



# Newsletter

February 2016  
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## NEWS

### **Launch of the ERP 2016 campaign**

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January has seen the transition from the ERP 2015 campaign to the ERP 2016-17 campaign. The 2015 campaign reached its climax at the ERP Gathering in Schärding in November, and the adoption and publication of the European Rural Manifesto. The 2016-17 campaign will focus on pursuing the ideas set out in the Manifesto. More in the editorial of the latest ERP Newsletter.

### **Swedish Rural Parliament 2016**

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The Swedish rural parliament is one of the largest gatherings for rural development in Europe. All Sweden Shall Live (Hela Sverige ska leva), a PREPARE member organization, has arranged this event every second year since the mid-90s. The theme of 2016 gathering which will be on May 27-29 in Gotland is "Towards a balanced country". More ...

### **ALTER - Active Local Territories for Economic development of Rural Areas**

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In the second half of 2015, PREPARE encouraged and supported our partners in the Western Balkans and in Turkey in a successful bid for funding under the European Commission's Civil Society Facility Programme. Led by the Serbian Rural Development Network, they submitted a proposal for support towards a programme of capacity-building, networking and advocacy by six Western Balkan networks (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and the Development Foundation of Turkey, which is already a key partner of PREPARE in the Black Sea area. PREPARE is a formal co-partner in the programme, represented by the Latvian Rural Forum. The Croatian Rural Development Network, HMRR, is also a formal co-partner. The programme is entitled ALTER (Active Local Territories for Economic development of Rural Areas), will be completed in 40 months, and is 90 % (1.1 mio EUR) EU funded. This initiative will help enormously to strengthen the capacity of the partner networks to manage their work in a professional way, to secure long-term financial stability, to undertake training and advocacy, and to act as intermediary bodies implementing community level development and strengthening participatory approaches.

### **RDP 2014-2020 summaries**

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On ENRD website are now published a summaries of each of the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) through which the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) will provide support in the programming period 2014-2020. More ...

### **ELARD celebrates the new presidency for 2016-2017**

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On February 16-17 the 11th General Assembly of ELARD took place in Brussels, its main aim was to summarize the previous Czech presidency and introduce Estonian presidency's goals and action plan for 2016-2017. The representative of Estonian Leader Union, Kristiina Tammets (manager of LAG Tartu Rural Development Association), was elected as the association's new president, while Pedro Brosei from Portugal and Radim Sršen from the Czech Republic were elected as new vice-presidents. Kristiina Tammets is the first female president in ELARD's nearly twenty-year history. More ...

## **3rd meeting of LEADER/CLLD Sub-group**

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The third meeting of the LEADER/CLLD Sub-group took place on 16 February 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. Representative of PREPARE also participated at the event. The objectives of the meeting were: to provide an update on the state of play of programming and implementation of LEADER and LEADER cooperation activities; to present recent activities and initiatives on improving LEADER/CLLD delivery, identifying success and involving stakeholders; to facilitate exchange on key themes related to LEADER/CLLD implementation. Presentations from the meeting are available [here](#).

## **Call for a White Paper on rurality**

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The call for a White Paper on rurality is launched by the European Countryside Movement and supported by many authorities. Producing a White Paper on rurality is a necessary step to open a wide and overall debate, towards a rural Agenda to include in the heart of the post 2020 programming period. As a part of this process, the conference which will be organized on 19 April 2016 is an important step towards taking more account of rural areas in future EU policies. You are also invited to sign the petition for a White Paper on rurality [here](#).

## **Call for expression of interest for experts participating in Focus Groups of the European Innovation Partnership on 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'**

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The European Commission is launching a call for experts such as farmers, foresters, advisers, scientists and other relevant actors for two new EIP-AGRI Focus Groups. The Focus Groups will start working in May/June 2016 and are expected to present their results and recommendations within 12 months. Deadline: 21 March 2016. More ...

## **CoR's Opinion on Innovation and modernisation of the rural economy**

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At its 116th plenary session held on 10 and 11 February 2016, the CoR adopted an opinion on "Innovation and modernisation of the rural economy". More ...

## **The launch of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2016**

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On Friday 29th January the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) organized the event's first preparatory meeting with the representatives from regional offices, associations and EU institutions. You can watch the webstreaming video [here](#).

## **Commission's 'green' CAP questionable, study says**

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A study conducted by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and BirdLife Europe found a €1 billion decline in the actual funding for "green" measures meant to benefit the environment on farmland. The EEB notes that over 80% of protected extensive grasslands in Natura 2000 sites are in an "unfavorable condition". Agriculture is also responsible for 10% the EU's emissions of greenhouse gases. More ...

## **Debate: The future of organic agriculture in the EU**

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Organic plays an increasing role in EU agriculture. There's also an ongoing triologue negotiation on organic regulation review among the Parliament, Commission and the member states. The outcome of this negotiation will be crucial for the organic farming sector. More ...

## **Future of the EU Urban Agenda**

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The EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) welcomes the EU Urban Agenda, the Dutch Presidency initiative that will directly influence the lives of the 80% of EU citizens forecast to be living in towns and cities by 2050. The EESC however underlines that it is important to ensure that civil society organisations will be equal partners in discussions on the EU Urban Agenda and in its implementation. On 17 February 2016, the EESC adopted its opinion on the Future of the EU Urban Agenda, as seen from the perspective of civil society, in which it recommends including Urban Communities and Citizens' Participation as a new cross-cutting theme in the EU Urban Agenda. More ...

## ICT innovation: SMEs make best use of EU research funding

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Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are champions of EU research programmes: they deliver 41% of the high potential innovations generated in ICT-related EU-funded research and innovation projects, despite accounting for a mere 14% of the total funding. More ...

## Linking Local Actors: 58 good practices in local employment development

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Linking Local Actors was a project supported by the European Commission's Employment DG in 2006-2007 which identified 58 good practices in local employment development across Europe, organised into five main approaches: business support, ICT for jobs, job support for disadvantaged groups, new roles for public actors, new sources of jobs. More ...

## EU Funding Documents and Seminars

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Interreg Europe: Assistance to applicants for 2nd call, from mid-February until mid-April 2016. More ...  
Adrion Interreg: Info Day for 1st call for proposals, 3 March 2016, Bologna, Italy. More ...  
Interreg Europe Forum: "Europe, let's cooperate!", 22-23 March 2016, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. More ...  
Training on Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 for EU Member State Experts: Training Materials. More ...

## EU Funding Opportunities

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Horizon 2020. Greening the economy. Deadlines in 2016. More ...  
Horizon 2020: Engaging Together Globally. Forthcoming calls in 2016. More ...  
Call for expression of interest - Selection of model defence-related regions to co-organise an event with the European Commission. Deadline: 18 March 2016. More ...  
EaSI-EURES: Targeted mobility scheme - Your first EURES job (VP/2015/006). Deadline: 18 March 2016. More ...  
Call for expression of interest for experts participating in Focus Groups of the European Innovation Partnership on 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'. Deadline: 21 March 2016. More ...  
Interreg Adrion: 1st call for proposals. Deadline: 25 March 2016. More ...  
Interreg Europe: 2nd call opens from 5 April until 13 May 2016. More ...  
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund: Thematic Routes on Underwater Cultural Heritage. New deadline: 15 April 2016. More ...  
Call for Reference Sites of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. Deadline: 15 April 2016. More ...  
Call for proposals: Promotion of EU agricultural products. Deadline: 28 April 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 ...  
EIT's 2016 Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) Proposals. Deadline: 14 July 2016. More ...

## Competitions and Consultations

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Award for excellence in global food security reporting. Deadline: 1 March 2016. More ...  
Public consultation on CAP "Greening" measures. Deadline: 8 March 2016. More ...  
European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) Award 2017. Deadline: 18 March 2016. More ...  
RegioStar Awards 2016. Deadline: 15 April 2016. More ...  
Consultation on ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation. Deadline: 27 April 2016. More ...  
Preparation of a sustainable bioenergy policy for the period after 2020. Deadline: 10 May 2016. More ...

## Newsletters and Publications

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### Newsletters

European Rural Parliament Newsletter 1/2016. Read ...  
Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia Newsletter, No. 11, July-December 2015. Read ...  
ENRD Newsletter, February 2016. Read ...  
EIP-AGRI Newsflash, 23 February 2016. Read ...

RegioFlash, 22 February 2016. Read ...  
Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, issue 30, February 2016. Read ...  
AEIDL Flash, 19 February 2016. Read ...

#### **Publications**

Open Days 2015 - Local events: Proceedings. Published by: EC, Committee of the Regions, 2016. Read ...  
Global Metrics for the Environment: 2016 Report. Published by: Yale University et al., 2016. Read ...

### **EVENTS**

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

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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 ...

#### **National Rural Networks' Meeting, 29 February-1 March 2016, Bled, Slovenia**

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The fourth European meeting of the National Rural Networks (NRNs), 2014-2020, will take place in Bled, Slovenia. Its main objective is to support Network Support Units (NSUs) and other NRN stakeholders in identifying and developing relevant activities to improve the implementation of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). Such activities are expected to include thematic working groups and events; workshops; collection of good practices; and digital communications. More ...

#### **What Future for our Farming Systems? Environmental Challenges and Integrated Solutions, 1-2 March 2016, Edinburgh, UK**

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This conference will seek to encourage debate on the benefits to be gained from more sustainable resource use and greater integration of different land uses on lowland and upland farming systems. It will present the best possible scientific understanding of the complexities associated with how best to achieve such an integration in practice. More ...

#### **Smart Farming: Harvesting the Digital Dividends across the EU, 3 March 2016, Brussels, Belgium**

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The event will gather leading experts in the field to share their experiences of how to make the most of ICT-enabled agriculture for the benefit of farmers, consumers and the whole value chain in-between. More ...

#### **Rural Networks' Steering Group Meeting, 4 March 2016, Brussels, Belgium**

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The fourth Steering Group (SG) meeting aims to fine-tune the 2016 priorities and monitoring and self-assessment methods of the EU Rural Networks, as well we strengthen the involvement of SG members in networks' activities. More ...

#### **ENRD Workshop on Selection Criteria, 15 March 2016, Brussels, Belgium**

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The workshop will enable exchange of experiences among Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies in designing targeted, transparent and easy to administer selection criteria, and effectively communicating them to (potential) beneficiaries. More ...

#### **ENRD Workshop on LEADER/CLLD in Social Inclusion, 17 March 2016, Brussels, Belgium**

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The workshop will discuss LEADER/CLLD and rural networking approaches, tools and practices for enhancing social inclusion and integrating marginalised groups in rural areas. More ...

## **1st Workshop on Sustainable Forestry, 17-20 March 2016, Milverton, Somerset, UK**

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The event is co-organised by Forum Synergies and EUCan. The aim of the Forum Synergies project is to increase the capacity and ability of individuals, NGOs, local and EU governments to deliver forestry management that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. More ...

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

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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**

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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**

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

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

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