



Newsletter

January 2016
Newsletters Archive

NEWS

Congratulations to Tomislav Panenić, president of HMRR

Tomislav Panenić, president of HMRR (Croatian Rural Development Network), and mayor of Municipality Tompojevci in Vukovar-Srijem County, was on 22 January 2016 confirmed as Minister of Economy in the new Croatian government. He is also a president of LAG Srijem and a board member of the international Danube Competence Centre, with many years of experiences in EU funds, regional and local development. We wish him a very successful work. Congratulations!

Roundtable on Agriculture and Rural Development in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Speech of EU Commissioner Hogan

The Roundtable on Agriculture and Rural Development in the Western Balkans and Turkey took place on January 17th, 2016, as a side event in the context of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin, Germany. The Roundtable was initiated by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE in cooperation with the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) of Germany. H.E. Mr. Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development participated on the Roundtable in order to hear about accomplishments from the Ministers of agriculture in their respective sectors and countries and was actively engaged in the discussions. Commissioner Hogan underlined that progressive trade liberalization with the EU and within the region is important to permit the EU integration process. Western Balkan countries were encouraged to continue with the reform process, especially in building up-capacities, ensuring appropriate cooperation of all technical services, as well as intensifying the dialogue with the banking sector. Please find attached the speech of Commissioner Hogan [here](#).

REGIO-ERSA Joint Academic Lectures

The purpose of this lecture series is to discuss current research and evidence. These exchanges between academics and policymakers take place in the context of the preparation for post-2020 EU Cohesion Policy proposals, which will start soon. The lectures are open to academics, staff from DG REGIO and other Commission services, other EU institutions as well as from the Member States' representations and regional offices. The videos recordings of previous lectures are available [here](#). The next lectures will be given on Friday, 4 March at 16:00 by Prof. Dominique Foray on "Smart Specialisation Strategies in the EU", and on Friday, 8 April at 16:00 by Prof. Roberta Capello (topic tbc). Please register [here](#).

Call for expression of interest for the selection of stakeholders as members of the European Bioeconomy Panel

In its Communication "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe" published on 13 February 2012, the European Commission announced the establishment of a European Union Bioeconomy Panel. The aim of the Bioeconomy Panel is to enhance synergies and coherence between policies, initiatives and economic sectors related to the bioeconomy at EU level, linking with existing mechanisms. Following the expiry of the mandate of current members, the Commission is hereby calling for applications with the view of selecting stakeholders as members of the Bioeconomy Panel according to the criteria detailed in the Call for expression of interest. More ...

EU Alpine macro-regional strategy kicked-off in Slovenia

The kick-off conference for the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) organised on 25-26 January 2016 in Slovenia brought together the EU Institutions, participating states and regions and all key players in the governance and implementation of the strategy. [More ...](#)

Designing the path: A strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation

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 organised (26-28 January in Brussels) a large conference to discuss how such a strategic approach could be implemented. [More ...](#)

Tourism and local gastronomy: Winners of the 2015 EDEN Destinations of Excellence Awards

20 countries participated in the competition, and each country has selected one winner and up to 4 runners-up. The winners of the 2015 edition have been selected for their excellence in developing a tourism offer based on their specific local gastronomy. The winners were announced on European Tourism Day in Brussels, on 16 December 2015. On 17 December 2015, the winners and runners-up officially become part of the EDEN Network. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Documents and Seminars

Adrion Interreg 2014-2020. Presentations and recordings from the Launch Event "Meet the challenge to build a better future in the Adriatic and Ionian area" (9-10 December 2015, Bologna, Italy) are available [here](#).

EU Funding Opportunities

Horizon 2020. Sustainability schemes for the bio-based economy. Deadline: [17 February 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Horizon 2020. Intelligent solutions and tools in forest production systems, fostering a sustainable supply of quality wood for the growing bioeconomy. Deadline: [17 February 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Horizon 2020. The regional dimension of bio-based industries. Deadline: [17 February 2016](#). [More ...](#)

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: [4 March 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 Adrion: 1st call for proposals. Deadline: [25 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 ...](#)

EIT's 2016 Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) Proposals. Deadline: [14 July 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Competitions and Consultations

AlpWeek 2016 - call for contributions. Deadline: [8 February 2016](#). [More ...](#)

EU Sustainable Energy Award. Deadline: [22 February 2016](#). [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 5/2015. [Read ...](#)

ENRD Newsletter, January 2016. [Read ...](#)

Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, issue 29, January 2016. [Read ...](#)

Alpine Space newsletter – Special issue, December 2015. [Read ...](#)

Publications

Bio-based & Applied Economics, vol. 2, issue 4, 2015. Read ...

EVENTS

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 ...

LEADER/CLLD Sub-group Meeting, 16 February 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The second meeting of the sub-group will update on the state-of-play of programming and implementation of LEADER and Transnational Cooperation (TNC) and discuss recent activities and initiatives on improving LEADER/CLLD delivery. More information coming soon.

Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda, 23 February 2016, Brussels, Belgium

In the last 4 years the Action has elaborated a European approach on the phenomenon of Urban Agriculture. The main findings and important policy recommendations are now published in the book "Urban Agriculture Europe". The final event will present the book in detail with particular regard to European policies. More ...

2nd Meeting of ENRD Thematic Group "Smart and Competitive Rural Areas", 24 February 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The meeting will explore how to use the rural development tools available to develop 'Smart and Competitive Areas', focussing on developing added value and improving access to markets. More information coming soon.

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 ...

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

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 ...

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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