



Newsletter

March 2016
Newsletters Archive

NEWS

The fourth meeting of the European Rural Networks' SG

The fourth meeting of the European Rural Networks' Steering Group (SG) took place in Brussels on 4 March 2016. The main themes of the meeting were the capacity building and the exchange of experience. It was emphasised that there is huge potential in strengthening the synergies between green economy and competitiveness of rural areas as well as building linkages between different actors at European and national levels. Event documents and presentations are published here.

The fourth European meeting of the National Rural Networks (NRNs)

The fourth European meeting of the National Rural Networks (NRNs), 2014-2020, took place in Bled, Slovenia, 29 February - 1 March 2016. Its main objective was 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. Presentations and workshop's reports are published here.

European Conference 'Unlocking the Potential of the RDPs'

The ENRD Contact Point and DG AGRI jointly organised a conference on 'Unlocking the Potential of the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs)' on 1 February 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. The event brought together all the national and regional Managing Authorities responsible for designing and implementing the RDPs and National Rural Networks' (NRNs) representatives. Conference reports and presentations are published here.

Call for the constitution of a European network of rural local authorities

French association of Rural mayors launched in 2014 a call for the constitution of a European network of rural local authorities after organizing the first European conference of rurality in France. Association's objective is to constitute a network of rural local authorities to exchange experiences on the state of rural territories throughout Europe and know the general and specific issues faced by local authorities. This network would ultimately be a mean of representation at the European level and collaborate with all European stakeholders representing rurality. As association's work to create this network advance, they wish to enter in contact with rural local authorities (or associations) from countries everywhere in Europe and concerned by European and transnational questions. Contact person: Alexandre Lafargue, alexandre.lafargue@amrf.fr.

Targeted coaching on rural development financial instruments launched

Targeted coaching for the relevant Member State managing authorities on how best to use financial instrument possibilities available under EU Rural Development funding (EAFRD) has now been launched. The service will be provided by fi-compass and supported by the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). The first managing authority to receive this support is Bulgaria. More ...

EU Funding Documents and Seminars

Interreg Europe: Europe, Let`s Cooperate. Recording of the online event (22 March 2016) is available [here](#).

Interreg Central Europe: Events for applicants for 2nd call for proposals, April-May 2016. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Opportunities

Horizon 2020. Greening the economy. Deadlines in 2016. [More ...](#)

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

Interreg Alpine Space: 2nd call for project proposals - submission of expressions of interest (EoI). Deadline: [8 April 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. Deadline: [15 April 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Call for Reference Sites of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. Deadline: [15 April 2016](#). [More ...](#)

WaterWorks2015 joint call: "Sustainable management of water resources in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors". Deadline of 1st stage: [19 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 ...](#)

FP7 ERA-NET Sumforest call for research projects: "Sustainable forests for the society of the future". Deadline: [17 June 2016](#). [More ...](#)

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

Competitions and Consultations

Competitions

LCiP Awards 2016. Deadline: [2 April 2016](#). [More ...](#)

RegioStar Awards 2016. Deadline: [15 April 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Consultations

Consultation on 2018-2020 Work Programme of Societal Challenge 5 'Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials'. Deadline: [8 April 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Consultation on ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation. Deadline: [27 April 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Circular Economy Package (Rolling Programme). Adoption foreseen for the Plenary session of [27-28 April 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Preparation of a sustainable bioenergy policy for the period after 2020. Deadline: [10 May 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Newsletters and Publications

Newsletters

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

Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, issue 31, March 2016. [Read ...](#)

AEIDL Flash, 18 March 2016. [Read ...](#)

Going Local, March 2016. [Read ...](#)

The Beacon, March 2016. [Read ...](#)

Publications

EU Rural Review, issue 21. Published by: ENRD, 2016. [Read ...](#)

Research & Innovation across EU borders. Published by: EIP-AGRI, 2015. [Read ...](#)

The cost-effectiveness of EU Rural Development support for non-productive investments in agriculture. Published by: European Court of Auditors, 2015. [Read ...](#)

European Structural and Investment Funds and European Fund for Strategic Investments complementarities. Published by: European Commission, 2016. [Read ...](#)

Access to Seeds Index Report 2016. Published by: Access to Seeds Foundation. [Read ...](#)

Responsible Tourism: A Guide for Tourism and Sustainability in Small-Scale Fisheries and Agri-Food. Published by: University of Greenwich, 2015. [Read ...](#)

Swedish Rural Parliament, 27–29 May 201, Gotland, Sweden

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 in Gotland is "Towards a balanced country". 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 ...

A brighter future for Europe: Innovation, integration and the migrant crisis, 11-12 April 2016, Siracusa, Sicily, Italy

This two-day gathering bringing together approximately 60 - 80 policymakers, foundations, academics, social entrepreneurs, and local communities to meet some of the most innovative projects around Europe that have the potential to contribute improving the longer term, sustainable integration of migrants in communities across Europe. More ...

OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Development, 18-19 April 2016, Venice, Italy

This year the Forum will focus on creativity, jobs and local development. We will examine how localities can support culture and creative industries as a source of knowledge and job creation and how the creative industry can act as a powerful driving force areas such as tourism, urban regeneration, and social inclusion. More ...

For a rural Agenda in the programming period post 2020, 19 April 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The potential of rural areas, in all their diversity, is not being adequately realised in relation to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. It will not be enough to adapt policy: a radical change is needed. Such a White Paper is an essential means of starting a real, broadbased debate on rurality, with a view to a rural agenda for inclusion in the post-2020 programming period. As part of this process, the conference on 19 April is an important step towards taking more account of rural areas in future EU policies. More ...

Environmentally Smart Agriculture, 19-21 April 2016, Tartu, Estonia

This annual AGROFORUM brings policy makers, entrepreneurs and research institutions to tackle problems of environmentally smart agriculture (ESA) in Baltic Sea region and beyond. More ...

EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Operational Groups: first experiences', 20-21 April 2016, Legnaro, Italy

DG AGRI is organising a two-day workshop dedicated to exploring and sharing the practical experiences of the first Operational Groups (OGs), from setting up partnerships around concrete projects to implementing them. More ...

Thematic Seminar 'Bioeconomy - Challenges for the EU Regions', 29 April 2016, Brussels, Belgium

This seminar on Bioeconomy-related Research and Innovation (R&I) aims to raise awareness and foster exchange of information and best practice between the European Commission and the EU regions as well as among the regions themselves. More ...

European Sustainable Development Week, 30 May – 5 June 2016

The European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) is an initiative to facilitate the organization of activities that promote sustainable development and make these efforts visible on a common platform. The recently adopted global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) articulates key issues that call for urgent action at all levels and by all stakeholders. The ESDW contributes to this ambitious, universal and transformative agenda by promoting the organization of bottom-up activities that have a thematic link to and support the SDGs. More ...

Sustainable Foods Summit, 9-10 June, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Sustainable ingredients, food waste and marketing developments will be featured in the European edition of the Sustainable Foods Summit. Like previous editions, the summit will bring together leading organisations involved in eco-labels and sustainability in the food industry. More ...

15th Summer Academy On "Social Economy and Sustainable Rural Development", Mouzaki, Karditsa, Greece, 16-23 July 2016

The 15th Summer Academy of the Euracademy Association aims to explore the contribution of social enterprises and cooperatives to rural areas, but also focus on ways to enhance their formation and trading success as well as demonstrate courses of action through best practice examples collected from across Europe. 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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