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Short report on the IX. Estonian Rural Parliament

IX Rural Parliament of Estonian Villages Back to the Countryside was held on the western coast of Estonia, Roosta. The topics discussed in the workshops tried to find out if there can be life in rural areas and what to do to make the life worth living there:

- , Involvement and engagement of communities in rural areas
- , Enterprising villages local food, active people
- , Intellectual heritage of villages
- , Educated community
- , Life in Coastal villages

The President of the Republic Ilves had come to open the event and the Speaker of the Estonian Parliament E. Ergma (patron of the contest) announced The Village of The Year. With only 46 inhabitants and an energetic leader this village has managed an impressive number of projects and is a very good example of how to engage and involve people.

The Village of the Year (from a newspaper) They got a spruce as a present, here planting it after RP):
<http://www.maaleht.ee/news/uudised/kylauudised/aastaparimakskulakssaamiseoli-oma-osakulavanemapanti-pandudmajal.d?id=55480006>

The Rural Parliament had also time for sports, photo shooting contest and partying. As a tradition, the R Parliament ended in eating up a huge bread cake together in bread village.

Preceding the RP there was a 2 day "crosscountry orientation" through 6 villages to introduce members and learn the topics of the workshops. It was followed by a national conference Rural Parliaments- effective tools in the decision making process focused on practical organisation of a Rural Parliament. 5 countries (Sweden, Finland, Holland, Slovakia and Estonia) who are experienced in the field, presented their dos and don'ts about this kind of forum which importance as a place for listening to the voice of civil society cannot be underestimated. A book about Rural Parliaments was presented.

There is a summary of the places visited during the http://issuu.com/sirka77/docs/kokkuv_te

The conference also listened to the summaries of the i-workshops held during the study tour.

The conference was organised in cooperation with PREA network.

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