

NEWS

Empowering rural stakeholders



PREPARE initiated jointly with SWG (Standing Working Group for Rural Development in the Western Balkans) an ambitious multi-country event entitled "Empowering rural stakeholders: Mainstreaming participation of stakeholders in development and implementation of agriculture and rural development policies in the Western Balkans and Turkey", held in early April 2014. The European Commission took over the initiative, implementing it as a TAIEX event but structured in the way of PREPARE Gatherings, with traveling workshops and conferences in Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. More about the event [here](#).

Rural Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina established



Cooperation between PREPARE and ELARD (European Leader Association for Rural Development) has achieved a significant outcome in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 15 non-governmental organisations gathered on 25 April 2014 in Sarajevo and established the Rural Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Present were representatives from all three Ethnicities and their administration, from the EC delegation, and from the rural networks in neighbouring Balkan countries. PREPARE has played an active role in the country for the last few years : with ELARD's support, we held our annual Gathering in Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 2013, with traveling workshops to different parts of the country. Serbian, Croatian and Slovenian Rural Networks, all three PREPARE partners, supported the networking process in Bosnia and Herzegovina through bilateral cooperation activities, supported by C.S. Mott Foundation.

Lithuanian Rural Parliament



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Lithuanian Rural Community Union, a PREPARE partner, held its first Lithuanian Rural Parliament in April. About 100 participants, representing rural areas and different sectors throughout Lithuania, gathered for one day and concluded the event with a Resolution which has been sent to all important decision-makers in the country. Representatives from PREPARE took part at the event "Communicating Rural Development", organized by ENRD (European Network for Rural Development) in March in Lithuania.

Reinventing Europe through Local Initiative



PREPARE members actively contributed to the Conference "Reinventing Europe through Local Initiative" organized by AEIDL in Brussels in February 2014. More about the event can be found [here](#). AEIDL has also created a new group on LinkedIn - Reinventing Europe through Local Initiative. The objective is to continue the debate initiated at the AEIDL Conference. [More...](#)

EVENTS

2nd European Rural Parliament

PREPARE is working with ERCA, the European Communities Alliance, on plans for the second European Rural Parliament, to be held probably in September/October 2015. This will be a sequel to the first European Rural Parliament, held in Brussels in November 2013. Details will be published in due course on the website of [European Rural Parliament](#).

20th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Hannover, 9-13 June 2014

Current megatrends such as climate change, urbanization, energy demand and an increasing land-use competition lead to spatial transformation all around the globe and to a state of transition. This transformation affects both rural and urban areas and requires changes on all levels of society, economy and politics. The 20th ISSRM will put a focus on these changes, their societal impacts and the potential to mitigate their effects on natural resources and humankind. [More...](#)

Alpine Space Conference, Salzburg, 21-22 October 2014



As programming periods across European Territorial Cooperation programmes are coming to an end, participating countries are holding conferences to mark the end of this territorial cooperation phase and the beginning of the next one. The Alpine Space Programme is present in 7 countries. [More...](#)

Central Europe Annual Conference, Vienna, 1-2 July 2014



The conference will introduce future funding priorities and possibilities in Central Europe and discuss these with key experts and policy makers from the regional, national, and European level. 124 transnational projects implemented since 2007 will in addition be presented providing a bridge to the upcoming priorities of the CENTRAL EUROPE 2014-2020 Programme. Last but not least, the conference will function as the project ideas fair related to the first call for proposals, which is expected to open before end of this year. [More...](#)

13th Swedish Rural Parliament, Gävleborg, 16-18 May 2014



The Rural Parliament will take place in the county of Gävleborg, Sweden. The Rural Parliament starts at noon on Friday the 16th, with an opening ceremony and presentations from All Sweden shall live and its European associates. The program also includes cultural elements from the Gävleborg region and lots more. During the Saturday, both Swedish and international guests of the Rural Parliament will participate in a working process to put forward a proposal for a Rural Political Programme. [More...](#)

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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