

This conference is dedicated to all who are passionate about the development of rural Slovakia. We welcome representatives from government and public administration, as well as rural stakeholders from various sectors. Join us to exchange insights, foster collaboration, and drive the transformation of our rural communities through smart solutions and digital innovation.



ŽILINSKÝ
SAMOSPRÁVNÝ
KRAJ



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EUROPE DIRECT
Žilinský kraj



Rural Forum

Smart Rural Communities in the Digital Era

October 25–26, 2024

Žilina, Office of the Žilina
Self-Governing Region

Registration:

<https://forms.gle/u4GVv3D9dKayRcqu6>

Email: **kontakt@vpms.sk**

PROGRAM

Friday 25.10.

- 10:00** Anthem of the Slovak Countryside
- 10:05** Opening speeches: Erika Jurinová, head of Žilina self-governing region, Mária Behanovská, founder of the Forum
- 10:25** Ceremonial signing of the memorandum on cooperation between Žilina self-governing region and the Rural Youth Parliament in Slovakia
- 10:30** Vladimír Šucha – Realising Europe's Digital Decade and Building a fairer and more inclusive Union
- 11:00 – 12:30** Panel discussion – moderated by Marián Koreň (Euractiv), panellists: Erika Jurinová (head of ZSK), Katarína Roth Nevedalová (Member of the EP), Vladimír Šucha (head of Slovak Representation of EC), Marián Glovaťák (chairman of ASYF), Ján Fenčák (vice president of the Chamber of Municipalities), Veronika Korčeková (EU CAP network)
- 12:30** Zuzana Palková – Digitization of the rural areas
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- 13:00 – 14:00** Lunch
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- 14:00** Leo Ficuta – European Youth Village – presentation of a concept from Romania
- 14:15** Kim Smedslund – Examples of good practice from Finland, Smart villages
- 14:30** Michal Žarnay – INOVIA, digitization and automation, rising demands for education, skills and creativity
- 14:40** Erika Jankajová – 5 EU missions and their role in rural development: Strengthening local communities
- 14:50** Marieta Okenková – PoliruralPlus and Rural Pact
- 15:05** Tomáš Harant – National network of LAGs CR, work with rural youth

15:20 Mária Behanovská – Women in agroecology

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Workshops (Women in the countryside, Rural youth, Rural pact, Smart villages)

17:30 Presentation of the outputs from the workshops

18:10 Summary and conclusions

18:30 Dinner

19:30 – 21:00 Cultural program, tasting of local products

Accompanying activities: Village of the Year exhibition, presentation of local producers and Local Action Groups

Saturday, 26.10.

8:00 – 17:00 Field trip in the region with examples of good practice in rural work

8:00 Departure by bus, meeting point in front of the Žilina self-governing region building

10:00 Bešeňová – speech by the mayor Martin Baran and manager of CA Partnership for LAG Dolný Liptov Iveta Kloptová, examples of good practice

11:30 Ludrová – Museum of handmade paper production

13:00 Lunch in Koliba at the good shepherd's hut

15:00 Čutkovská dolina – tour of the area with explanation by the owner, visit to the craft brewery URSUS combined with tasting

17:00 Conclusion and return to Žilina

Note: The program is subject to change. If necessary, each participant provides and pays for accommodation himself/herself.