

RURALITY NEAR THE CITY

Available online at www.ruralitynearthecity.com

FOREWORD

This website and the publication comprises the post-conference result of the international conference and workshop 'Rurality near the City', held in Leuven, Belgium, on the 7th and 8th of February 2008.

Rurality near the city. The title of the conference already reveals the theme of interest, namely rurality in areas under a strong urban pressure. The conference focused on examples from outside Belgium, concerning approaches to safeguarding and developing rural values and uses in fragmented areas under strong urban influence. In return, expertise and projects from a highly urbanized Flanders were demonstrated. Also rural networking at national to European levels and the definition of common interests about research were thematic objectives of the conference.

The proceedings within this publication represent the written versions of the conference contributions by the invited speakers. The editors like to pay tribute to the authors of these papers for their original contributions, for both their presentations during the conference and their written proceedings afterwards. They enriched the conference with interesting visions and approaches concerning rurality near the city.

During the conference, four thematic workshops were organised. The reports of the lively discussions are also presented in this document. The workshop leaders are cordially thanked for their excellent job. Also the abstracts of the presented posters during the poster session are included in this publication.

We also like to thank the organising committee that exists out of representatives from Netwerk platteland vzw (Rural Network association), Vlaamse Landmaatschappij (Flemish Land Agency), Genootschap Land, Natuur en Water (Association of Land, Nature and Water Engineers), Departement Landbouw en Visserij (Department Agriculture and Fisheries), Afdeling Bos, Natuur en Landschap van de K.U.Leuven (Division Forest, Nature and Landscape of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven).

Last but not least, we would particularly like to thank Sofie Bruneel of K.U.Leuven and Koen Van Den Broeck of Landelijke Gilde for their organisation skills and the care of the Conference secretariat.

Valerie Dewaelheyns and Hubert Gulinck
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