



Newsletter

September 2014
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NEWS

Launch of a Report on "Empowering Rural Stakeholders in The Western Balkans", 6 October 2014, Brussels

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe and PREPARE are organizing the launch of the [report "Empowering rural stakeholders in the Western Balkans"](#) at the European Parliament with the presence of Commissioner Dacian Cioloş and Commissioner-elect Phil Hogan (tbc). This report reflects the conclusions of a stimulating series of [traveling workshops and conferences held in April 2014 in the Western Balkans, with a Concluding Conference held in Brussels on 8 April](#). Taking part in these events were Ministers with responsibility for agriculture and rural development, and representatives of public authorities and civil society organizations, from all the countries of the Western Balkans. [More...](#)


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

30 participants from 23 countries participated at the series of events within the PREPARE Gathering 2014, held in Finland and in Estonia. Travelling workshops around Helsinki and Tallin were good inspiration for participants and several good practices, visited during the travel seem to be relevant for implementation in other parts of the Europe. Central event of the Gathering was the conference, devoted to the process of preparation for the next European Rural Parliament. Creative participants contributed significantly to that process and most of them expressed their enthusiasm about the raising the rural voice through national and European rural parliaments. [More...](#)

PREPARE Appointed for a Period of 7 Years as a Member of the Civil Dialogue Group for Rural Development

On 18 July 2014 the Director-General of the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development decided on the composition of the civil dialogue groups, each covering a different subject relating to the common agricultural policy, including rural development, and its implementation. Civil dialogue groups provide an important forum for consultation, providing high-level input from a wide range of sources and stakeholders in the form of opinions, recommendations and reports, complementing other sources, consultations and in-house expertise of the Commission. DG AGRI is fully committed to intensify the debate with the citizen through civil dialogue groups and in other instances. [More...](#)

European Rural Sustainability Gathering, Beaufortain, France

forum  synergies This year between 18 to 21 September [Forum Synergies' European Rural Sustainability Gathering took place in Beaufortain territory in France](#) with around 50 participants from 16 countries, half of them below 35, enthusiastically interested in good farming, rural renaissance and sustainable food chains. Many participants came from the South East Europe, Serbia, Macedonia, but also Ukraine through the PREPARE or Slow Food movement's context, Estonia, Sweden (Hela Sverige Ska Leven), Poland, Euroacademy etc. Meeting was hosted by Savoie Vivante, a very dynamic and impressive organisation and network focussing on youth, territorial dialogue, training and animation in the region. Participants discussed about better cooperation across network partners. Soon it will be available also a report on the outcome and action points of the meeting.

Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes - State of Play

The European Commission has adopted 16 out of 28 Partnership Agreements (PA) and is now analysing the official PAs received from the other 12 Member States, as well as draft Cohesion

EEB Reaction to Juncker Commission: Bad Blow to Environmental Sustainability

The EEB (European Environmental Bureau) has reacted with deep concern to the structure of the proposed new Commission that was unveiled by Jean-Claude Juncker: "Instead of putting sustainability central to his new team, Juncker has decided to relegate it to the margins by scrapping the dedicated posts of a climate and an environment commissioner and appointing a deregulation first Vice-President to put a competitiveness filter on all initiatives", EEB Secretary General Jeremy Wates commented on the announcement. It is crucial that in merging the climate and energy portfolios, and environment and maritime affairs and fisheries, no resources for acting on climate change or environmental sustainability are lost. [More...](#)

New Agriculture Commissioner Told to Simplify Greening, Payments

Simplification of the direct payments in the Policy and greening are two of the issues that have been put top of the list of priorities for the new Commissioner for agriculture designate, Phil Hogan. In the brief that has been given to the new agriculture commissioner, the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has told him to concentrate his efforts on implementing the new CAP reforms. But he has also been told to simplify the system of direct payments within a year in particular in the areas of greening, rural development, quality policy and the fruit and vegetables scheme. [More...](#)



Invitation for Cooperation with the Estonian LAGs

The Estonian Rural Network Unit invites all European LAGs to send it information about their events (seminars, conferences, workshops etc.), which will be organized in autumn 2014 and which could be attended by representatives of Estonian Local Action Groups (LAG).

Contact person: Helene Kõiv, helene@maainfo.ee. [More...](#)

Transnational Cultural Tourism Products and Tourism and Accessibility for All

This call is composed of two themes: Theme A - Cooperation projects to support transnational tourism based on European cultural and industrial heritage; Theme B - Fostering accessible tourism entrepreneurship and management. Candidates can submit a proposal for both themes but in two separate applications. The deadline for electronic submission is 21 October 2014, 17.00 hours (Brussels time). [More...](#)

EU Prize/Europa Nostra Awards - Call for Entries 2015

The European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards is Europe's most prestigious prize in the heritage field. Every year, it honours the most outstanding heritage achievements from all over Europe. It recognises the excellence and dedication by architects, craftsmen, cultural heritage experts, volunteers, schools, local communities, heritage owners and the media. It stimulates creativity and innovation, through the power of example. Deadline: 15 October 2014. [More...](#)

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...](#)

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

CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) Communication Network, September 2014. Published by: European Commission. [Read...](#)

Studies in Agricultural Economics 116/2, 2014. Published by: Research Institute of Agricultural Economics and Committee for Agricultural Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. [Read...](#)

EVENTS

International conference "10 years of LEADER in Lithuania", 15-16 October 2014, Anykščiai, Lithuania



From 2004 when Lithuania joined the European Union innovative LEADER initiative was launched in Lithuania. The conference "10 years of LEADER in Lithuania" is dedicated to draw attention to LEADER approach, its' significance and impact to Lithuania and celebrate the decade in the EU. [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...](#)

International Conference "EUROPE 2050: Overcrowded Metropolises - Empty Provinces?", 28-30 September 2014, Vienna, Austria

The gap between big cities and rural areas is getting wider every day. Big cities offer many possibilities and attract young people and families, whereas rural areas become depopulated. The provinces must become more attractive and provide good infrastructure to prevent the rural exodus. This is the precondition for international competitiveness of the regions and their communities. Representatives from business and politics (mayors, regional politicians, representatives of national governments and the EU) will consult with experts on topics such as regional transportation, energy policy, broadband and regional tourism to develop future oriented solutions on the basis of the best practice examples. [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...](#)

5th European Congress on Rural Tourism, 6-8 October 2014, Alpbach, Austria

Under the Leitmotiv "European Rural Tourism 2020", the congress is going to deal with the state of art and with future challenges of this sector. As in previous years, it will provide a meeting point and discussion forum for the Rural Tourism entrepreneurs, interested practitioners from the private and public sector, and academics involved in rural tourism. [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...](#)

Industrial Heritage 2014, 24-26 October 2014, Lyon-Vaulx-en-Velin, France

The themes of this year's meeting organised by E-FAITH (European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage) are: "The industrial heritage: a holistic heritage in a

The Role of Foundations in Supporting Family/Smallholder Farming, 27-28 October 2014, 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...](#)

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...](#)

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.

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

More about PREPARE: www.preparenetwork.org

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