

### THE PREPARE FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS HELD IN KOSOVO

Besides elections of Board and officers (Described in Neovember Newsletter), the only decision during the GA, was to welcome organisation from Kosovo as a new member of PREPARE.



The Fourth PREPARE General Assembly was held in Peje, Dukagjini region of Kosovo on 31st October 2018.

“All members agreed with appreciation and praise that NORDK\* had been a caring and professional host during this Gathering and that they are welcomed in PREPARE family.”

From the discussion, the following recommendations were given as guidelines for the new PREPARE team: more efforts in communication and animation, increased activities in the Black Sea area, and the preparation of an action programme for PREPARE relying on previous activities and members' thoughts on future activities.

Some thoughts on the future were discussed at the General Assembly. Besides the key aims of supporting the strengthening of civil society and promoting exchange between civil society, authorities and governments in the field of rural development, proposals were made for connecting PREPARE with existing and upcoming projects, linking PREPARE more closely with the European Rural Parliament and LEADER networks and meeting the future environmental challenges

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[www.facebook.com/nordkosovo/](https://www.facebook.com/nordkosovo/)

### EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT ON THE ROAD

Twenty ROAD partners and all 40 ERP partners work together to raise their voice for better quality of life in rural areas.



ROAD is a project supporting the European Rural Parliament 2018-19 work, funded by the EU Europe for Citizens Programme.

it is about doing things together and participating in projects, thematic activities or animation activities. You will find these on the ERP website [www.europeanruralparliament.com](http://www.europeanruralparliament.com). ERP partners can now learn more from ERP activities, look for ERP documents and go into the extranet. Personal access codes will be provided to the ERP-contact persons.

The 4th European Rural Parliament will be held in Asturias in Spain. The host of the event will be READER, the Asturian Rural Development network.

## newsletter #WeArePrepare

### PREPARE GATHERING 2018

The PREPARE GATHERING 2018 and the second multi-national thematic meeting of the ALTER project were held from the 30th October until the 1st of November 2018, in Kosovo, in the town of Peja



Participants to this important event were representatives of member organisations of the PREPARE network and members of the Balkan Rural Development Network, who are partners in the regional project ALTER.

This multi-national meeting addressed the importance of dialogue on the following issues:

- Strengthening the capacity of CSOs and CSO Networks to participate actively in policy planning and implementation, to build a strong civil society in rural areas, and to enhance regional development through networking and cooperation
- Building the partnership of CSOs and CSO Networks with public institutions and their involvement in decision-making and governance processes, for the well-being of rural communities in those countries.

The initial activity of the Gathering was traveling workshops organized in three groups visiting farms, agro-businesses and other successful agricultural and rural initiatives in three different regions of Kosovo.

The purpose of organizing these travelling workshops was to get acquainted with the work and activity of some farmers and individuals engaged in agricultural and livestock activities in some rural localities in Kosovo. Participants of these visits shared their impressions on the work they saw, and information received, and then came up with some findings and recommendations that mainly relate to the support needed by the different national programs.

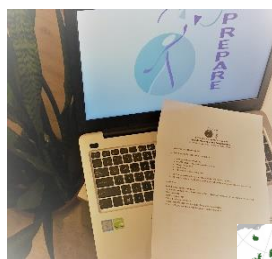
The Gathering's opening session was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Kosovo, the representative of the European Union office in Kosovo, as well as other participants from government institutions and civil society organizations. The Minister, in the panel section, presented the overall situation of the rural sector in Kosovo, quoting the achievements, difficulties, challenges and needs faced by the rural community in Kosovo, highlighting the application of the Rural Development Programme as a good opportunity to support the activity of all those who invest in the development of rural areas.

During workshops, participants in working groups discussed topics related to the LEADER approach, capacity building and sustainability of PREPARE Network, the role of CSOs in rural development policy. Key outcomes from the discussion have been presented by each group at the end of the session.

One of the most important conclusions of the Gathering is the joint commitment of all participants to insist even more on strengthening cooperation between civil society stakeholders, including networks and organizations in the region / Europe by advocating to public institutions to improve the support to rural development, which will influence improving the

### TWO PREPARE BOARD MEETING WERE HELD SINCE NEW BOARD HAVE BEEN ELECTED

Since new board and officers have been elected, already two board meetings have been organised.



Both board meetings were organised remotely via electronic communication tools. The first board meeting was organised in 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 and was dedicated to establishing a common understanding of the joint work, bringing together the visions of each board member for PREPARE development and prioritising the main tasks.

The second board meeting was organised in 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2018. Topics such as possible changes in PREPARE statutes, communication and visibility, PREPARE projects, survey of members, fundraising, PREPARE representation in consultative bodies, and European Rural Parliament were discussed. Members of PREPARE can request the minutes of the board meeting and become acquainted with the decisions taken.

The next board meeting will be organised in mid-January 2019 and will be dedicated to PREPARE action plan development.

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### BALKAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (BRDN) MEETS IN SKOPJE

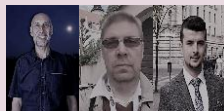





On December 13th and 14th, six of the BRDN members, representatives of the rural development networks of Serbia, Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, gathered in Skopje to discuss and develop a draft of BRDN's Statute, which will serve as a base in the further process of formalisation of the BRDN.



The Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia presented the activities planned for the following year as part of the We Effect's support for developing the capacities of BRDN and introduced the concept for establishing a Gender Equality Hub as an advisory body within BRDN and the rest of governing and executive bodies. A fruitful discussion was initiated by the BRDN members related to the organisational structure and the membership provisions. It is expected that during 2019 BRDN will have defined its statute and procedures for the functioning of management and executive bodies.

### NEW REPRESENTATIVES IN CONSULTATIVE BODIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED

During the board meeting (12th of Dec. 2018) the PREPARE representatives in European bodies and their substitutes have been agreed

European Rural Parliament Steering Group:	 Goran Soster, Kim Smedslund, Leotrim Gërmizaj
European Rural Network Assembly:	 Goran Soster (Substitute Nikša Božić)
Rural Network's Steering Group:	 Kim Smedslund (Substitute Āris Ādlers)
LEADER/CLLD Sub-group:	 Goran Soster (Substitute Urszula Budzich-Tabor)
Rural Development Civil Dialogue Group:	 Āris Ādlers (Substitute Urszula Budzich-Tabor)
Civil Dialogue Group of Experts in European Structural and Investment Funds	 Nikša Božić (Substitute Āris Ādlers)

**PREPARE AISBL**

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# PREPARE- Partnership for Rural Europe AISBL

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

[www.facebook.com/PrepareAISBL](https://www.facebook.com/PrepareAISBL)



Partnership for Rural Europe

## newsletter #WeArePrepare

**MORE THAN 100 FACEBOOK FOLLOWS DURING PREPARE FB PAGE HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED**

Became a PREPARE AISBL Facebook follower too: @PrepareAISBL and use #WeArePrepare



### Season's greetings

We wish all our members, partners and friends our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

The newsletter was prepared by the board of PREPARE AISBL

Be free to share!!!

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