



# Newsletter

March 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. Approximately 350 participants from 40 countries are expected to join the debates about the key issues, concerning rural population in Europe. [More ...](#)

### [\*\*EU Rural Networks' Assembly Launched\*\*](#)

The EU Rural Networks' Assembly was launched on its first meeting on 26 January, gathering 196 governmental, non-governmental, local and innovation stakeholders. The event was also attended by Goran Šoster and Michael Dower. The first meeting focused on priorities for the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) network, and setting up the way of working for the years to come. [More ...](#)

### [\*\*ELARD General Assembly\*\*](#)

In January 9th General Assembly of ELARD (European LEADER Association for Rural Development) took place. The main discussion of the Assembly was devoted to the CLLD-LEADER topics (guest Paul Soto), to the financial issues and to the second European Rural Parliament (rapporteur Goran Šoster). First interests for the ELARD presidency 2016-2017 were announced by the Estonian and by the Swedish representatives.

### [\*\*European Rural Networks' Steering Group\*\*](#)

In February the first meeting of the European Rural Networks' Steering Group took place. Members of the ERN SG are representatives of Managing Authorities, National Rural Networks, selected EU-wide organisations, Research Institutes and Agricultural Advisory service. Report of the 1st ERN SG meeting can be downloaded [here](#).

### [\*\*CAP Basic Video on Future of Farming Launched\*\*](#)

First in a series of four CAP Basic videos for "Can EU CAP it?" Project. A 10 minute video that explains the challenges young people are facing when they want to take over a farm or want to start a farm from scratch. The video also highlights initiatives from young urbanites concerning sustainable food production and consumption. [More ...](#)

### [\*\*EU Commission 2015 Menu\*\*](#)

Following the presentation of the European Commission's work programme for 2015, Slow Food has expressed concerns about the fact the Circular Economy package is among the bills facing the axe, despite a declared intention to replace it by a new, more ambitious proposal by end of 2015. [More ...](#)

## **[EIP-AGRI Toolkit for Universities](#)**

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The EIP-AGRI Service Point has prepared a Powerpoint presentation that you can use to inform your university colleagues about EIP-AGRI. The presentation includes how EIP-AGRI can help you to speed up innovation in agriculture and forestry and how you can help EIP-AGRI. [More ...](#)

## **[Knowledge Capitalization: Proposal for an Exchange of Peer Experiences](#)**

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"An Exchange of Peer Experiences" is an initiative which aims to promote training, empowerment, creation of networks and the exchange of experiences by a transfer of knowledge between the technical teams of the rural development associations that already have extensive experience. [More ...](#)

## **[Biodiversity Indicators for European Farming Systems](#)**

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Organic and low-input farming systems provide habitat for wildlife. These farming systems also make use of old breeds. Thus, they significantly contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity in Europe. The objective of the research project BioBio (Biodiversity indicators for organic and low-input farming systems) was to identify a set of biodiversity indicators which are scientifically sound, generic at the European scale and relevant and useful for stakeholders. [More ...](#)

## **[How Can Index Insurance Help Smallholder Farmers? Check Out This Infographic](#)**

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A new report shows how index insurance could help millions of smallholder farmers fight back against climate change. [More ...](#)

## **[First meeting of the Intergroup on Rural, Mountains and Remote Areas in Strasbourg](#)**

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The first official meeting of the Intergroup on Rural Mountains and Remote Areas (RMRA) took place on 15 January, in Strasbourg during the plenary session of the European Parliament. [More ...](#)

## **[Beyond 2015 Copenhagen CSO Conference: Outcome Documents](#)**

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The Beyond 2015 Copenhagen CSO Conference was a key moment for global civil society to take stock of progress on the creation of the new Post-2015 framework and influencing the final stage of negotiations, raising the ambition and ensuring that governments are committed to an ambitious, transformative agenda which tackles the key issues of our time; inequality, environmental sustainability, poverty eradication, human rights, peace and security and participation. [More ...](#)

## **[Euro-Med Parliamentarians Gather in Barcelona to Discuss Regional Challenges](#)**

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More than 100 Euro-Mediterranean parliamentarians meet at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Barcelona on 23, 26 and 30 January to discuss regional economic, social and security challenges and opportunities. [More ...](#)

## **[EU Funding Documents](#)**

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Beginner's Guide to EU funding - an overview of EU funding opportunities in 2014-2020. [More ...](#)  
EU Budget Explained: Expenditure and Contribution by Member State. [More ...](#)  
Challenges for the New Cohesion Policy in 2014-2020: an Academic and Policy Debate. [More ...](#)

Mediterranean Stories: Publications Tell the Achievements of Cross-Border Cooperation. [More ...](#)

## **EU Funding Opportunities**

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Call for experts for two new EIP-AGRI Focus Groups. Deadline: 13 April 2015. [More ...](#)  
Alpine Space Programme: 1st call for proposals. Deadline: 10 April 2015. [More ...](#)  
Central Europe: 1st call for proposals. Deadline: 13 April 2015. [More ...](#)  
Erasmus+ Calls for Proposals in 2015. [More ...](#)  
The Fast Track to Innovation Scheme (Horizon 2020) is open for applications since January 6, 2015. Proposals can be submitted at any time, yet will be ranked following three cut-off dates in 2015: April 29, September 1 and December 1. The three cut-off dates for 2016 will be made public at a later time. [More ...](#)

## **Competitions**

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Voting for EU "Love without borders" Competition. Celebration of 25 years of Interreg cooperation. Deadline: 3 April 2015. [More ...](#)  
Photo Contest "Our Future is on the Table!". Deadline: 10 April 2015. [More ...](#)  
EPSA 2015. European Public Sector Award. Deadline: 17 April 2015. [More ...](#)  
European Social Innovation Competition. New Ways to Grow. Deadline: 8 May 2015. [More ...](#)

## **Newsletters and Publications**

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### **Newsletters**

CAP Communication Network Newsletter, March 2015. [Read ...](#)  
IFOAM EU Newsletter, March 2015. [Read ...](#)  
Arche Noah Newsletter, February 2015. [Read ...](#)  
Scottish Rural Parliament's E-newsletter, March 2014. [Read ...](#)  
RegioFlash, March 2015. [Read ...](#)  
ENRD Newsletter, March 2015. [Read ...](#)  
Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, March 2015. [Read ...](#)  
A New CAP: Mountains of Opportunity Newsletter, March 2015. [Read ...](#)  
INTERREG IVC Newsletter, January 2015. [Read ...](#)

### **Publications**

Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics, 2014. [Read ...](#)  
Studies in Agricultural Economics (116/3, 2014, p. 114-167). [Read ...](#)  
Analysis of INTERREG rural development projects, 2014. [Read ...](#)

## **EVENTS**

### **Forum Synergies' Civic Dialogue Gathering 2015, 9-12 April 2015, Wales, UK**

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Forum Synergies event want to bring together people who have a broad experience and can bring in expertise in the field of what is called "civic dialogue". [More ...](#)

### **1st Croatian Rural Parliament, 16-18 April 2015, Beli Manastir, Croatia**

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The basic idea of the first Croatian Rural Parliament is to make the voice of rural stakeholders better heard. The main objectives are: To hear the voice of rural Croatia; To discuss possibilities and perspectives of development of rural areas; To share good experiences - get to know examples of good practice; To inspire inhabitants of rural areas to come together and to act on developing their communities in the period 2014-2020. [More ...](#)

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

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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 ...](#)

## **[1st Meeting of Rural Networks' Sub-group on LEADER / CLLD, 22 April 2015, Brussels, Belgium](#)**

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This permanent sub-group will support and guide ENRD activities to improve the implementation of LEADER / Community Led Local Development (CLLD). [More ...](#)

## **[4th Danube Financing Dialogue, 23-24 April 2015, Zagreb, Croatia](#)**

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The Danube Financing Dialogue is a unique opportunity for project discuss vital issues related to financing promising projects in the Danube Region. This event also as a match-making platform for project promoters with financial needs and financing institutions offering suitable solutions. [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](http://www.preparenetwork.org)

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

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