



Partnership for Rural Europe

**PREPARE**  
Partnership for rural Europe

**NEWSLETTER**

February 2012

[www.preparenetwork.org](http://www.preparenetwork.org)  
[info@preparenetwork.org](mailto:info@preparenetwork.org)

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## News from PREPARE

### PREPARE OG Meeting

**PREPARE Organising Group** will meet in **March in Brussels**. The main topics of the meeting will be: approval of the membership of a new network in PREPARE - Rural Development Network of Republic Macedonia; selecting the country of the PREPARE Gathering 2012 and design of the program; initiation of four bilateral co-operation projects in the target countries; CAP reform process; involvement of PREPARE in the EU projects and co-operation with other European rural networks like ERA, ERCA and ELARD. [www.preparenetwork.org](http://www.preparenetwork.org)

### PREPARE, ERCA and ERA agree to co-operate and link their work in support of the rural communities of Europe

The Working Group of three European rural networks **PREPARE** (Partnership for Rural Europe), **ERCA** (European Rural Community Association) and **ERA** (European Rural Alliance) held a meeting on **6. February 2012 in Brussels**. The current initiative aims to cement our collaboration and develop clear priorities for joint working.

The Working Group was formed on the first meeting of these three organizations in November last year in Hague where the benefits of improved co-operation were discussed. The conclusion was that whilst each network has it's own distinct remit, our collective work forms a significant contribution to linking rural communities and to raising the rural voice across Europe. The three networks have many common members and have worked closely together since 2005.

The Working Group will have two more meetings this year: in May (Edinburg, Scotland) and in September (Sweden). [www.preparenetwork.org](http://www.preparenetwork.org)

### PREPARE representative participated web-conference of Focus Group about environmental services

The first meeting (web conference) of Focus Group on "Delivery of environmental services" was organized on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 by ENRD. It was attended by 25 participants, including PREPARE representative Stig Hanson. The aim of this Focus Group is:

- Promote/facilitate the exchange of practices across MS and collect such experiences to be used as informative reference / study material and for dissemination
- Take into account the diversity of European rural areas, the national, regional and local contexts and needs, with the view to contribute to the European dimension of the policy

Agenda of the meeting included introduction, scope of the focus group and draft work plan, collection of delivery practices and discussion about Next steps. The brief summary of the outcomes of the meeting is available [here](#).

#### Collection of delivery practices

The core activities for the first phase of the FG will be the collection and discussion of relevant practices put in place at national and regional level for the delivery of environmental services through the rural development programmes. The deadline for sending the collection of good practices to ENRD is **29<sup>th</sup> February**. The next meeting of the Focus Group will be on the **16<sup>th</sup> March** in Brussels. The good practices have to be described through the [Template](#) proposed by the ENRD. We invite you to send the completed templates to [info@preparenetwork.org](mailto:info@preparenetwork.org) by the suggested deadline.

## Transnational cooperation opportunities

### Three TNC partner proposals from Finland

**LAG Karhuseutu**: project "**Art to the Villages**". The aims of the project: to bring art and artists close to the villagers; to develop new distribution and exchange of audiovisual and cross-artistic projects; to build bridges between villages, between artists with village backgrounds, between artists working in the provinces etc; [More](#)

**LAG Ravakka**: project "**Straw skills**". The aim is to: Build a straw building as a result of this project; Collection

and documentation of additional data, such as the model of producing local heating by the means of burning straw; Promote the establishing of 3-5 straw heated units to projects operation area; [More](#)  
LAG Liiveri: project “*Water Ski*”. Development project of water-skiing sport. [More](#)

### TNC partner proposal for project regarding tourism

Three LAGs from Portugal and 1 LAG from Spain are searching for partners for the project named: Nature Tourism Biennial. [More](#)

## News on CAP

### 50 years of CAP

Under the slogan "A partnership between Europe and Farmers", the [CAP@50 campaign](#) was launched in an inter-institutional event in Brussels on the 23 January, 2012, gathering more than 150 guests involved in the history and current reform of the CAP, from the EU institutions, but also former Commissioners of Agriculture and stakeholders.

*"2012 is an important year, not only to remember the past 50 years of history, but especially for us to look ahead towards a new reform of the Common Agricultural Policy",* says Dacian Cioloş, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. *"Back in 1962, Europeans were predominantly worried about having enough food on their plates. Today food security remains important, but we have also new concerns such as climate change and the sustainable use of natural resources. This campaign will help to reflect on this evolution,"* he says. [More](#)

### 50 years of the CAP: Time for change say civil society groups

The European Commission launched its 50th anniversary of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) campaign. However with farmers and biodiversity disappearing, hunger and social inequalities increasing and food safety compromised, civil society groups are calling on the European Institutions to use the ongoing CAP reform to undertake a radical overhaul to make it “fit for the next 50”.

The CAP has traditionally supported the intensification of agriculture to the benefit of large-scale farmers and agri-business. Public opinion however shows strong support for a radical change to support greener agriculture, a shift to local food production and a fairer distribution of subsidies to support smaller farmers. [www.arc2020.eu](http://www.arc2020.eu)

### The Danish EU Presidency Priorities for the CAP Reform

The Danish Presidency of the EU began on 1 January 2012 outlining four principal themes for the forthcoming six months: ‘A responsible Europe; a dynamic Europe; a green Europe; and a safe Europe’. The detailed programme was announced on 6 January. In terms of the CAP reform discussions, the Danish EU Presidency and the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Mette Gjerskov, have stressed the need for both a green and market-oriented CAP. In particular, the Danish work plan outlines the importance of ‘strengthening research, development and innovation in the EU budget (Horizon 2020) as well as greater focus on knowledge transfer... to support the agricultural and food sector’. [cap2020.ieep.eu](http://cap2020.ieep.eu)

### Greening of the CAP: is the “Emperor Naked”?

The article, written by Emil Erjavec, is discussing whether the substance of the proposed greening of the CAP even allows for a more targeted and environmentally tailored orientation of the policy, or is it more about the fight for preservation of the money for agriculture. The answer could be that the green conditioning of the direct payments not only lacks a clearly defined target, which could lead to additional administrative problems, but also its environmental effects and economic justification are questionable. [Read the article](#)

## Other news

### ELARD meets MEP Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos - rapporteur of the European Parliament for the new EARDF regulation

In an effort to safeguard the central role and importance of LEADER within the next programming period as well as

to raise the Association's positions and concerns with regards to the new EARDF regulation, on the 31st of January 2012 ELARD met with MEP Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos in the European Parliament. The summary of the meeting is available [here](#).

### Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia published second e- bulletin

To read it please visit: [ruralnet.mk](http://ruralnet.mk)

### Northern Ireland "Rural Development in Action" guide launched

The new 'RDP in Action' guide, published by the Rural Network for Northern Ireland, highlights the range of activities which are taking place across Rural Northern Ireland with help from the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (NIRDP). [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

### IIEP Newsletter Winter 2012 published

In [this issue](#):

- Reducing impacts of biofuels and biodiversity
- Exploring the potential of new financial instruments for climate change
- New assessment of the overall benefits of Natura 2000
- Trading quota under the Common Fisheries Policy
- Step change needed to meet agriculture-related 2020 biodiversity targets
- Climate and biodiversity proofing the EU Budget

## Events

### Greening the CAP, a win-win partnership for farmers and the environment - Case studies, analysis, proposals, debates

#### 1. March 2012, Paris, France

To bring some concrete and constructive elements to the debate, WWF-France, FNCIVAM, RAD and EFNCP are offering an exchange of views between farmers, experts and NGOs on the European Commission's greening measures. Farmers (from both arable and livestock sectors) will present their environmental farm practices and will speak about the European Commission's proposals, as well as discussing them further. They will share their experience of changing farming practices and how it has impacted their productivity and income.

Experts will draw lessons from these experiences, in particular the ways "greening" should be framed and applied to the CAP. A final roundtable will address recommendations to policy makers to discuss during the CAP reform proposals. [More](#)

### Conference "Enhancing innovation and the delivery of research in EU agriculture"

#### 7. March 2012. Brussels, Belgium

The objective of the conference is to discuss the main building blocks of EU support to research and innovation for the agricultural sector after 2013. After setting the stage of agricultural research and learning from recent experiences, the conference will strive to highlight the critical aspects necessary for research to impact the agricultural sector. In particular, the role played by networks, advisory services, education and other actors in the translation of research results and in fostering innovative approaches will be investigated. [ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu)

### 6th Roundtable on the CAP reform

#### 26. March 2012. Brussels, Belgium

OPERA organizes its 6th Roundtable on the CAP reform under the umbrella of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture 2012, one of the most important early conferences in agriculture taking place in Brussels (please register for FFA separately in the dedicated site). The roundtable will be focused on research priorities and respectively on policy framework for innovation for agriculture in the EU, in the context of CAP and next programming framework for research. [www.amiando.com](http://www.amiando.com)

### International Congress on Promotion of Traditional Food Products

#### 3. - 5. May 2012. Ponte de Lima, Portugal

All European countries have cultural traditions associated with food and traditional products. Considering that traditional products have an important role on the European culture, identity and heritage, the organizing committee of this International Congress of Traditional Products aims to present to all participants a series of experiences from different countries all around Europe. [traditionalfoodcongress.ipvc.pt](http://traditionalfoodcongress.ipvc.pt)

### LeaderFEST 2012

29. - 31. May. Levoča, Slovakia

LeaderFEST 2012 will be an international event with a touch of rural charm. It will be the 3rd meeting of the LAGs' representatives and other rural development stakeholders from EU, who work with the method Leader. The plan is to make this event as a „touring“. [www.maslev.sk](http://www.maslev.sk)

### Other events:

Series of Courses on the theme Essentials of Community Development

February - March 2012. [www.ccri.ac.uk](http://www.ccri.ac.uk)

SAC-SEPA Conference - Valuing Ecosystems: Policy, Economic and Management Interactions

3. - 4. April 2012, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. [www.sac.ac.uk](http://www.sac.ac.uk)

First European Market of Local products

10. - 12. May 2012, Auvergne, France. [www.haute-loire.chambagri.fr](http://www.haute-loire.chambagri.fr)

Rural at the Edge - the 2nd Nordic conference for rural research

21. - 23. May 2012, Joensuu, Finland. [mua.fi/ruralattheedge](http://mua.fi/ruralattheedge)

International Summer School of Rural Development

24. - 27. May 2012, Mekrijärvi, Finland. [More](#)

The European Food Security Conference - Better farming for a sustainable European food supply

May 2012, Brussels, Belgium. [www.eu-ems.com](http://www.eu-ems.com)

### About PREPARE:

The PREPARE partnership is a group of European and national non-government organizations. The partnership was created in 1999 and has expanded as new national rural movements have joined. The aim of PREPARE programme is to strengthen civil society and to promote multi-national exchange in rural development, with a main focus on the new EU member states of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as accession countries and the "new neighbours" of the enlarged EU. The main founder of PREPARE activities is Charles Steward MOTT Foundation.

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