



# Newsletter

May-June 2014  
[Newsletters Archive](#)

## NEWS


### Balkan Floods

Dear colleagues! Catastrophic floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia caused immeasurable damage to the people and to all living beings in these three countries. Negative effects will impact the life in this part of the Western Balkan for many years. PREPARE has been actively involved in the rural development in all three countries and stricken regions. Therefore we feel responsible to help our friends and colleagues in this difficult time. [More...](#)

### Anna Lindh's Mediterranean Journalist Award

This leading regional Award aims at rewarding exceptional journalistic productions, contributing to a better understanding of the diversity of cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean region as well as promoting the positive role played by journalists in providing balanced and informing coverage on cultural issues in the region. **Submission deadline: 30 May 2014.** [More...](#)

### Forum Synergies Youth Scholarships

forum  synergies Forum Synergies invites young people and potential hosts to become active within their training and exchange programme on sustainable rural development. All relevant information and online registration forms are available [here](#).

### Survey on the State of Play of CLLD

ELARD prepared a short survey aiming at mapping the state of play of CLLD. The main purpose of this survey was to provide a short insight into the policy-making process across the Member States. It focuses on the scope and preconditions for promoting the CLLD approach by means of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Particular attention has been paid to the proportion of the management costs on the CLLD allocation. Results of the survey are available [here](#).

### e-Skills: Commission launched new campaign

Demand for jobs requiring digital skills is growing rapidly – and likely to create a skills shortage that may leave up to one million positions vacant by 2020 in Europe. The Commission has identified ICT as one of three employment growth areas and to raise awareness on e-skills the Commission launched in Athens the “e-Skills for Jobs” campaign together with the Hellenic Presidency of the EU’s Council of Ministers. [More...](#)

### ELARD's LAG Staff Exchange Program: 4th edition

During the autumn of 2011 ELARD piloted a new kind of initiative that aims to offer ELARD member LAGs an opportunity for reciprocal, international staff exchange. The purpose of the program is to promote the formation and training of the participants as well as the exchange of experiences, know-how and new ideas between the European LAGs. Due to excessive amount of applications received shortly after the deadline for 4th edition of ELARD’s LAG Staff Exchange Program, ELARD decided to extend the submission period so the Call for applications will be closed **on 31 May 2014.** [More...](#)

### Central Europe 2020: Join the Community and Share Project Ideas

The CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 Community was launched to help generating project ideas and

facilitating partner search. By joining the online community, stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit or search project ideas and profiles of potential partners in their thematic fields. In addition, the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme opened discussion groups on LinkedIn to further support exchange among interested stakeholders. [More...](#)

## **Europe for Citizens 2014-2020: Open Calls**

The aims of "Europe for Citizens" programme are: 1. To contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity; 2. To foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level; 3. To raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values; 4. To encourage democratic participation of citizens at EU level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy making-process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level. More about open calls (**deadline: 4 June 2014**) [here](#).

## **Outcomes from ENRD Seminar in Lithuania**

The ENRD Seminar on Communicating Rural Development was organised by the ENRD in cooperation with the Lithuanian National Rural Network support unit in Vilnius, Lithuania on 3-4 March 2014. The event had 133 participants representing 25 EU Member States. A city tour and social evening, organised by the Lithuanian NRN on 3 March, preceded the successful main event held the following day. Outcomes of the event (presentations, workshop reports and videos) are available [here](#).

## **New Guidance Documents published by European Commission**

European Commission has published three new guidance documents which can be found here:

[Guidance on Community-Led Local Development for Local Actors](#)

[Guidance on European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020](#)

[Guidance on Community-led Local Development in European Structural and Investment Funds](#)

## **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](#).

## **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](#).

## **Conference on Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), 28 May 2014, Brussels**



The event will be focused on CLLD and specifically at showcasing how CLLD will be used in the future programming period in different countries. As the operational programmes in all countries should be closed by mid-July, the knowledge and best practices gathered by this event could serve as negotiating tools in the future. The conference is organised by the European LEADER Association for Rural Development in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic. [More...](#)

## **Multilateral Training Course to support quality in youth worker mobility activities, 2-8 October 2014, Norway**

TICTAC is a training course targeted at voluntary and professional youth workers and youth leaders interested in using international cooperation to enhance their local development strategies in line with the goals of their organizations. The TICTAC training aims to support participants in designing qualitative projects and becoming the pioneers of the Erasmus+

Youth in Action Programme. [More...](#)

### **3rd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, 26-27 June 2014, Vienna**



The Annual Forum is the main event of the year for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, assembling its stakeholders from the whole Danube area to give strategic direction, exchange and showcase opinions and experiences, and discuss vital questions of the Strategy's prospects and challenges. [More...](#)

#### **About PREPARE**

[www.preparenetwork.org](http://www.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.

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

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