



## News from PREPARE

### PREPARE Organizing Group meeting

During the last two-day meeting in Brussels in October, PREPARE Organizing Group accepted many important resolutions, including the call for bilateral cooperation of PREPARE member organizations with the target countries for 2011/2012.

### PREPARE accepts new member - National Rural Development Network of Serbia

Following successful organization of PREPARE Gathering 2011 in Republic Serbia, National Rural Development Network of Serbia became a member of PREPARE Network in autumn.

### PREPARE and future CAP

PREPARE is still taking a very active role in debates about future CAP on European level as well as on level of EU member states.

### PREPARE scholarship

PREPARE is inviting all interested to take advantage of our scholarship intended for learning approaches for rural development in other PREPARE Member States. The amount of scholarship is 1.000 EUR. For more information write to: [info@preparenetwork.org](mailto:info@preparenetwork.org).

With the help of PREPARE scholarship a representative from UGRRIZ (NGO from Bosnia and Herzegovina) was introduced with activities of LEADER program in Estonia earlier this year. Furthermore, our scholarship will contribute to education of a representative from [Kodukant](#) (PREPARE member from Estonia) at [Hela Sverige ska leva](#) (PREPARE member from Sweden) in future months.

### PREPARE at ARC 2020 meeting

Three PREPARE representatives participated in the two-day working meeting of [ARC](#) network in Brussels in October, where operative program of activities for the end of this and beginning of next year were confirmed.

### Cooperation between PREPARE and SWG

In October 2011 PREPARE Coordinator participated in the conference about future of agriculture and rural development in Split, Croatia. Organizers of the event were Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural development and SWG (Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group).

**More about the event:** [www.seerural.org](http://www.seerural.org)

PREPARE and SWG already signed a memorandum of cooperation few years ago; both parties will now upgrade mutual cooperation in first half of 2012 with a concrete project on shaping the future CAP.

### PREPARE employed professional consultant

with the purpose of more intense exchange of information on rural development.

### PREPARE at IX. Rural Parliament 2011 in Estonia

9<sup>th</sup> Rural Parliament of Estonian Villages was held on western coast of Estonia, Roosta in beginning of August. As a part of event's program, PREPARE held a seminar in order to exchange knowledge about similar initiatives of rural parliaments in different EU Member states.

**More:** [www.kodukant.ee](http://www.kodukant.ee)

### PREPARE at Joint Transnational Conference in Katowice, Poland

In the framework of the Polish EU Presidency, a conference about LEADER with over 500 participants was held in Katowice in mid of September 2011. During presentation at the plenary session PREPARE representatives emphasized the importance of program LEADER for rural development in PREPARE member states.

More: [www.mrr.gov.pl](http://www.mrr.gov.pl), [registration.livegroup.co.uk](http://registration.livegroup.co.uk)

## News from PREPARE members & partners

### News from Slovenian Rural Development Network

[Slovenian Rural development Network](#) is currently very active with preparations for organizing **First Slovenian Rural parliament**, which will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in castle Jable near Ljubljana.

### News from Latvian Rural Forum

In September Latvian Rural Forum has started to implement project "Local Identity Product (LIP) - sustainable support systems for communities in Europe" (No.515784-EFC-1-2011-1-LV-EFC-CSP) co-financed by program "Citizens for Europe". In project is involved three partners : Association "Latvian Rural Forum" from Latvia, association "Asociace regionálních značek, o.s." from Czech Republic and "Rural Development Foundation" from Romania.

More: [www.llf.partneribas.lv](http://www.llf.partneribas.lv)

### The Agricultural and Rural Convention's website - [www.arc2020.eu](http://www.arc2020.eu) - is being updated

The website will be based on the existing website, but will add new interactive and news-related features. As the decisive part of the CAP debate is now shifting to national levels of member states and their governments as well as MEPs, the aim is to provide ARC members and partners with the necessary tools to participate in this debate effectively. More: [www.arc2020.eu](http://www.arc2020.eu)

### Call for interest from Forum Synergies: New thematic exchange: rural actors for health

Forum Synergies is planning a new thematic exchange activity about needs and options of rural actors involved in the topic "local knowledge & production of medicinal and spice plants". In order to know if there is principal interest in the planned activities, we would like to ask you about your involvement in the topic:

- What is your main field of activity (production, services, others)?
- What is your main interest in the field of \*local knowledge on medicinal and spice plants\*?
- Are you or your friends/ colleagues interested in a European exchange about this topic?
- Would you be willing to participate in the 1st European Herbal Gathering 2012 planned for October 2012?

They welcome your response until 15 November. More: [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu) (Simone Matouch)

### ELARD News Issue12

- 3rd Council Meeting of ELARD
- LAGs' Global Networks seminar
- Launch of LAG Staff exchange program
- ELARD reacts to EC budget proposal

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

### Forum Synergies Newsletter 4/11

- short report on the youth exchange project
- "Think GLOBAL - Act LOCAL" [download](#)
- short report on the IX Estonian Rural Parliament [download](#)

More: [www.forum-synergies.eu](http://www.forum-synergies.eu)

## Other News

### The new EAFRD Leader brochure now available for download in 6 languages

The brochure showcases Leader projects from a wide range of sectors.

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

## Events

### Consultation with grassroots civil society

**14. November 2011, Brussels, Belgium**

The event takes place in the framework of the Grassroots Europe for Local Wellbeing project, initiated by the Open Society Foundations and co-financed by the European Union.

More: [grassrootseurope.educationdevelopment.org](http://grassrootseurope.educationdevelopment.org)

### International conference and exhibition on 'Communicating Rural Development to Citizens'

**17-18 November 2011 in Milan, Italy**

**Organizers:** Italian NRN and the Lombardy Region in conjunction with the ENRD

The two-day event will focus on engaging rural development stakeholders on the promotion and dissemination of rural development information to the general public; including all aspects of informational campaigns from publications to audio-visual productions.

More: [reterurale.it](http://reterurale.it)

### ENRD seminar 'Improving the delivery of Rural Development Programmes'

**9. December 2011 in Brussels, Belgium**

Looking ahead to the 2014-2020 programming period, this seminar will build on the outcomes of the ENRD Thematic Working Group 4, 'Delivery Mechanisms of EU Rural Development Policy'.

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

### 2nd Nordic Conference for Rural Research "Rural at the Edge"

**21. May 2012 in Joensuu, Finland**

The conference will reflect research within and between the following four subthemes:

- 1) Culture and people, places and identities;
- 2) Natural resources and landscape management;
- 3) Rural economy and entrepreneurship;
- 4) Policy and politics of the rural;

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

For more events please visit **Events Calendar** at our website: [www.preparenetwork.org](http://www.preparenetwork.org)

#### 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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