



Partnership for Rural Europe

Newsletter

August 2014
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NEWS

[Position paper of the European Countryside Movement on the future ENRD](#)



13 international organisations have signed the paper sent to the Commission and to the national rural networks. ELARD (European LEADER Association for Rural Development) is among the signatories. The position paper is available [here](#).

[European Commission and EIB sign Memorandum of Understanding for co-operation in agriculture and rural development](#)

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloş and Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Wilhelm Molterer signed on 15 July 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Commission and the EIB for co-operation in agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020. The first of its kind in the field of agriculture, this MoU paves the way for common initiatives by both institutions, so as to stimulate rural development and boost the utilisation of financial instruments supported by rural development funds. [More...](#)

[Outputs and Documents of Central Europe Annual Conference 2014](#)

The annual conference in Vienna (1-2 July 2014) linked the old to the new Central Europe Programme. Achievements of 124 projects implemented in the past seven years were presented and discussed among project partners, policy makers and other stakeholders from all over central Europe. [More...](#)

[START- Danube Region Project Fund](#)

START - Danube Region Project Fund is a new pilot initiative of the EUSDR and provides Seed Money for the development and implementation of Danube Region projects. Seed Money means that beneficiaries receive an early pre-financing in order to cover the project expenses from the beginning. This helps especially small organisations with limited resources to START their projects. Deadline: 17 September 2014. [More...](#)

[COSME – Sustainable transnational tourism products](#)

The main objective of this call is to strengthen competitiveness of the European tourism sector as well as its sustainability by encouraging diversification of the supply of tourist services and products. The project proposals should aim at promoting sustainable transnational tourism products (such as e.g: routes, itineraries, trails, tourism offer...) in sport or wellness activities in relation to one of the following types of tourism: coastal or maritime or mountain or rural tourism. Deadline: 7 October 2014. [More...](#)

[Consultation on The urban dimension of EU policies – key features of an EU Urban Agenda](#)

Europe continues to be faced with challenges related to the economy, the climate, the environment, and society at large. Most of these challenges have a strong urban dimension. But although cities' role for economic, social and cultural development, and their potential for a more resource efficient habitat, have long been recognised, the policy response at European and national level has been slow and piecemeal, with many but poorly integrated sectoral

initiatives. The consultation will be open to 26 September 2014. [More...](#)

Consultation on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

The EU Macro-regional Strategy for the Alpine Region aims to bring a new impetus for co-operation and investment to the benefit of all involved: States, regions, civil society stakeholders and, above all, European citizens. It will build on a long tradition of co-operation in the Alps, and will seek to complement, rather than duplicate existing co-operation structures. This also aims to ensure that this Region remains one of the most attractive areas in Europe, taking better advantage of its assets and seizing its opportunities for sustainable and innovative development in a European context. The consultation will be open to 15 October 2014. [More...](#)

Consultation on the Safety of Tourism Accommodation Services

The objective of this consultation is to gather input and quantifiable evidence from all relevant parties with an aim to evaluate fundamental aspects related to tourism accommodation safety. The consultation will be open to 30 November 2014. [More...](#)

First Horizon 2020 Work Programme update – launch of FTI and innovation prizes

The Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot is the only measure in Horizon 2020 that provides funding for close to market, business driven projects, that is open to proposals in any area of technology or application. This thematic openness – combined with the possibility for all kinds of innovation actors to work together and deliver innovation onto the market and/or into society – should nurture trans-disciplinary and cross-sector cooperation. [More...](#)

Newsletters and Bulletins

[ARC2020 Newsflash, August 2014](#). Published by: Agricultural and Rural Convention 2020.

[Newsletter of the Alpine Space Programme, July-August 2014](#). Published by: JTS of Alpine Space Programme.

[Teikei 41, August 2014](#). Published by: The International Network of Community - Supported Agriculture.

EVENTS

PREPARE Gathering 2014, 5-9 September 2014, Finland and Estonia



PREPARE Gathering 2014 will take place in Finland and in Estonia from 5th to 9th September. The leading objective of the gathering will be »Raising the voice of rural Europe«. You can find out more about PREPARE Gatherings from the previous years [here](#).

Inside the Future of Regional Cooperation, 29-30 August 2014, Novi Sad, Serbia

The conference that will host eminent speakers from SEE region will show participants the guidelines for successful regional cooperation in the meetings industry by combining theory, the best practical examples and training. [More...](#)

EP Agriculture Committee Meeting, 3-4 September 2014, Brussels, Belgium

Meetings are open to the public. However, for security reasons, participants must obtain an access pass in advance. Requests for access passes must be sent 5 working days before the start of the meeting to agri-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu. [More...](#)

8th European Organic Congress: "Implementing Innovative Ecological Solutions for Farmers and Rural Communities", 10-12 September 2014, Bari, Italy

Member states and regions will launch the Rural Development Programmes of the new EU

Common Agricultural Policy in 2015. What will the impact on farmers and rural communities throughout Europe be? How can the new programmes stimulate greater delivery of public goods and green job creation? Share your view and learn about experiences from all over Europe and beyond at the 8th European Organic Congress. [More...](#)

Rural Development Programmes in Action post 2014: How can they work towards a healthier environment, 15 September 2014, Brussels, Belgium

The conference will represent an opportunity to discuss with a wide range of participants the content of the new national / regional Rural Development Programmes, and to check whether they address environmental needs and challenges in an appropriate and tailored way. Many key speakers have been invited including Director General for Environment Karl Falkenberg (confirmed) and Director General for agriculture and Rural Development Jerzy Bogdan Plewa. [More...](#)

International symposium on agroecology for food and nutrition security, 18-19 September 2014, Rome, Italy



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO will host an International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition to explore recent scientific research and knowledge and promote open dialogue while showcasing existing experiences and programs on Agroecology. The event brings together international experts in the field of Agroecology and within the new FAO Strategic Framework and Strategic Objective 2 to "Increase and improve provision of Goods and Services from Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in a sustainable manner". [More...](#)

European Rural Sustainability Gathering, 18-21 September 2014, Beaufortain, France

forum  synergies

This three-day meeting will be an excellent opportunity to meet people with a spirit of action for sustainable rural development from across Europe, to visit and discover good examples of local sustainable development in a region rich in a strong civil society activity, to commonly discuss challenges related to sustainable rural development and plan further activities on ARC2020 current topics such as: youth in rural areas, local food and hygiene rules, civic dialogue or herbs and health. [More...](#)

South East Europe Programme Conference, 24-25 September 2014, Ljubljana, Slovenia



**SOUTH EAST
EUROPE**
Jointly for our common future

The 122 projects approved within the four calls launched by the South East Europe Programme have achieved valuable results, contributing to the overall territorial development in the region. The programme is now coming to its end. The 2014 event is named to be the closing conference to review, assess and present all the achievements gained since 2007 and to look at the future of transnational cooperation in the area. [More...](#)

2nd European Land Stewardship Week, 26 September-5 October 2014, Europe

Landlifeweek is an initiative of the Spanish LIFE Information & Communication project, 'LANDLIFE'. Its overarching goal is to boost land stewardship as a tool for nature and biodiversity conservation (particularly in the Western Mediterranean Arch), by communicating its value to the general public, institutions, land planners and specific stakeholders. [More...](#)

Community Led Local Development (CLLD) as a tool of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020, 29 September 2014, Brussels, Belgium

CLLD is a specific tool for use at sub-regional level, which is complementary to other development support at local level. CLLD can mobilise and involve local communities and organisations to contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, fostering territorial cohesion and reaching specific policy objectives. In order to deliver the most pertinent opinion possible, a hearing will be organised on 29 September 2014 at the EESC headquarters in Brussels, bringing together different actors in the field who will share their experience and positions regarding this new tool. [More...](#)

12th European Week of Regions and Cities - Open days **2014, 6-9 October 2014, Brussels, Belgium**

The Open Days are the key event for regional and local authorities to showcase their importance as regards the implementation of EU cohesion policy. The program is organized into three themes: Connecting regional strategies; Building capacity; Territorial cooperation. [More...](#)

9th European Mountain Convention, 22-24 October 2014, **Bilbao, Spain**



The conference "Quality from the mountains – Prosperity for people and territories" is coordinated by Euromontana and co-financed by the European Commission, in the framework of the CAP information campaign "[A new CAP-Mountains of opportunities](#)". The debate for the conference will be prepared from the 5 preparatory seminars (Slovenia, Portugal, France, Italy and Romania), informing mountain stakeholders about the opportunities offered by the new CAP and providing room to discuss experiences and initiatives on a number of themes, with special regard to the new quality term "Mountain Product". [More...](#)

Alpine Space 2020: Building on Experience – Cooperation **towards 2020, 21-22 October 2014, Salzburg, Austria**

Marking the transition between two programming periods, the Alpine Space 2020 Conference will present the results achieved over the past seven years, and prepare the ground for future cooperation projects on sustainable regional development. This occasion will bring together current and potential project partners as well as stakeholders and policy-makers of the area. Participants will be encouraged to network and actively contribute to discussions, especially on day 1. The hot topic on the EU agenda, the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, will be discussed in relation to the Programme. [More...](#)

The Role of Foundations in Supporting Family/Smallholder **Farming, 27-28 October, Brussels, Belgium**

The programme of this event will be developed along the following three thematic areas: Feeding the cities : improving the rural-urban nexus; Supporting farmers and farmer organisations; Agro-ecology and sustainable farming practices. [More...](#)

1st Scottish Rural Parliament, 6-8 November 2014, Oban, **Scotland, UK**



The Rural Parliament will bring together the people of rural Scotland and policy makers to enable better understanding, improve policy making and address rural issues. A series of smaller events are planned across Scotland in the run up to the Rural Parliament which will feed into the discussion and debate at the event itself. [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.

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

More about PREPARE: www.preparenetwork.org

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