



Newsletter

July 2016
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NEWS

PREPARE Gathering 2016

PREPARE Gathering 2016, which will be also the first multi-national thematic meeting of ALTER project, will take place from 13th until 16th September in Albania, Voskopoje. Participants of PREPARE Gathering are invited from PREPARE member and partner organisations and/or ALTER project partners. The Gathering will include one-day Travelling Workshops (September 14) and two days for workshops, discussions and plenary sessions (September 15 and 16). [More ...](#)

"Thoughts after Brexit" by Hannes Lorenzen

Chairman of PREPARE Organizing Group, Hannes Lorenzen, expressed few thoughts about Brexit. You can read the whole article [here](#).

Project to support European Rural Parliament approved

PREPARE, ERCA and ELARD applied in partnership with Swedish Rural Network Hela Sverige Ska Leva and many other European organisations for the funds to support the European Rural Parliament. Project was approved in the frame of the programme Europe for Citizens (Civil Society Projects). Series of events and activities within the program will follow and culminate in October 2017 with the main gathering European Rural Parliament. [More ...](#)

Tools for NRNs available online

The ENRD Contact Point has made available a range of tools intended to assist Network Support Units (NSUs) in achieving the key objectives and tasks of National and Regional Rural Networks across Europe. [More ...](#)

RegioStars Awards 2016: Jury selects 23 finalists as Europe's most outstanding regional projects

The finalists for the 2016 edition of the RegioStars Awards, the yearly competition honouring Europe's most inspiring and innovating regional projects supported by EU Cohesion Policy Funds, have now been revealed. The 23 selected finalists come from regions and cities in 14 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. [More ...](#)

New fi-compass handbook on ex-ante assessment for rural development financial instruments

A new *fi-compass* publication has been launched featuring advice about developing financial instruments for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Entitled '[Methodological handbook for implementing an ex-ante assessment of agriculture financial instruments under the EAFRD](#)', the new publication provides a planning framework for managing authorities interested in using EAFRD financial instruments. [More ...](#)

Brand new website for the SIMRA project

The new Horizon 2020 project SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas) has officially started on the 1st April 2016 for four years. The project aims to categorise and understand social innovation in different settings (thanks to case studies), to develop an integrated set of methods for the evaluation of social innovation and its impact on rural areas, to analyse the success factors for social innovation and disseminate new knowledge to policy-makers. Their website and social media have just been launched. [More...](#)

Agroecology in food and farming systems

Nineteen organisations from ten countries have recently set up an association called **Agroecology Europe** bringing together people from throughout the food chain, from producers to consumers. It is working towards promoting agroecology for the sustainable development of farming and food systems. It gives priority to on-field research, holistic and participatory approaches, and transdisciplinarity that includes different knowledge systems. [More...](#)

EU Funding Documents and Seminars

Info Week H2020 Societal Challenge 2. [More ...](#)

Innovation Deals for a Circular Economy. [More ...](#)

Public consultation on Horizon 2020 'Food Security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy' Work Programme 2018-2020. [More ...](#)

Cross Border Cooperation programme in the Mediterranean Basin (CBCMed) online tool: E-Platform for Neighbourhood. [More ...](#)

EU Funding Opportunities

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 ...](#)

Europe for Citizens: Town twinning 2016 - 2nd deadline: 1 September 2016. [More ...](#)

Europe for Citizens: Network of Towns 2016 - 2nd deadline: 1 September 2016. [More ...](#)

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

Newsletters and Publications

Newsletters

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

Newsletter on Agriculture & Innovation, issue 35, July 2016. [Read ...](#)

ARC2020 newsletter. [Read ...](#)

Publications

EU Rural Review 22. Published by: European Network for Rural Development, 2016. [Read ...](#)

Local and Regional Governments in Europe. Published by: Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), 2016. [Read ...](#)

EVENTS

Cork 2.0: European Conference on Rural Development, 5-6 September 2016

Exactly 20 years after the ground-breaking European Conference on Rural Development in Cork, which concluded with the signing of the [Cork Declaration on Rural Development](#), European Commission is organising a second European Conference on Rural Development in Cork on **5-6 September 2016**.

The Conference aims to bring together 250 or so stakeholders in order to discuss current and future challenges of farming and rural areas, as well as potential policy responses. The Commission will start inviting policy makers, NGOs, members of academia and other interested parties in the coming weeks. [More ...](#)

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016, 6-8 October, Brechin, Angus

The Scottish Rural Parliament 2016 brings together 400 people from across rural Scotland to discuss the issues of greatest importance to rural communities. [More ...](#)

European Week of Regions and Cities 2016, 10-13 October, Brussels

The 14th European Week of Regions and Cities, previously called "Open days", will focus on the challenges currently facing Europe's regions and cities. Building on the implementation cycle of EU cohesion policy programmes, the event will be aligned with the political priorities of the European Commission's and the European Committee of the Regions for 2016 and with the interests of the partner regions and cities. You can register [here](#). [More ...](#)

Festival of Slovenian LAG 2016, 9. - 10. September 2016, Slovene Istria

Conference of Festival will be held on Friday, 9.09.2016 in Merezige, Koper. The conference is aimed to regional international integrations of LAG and developing projects of cooperation between LAGs. The Festival of Slovenian LAG will be held the next day, on Saturday, in the centre of town Koper. [Program of Festival](#) includes presentation of LAG and presentation of exhibitors, cultural program from rural parts of Slovenia and abroad (exhibitors) and presentation of the pearls of the natural and cultural heritage of rural areas in Slovenia and abroad (exhibitors). Application form is available [here](#).

Opportunities for European Agriculture: Green Growth and Dynamic Markets, 5-6 October 2016, Athens, Greece

In view of the increasing challenges facing EU farmers and agri-cooperatives, Copa and Cogeca, representing over 23 million European farmers and their families, as well as 22000 agri-cooperatives, are organising a congress on 5-6 October in Greece on how to ensure a sustainable, competitive, innovative and economically viable EU agriculture sector in the future. [More ...](#)

Other Events

August

[The LEADER Fair for Transnational Cooperation](#), 24-26 August 2016, Jänedä, Estonia

September

[Landscape and cultural heritage: The power of case studies](#), 5-9 September 2016, Innsbruck and Seefeld, Austria

[Conferences and Forums of Terra Madre](#), 22-26 September 2016, Turin, Italy

[LINC 2016](#), 27-29 September 2016, Dabas, Hungary

[The Trade for Sustainable Development Forum](#), 28-30 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

October

[X European Mountain Convention](#), 3-5 October, 2016, Bragança, Portugal

[32nd International Film Festival AGROFILM 2016](#), 3-8 October 2016, Nitra, Slovakia

[AlpWeek: Alps & PeopleLiving culture!](#), 11-15 October 2016, Grassau, Germany

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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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