

News from PREPARE

News from Slovenian Rural Development Network

Slovenian Rural development Network together with Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food organized **First Slovenian Rural parliament (SRP)**, which took place on 7th December 2011 in castle Jable near Ljubljana. The event gathered around 150 participants - rural activists, local and national representatives, entrepreneurs, politicians and decision makers with purpose to collaboratively discuss and seek solutions to issues facing rural development in Slovenia. Among distinguished speakers were dr. Danilo Türk, President of R. of Slovenia, prof. Michael Dower, Dejan Židan, Slovenian Minister of agriculture.

Participants and debaters concluded to organize SRP next year which will include also workshops, where the debate on opened issues and forming of concrete solutions will continue.

More: www.drustvo-podezelje.si



News from Croatian Rural Development Network

In November 2011 Croatian Rural Development Network, together with member associations LAG Gorski kotar, Slap and TINTL, organised two round tables on rural development including the presentation of LEADER Ordinance. Representatives from the Ministry of agriculture, fisheries and rural development presented the content and procedure of adoption of the Ordinance expected in 2012.

In December 2011 representatives from LAGs Gorski kotar and PRIZAG, future LAG Izvor, ODRAZ and HMRR participated on a study visit to Brussels and Netherlands. In Brussels they met the Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the EU, European Commission DG-AGRI, CEE Bankwatch Network and ELARD. In the second part of the visit they had opportunity to see examples of good practice in Netherlands.

More: www.hmrr.hr

News from PREPARE partners

News from ARC 2020

Berlin, 7th December 2011 - Following press conferences in San Francisco, London, Rome and Paris, German-based NGO and ARC signatory, [Save Our Seeds](http://www.saveourseeds.org), along with [Naturschutzbund Deutschland](http://www.nabunet.de) (NABU), invited **Vandana Shiva**, winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize, to speak at a press conference in Berlin. The event was held to discuss the report, "The GMO emperor has no clothes - A Global Citizens Report on the State of GMOs" which comprises reports from environmental and consumer protection organisations from across the world, including one from Save our Seeds.

More: www.arc2020.eu

News from Forum Synergies - project Sustainable Forestry

"Sustainable forestry" is new thematic activity of Forum Synergy. We plan to exchange practical experiences in the multifunctional development of private and public forests, supported by civil society. The European Network pro Silva is interested in cooperation on that topic. First preparatory meeting will take place in January 2012.

More: www.forum-synergies.eu

Forum Synergies Newsletter 5/11

More: www.forum-synergies.eu

4th Council Meeting of ELARD

The central theme of the meeting was the new EARDF regulation along with the Common Strategic Framework of which the members of ELARD had the chance to hear from first hand by a DG AGRI official present at the meeting. A discussion and question and answer session followed. An additional high point of the Council Meeting was the first time presence of numerous new members of the Association who had the chance to get to know the ELARD family members in person and present the progress and/or difficulties in the implementation of LEADER in their own countries. The new members present in the Council came from: Croatia, Denmark, Estonia and Sweden.

More: www.elard.eu

ELARD News Issue 13

- On new CAP, EAFRD regulations;
- Focus Group 4 meeting;
- Best practice project from Scotland;

More: elard.eu

News from Brussels

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (15. - 16. December, Brussels, Belgium)

The meeting included an exchange of views on rural development within the CAP reform package. The debate concentrated on the actions envisaged to address new challenges within the second pillar as well as the instruments proposed under rural development and their definition. Most delegations noted that the content of the proposal could only be correctly assessed when the breakdown by Member States of the envelope for the second pillar is be known.

More: www.consilium.europa.eu (on page 31)

ENRD 8th meeting of the Coordination Committee meeting (8th December 2011, Brussels, Belgium)

An overview of the Commission's legal proposals for the CAP after 2013 was made, including networking aspects. The Coordination Committee was asked to help design the part of the activities of the ENRD which can help administrations and stakeholders prepare for the future programming period, while ensuring the best use of the remaining time for this current period.

More: enrd.ec.europa.eu

DG AGRI, Rural Development Advisory Group meeting (15 December 2011 Brussels, Belgium)

The following topics were discussed at the meeting: priorities and instruments for the Rural Development policy after 2013, Structural funds in rural areas after 2013 and Presentation of the European Innovation Partnership.

[More](#)

The budget for research and innovation for agriculture will more than double after 2013

Research and innovation will be crucial in the coming years to ensure food security while helping farmers to tackle climate change. The agriculture of tomorrow will be a knowledge-based agriculture, stated Dacian Cioloș, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, after the adoption by the College of an important research and

innovation package, « Horizon 2020 ».

More: ec.europa.eu

European journalists' conference

On 6th December 2011, the European Commission's Agriculture and Rural Development Directorate-General organised the **AG-Press.eu Annual Network Event 2011** in Brussels. The key event of this conference was a panel session with **Commissioner Ciolos**, where the floor was open for questions from all participants.

Video link: <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/videoplayer.cfm?ref=81758>

Other news

ENRD published a short Guide on EU Rural Development Policy, after 2013

EU rural areas face many development challenges and opportunities - all of which are addressed in a short and easy-to-read guide, published by the ENRD, on the European Commission's proposals for rural development policy, after 2013.

More: enrd.ec.europa.eu

European collaborative initiative about Young Farmers

Videos are edited by 8 Rural Networks: Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherland and Spain). They illustrate, by using interviews, how young farmers face new challenges today. This collaborative initiative is supported by Contact Point of European Network for Rural Development.

More: youngandfarmer.blogspot.com

Young Professionals in Local Development" (YPLD)

YPLD is a network of professionals aged between 18 and 40 involved in both international and local development through the nature of their education and professional activity. Due to our worldwide partners (currently we have partners in the USA, Europe and Africa) and our current regional representatives we plan from the start to give it a global reach. YPLD is planning a **workshop on February 18-19th 2012 in Romania** (Siret city, Suceava county) on Local development and the role of different stakeholders in this process. Invited as lecturers at this event are representatives of FAO, EC, Groupe de Bruges, YPARD and others.

Contact: dr.ing. Codrin Paveliuc-Olariu, office@ypld.org

More:

www.facebook.com/YPLDev

www.facebook.com/groups/280192255344490/

www.linkedin.com/company/young-professionals-in-local-development

Events

International Green Week

20 - 29 January 2012, Berlin, Germany

The world's biggest fair for food, agriculture and horticulture. A wide range of conferences, seminars and committee meetings are linked to the International Green Week.

At the International Green Week the European Commission will celebrate 50 years of the Common Agricultural Policy and prepare stage debates and other animation activities.

More: www.gruenewoche.de; ec.europa.eu

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

3. - 4. April 2012, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

This conference will seek to present not only the best possible scientific understanding of the complexities associated with the delivery of multiple ecosystem services but also provide a forum to raise and discuss what still needs to be done to have an ecosystem approach recognized and supported by land managers, researchers and policy makers.

More: www.sac.ac.uk

First European Market of Local products

10-12 May 2012, in Auvergne, France

Contact details: bsauvignet@haute-loire.chambagri.fr

More

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

21. - 23. May 2012, Joensuu, Finland

Organizer: University of Eastern Finland

This research conference will follow the subthemes:

1. Cultures and people, places and identities
2. Natural resources governance and landscape management
3. Rural economy and entrepreneurship
4. Policies and politics of the rural

More: mua.fi/ruralattheedge

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

May 2012, Brussels, Belgium

Speaking and sponsorship opportunities available. For further information, please download the sponsorship brochure [here](#) or contact Kirstie Fagan on +44 (0) 2920783026 / kirstie.fagan@forum-europe.com

More: www.eu-ems.com

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

For more events please visit **Events Calendar** at our website: 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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