

**News**

**PREPARE activities**

More than 50 representatives from different **civil initiatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina** and five PREPARE members organizations attended the **PREPARE Workshop about Rural Development** in Banja Luka on 18. and 19. July.

Host of the event was **ACED** organization from Banja Luka. Quite strong NGO sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina was represented at the workshop, coming from the all parts of the country: Republika Srpska, from Federation and from District Brčko. Also representatives from the government took part in the lively discussion about the LEADER programme in BiH, about necessity of the networking and about the rural development policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. All participants agreed that there is an urgent need to speed up the process of adaption of the legal structures and documents to enable faster and more efficient absorption of the European standards and sources. Conclusions and presentations from the workshop will be available at the PREPARE website.

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PREPARE participated to the conference »**The CAP towards 2020 - Taking stock with civil society**«, that was held on 13. July in Brussels. The event was organized by the European Commission as a follow-up to the broad consultation on the challenges faced by European agriculture and the need for policy intervention, which took place in July 2010, on the initiative of Dacian Cioloș, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The conference provided a forum for civil society to debate and discuss the CAP reform proposals for post 2013 which were adopted by the Commission on 12 October 2011.

More information and material from the event is available at the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/cap-conference-2012\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/cap-conference-2012_en.htm)

One of the speakers at the conference was Goran Šoster, PREPARE co-ordinator. His contribution was well accepted by the audience. The presentation is available [here](#).



**EU organic logo fully up and running from 1 July 2012**

The two-year transition period for the organic food sector to comply with new EU labelling rules is reaching its end. As from 1 July 2012, the EU organic logo will be obligatory on all pre-packaged organic food products produced in EU Member States which meet the necessary standards. The logo will stay optional for non-packed and imported organic products. Other private, regional or national logos will continue to be allowed to appear alongside the EU label. [More](#)



**Interparliamentary Committee Meeting: European Parliament – national Parliaments**

On 25th June the COMAGRI draft reports were presented at a meeting between Agriculture Committee MEPs and representatives of national parliaments. This "Interparliamentary Committee Meeting: European Parliament – national Parliaments" gave national Parliamentarians the opportunity to discuss the CAP reform with Members of the European Parliament, with a view of providing an input for the next stages of the legislative procedure.

Materials from this meeting, including the document "The CAP Reform—State of play in National Parliaments" are available [here](#).



**9th meeting of the ENRD's Coordination committee**

Presentations and minutes of the ENRD's Coordination Committee, held on the 14th of June in Brussels, are available [here](#).



**Declaration of the LINC Conference 2012 concerning LEADER programme**

From 12 to 14 of June 2012, more than 200 delegates from LEADER local action groups from 15 EU countries gathered in Tartu, Estonia, at the LINC conference in order to exchange experience and ideas about LEADER and local development initiatives. The conference provided plenty of fruitful conversations, discussions and visits to project sites, and at the end the participants filled in a questionnaire, which aimed to clarify the opinions of LINC 2012 participants about the influence of LEADER and its future in rural development. The questionnaire's results are presented in a declaration document, which is available [here](#).

Video speeches from the conference are available [here](#).



**Beautiful images of rural Europe**

The best entries to **Images of Rural Europe** - the photo competition celebrating the beauty and diversity of rural life – have been chosen by the jury and are now on display at the European Commission's Berlaymont building in Brussels. Check them out online via ENRD's [gallery](#).



**Central European Rural Youth Centre Project**

The young farmers organisation in Hungary (AGRYA) has launched a survey to investigate how national and European subsidies support youth/young farmers and their projects/activities in rural areas. As a result of the survey, a resource map will be created and recommendations will be drawn. [More](#)



**Events**

**EESC high level conference »Step up for a stronger Europe!«**

**25. September, Brussels, Belgium**

The objective of this high-level conference is to showcase and share specific expertise and grassroots ideas of those who make growth and jobs a reality: social and economic players represented in the EESC and in economic and social councils across Europe and many other civil society actors at local, national, regional and European level. They are a key partner of EU institutions and governments and can help put Europe back on the track of employment and sustainable growth. [More](#)



**4th European Congress on Rural Tourism**

**5.–9. October, Neamț county, Romania**

The event subtitled "Innovative Tourism - New Life for Rural Areas" will be a new opportunity to learn about latest trends and obtain first-hand information on this extremely varied activity in Europe. The congress will take place on 8th and 9th of October and an optional 2-day Study Tour itinerary starting from Bucarest will be organized in the days before the Congress (from 5 to 7-October). [More](#)



**ELARD Workshop on LEADER in CoR Open Days**

**9. October, Brussels, Belgium**

During the upcoming Committee of the Regions Open Days event ELARD will be hosting a workshop titled "The LEADER approach the evolving through time : 20 years of community-led local development (CLLD) in practice". The workshop will be focusing on the evolution of LEADER and its positive impact upon rural areas. [More](#)



**EVENTS REMINDER**

**XIII World congress of Rural Sociology**

**29 July - 4 August, Lisbon, Portugal. [More](#)**

**Swedish Rural Parliament 2012**

**6. — 9. September 2012 in Blekinge, southeastern Sweden. [More](#)**

**The European Food Security Conference**

**25. September 2012. Thon Hotel EU, Brussels. [More](#)**

**LEADER cooperation offers**

Project titles (country of promoter):

- **Tourism and voluntary associations** (Sweden). [More](#)
- **Project management in Europe** (Sweden). [More](#)
- **Private accommodation's in rural areas** (Sweden). [More](#)
- **Welcome a family or a teen** (Sweden). [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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