.00 to 23.00 Danube cruise, with Gala Dinner, music and entertainment

**Friday**

**6 November** 09.30 Plenary session :  
Presentation of case studies

1. Anahit Ghazanchyan, Country Director for Armenia of Heifer International, a dynamic leader of rural development in Armenia
2. Boban Ilic, Secretary General of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group for South East Europe, which represents the governments of the Western Balkans and is a leading organisation in rural development in that region

3. Luis Chavez, Coordinator, MINHA TERRA, the Portuguese Federation of Local Development Association, whose national campaign for ERP 2015 included 170 local and regional meetings with a total of 3,800 rural people participating.

Explanation of Manifesto and of post-Gathering action proposed by co-initiators

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 General discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch break and 'Ideas market'

14.00-17.00 Plenary session :

Line-by-line discussion and finalisation of the Manifesto

Reactions by representatives of :

- Government of Upper Austria
- European Economic and Social Committee
- European Network for Rural Development
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, USA

Commitments and closure

18.00-20.00 Informal gathering in the Big Tent

Departures

**Saturday**

**7 November**

09.00-17.00 Optional Field Visits in the county of Schärching and historic town Passau (90 participants expected)

Departures