



DECLARATION

formulated during the conference **LeaderFEST 2012** by the participants from **Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Finland, Spain, Estonia, Latvia, Serbia, Great Britain, France**, as representatives of European civil society involved in rural development, members of local action groups working in program Leader.

We, participants of the conference LeaderFEST Levoča 2012 would like to draw attention of the governments and parliaments of our countries, as well as European Commission, particularly DG AGRI and DG Regional Policy, European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and Regions to this offer:

We are committed to accountability for achieving the objectives defined in the program Europe 2020, outlined in the draft "Regulations of common strategic framework for the EU in the period 2014 – 2020".

We do support community - driven method for local development.

Therefore, in order to be able to effectively engage this effort by local action groups throughout the European Union, it is necessary to create such assumptions:

- ✿ To limit centralized decision making about rural development, which are often realized without the knowledge of problems and using inadequate procedures and tools
- ✿ To reduce bureaucracy in all phases of programs, in accordance of the facts that excessively detailed documentation of administrative procedures do not increase the quality or efficiency of programs, but rather occurs energy depletion of LAGs and the final beneficiaries to substantially reduce efficiency in program implementation
- ✿ To limit the scope for corrupt dealings at all levels of implementation of operational programs, to strengthen bottom up check by citizens, to make more possibilities for publicity and transparency, from the phase of preparing strategies till project implementation. Nevertheless, the fights against corruption shouldn't become the reason for the growth of bureaucracy.
- ✿ To create more space for citizens' initiative, small businesses and local governments from the bottom up, so to restrict access to funds for various "mafia" subsidies, who in many cases have devalued the meaningful public resources and have changed democracy on **KLEPTOCRACY!**