



Newsletter

April 2015
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NEWS

[2nd European Rural Parliament](#)

Second European Rural Parliament will take place from 4th to 6th November 2015 in Shaerding (Austria). PREPARE, ERCA and ELARD are co-organizers of the important event for rural civil society. Aproximately 350 participants from 40 countries are expected to join the debates about the key issues, concerning rural population in Europe. [More ...](#)

[1st Croatian Rural Parliament](#)

First Croatian Rural Parliament took place between [16 and 18 April 2015 in Beli Manastir \(Baranja\)](#) with more than 220 rural development stakeholders from all sectors and levels. The cross-cutting theme of the gathering was "What are the perspectives of young people in rural areas?" Reports, conclusions and a message from rural Croatia to the 2nd European Rural Parliament will be published on [Croatian Rural Parliament website](#).

[2nd Meeting of Structured Dialogue with ESIF Partners](#)

Second meeting of the ESIF Structured Dialogue took place on 23 April in Brussels. Goran Šoster represented PREPARE at the meeting, where several interesting themes were discussed (Programming and Partnership, Synergies between Funds and innovation, Social inclusion, The EU investment Plan and ESI funds). All presentations from the second meeting of the ESIF Structured Dialogue can be found [here](#).

[1st Meeting of the Rural Networks' Permanent Subgroup on LEADER and CLLD](#)

On 21 April 2015 the Rural Networks' Subgroup discussed priority themes with regard to LEADER/CLLD and exchanged experience on how these themes can be addressed by rural networks in the near future. There was a general consensus that much of the relevant experience and tools already exist in the different Member States; the challenge is to identify and share this information to help LEADER/CLLD be more effective and simpler in the 2014-2020 period. PREPARE was represented at the meeting by Michael Dower. The presentations are available on [ENRD website](#) and you can also read [report](#) prepared by Goran Šoster.

[Committee of Regions Supports CLLD in Territorial Agenda Opinion](#)

On 16 and 17 April the members of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) meet at the 111th Plenary Session. They have examined also draft opinion on "[The improvement of the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020](#)". Brief report, prepared by ELARD (European LEADER Association for Rural Development), about LEADER/CLLD and rural development issues, is available [here](#).

[How to Use Information and Communication Technology \(ICT\) Tools to Improve Tourism](#)

In the framework of the live events on digital tourism, the European Commission has organised a series of six webinars focused on how to use ICT tools to improve the sector of tourism. Thus, the main objective of these sessions was twofold: provide support, insight and guidance on digital issues to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the tourism industry, on the one hand; and give practical advice on the day-to-day running of a business, on the other. [More ...](#)

Youth Entrepreneurship – Values, Attitudes and Policies

Fostering greater participation of young people in the labour market has become a priority in Europe, and there are a number of different strategies in place at national level to increase youth entrepreneurship. The report analyses selected policy measures aimed at fostering youth entrepreneurship, organised around three main support pillars: fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and culture among young people; providing the right information and support to young would-be entrepreneurs; and removing perceived practical and logistical barriers. [More ...](#)

How Syrians Saved an Ancient Seedbank From Civil War

War not only threatens lives and a nation's political and economic stability - it can also threaten biodiversity. To date, the Syrian conflict has killed over 210,000 people, and displaced over 3 million, but is also threatening one of the world's seed banks, part of a global network, located 19 miles south of Aleppo. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Documents

LIFE Programme: Extract from the Work Programme for 2015. [More ...](#)

Environment Action Programme to 2020: Guiding European environment policy until 2020. [More ...](#)

Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme: E-training with a tool on the preparation of project proposals for applicants is available. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Opportunities

INTERREG IVC - Draft application pack is available. [More ...](#)

LIFE Grants 2015 - Provisional indicative timetables. [More ...](#)

Erasmus+ Calls for Proposals in 2015. [More ...](#)

Competitions

Vote for the finalists of the Natura 2000 Award. Deadline: 6 May 2015. [More ...](#)

European Social Innovation Competition. New Ways to Grow. Deadline: 8 May 2015. [More ...](#)

Newsletters and Publications

Newsletters

RegioFlash, April 2015. [Read ...](#)

ENRD Newsletter, April 2015. [Read ...](#)

Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, April 2015. [Read ...](#)

TEIKEI Newsletter, No. 43, February 2015. [Read ...](#)

IFOAM EU Newsletter, April 2015. [Read ...](#)

Publications

OVER: Overdevelopment, Overpopulation, Overshoot. Published by: Foundation for Deep Ecology, 2015. [Read ...](#)

Towards a Sustainable and Genuinely Green Economy: The Value and Social Significance of Ecosystem Services in Finland (TEEB for Finland): Synthesis and Roadmap. Published by: Ministry of the Environment, 2015. [Read ...](#)

UK Biodiversity Indicators 2014. Published by: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2014. [Read ...](#)

[1st Rural Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 15 May 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

The objective of this event is to connect civic society and public policy creators with people that live in rural areas in order to work together towards improving life conditions in villages and towards a rural development as a whole. Deadline for registration: 8 May 2015. [Invitation](#) and [Registration Form](#).

[2nd Latvian Rural Communities Parliament, 3-5 June 2015, Ligatne, Latvia](#)

Participants will have a chance to listen to inspirational stories from practitioners and field experts, share their experience and knowledge, work in common sessions and workshops and in interactive way discuss following issues: Consolidate economic potential of rural areas to strengthen the competitiveness of the EU; Improving quality of life in rural areas and small towns by promoting development of civil society outside the centres of development; The mobility of citizens and ensuring access to services. [More ...](#)

[EXPO Milano 2015: Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life, 1 May–31 October 2015, Milano, Italy](#)

Over this six-month period, Milan will become a global showcase where more than 140 participating countries will show the best of their technology that offers a concrete answer to a vital need: being able to guarantee healthy, safe and sufficient food for everyone, while respecting the Planet and its equilibrium. [More ...](#)

[2nd Meeting of ENRD Thematic Group on RDP implementation, 7 May 2015, Brussels, Belgium](#)

ENRD Contact Point Team would like to invite those of you who are interested to come and join the discussions of this [Thematic Group \(TG\)](#), particularly if you missed the chance to attend the previous meeting. Main objectives of the 2nd meeting are to take stock of the outcomes of the TG so far, bring them to a more operational level and start building a set of recommendations on how to ensure a successful implementation of RDPs at the outset of the new programming period. [Registration Form](#) and [Draft Agenda](#).

[Maritime and Coastal Sustainable Tourism, a Key for Blue Growth, 12–13 May 2015, Florence, Italy](#)

The overall objective of this event is to communicate and capitalize upon the results of the Med Maritime projects dealing with the sustainable tourism from an integrated point of view while cross-fertilizing them through the participation of a wide range of relevant external stakeholders and experts. These exchanges will be very useful to draw-up concrete recommendations to the new Med Cooperation Programme that focuses one of its priority axes on protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources. [More ...](#)

[Protected Areas in Europe: The Next 50 Years, 21-22 May 2015, Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli, Italy](#)

The aim of the workshop is to bring together managers of Protected Areas and experts and to discuss the challenges that Protected Areas face in an interconnected world where technology and globalisation are changing people's perception of the natural environment and the role of Protected Areas. [More ...](#)

[European Geoparks Week 2015, 22 May–7 June 2015](#)

The European Geoparks Week, taking place at late May early June each year, is a European – wide festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geoconservation and

promotion of the geological heritage as well as events aimed at informing the wide public about geotouristic and educational activities in geoparks. [More ...](#)

[Organic production, Research and Innovation: Setting Priorities for the Future, 28-29 May 2015, Milan, Italy](#)

This conference is organised in the context of the Universal Exhibition in Milan "Feeding the planet – energy for life" (Expo Milano 2015). It will bring together researchers, farmers, farm advisors and other stakeholders to discuss and share ideas and knowledge on research and innovation in the organic production sector. This conference should cast light on the needs and priorities in this sector and will provide the necessary input for the European Commission to further develop its research and innovation policies. [More ...](#)

[9th European Development Days, 3-4 June 2015, Brussels, Belgium](#)

2015 is the European Year for Development (EYD2015) and European Development Days (EDD15) will be its flagship event. This year, participants will address issues such as the conditions for creating sustainable growth, the promotion of universal and fundamental rights, or how greater cooperation among all actors can help to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. On this regard, participants will be invited to debate, solve (brainstorm) and share best practices. [More ...](#)

[Green Week: Nature – Our Health, Our Wealth, 3-5 June 2015, Brussels, Belgium](#)

Green Week offers a unique opportunity for debate and exchanges of experience and best practice. Over the past decade, the conference has established itself as an unmissable event for anyone involved with protecting the environment. The 2014 edition attracted around 3.100 participants from government, business and industry, non-governmental organisations, academia and the media. [More ...](#)

[European Edition of the Sustainable Food Summit, 4–5 June 2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands](#)

For the first time, the summit will discuss approaches to encourage sustainability in the food industry by the use of food ingredients and sustainable packaging. [More ...](#)

[9th European Organic Congress, 11–13 June 2015, Riga, Latvia](#)

The congress will focus on the future: where does the organic movement want to be in 2030? It will explore: how the new organic regulation process and the CAP can be used to support the development of organic and how we can begin building practical strategies for the organic sector to 2030 - based on the results of the vision 2030 process. [More ...](#)

[3rd LAG Summer Festival, 26-28 June 2015, Biograd na Moru, Croatia](#)

Main goal of this Festival is to give opportunity to all local municipalities, tourist boards, small and medium enterprises, artisans and family farms to exhibit its products and services directly in front of 15.000 tourists, in a town known as touristic centre of the Adriatic coast. Last year 66 LAGs attended the festival, from that 11 international LAGs from Slovenia, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lithuania, Hungary, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Spain with over 400 participants who have presented their LAGs during rich and interesting three-day program. Deadline for registration: 15 May 2015. [More ...](#)

[ICOLLE 2015: The Lifelong Learning Assesment and Quality Increase within European Context, 15-16 September 2015, Křtiny, Czech Republic](#)

To assess and discuss quality of education within the Czech Republic and European Union is the aim of the international scientific conference ICOLLE 2015. Themes as assessment and

increasing of education quality at secondary schools, pedagogical and members of academic staff, further education, and senior education will be focused on. Deadline for abstract submission: 30 June 2015. [More ...](#)

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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.

More about PREPARE: www.preparenetwork.org

The main founder of PREPARE activities is **Charles Steward MOTT Foundation**.

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