



Newsletter

December 2014-January 2015
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NEWS

[Outputs from the 1st Scottish Rural Parliament](#)

The first Scottish Rural Parliament took place on 6th-8th November 2014 in Oban with 400 people from all over rural Scotland. PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe took active part in the successful event. [More ...](#)

[First 2014-2020 Rural Development Programmes Approved](#)

The first nine Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) of the new programming period 2014-2020 have been approved by the European Commission. The three national RDPs for [Poland](#), [Austria](#) and [Denmark](#) were given the green light on 12 December. Approval of a further six RDPs from [Germany](#), [Finland](#) and [Portugal](#) was announced on 16 December. [More ...](#)

[Commission Provides Broader Forum to Discuss Implementation of Rural Development Programmes in Practice](#)

On 26 January 2015 200 people will meet at the first Rural Networks' Assembly. On 20 November 2014, a new EU Networks' Assembly has been established by the European Commission, comprising 200 members from Management Authorities, Paying Agencies, the Civil Dialogue Group on Rural Development and others, aimed at advising the European Commission on how to better put Rural Development programmes into practice. [More ...](#)

[Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on CLLD](#)

At its 503rd plenary session, held on 10 and 11 December 2014 (meeting of 11 December), the European Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion on CLLD. [More ...](#)

[Agroecology: How to Make the Very Best of Europe's CAP](#)

The Common Agricultural Policy shapes how Europe produces food, but in many ways its no longer fit for purpose. In this video, Arc2020 and Friends of the Earth Europe spotlight the options and opportunities in the CAP for choosing farming methods which are good for people and the planet – the living world. [More ...](#)

[Council Backs Organic Sector Demands and Commission Changes its Approach to a New Organic Regulation](#)

EU Agriculture Ministers have endorsed a non-binding report summarising the progress made under the strong leadership of the Italian Presidency on the Commission proposal for a new organic regulation. [More ...](#)

[Report from the 3rd Organic Processing Conference](#)

On 17-18 November 2014, 125 organic processing experts from companies, organisations, control bodies and public institutions, representing 14 European countries, met in Paris to

discuss the further development of the organic food sector, as well as technical and regulatory challenges processors face in their daily work. [More ...](#)

[Conclusions of the 9th European Mountain Convention](#)

Between the 22nd and 24th October 2014, Bilbao hosted the IX^o edition of the European Mountain Convention, an event organised every two years by Euromontana, the European Association for the Development of Mountain Areas, in different parts of Europe in collaboration with one of their 75 members. [More ...](#)

[Watch Rural Research Info Day Presentations](#)

[Video recordings](#) and [slides](#) from the recent Horizon 2020 Info Day on research opportunities in the three fields of "sustainable food security", "blue growth", and "the bioeconomy" are now available online. Each video includes the presentations, accompanying slides and questions and answers from each of the three sessions. [More ...](#)

[Operational Programmes Adopted in 2014](#)

Regional Policy programmes for France, Luxembourg, Ireland, Croatia, Slovenia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Malta, Cyprus, Greece, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Denmark and Lithuania are now adopted. Germany and Poland have also most of their programmes adopted. [More ...](#)

[Central Europe and Alpine Space Cooperation Programmes Approved](#)

The key focus of [Central Europe Programme](#) will be to strengthen regional competitiveness, boost energy efficiency and the low carbon economy as well as encouraging greener transport and better management of cultural heritage and natural resources. The new [Alpine Space Cooperation Programme](#) will focus on projects aimed at boosting innovation, developing low-carbon solutions and policy instruments, enhancing the quality of life, and improving governance in the programme's cooperation area. The first call for project proposals of Alpine Space will open on 25 February 2015. [More ...](#)

[Europe, Let's Cooperate!](#)

At the INTERREG IVC/ INTERREG EUROPE forum "Europe, let's cooperate!" you will find inspiration to work with other regions on policy improvements. [More ...](#)

[Tips on Interreg Europe: Be Ready for September 2015](#)

This article aims to give more details about the future Interreg Europe, focusing on the opportunities and obstacles to submit a proposal in the first calls for proposals of the programme. [More ...](#)

[Guidance for Beneficiaries of European Structural and Investment Funds and Related EU instruments](#)

This new guide explains how to effectively access and use the European Structural and Investment Funds and on how to exploit complementarities with other instruments of relevant Union policies. [More ...](#)

[Launch of the 2015 RegioStars Awards](#)

As in previous years, this edition of the RegioStars Awards will be putting the spotlight on the most inspiring and innovative European projects co-funded by the EU's Cohesion policy. [More ...](#)

[European Tourism, from Branding to Digitalisation: the Agenda of the European Commission for the Coming Months](#)

The European Tourism Day was on 1st December 2014. The European Commission took this opportunity to organise a conference to discuss four subjects on which the European Commission is going to work in the coming months: a Europe Destinations Brand initiative, digital tourism, the regulatory and administrative framework impacting EU tourism and an EU tourism. [More ...](#)

[Formation of Tourism Intergroup at European Parliament Lifts the Sector](#)

The formation of a new Intergroup by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the subject of Tourism has sparked a coordinated cry of "Bravo!" from the tourism industry across Europe. [More ...](#)

[EuropeAid Call](#)

Deadline: 10 February 2015: [European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia - Pilot Rural Development Measures](#)

[Horizon 2020 Calls](#)

Deadline: 28 May 2015: [The Young Generation in an Innovative, Inclusive and Sustainable Europe](#)

Deadline: 28 May 2015: [Reflective Societies: Cultural Heritage and European Identities](#)

[Newsletters and Bulletins](#)

ENRD Newsletter, December 2014. Published by: ENRD-European Network for Rural Development. [Read ...](#)

Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, December 2014. Published by: EIP-AGRI Service Point. [Read ...](#)

CAP Newsletter, December 2014. Published by: European Commission. [Read ...](#)

IFOAM Newsletter, November 2014. Published by: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. [Read ...](#)

Panoramia Inforegio, Winter 2014. Published by: European Commission. [Read ...](#)

EVENTS

[Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2015, 15-17 January 2015, Berlin, Germany](#)

The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) is an international conference that focuses on central questions concerning the future of the global agri-food industry. It is held during the International Green Week (IGW) from 15 - 17 January 2015 in Berlin. [More ...](#)

[International Green Week, 16-25 January 2015, Berlin, Germany](#)

The 80th edition of International Green Week will feature multiple exhibitions of the food, agricultural and horticultural industries, as well as events addressing topics such as the future of rural areas, organic agriculture, rural development and renewable resources. [More ...](#)

[Financial Instruments 2014-2020 under European Structural and Investment Funds \(ESIF\), 19-20 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium](#)

The event will provide guidance on the implementation of the 2014-2020 EU financial instruments, including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). [More ...](#)

[2015 Policy Conference "Countryside Values for the 21st Century", 22 January 2015, London, UK](#)

This Countryside and Community Research Institute event will debate the latest research in inclusive food systems, rural policy, and innovation for sustainable farm businesses. [More ...](#)

1st EU Rural Networks' Assembly, 26 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The Commission has adopted a new structure to reinforce dialogue on Rural Development programmes in practice, bringing together the stakeholders of the well-established European Network for Rural Development and the European Innovation Partnership network. [More ...](#)

Strengthening the Urban Dimension of the Danube Region, 26-27 January 2015, Vienna, Austria

The 2015 stakeholder conference is organised by Urban Platform Danube Region (UPDR) on behalf of the Cities of Vienna and Ulm, the Council of Danube Cities and Regions, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacity and Cooperation" (PA10) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). [More ...](#)

Vocational education and training in rural and remote areas, 28 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The need to constantly up-skill and develop the competencies of existing employees and to train new employees using Vocational Education and Training is recognised as an important issue in the development of employees and the businesses that employ them. [More ...](#)

CAP Communication Awards - Networking event, 29 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium

On 16 December, an independent jury of communication experts selected three projects per category (Communication to Stakeholders, Communication to the Public and Innovative Communication) as finalists. These finalists have now been announced online and will be showcased during the awards ceremony in Brussels. [More ...](#)

Good Food, Good Farming, 10-11 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium

This event brings together representatives from civil society, grassroots groups, researchers, national/regional authorities, policymakers and more to: assess the implementation of the reformed CAP 2014-2020, prospects of agricultural sustainability and of rural renaissance; identify milestones to support transition of food and agriculture systems based on agroecological approaches. [More ...](#)

Sustainable production and environment protection (agro-ecology), 21 February 2015, Paris, France

"Can EU CAP it?" will be present at the Salon d'Agriculture. Specific details about this event will be available soon. [More ...](#)

Editor-in-Chief of PREPARE Newsletter: Goran Šoster
Contact: goran@preparenetwork.org, info@preparenetwork.org

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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