



Newsletter

May 2016
Newsletters Archive

NEWS

ALTER – Active Local Territories for Economic development of Rural Areas

Project ALTER is implemented by a consortium of rural networks in Western Balkan countries and Turkey, encouraged and supported by PREPARE. The goal of ALTER is to stimulate an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society, as well as to empower civil society to be effective and accountable independent actors, and to improve their capacity to dialogue with Governments influencing policy and decision making processes in sustainable development of rural communities and holding them accountable for their performance towards citizens and society at large. [More ...](#)

ERP 2017 Gathering

The climax of the ERP 2016-17 campaign will be the Third European Rural Parliament, to be held in October or November 2017. In January 2016, PREPARE issued a Call for proposals from national partners to act as host for that event. Four proposals were received. The Steering Group has shortlisted two of these, from Kodukant in Estonia and Landelijke Vereniging voor Kleine Kernen in the Netherlands. The coordinating team visited the two countries in late May for detailed discussion with the two organisations. The Steering Group expects to meet in mid-June to decide which country should host the event. PREPARE is very grateful to the four partners for submitting these proposals.

Final report of ERP 2015 campaign is submitted

The final report on the use of the Europe for Citizens grant for the ERP 2015 campaign was submitted on 29 April to the European Commission. The process of preparing that report was very demanding, because of the detailed records of expenditure and of public participation in the campaign events. ERP 2015 campaign coordinators offer warm thanks to Swedish partner Hela Sverige ska Leva, which carried the burden as formal applicant for the grant, and particularly to Lena Husen whose hard and detailed work completed the report; and also to national partners for their patience in responding to requests for information. A total of over 6,600 people participated in ERP campaign events in a total of 39 countries. The report will be published on the websites www.helasverige.se and www.europeanruralparliament.com.

5th NRNs Meeting in Amsterdam

The aim of 5th NRNs Meeting (2014-2020) was to discover how to reconnect these worlds. The examples showcased during the event aimed to demonstrate how the approach and perspectives of cultural workers and artists can help to re-connect and communicate more effectively with rural stakeholders. [More ...](#)

Organic farmers urge Commission to ban patents on seeds

In this [press release](#) from 17 May 2016, the IFOAM EU delegation urged the Commission to urgently clarify that seeds and genetic traits that can be found in nature and obtained through conventional breeding cannot be patented. More in [IFOAM EU Newsletter, May 2016](#).

Financing for Green Infrastructure Investment

An event at the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) on 10 May, just ahead of the Bank's 25th Annual Meeting, looked at how to finance green infrastructure investment, bringing together two of the key SDGs ([Sustainable Development Goals](#)): the calls for urgent action to combat climate change and to deliver resilient infrastructure. [More ...](#)

What priorities for the cohesion policy after 2020?

This Tribune by Marjorie Jouen, adviser at the Jacques Delors Institute, is an extract from her address to the final session of the European Committee of the Regions conference on "The Future of the Cohesion Policy Beyond 2020", held in Brussels on 3 March 2016. She traces the development of the cohesion policy and analyses the new challenges facing it, before herself proposing a number of recommendations for the future of the cohesion policy after 2020. [More ...](#)

Invitation to contribute to the "Simplify ESIF platform"

In the end of 2015, the Commission has established an online platform for discussion on simplification for the ESI Funds. The Simplify ESIF platform allows all stakeholders to share experiences, present ideas, engage with other stakeholders, and help the Commission reach a more effective and efficient management of the funds. The High Level Group of independent experts on monitoring simplification for beneficiaries of the ESI funds is considering the feedback received via the platform in their discussions. The topic of the next meeting to be held on the 21st of June is gold-plating and the members of the group would like to invite you to share with them your ideas on the matter via the platform. [More ...](#)

Joint Statement on the European Innovation Council (EIC)

Over 50 leading European universities of science and technology united within CESAER, EuroTech Universities Alliance, IDEA League, CLUSTER and Nordic Five Tech (N5T) with this joint statement share their position on the European Innovation Council (EIC). [More ...](#)

Reports from ELARD`s president meetings in May

ELARD president, Kristiina Tammets, prepared a brief reports from three meetings held in May - [meeting with John Grieve \(ENRD\)](#) held on 19 May, [meeting with ECM partners](#) held on 19 May, and [meeting of Civil Dialogue Group on Rural Development](#) held on 20th of May.

EU Funding Documents and Seminars

Interreg ADRION programme at European Maritime Days 2016 in Turku, 18-19 May 2016. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Opportunities

EC: Actions to boost the demand and supply side of the finance market for social enterprises. Deadline: [13 June 2016](#). [More ...](#)

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

Interreg Central Europe 2nd call. Deadline: [23 June 2016](#). [More ...](#)

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

Call for tenders: Framework contract for the evaluation studies of CAP measures contributing to the general objectives of balanced territorial development. Deadline: [1 August 2016](#). [More ...](#)

2016 Call for proposals for LIFE Grants. Deadlines: September 2016. [More ...](#)

Competitions and Consultations

Europe in My Region 2016. Deadline: [12 June 2016](#). [More ...](#)

Newsletters and Publications

Newsletters

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

Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, issue 33, May 2016. [Read ...](#)

IFOAM EU Newsletter, May 2016. [Read ...](#)
Special Edition Newsletter on the International Day for Biological Diversity. [Read ...](#)
RegioFlash, 30 May 2016. [Read ...](#)
Going Local Newsletter, May 2016. [Read ...](#)
Interreg Europe Newsletter, May 2016. [Read ...](#)
Danube Transnational Programme Newsletter, No. 3, 2016. [Read ...](#)

Publications

LEADER Local Development Strategies (LDS): Guidance on design and implementation. Published by: ENRD, May 2016. [Read ...](#)
Smart and Competitive Rural Areas. Published by: EAFRD, 2016. [Read ...](#)
Profitability of permanent grassland: Starting paper, Final report, and Factsheet. Published by: EIP-AGRI Focus Group, 2016. [Read ...](#)
Thematic Networks under Horizon 2020. Published by: EIP-AGRI, 2016. [Read ...](#)

EVENTS

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 ...](#)

LeaderFEST 2016, 8-10 June 2016, Karlova Studanka, The Czech Republic

LEADER Fest is traditional meeting of local action group representatives alongside with other European stakeholders active in rural development practicing the method of Leader. LeaderFEST 2016 JESENÍKY is mainly focused on examples of good practice and experience sharing. The time will be devoted also to the future of program LEADER for the period of 2014-2020. [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 ...](#)

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2016, 13-17 June 2016, Brussels, Belgium

EU Sustainable Energy Week brings together public authorities, energy agencies, research organisations, NGOs, businesses, and private consumers to share best practices and inspire ideas on secure, clean and efficient energy. [More ...](#)

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture, 14 June 2016, Vienna, Austria

The Forum for the Future of Agriculture organise regional conferences every year to discuss agriculture and environment at a national level across Europe. [More ...](#)

5th AIEAA Conference, 16-17 June 2016, Bologna, Italy

The fifth AIEAA Conference aims at providing a scientific contribution to these issues by expanding the knowledge base on the fundamentals of better regulation, and by promoting a critical debate on the underlying theoretical and methodological issues and policy implications. [More ...](#)

Forum Synergies Civic Dialogue workshop, 23-26 June 2016, Poland

The focus of Forum Synergies Civic Dialogue workshop will be "How have you implemented in your country, participation and stakeholders dialogue in EU procedure such as Natura 2000, CLLD-Leader, Water framework (or other ones specific to the country/region.)? The workshop will include training sessions (offered by participants aiming to share methods), fields visits and exchange with local stakeholders on this topic. And working group sessions to share experience and discuss topics of participation and stakeholders dialogue in local/rural development and environmental issues. Deadline for registration: 1 June 2016. [More ...](#)

Methods for assessing impacts of Rural Development Programmes 2007-2013, 4-5 July 2016, Palermo

The Good Practice Workshop will provide a forum for evaluators and academics to exchange on evaluation methods used in the ex post. Managing Authorities will be familiarised with the European Commission's expectations on the ex post evaluation and will learn about the criteria for the quality assessment of ex post reports. Registration deadline: 15 June 2016. [Event agenda](#). [Online registration form](#).

Western Balkans Youth Conference, 4 July 2016, Paris, France

The Connecting Youth conference will take place in Paris, 4 July 2016, in the margins of the Western Balkans Summit. Connecting Youth will bring together 150 young people from the EU and Western Balkans countries, to discuss common challenges and work towards finding joint solutions. [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 ...](#)

Landscape and cultural heritage: The power of case studies, 5-9 September 2016, Innsbruck and Seefeld, Austria

This open session wants to collect and exchange experiences, case studies and good practices of landscape and heritage from all over Europe. The papers presented by the participants will give input to the overall discussion to come up with a list of take-home and key messages to be used in future landscape and heritage projects on different scales. [More ...](#)

LINC 2016, 27-29 September 2016, Dabas, Hungary

The aim of the annual LINC seminar is to gather those people together, who are interested in rural development of different areas of Europe in order to have the opportunity to exchange ideas with each other. [More ...](#)

X European Mountain Convention, 3-5 October, 2016, Bragança, Portugal

The X European Mountain Convention will present a state-of-the-art of the situation in mountain areas and of how experience and technical knowledge have been used to provide solutions to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The focus will be on solutions not only at the policy level, but also at the practitioners' level, on different issues such as agriculture, energy, water, transport and tourism. [More ...](#)

AlpWeek: Alps & PeopleLiving culture!, 11-15 October 2016, Grassau, Germany

The manifold aspects of the relationship between the Alps and the people who live, work and recreate there will be the main focus of the fourth edition of the AlpWeek in October 2016 in Grassau/Achental (Germany). [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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