



Newsletter

November 2014
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NEWS

[Maghreb: Food Security, Rural Development & Migration](#)

Hannes Lorenzen (PREPARE) participated in the International "Seminar on Mediterranean Family Farming" in Tunisia. He met and interviewed Sanaa Moussalim, secretary general of REMADEL, the civil society network of local rural development initiatives in the Maghreb countries on the situation of Southern Mediterranean countries and what should be the role of Europe Union. [More ...](#)

[Structured Dialogue on European Structure and Investment Funds](#)

Goran Soster (PREPARE) participated at the first [expert meeting within the Structured Dialogue on European Structure and Investment Funds](#), 12. November in Brussels (see [Agenda](#)). Participants discussed the situation about the [State of Play on Partnership Agreements](#) (DG Regio), Report on the [Partnership Principle and Multi-level Governance](#) (Committee of the Regions), [ESF Operational Programmes](#) (DG Employment), [Survey on Implementation of Partnership, 6th Cohesion Report](#) (DG Regio), [Youth Employment Initiative](#) (DG Employment), and [CLLD – Community Led Local Development](#) (DG Agri and DG Mare). Representatives of European Commission still did not present the general overview of CLLD in EU-28.

[ERSG 2014 - Living countryside in Beaufortain - a review](#)

forum  synergies From 18 to 21 September 2014 Forum Synergies met in Beaufortain territory (Savoie district in Rhones-Alpes - France). Around 50 participants coming from 16 different countries, many of them below 35, discovered what rural sustainability means in such a remote alpine region. Hosted and guided by Savoie Vivante - a very dynamic local development organisation - participants discussed on the topics of local food chains, youth, civic dialogue and herbs. Participants enthusiastically contributed to discussions and commonly developed ideas for a "follow up". The great diversity of backgrounds - many participants came from the South East Europe, Serbia, Macedonia, but also Ukraine through the PREPARE or Slow Food movement's context, Estonia, Sweden - made it a very inspiring and motivating experience. Catch a glimpse on that inspiring event: [ERSG 2014 report](#), [ERSG 2014 photo gallery](#), [ERSG 2014 video](#)

[8th General Assembly of ELARD](#)

ELARD (European LEADER Association for Rural Development) held its 8th General Assembly on 30 September 2014 in Brussels (see [Photo Gallery](#)). The minutes are available [here](#).

[Agriculture and Rural Development: Powered by Innovation](#)

Phil Hogan's speech, his first as Commissioner, at [6th Knowledge and Innovation Summit](#) (European Parliament, 17th November) is available [here](#).

[5 toughest questions faced by Phil Hogan \(Agriculture\) – Hearings of Juncker Commission](#)

Commissioner-designate for Agriculture and Rural Development (nominated by Ireland) – had to answer a number of difficult questions during his hearing by the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) on 2 October. Hogan's answers to these 5 toughest questions reveal best how he managed to handle the parliamentary grilling. [More ...](#)

[New guide to H2020 agriculture research funding](#)

The new guide '[Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 - Calls 2015](#)' published by the European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) highlights the opportunities for demand-driven innovation projects in agriculture, food and forestry through thematic networks or multi-actor research projects. It presents the 12 research topics under the 2015 H2020 call linked to agriculture, food and forestry and directs readers to dedicated research partner search tools. [More ...](#)

[EU funding available for CAP communication measures](#)

The European Commission has published its annual Call for Proposals for information measures relating to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Applications will be accepted until 5 January 2015 for information activities carried out between May 2015 and April 2016. [More ...](#)

[Increase your activities' visibility with 'Events in your country'](#)

Are you planning an event or a communication action around the themes of agriculture, food, rural development or any other issues related to the EU Common Agricultural Policy? Do you want to increase their visibility easily and for free? If so, 'Events in your country' is designed for you. This website will help you to reach the widest audience possible by featuring your events and/or communication actions on our Europe-wide map, which is displayed on the European Commission's website. [More ...](#)

[World Wetlands Day 2015: Outreach material now available](#)



The World Wetlands Day 2015 website - the focal point for all WWD 2015 activities - was launched on 5th November 2014. The website will be growing in the run-up to 2 February 2015, but you can already take advantage of a wide range of support materials that have been made available to help you organize and event or spread the word. [More ...](#)

[IFOAM EU position on organic development & Commission's regulation proposal](#)

With this position paper, IFOAM EU sets a roadmap towards sustainable growth of organic food and farming in Europe and provides concrete suggestions on how to reach the aims of removing obstacles, ensuring fair competition between operators and maintaining consumer confidence. [More ...](#)

[Outcomings from International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition](#)

FAO hosted a two-day International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition (18 -19 September 2014, Rome), culminating in a high-level round table which discussed recent experiences and experiments in the field with agriculture ministers from several countries. More than 50 experts, including academic professors, researchers, private sector, government officials and leaders of civil-society organizations, made presentations or speeches at the symposium, which was attended by more than 400 people. [More ...](#)

[European Tourism 2014 - Trends & Prospects \(Q3/2014\)](#)

European tourism has continued to grow robustly throughout 2014 and has proved resilient to headwinds. Data from the first three quarters of this year paint a very positive picture for destinations in Europe, with growth spread across virtually all reporting destinations. [More ...](#)

[First European Rural Startup Platform \(FERSP\)](#)

The First European Rural Startup Platform (FERSP) is an EU-level initiative launched in May 2014 by experts with expertise on rural entrepreneurship, rural development (RD) policy formulation and agribusiness in various EU Member States. FERSP's primary objective is to boost rural entrepreneurship via the harmonised application of public and private financial instruments. FERSP is also an informal network of stakeholders sharing the view that rural startups should be better highlighted and mainstreamed both in the relevant policy dialogue and in the startup ecosystem. [More ...](#)

[Anders WALL Award 2014/2015](#)

The Anders Wall Award is a prize granted to private individuals who have made a special contribution to the rural environment within the European Union. This award is intended to recognize private estates that use quality instruments and management practices which contribute to the improvement of the quality of the environment, with importance at local, national and European levels by: Preserving and enhancing the landscape; Providing biodiversity; Preserving the countryside's cultural heritage; Contributing to sustainable economic local development. Deadline for applications: 30th November 2014. [More ...](#)

[Schweighofer Prize - Innovation Award for the European Forest Based Sector](#)

The Schweighofer Prize is donated by the Austrian Schweighofer family, who has been engaged in the European woodworking industry for generations. The Schweighofer Prize awards innovative ideas, technologies, products and services in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the European Forest Based Sector. All natural persons or groups of individuals as well as organisations are eligible to participate. The applicants have to fulfil all conditions in form and content. The most important requirement is the obvious benefit for the European Forest Based Sector. The registration starts on 1st November 2014 and closes on 2nd February 2015. [More ...](#)

[INVOLEN - Intergenerational Learning for Nature Conservation Volunteers](#)

INVOLEN is an innovative project promoting intergenerational learning through game-based learning, targeting nature conservation volunteers in 5 European countries (Italy, Greece, France, Hungary and Slovenia). INVOLEN brings together two different age groups, adolescents and senior citizens and encourages their participation in voluntary activities for the protection and preservation of the European ecological heritage, focusing on NATURA 2000 sites. [More ...](#)

[2015 Erasmus+ Call and Programme Guide](#)

The Erasmus+ Programme Guide for the 2015 General Call for Proposals was published in English on 6 October 2014, with further language versions to follow at the end of October. The Programme Guide provides detailed conditions for participating in the call for proposals, as well as information on the priorities for funding. It constitutes an integral part of the call for proposals. [More ...](#)

[Newsletters and Bulletins](#)

Forum Synergies' Newsletter, November 2014. Published by: Forum Synergies. [Read](#)

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

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

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

Arche Noah Newsletter, November 2014, Published by: Arche Noah-Gesellschaft für die Erhaltung der Kulturpflanzenvielfalt & ihre Entwicklung. [Read ...](#)

EVENTS

[**EIP-AGRI Seminar 'Launching Operational Groups and EIP Networking in Rural Development Programmes', 18 - 19 November 2014, Brussels, Belgium**](#)

The seminar organised by DG AGRI is dedicated to practical approaches for launching effective EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs), including calls for OG projects and organisation of EIP networking. [More ...](#)

[**Info day: Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2, 21 November 2014, Brussels, Belgium**](#)

The European Commission organizes Info day on the coming call for proposals under Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the Bio-economy. Societal Challenge 2 covers three calls for proposals under which projects can apply for funding: Sustainable Food Security; - Blue Growth; Innovative Sustainable and Inclusive Bio-economy. [More ...](#)

[**The role of agriculture in providing ecosystem services, 24-25 November 2014, Balti, Moldova**](#)

The conference will be conducted in the following sections: Crop productivity, soil fertility and soil processes; Soil biodiversity and ecological infrastructure; Soil and water quality; Supporting agro-ecosystem services provided by agriculture; Training of specialists. [More ...](#)

[**Final Transnational Seminar of AIM Project, 25 November 2014, Mestre \(Venice\), Italy**](#)

Alpine space In Movement – AIM is a project funded under the Alpine Space Programme - ASP initiative, and aims to capitalise the achievements of several ASP projects (2007-2013) dedicated to renewable energy production, water resources management and conservation of aquatic ecosystems. A special session of the conference will be devoted to the elaboration of project proposals that could be presented in the next Programme call (Alpine Space 2014–2020), identifying objectives, activities and possible partners. [More ...](#)

[**Closing the gap on the CAP, 27 November 2014, Amsterdam, Netherlands**](#)

Recently the CAP has been substantially reformed and with a budget of some € 373 billion for the 2014-2020 period it is the second most substantial policy of the European Union. The Groupe de Bruges, an independent network and think tank on European agricultural and rural development policies, is currently developing a comprehensive e-learning platform on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): "Can EU CAP it?". The platform centres around four key topics: 1) Future of farming; 2) Future of Rural areas; 3) Sustainable management of natural resources; 4) Food security, food safety and food quality. [More ...](#)



[**Territorial cooperation for the provision of public goods, 1 December 2014, Brussels, Belgium**](#)

In December 2013 and April 2014 the Groupe de Bruges organised two successful conferences on the topic of 'territorial cooperation for the

provision of public goods in the context of the new CAP'. A manifesto and work programme have been finalised after a second consultation round among the participants. Also, a Steering Group has been formed, representing a wide diversity in types of bottom up approaches from across Europe. The Steering Group will present the new European network and its ideas and ambitions in Brussels on December 1, 2014 at the building of the EESC in Brussels. It is possible to attend the meeting. [More ...](#)

["Facing Climate Change: Adapting our Land Management", 8 December 2014, Brussels, Belgium](#)

The annual edition of the Biodiversity Conference will be followed by the European Bee Award Ceremony and Cocktail reception in the European Parliament. [More ...](#)

[3rd Annual Conference of the European Learning Network on Regions and Biodiversity, 10-11 December 2014, Barcelona, Spain](#)

This Conference links the Network for Regions and Biodiversity with the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. It aims to bring together key players at local and regional government level and to showcase some of the best regional cooperation projects. The many practical examples presented at the knowledge market and during the workshops should provide a good basis and inspiration for the formulation of useful lessons learned and recommendations. [More...](#)

[OECD Rural Development Conference, 19-21 May 2015, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA](#)



The conference will gather together a wide range of leading international and national experts on rural development. Building upon the New Rural Paradigm framework; Promoting Growth in all Regions; and Rural-Urban Partnerships, policy makers and high-level officials both from OECD and non-OECD countries will discuss modern rural policies, and how the implementation of such policies contributes to national growth and well-being. [More ...](#)

[International Conference Perth III: Mountains of Our Future Earth, 4-8 October 2015, Perth, Scotland, UK](#)

The Centre for Studies, in collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), is organising a third conference – Perth III – on 'Mountains of Our Future Earth'. This is a contribution to the global Future Earth programme, a 10-year international research initiative that will develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and supporting transformation towards global sustainability in the coming decades. [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

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

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