

Venue

7th February: Vlaamse Landmaatschappij, Diestsevest 25, BE-3000 Leuven (see  on map)

8th February: Provinciehuis Vlaams-Brabant, Provincieplein, BE-3000 Leuven (see  on map)

Both locations are close to the railway station of Leuven. Leuven is the capital of the Province Vlaams-Brabant. It is an inspiring and lively university town with a magnificent medieval core, and can be reached easily from Brussels Airport and all Brussels railway stations.

Accommodation

<http://www.leuven.be/showpage.asp?iPageID=179>

On request the secretariat will be happy to support for reserving accommodation.

Organisation

- Netwerk Platteland vzw
Rural Network Association, Flanders
- Genootschap Land, Natuur en Water
Association Land, Nature and Water
- Vlaamse Landmaatschappij
Flemish Land Agency
- Departement Landbouw en Visserij
Department Agriculture and Fisheries
- Afdeling Bos, Natuur en Landschap
Division Forest, Nature and Landscape, K.U.Leuven

Registration

Please register before January 10, 2008. See separate registration card.



Congress secretariat

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Conference/Workshop/Excursion

PLATTELAND NABIJ DE STAD RURALITY NEAR THE CITY



7-8th February 2008

LEUVEN, BELGIUM



Focus of the conference

The focus of the conference is to listen to examples from outside Belgium, concerning approaches to safeguarding and developing rural values and uses in fragmented areas under strong urban influence. In return, we want to demonstrate expertise and projects from highly urbanised Flanders.

Other objectives are to discuss about rural networking at national to European levels, and to define common interests about research.

On February 7th the convenors will organise, after a short introductory session about rural development in Flanders, an excursion in the periphery of Brussels, with a mix of themes from periurban farming to rural and multiobjective land development projects. In the morning of February 8th invited guests will present their papers, and in the afternoon 4 parallel workshop sessions will be organised.

The post-conference output will be a book that will contain an illustrated description of a rural area near the city, the papers of the conference and selected papers from the poster themes, and a synthesis of the workshop rounds.

Programme

Thursday, February 7th

09.30 Registration
10.00 Introduction
10.30 Start of excursion (bus tour)
12.30 Lunch
13.00 Continuation of excursion
18.00 Return in Leuven
20.00 Dinner and keynote lecture

Friday, February 8th

08.30 Registration
09.00 Lectures
12.00 Poster session
12.30 Lunch
13.30 Workshops
16.15 Plenary session
17.00 Departure

Language will be English.

Introduction

Netwerk Platteland Vlaanderen

Excursion

Vlaamse Landmaatschappij

Theme: Landscapes, projects and farms in the periphery of Brussels

Keynote speaker

Dimitris Diakosavvas (OECD)

How far can agricultural policies contribute to achieving rural development objectives in semi-urban areas?

Invited speakers

Tanja Toetzer (Austrian Research Center GmbH-ARC Systems Research)

Relationships between urban-periurban-rural regions: first findings from the EU-project PLUREL

Henk De Zeeuw & Marga Dejong (Netwerk Platteland, Leusden, NL)

Dutch experiences of the Leader+ Network and Rural innovation in areas under strong urban influence

Henrik Vejre (University of Copenhagen)

Models for safeguarding urban fringe open landscapes, the balance between public intervention and private ownership

André Fleury and Roland Vidal (Ecole Nationale Supérieure du Paysage, Versailles)

The agriurban project of territory, an innovation included in contemporary urban processes

Sonia Callau Berenguer (Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat, Catalunya)

The “Baix Llobregat Agrarian Park”

Christine Aubry (INRA UMR SADAPT, Paris)

Short supply chains in periurban zones, with examples taken in the Ile de France region.

Workshop themes

- Rurality near the city: spatial planning challenges
- Challenges of farming near the city
- Searching and restoring landscape quality
- Linking regional to European networks concerned with urbanised rural areas

Free poster session

Facilities for poster presentations will be made available in the Conference Hall on February 8, 2008.