

**PREPARE OG Meeting (Brussels, 27-28/01/2011)**

At the last PREPARE Organizing Group meeting it was decided that the next PREPARE Gathering 2011 will take place in Serbia at the end of June, beginning of July. PREPARE's Action plan for 2011 was adopted as well.

**PREPARE at EN RD 6th meeting of the Coordination committee (Brussels, 11/02/2011)**

As part of the preparation of legislative proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013, this meeting was a follow up to allow an exchange between Coordination committee members and Commission services on the consultation, in particular on how organizations and National Rural Networks relayed this consultation and on the main outcomes. It includes an exchange on how networking can be further developed as a policy tool. Goran Soster represented PREPARE actively at this meeting.

Agenda of the meeting is available [here](#).

**ARC calls for a European Food Monitoring Agency (Brussels, 26/01/2011)**

The Agricultural and Rural Convention 2020 (ARC) presented its vision to the EP at the Committee on Agriculture's Hearing on the future of the CAP that was held on 26. January in Brussels. Speaking on behalf of the alliance, Prof. Dower offered a creative solution to the crucial problem of securing for farmers a fair return on their production.

**More:** [www.arc2020.eu](http://www.arc2020.eu)

**EN RD Seminar "LEADER as a driver for Rural Europe: workshop for new local action groups" (Brussels, 19-20/01/2011)**

The objective of the meeting was to reinvigorate the EU dimension of Leader for new/less experienced LAGs, to increase awareness on the strategic role of Leader for rural development and exchange experiences and practices on the implementation of the method. Few members of PREPARE were present at the seminar.

**More:** [enrd.ec.europa.eu](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu)

**PREPARE at Enlarged Advisory Group meeting on CAP towards 2020 - Quality package - Milk package (Brussels, 12/01/2011)**

An important event in the context of the ongoing discussions concerning the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 and the adoption of the [Commission communication on the CAP towards 2020](#), the [Quality Package](#) and the [Milk Package](#) was the meeting of a special enlarged Advisory Group. Phil Turner represented PREPARE at this event.

**More:** [ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu)

**PREPARE at EN RD Seminar on Public Goods and Public Intervention in Agriculture (Brussels, 10/12/2010)**

The objective of the seminar, organized by the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD), was to present the outcomes of the work of Thematic working group 3 "Public goods and public intervention" to a larger group of stakeholders, and to clarify the notion of Public Goods to a wider audience. It also demonstrated that the conceptual framework of public goods provides for common grounds in discussions about the CAP and Rural Development. Phil Turner represented PREPARE at this event.

**More:** [enrd.ec.europa.eu](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu)

**PREPARE at EN RD 5th meeting of the Coordination committee (Brussels, 9/12/2010)**

Goran Soster represented PREPARE at this meeting. Outcomes of the meeting are available at [enrd.ec.europa.eu](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu).

**Cooperation between PREPARE and ELARD**

On meetings in December and February both organizations agreed that closer cooperation would be welcome in

future initiatives.

### Change of ELARD Presidency

Following a term of successful work under the Presidency of the Greek LEADER Network (2008-2010), the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD aisbl), in accordance with its statute and governing laws, during its 4th General Assembly meeting on the 26th of November 2010 in Brussels decided in favour of the assumption of the Presidency by the **Finnish Network (SYTY) represented by Mr. Petri Rinne**. The term of Mr. Rinne as ELARD's President officially commenced on the 1st of January 2011 and is set to reach its completion on the 31st of December 2012.

Finnish Presidency goals and a message from the new President of the Association, Mr. Petri Rinne are available [here](#).

More: [www.elard.eu](http://www.elard.eu)

### ELARD submitted questionnaire for CAP Consultation Process

Following DG AGRI's initiation of a consultation process inviting all interested parties and stakeholders to provide their insight and views on the Communication "Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future" and the consultation document for the impact assessment. ELARD has recently submitted its contribution.

More: [www.elard.eu](http://www.elard.eu)

### New approaches to rural areas, new public policies (Agen, France, 16 – 17/12/2010)

French National Rural Network organized an event which gathered all rural stakeholders and enabled:

- exchange on the expectations of rural actors and the recent changes in the rural policies;
- put forward the work achieved by the rural network and to present its resource centre;
- facilitate exchanges between French and European actors; and
- highlight good practices, formulate proposals for action and make recommendations for the future national and European policies.

More: [www.reseaurural.fr](http://www.reseaurural.fr); [www.uknationalruralnetwork.org.uk](http://www.uknationalruralnetwork.org.uk)

## EVENTS

### Seminar Youth's role in integrated rural development (IRD)

**1.-3. March 2011, Nurmijärvi, Finland.**

**Organisers:** Finnish LEADER groups EMO ry, Linnaseutu ry, Lounaplussa ry, Silmu ry, Ykkösakseli ry  
LEADER groups in Southern Finland are organising a seminar 1-3 of March 2011 on youth employment and participation issues. On the seminar agenda we have working groups, field visits, a political panel, rural networking, a development market with project dating possibilities and a country exhibition where You can meet the other actors. The seminar is limited to 70 international guests and 30 national guests, or 100 guests altogether.

More: [www.emory.fi](http://www.emory.fi)

### LINC 2011 - Leader Inspired Network Community

**27 – 29. 4. 2011, Bad Schandau, Saxony, Germany**

**Organizer:** LAG ILE-Region Sächsische Schweiz, Regional Network fur Rural Areas, Saxony, Germany, National Network

LINC is an initiative from LAGs and National Rural Network Support Units for RD in Austria, Germany, Estonia and Finland acting on innovative networking and European knowledge exchange. The main theme of the event is local cooperation in rural development. Workshops on basic services and local supply, mobility, (new) use of rural buildings, valorization of nature and landscape, common sport activities and European local food are in the focus of this event.

More: [www.info-linc.eu](http://www.info-linc.eu)

### Inspiring People - Shaping Regions, The 25th International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth

12. – 28. July 2011, Herrsching, Germany. [www.international-herrsching-seminar.de](http://www.international-herrsching-seminar.de)

## ARTICLES, PUBLICATIONS

### Rural Development in the European Union - Statistical and Economic Information - Report 2010

This report provides, at national and regional levels, statistical and economic information covering the three objectives of Rural Development policy 2007-2013. An overview of the Rural Development budget over the 2007-2013 period is included, together with information on the financial monitoring of RD programmes in the EU-27 and in Candidate Countries.

More: [ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu)

### New Information Communications Technology (ICT) Brochure

The latest EAFRD Examples of Projects Brochure on ICT has been published. The brochure highlights an array of innovative ICT projects from across the EU. It is available at [enrd.ec.europa.eu](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu).

### ELARD News – Issue 10

This issue covers ELARD's main activities and news for the period August to November 2010. Click [here](#).

### Bioregions project

E-leaflet about Bioregions project is available at [www.bioregions.eu](http://www.bioregions.eu).

### Rur@I News for January now in additional languages

January's edition of the EN RD newsletter Rur@I News is now available to download in the following languages: French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish as well as English. This month we take a look back at highlights of 2010 and visit Hungary in our 'Country Focus' section. Click [here](#).

### IEEP Newsletter, Winter 2010/2011

New edition of Institute for European Environmental Policy is available at [www.ieep.eu](http://www.ieep.eu).

### 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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