



Newsletter

December 2015
Newsletters Archive

For members of the PREPARE Network and all friends of the PREPARE Programme

Dear PREPARE Friends,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Tanti Auguri di buon Anno e buon Natale
Весела Коледа и Честита Нова Година
(Vesela Koleda i Chestita Nova Godina)
Veselé vánoce a šťastný nový rok
Priecīgus Ziemassvetkus un laimīgu Jauno gadu!
Prettige Kerstdagen en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar
Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
Häid Jõule ja Head Uut Aastat!
Cráciun Fericit si la Multi Ani
Hyvää Joulua ja Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!
Veselé Vianoce a stastný Nový rok!
Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année
Srečen Božič ter Srečno, Zdravo in Veselo Novo Leto!
Blagoslovljen Božić i sretna Nova Godina!
Христос се роди! Срећна Нова година!
(Hristos se rodi! Srećna Nova Godina!)
Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr
Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo
Kellemes Karácsonyi Ünnepeket És Boldog új Évet!
God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
ΚΑΛΑ ΦΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΚΙ ΕΥΤΙΦΙΣΜΕΝΟΣ Ο ΝΕΟΣ ΦΡΟΝΟΣ
(Kala Hristougenna ki Eutihismenos o Neos Hronos)
Geru Sventu Kaledu ir laimingu Naujuju Metu!



NEWS

All 118 Rural Development Programmes adopted

The adoption of Greece's Rural Development Programme (RDP) on 11 December 2015 marks the end of the adoption process for all 118 programmes for the 2014-2020 period. With €99.6 billion from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and another €60.6 billion of co-funding from national and regional public funds or private investment, the RDPs will help European rural areas and communities face the current economic, environmental and social challenges, and take advantage of the opportunities ahead of them. [More ...](#)

European Rural Manifesto

The climax of the European Rural Parliament 2015 campaign was the adoption of a six-page European Rural Manifesto, which expresses the aspirations and demands of rural communities in 40 European countries. This Manifesto will form the basis of the continuing campaign, with action by rural communities themselves and advocacy to regional and national governments and to the European institutions. More in [ERP Newsletter 4/2015](#).

Continued work of the ERP Steering Group

Steering Group of European Rural Parliament (ERP) continues working on concluding the 2nd ERP activities and launching the preparations for the 3rd ERP in 2017. In short, the call for hosting the next ERP event will be announced. PREPARE, ERCA and ELARD are building strong partnership and close cooperation to build broad coalition of rural initiatives around Europe.

Death of Eero Uusitalo

We report with sorrow the sudden death of our highly valued friend Eero Uusitalo, who until very recently was president of the Finnish Village Association SYTY, a PREPARE partner organization, and the leading figure in rural development policy and action in Finland. He was a great man, and a powerful leader in securing a nationwide, comprehensive and integrated approach to rural development in Finland ... thereby creating an example which is much admired around Europe and has influenced the approach in other countries. [More ...](#)

Presentations from the 2nd Rural Networks' Assembly

The 2nd Rural Networks' Assembly - the main governance body of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks - took place in Brussels on Thursday, 26 November 2015. The Assembly brings together representatives of the main rural development stakeholder groups to provide strategic direction, guidance and advice to the work of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks. The 2nd meeting of the Assembly marked the opportunity both to take stock of the first full year of effective implementation of rural networking in the 2014-2020 programming period and to set out the priority directions for 2016. Presentations are available [here](#).

Maximising the contribution of the European Structural and Investment Funds to the Commission's priorities

On 14 December 2015 the Commission adopted a Communication on the contribution of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) to the EU's growth strategy, the Investment Plan and the Commission's priorities over the next decade. The report also includes the outcomes of the negotiations with all the Member States on Partnership Agreements and programmes and the key challenges per country. [More ...](#)

Closing the loop: Commission adopts ambitious new Circular Economy Package to boost competitiveness, create jobs and generate sustainable growth

On 2 December 2015 the Commission adopted an ambitious new Circular Economy Package to stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy which will boost global competitiveness, foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs. [More ...](#)

Agriculture Council – Sustainable agriculture, school fruit, vegetables and milk schemes and the difficulties in the pig meat sector on ministers' agendas

The EU's Agriculture Ministers met in Brussels on 14 December 2015 for the last Agriculture and Fisheries Council organised under the Luxembourg Presidency. Chaired by Fernand Etgen, the Luxembourg Minister of Agriculture, the Council discussed sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the bio-economy. The Presidency also informed the Council about the progress of work regarding the proposals for school fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk schemes. Finally, Ministers considered the deteriorating situation in the pork sector. [More ...](#)

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

On 3-4 December 2015, DG AGRI organised a two day seminar dedicated to promoting understanding of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) and to highlighting practical examples of the changes taking place in approaches to knowledge transfer, learning and innovation in the agricultural, forestry and rural development sectors. [More ...](#)

EU Agricultural Outlook Conference

On 1-2 December some four hundred stakeholders took part in the conference upon invitation by the Commission. They represented EU institutions, governments and international organisations, those involved in the food chain, the socio-professional sector, market experts, academics and think tanks, and the broader civil society. [More ...](#)

Geo-Wiki: Engaging Citizens in Environmental Monitoring

The Geo-Wiki Project is a global network of volunteers who wish to help improve the quality of global land cover maps. Since large differences occur between existing global land cover maps, current ecosystem and land-use science lacks crucial accurate data. [More ...](#)

Winners of the 2015 European Social Innovation Competition

Sit-in beekeeping foundation Apiform, peer-to-peer homestay model for older people The Freebird Club, and accessible car sharing platform Wheeliz have been named the winners of the 2015 European Social Innovation Competition. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Documents and Seminars

The European Commission has launched a new Open Data Platform for ESI Funds. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Opportunities

The United Nations Democracy Fund project grant. Deadline: 31 December 2015. [More ...](#)

Horizon 2020: Engaging Together Globally. Forthcoming calls in 2016. [More ...](#)

Interreg Mediterranean: 1st call for horizontal project proposals. Deadline: 11 January 2016. [More ...](#)

2016 Call for KIC Proposals - EIT Food & EIT Manufacturing. Launch of the call: 14 January 2016. [More ...](#)

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund: Thematic Routes on Underwater Cultural Heritage. Deadline: 15 March 2016. [More ...](#)

EaSI-EURES: Targeted mobility scheme - Your first EURES job (VP/2015/006). Deadline: 15 March 2016. [More ...](#)

Interreg Central Europe: 2nd call for project proposals opens in April 2016. [More ...](#)

Interreg Danube Transnational Programme: the second step of the 1st call for proposals is foreseen to be open in April 2016. [More](#)

Competitions and Consultations

Land and Soil Management Award 2015/2016. Deadline: 31 December 2015. [More ...](#)

Anders Wall Award 2015/2016: Celebrating rural entrepreneurs. Deadline: 31 December 2015. [More ...](#)

Public consultation on CAP "Greening" measures. Deadline: 8 March 2016. [More ...](#)

European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) Award 2017. Deadline: 18 March 2016. [More ...](#)

Newsletters and Publications

Newsletters

European Rural Parliament Newsletter 4/2015. [Read ...](#)

ENRD Newsletter, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

RegioFlash, 14 December 2015. [Read ...](#)

Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, issue 28, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

Nordregio News, issue 4, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

Sea Change Project Newsletter, issue 1, November 2015. [Read ...](#)

European Digital Forum Newsletter, issue 4, November 2015. [Read ...](#)

IFOAM EU Newsletter, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

The Beacon, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

AgClim Letters, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

CGIAR Info Note, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

Interreg Central Europe Newsflash, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

Publications

Factsheet: "The Common Agricultural Policy - Investing in Rural Europe". Published by: DG AGRI, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

Revolutionary solutions for local food systems. Published by: AiCARE, 2015. [Read ...](#)

EVENTS

Public hearing: "The social economy: creating good quality jobs in

Europe", 12 January 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The hearing will debate how to mainstream the social economy as an actor in EU employment policies and review Social economy's contribution to good quality jobs creation in the EU. [More ...](#)

Innovative Agriculture: Challenges and Solutions for Sustainable and Competitive Food Production, 12 January 2016, Brussels, Belgium

This half-day event will gather European and national decision-makers and C-level executives to discuss the challenges facing our current food production and the solutions – both in development and already available – to produce food more efficiently, more safely and more sustainably. [More ...](#)

Europe's Opportunity in Digital Agriculture, 14 January 2016, Brussels, Belgium

Waterford Institute of Technology's Telecommunications, Software and Systems Group (TSSG) with their SFI CONNECT partners are holding a workshop with major leaders in policy, industry and academia to explore and discuss "Europe's Opportunity in Digital Agriculture". [More ...](#)

Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, 14-16 January 2016, Berlin, Germany

Held within the framework of the [International Green week](#), this international conference focuses on central questions concerning the future of the global agri-food industry. The 2016 edition will be held on the subject "How to feed our cities? - Agriculture and rural areas in an era of urbanisation". [More ...](#)

International Green Week, 15-24 January 2016, Berlin, Germany

Established in 1926, International Green Week is taking place for the 81st time in 2016. The IGW is a one-of-a-kind international exhibition for the food, agricultural and horticultural industries. At the same time, the IGW is the point of origin for the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) with more than 70 departmental ministers. [More ...](#)

ENRD Workshop on LEADER/CLLD, 19 January 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The workshop will address the design and applicability of Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) to LEADER/CLLD particularly in relation to 'preparatory support' and 'running costs and animation'. [More info coming soon.](#)

Forum on the Future of the Rural Areas, 20-21 January 2016, Berlin, Germany

Held within the framework of the [International Green week](#), this event organised by the German Ministry of Agriculture will discuss the various aspects that contribute to rural areas' dynamism and innovation potential. [More ...](#)

Designing the path: A strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation, 26-28 January 2016, Brussels, Belgium

Challenges faced by agriculture and rural areas and the long-term character of research activities call for a strategic approach to research and innovation. European Commission organises a large conference to discuss how such a strategic approach could be implemented. The conference will close a half-year process kicked-off in Milan in June 2015. [More ...](#)

Organic Producers' Conference, 27-28 January 2016, Bristol, UK

ORC's annual Organic Producers' Conference is the event where organic and other producers

interested in ecological approaches to sustainable food production come together with researchers and advisers to share ideas on making agriculture perform better, for their businesses and society. [More ...](#)

European Conference "Unlocking the Potential of RDPs", 1 February 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The conference will present an overview of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) across the EU and discuss questions relating to implementation bottlenecks, scope for simplification and good practice on programming and result reporting, including the role of networks. More info coming soon.

New Rural Development Plans and the Environment: The Hidden Truth?, 8 February 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The European Environmental Bureau and BirdLife Europe are pleased to invite you to a conference, on Rural Development and its implications for the environment, at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels on the 8th of February 2016. Amongst the invited speakers are EU Environment Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, Deputy Director General, Mihail Dumitru, and other representatives of DG agriculture, DG environment and DG climate as well as a whole range of experts, farmers, NGOs and Member States representatives. [More ...](#)

Paris International Agricultural Show, 27 February–6 March 2016, Paris, France

The Paris International Agricultural Show is the meeting place for players in the world of agriculture. It is organised around four sectors: livestock breeding; products and gastronomy; crops, plants, nature and lifestyle; and agricultural services and professions. [More ...](#)

9th Forum for the Future of Agriculture, 22 March 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The Forum for the Future of Agriculture is the premiere meeting place in Brussels to debate sustainable agriculture and environmental challenges - where agriculture and environment meet. [More ...](#)

Building Bridges: Cities and Regions in a Transnational World, 3-6 April 2016, Graz, Austria

Throughout history, cities and regions have been cornerstones of economic, social and cultural institution building and centres of communication and trade across borders of empires and nations. In a globalised world dominated by multi-level governance and declining economic and political significance of the nation-state, cities and regions are becoming ever more so important in building bridges across nations, supra-national unions, and even continents. [More ...](#)

10th European Organic Congress: Transforming food and farming through organics, 4-6 April 2016, The Netherlands

The theme of this year's Congress is transforming food and farming through organics. Organizers want to look at how organic and agro-ecological approaches can really lead future agri-food systems and contribute to the development of EU policies that fundamentally address political, environmental and societal challenges. [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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