

# newsletter

March 2012 | 03—12

## News

### PREPARE OG meeting

PREPARE Organising Group meeting will be held 23rd 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**.



### DG REGIO released fact sheet on Community Led Local Development

DG REGIO recently released fact sheet on Community Led Local Development. The document is available [here](#).



### Opinion of EESC on LEADER as a tool for local development

The document is available [here](#).



## Events

### Conference The Common Agricultural Policy - 50 years... and a lifetime ahead!

**20. – 21. March 2012, Brussels, Belgium**

The conference will look at the future challenges and opportunities for the EU farm policy from different angles, and predominantly from a civil society perspective. We will draw on the experience of fifty years of development of the most integrated of all EU policies – the common agricultural policy (CAP) and will look at its impact on EU farmers, consumers, rural regions, global food security and trade. [More](#)



### SAC & SEPA Biennial Conference - Valuing Ecosystems: Policy, Economic & Management Interactions

**3. - 4. April 2012, Edinburgh, Scotland**

We currently have over 170 delegates registered to attend the SAC/SEPA Biennial Conference. However, there is capacity in the conference room for more than that so the Organising Committee has taken the decision to extend the closing date slightly. Therefore, if you have not already done so and would like to register for this popular conference please contact Karen McCracken at [Karen.McCracken@sac.co.uk](mailto:Karen.McCracken@sac.co.uk) as soon as possible. [More](#)



### 5th Workshop on biodiversity issues in lake areas

**18. -21. April 2012. Val de Drugeon, France**

Forum Synergies, Global Nature Fund and Fédération des Conservatoires d’Espaces Naturels cordially invite you to the last in a series of five workshops on participatory implementation strategies of environmental policies in lake areas. The workshops are meant to empower civil society actors to contribute to participatory sustainable development, and shall yield recommendations to local and EU governments about more participatory ways to implement environmental policies. For any questions regarding programme or registration please contact [lakeproject@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:lakeproject@forum-synergies.eu). [More](#)

### Conference "Local agriculture and short food supply chains"

**20. April 2012, Brussels, Belgium**

This event will explore ways and means to mobilise and value the economic potential of local agriculture and short food supply chains. It is a joint initiative of Dacian Cioloş, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, and John Dalli, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy. [More](#)



### 4th International Rural Tourism and Agrotourism Fair AGROTRAVEL 2012

**20. – 22. April 2012 Kielce, Poland**

AGROTRAVEL is the biggest, most colorful, lively and "delicious" exhibition of Rural and Agricultural Tourism in Poland. It gathers presentations of Polish and international Regions, Local Working Groups and agricultural tourism Associations. It is a perfect place to present attractive rural holiday offers, regional dishes and artistic craftwork on the Polish market. The Fair will be accompanied by an International Conference "Perspectives of Rural Tourism Development in Europe". [More](#)



### ENRD LEADER event: Conference on Local Development Strategies and Cooperation

**27. – 28. April 2012. Brussels, Belgium**

The conference aims at enhancing quality and implementation of the local development strategies, integrating cooperation as a key component of local development strategy and encouraging a new wave of transnational cooperation projects. Local Action Group representatives, members of the Leader Subcommittee, members of DG REGIO, DG MARE and other EU organizations are expected to take part in this event built on a combination of plenary session, thematic workshops and cooperation market. [More](#)



## TNC opportunities

### TNC offer from Greece

Regional Development Company of Parnonas from Greece prepared proposal on project titled "Short Mediterranean Stories: Action of culture, gastronomy and art" . The main objective of the programme is to create a network of Mediterranean’s regions, in which major traditions are represented as cultural points. [More](#)



### 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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