

## ***Samuel***

### ***Bringing rural communities together***

Samuel, a rural Portuguese town, hosted a conference in July for the 15 members of the Charter of Europe network of rural communities. Delegations, 179 people in all, comprised representatives of the professions and young people from the communities concerned. The conference topics addressed the issues of migration and of the voluntary sector, topics currently on the local agenda in these rural communities.

Each of the communities — drawn from Belgium, Ireland, France, England, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Greece, Spain, Sweden, Luxembourg and, the hosts, Portugal — gave a presentation on the current situation of their town or village. The floor was also given to immigrants as well as employers having immigrants in their companies. The conference turned out to be a particularly successful forum for exchange of experience based on concrete examples.

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