



EuroGites

European Federation of Rural Tourism

PRESENTATION

The **European Federation of Rural Tourism (EuroGites)** is a professional tourism trade organisation that represents a tourism sector with an estimate of **500.000 micro-enterprises** and about **5-6,5 million bed places**. It is formed by 31 professional and trade organisations from 28 countries¹ of geographical Europe. The product includes from the rural Bed&Breakfast and self-catering in private homes or farms up to small family-run rural hotels or guesthouses, as well as restaurant or activity tourism services. As a whole, this sector stands for about **15% of the European tourism capacity**.

The objectives of EuroGites are wide-spread, given the transversal character of this sector that requires support and representation in multiple areas. Our statutes define the main tasks and activities of the Federation as follows:

- information and communication network amongst the member organisations and on international level
- professional representation in European organisations (private and public)
- harmonisation of information content and terminology
- definition of common quality criteria and standards, with the final objective of a common branding and marketing on European level
- professional and vocational training, research

At the **European Union**, EuroGites represents rural tourism in the Civil Dialogue Group on Rural Development of the European Commission, and in several ad-hoc committees and work groups on specific matters related with the areas of our activity. We are also active member of several European umbrella organisations such as *European Movement for Rurality (MER)*, *NET*, and *Tourism Manifesto*.

For common **promotion**, access to the member websites is linked through the site www.eurogites.org General recommendations for a Europe-wide product definition and minimum quality standards in rural tourism accommodation were formally approved, online benchmarking is available at <http://quality.eurogites.org>

EuroGites is also responsible for the [European Congress on Rural Tourism](http://www.eurogites.org). Five such events were organized since 2003 in different countries of Europe, the 6th edition will take place 3-5th/October/2018 in **Lithuania**. We were also co-organiser of the conference **STRD2017-Sustainable Tourism for Rural Development** <http://strd2017.org> in February 2017.

WEBSITE: www.eurogites.org

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Member countries of EU are by 05/2018: *Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom*

Non-EU members: *Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland*