

PREPARE AISBL PRESIDENT ARIS ADLERS PARTICIPATES IN “CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP MEMBER ORGANISATION EXCHANGE OF VIEW EVENT”

“Civil Dialogue Group member organisations exchange of view event” was organised by the European Commission on the 1st of February 2019.



Civil dialogue groups assist the Commission to hold a regular dialogue on all matters relating to the common agricultural policy, including rural development, and its implementation. More information about Civil dialogue groups: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/civil-dialogue-groups_en

On the 1st of February European Commission gathered the Secretary generals and presidents of all civil dialogue groups to discuss about Brexit.

In addition to the agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, concerns were expressed about the non-signing of the agreement by the UK. In case of a “hard Brexit”, the following EU aid instruments are planned: Investments aid for agriculture holdings, Investments aid for companies in processing and marketing, advisory services and training, aid for closure of capacity and restructuring, loans, guaranties, rescue and restructuring aid for undertakings in difficulty, de minimis aid.

Together with PREPARE and other NGOs, ELARD representative Kirsten Birke Lund and ERCA representative Staffan Nilson took part in the event.

PREPARE AISBL VICE-PRESIDENT GORAN ŠOSTER PARTICIPATES IN “PERMANENT SUBGROUP ON LEADER AND COMMUNITY -LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT”

Permanent Subgroup on LEADER and Community- Led Local Development was organised by ENRD on the 31st of January 2019.



PREPARE's representative Goran Šoster took part at the sixth meeting of the LEADER Sub-group. Participants got the information about state-of-play in the current period and discussed the possibilities for improvement in the next programming period from 2021-2027. Sub-group members exchanged examples of LAG's self-assessment. Communication of LAGs with their target groups was important part of the meeting. In the future CAP LEADER will be an important building bloc. LEADER remains as compulsory part of the CAP Strategic Plans and can address all the objectives of the CAP in the next period. In the future period payments will not be primarily based on eligibility but on results. Cooperation projects will be selected only by LAGs in the future. More about the meeting can be found at the following link:

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/6th-rural-networks-leaderclld-sub-group-meeting_en

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PREPARE NETWORK IN 2019 CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

In connection with the 20th anniversary of our network, we publish here short articles about the history of PREPARE. Here is our story no. 2. (you can read the previous story in newsletter no. 1 of January 2019)



... the PREPARE initiative was born at the travelling workshop organized in Estonia and Sweden in 1999, but the name PREPARE – Pre-Accession Partnership for Rural Europe – was decided by participants at the second workshop, organized in Hungary in 2000. Inspired by the first event, Marta Marcziš initiated this second meeting, which involved two plenary meetings in Budapest and site visits in rural Hungary in four groups. Marta had been one of the facilitators of the event in Estonia and Sweden and was president of the Hungarian Rural Parliament in that time.

The 4-day event was organized by Marta and the team of the Hungarian Rural Parliament (HRP) with the contribution of Peter Szegvari, senior adviser of the Prime Minister's Office for regional development and public administration reform. The event was financed by the Open Society Institute and the Prime Minister's Office, which also offered its conference room for the opening and closing workshop. The four travelling groups visited different places to study realities of the pre-accession countryside, such as rural areas dealing with environmental problems after closing heavy industry; remote micro-regions which are home to disadvantaged Roma people; etc. As group moderators, Staffan Bond and Kjell-Roger Karlsson from the Swedish Rural Movement, Isabel Holburn from Forum Synergies (a great friend, who has passed away since) and Marta worked together with members of the HRP. A small mistake in technical arrangements made the study visits unforgettable for the organizers: at the end of the first day's workshop, a hundred participants have waited in front of the Prime Minister Office, in the centre of Budapest, but the buses did not arrive on time to transport participants to the countryside. The solution was to take the whole group back to hotel by about 25 taxis stopped ad-hoc and pre-paid by cash in the street....

The first Budapest workshop aimed to identify the common rural development problems, needs and potential solutions of the ten "pre-accession" countries from the "Eastern Bloc" (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria). On the last day, conclusions and two important decisions were made: participants strongly agreed to establish a permanent network and decided on its name: PREPARE, suggested by Michael Dower. On the closing day, Michael led the workshop and prepared the report of the event, including the decision on membership (one country, one organization) and the name of the network.

Sandor Koles, Executive Director of the Carpathian Foundation participated in both the workshop in Estonia/Sweden and in Hungary. After the Budapest workshop, he helped the PREPARE representatives establish first contact with the MOTT Foundation. His recommendation and contribution were the initiating step to create PREPARE's long-term financial partnership with the MOTT

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THE MOLDOVAN LEADER NETWORK IS ESTABLISHED

Moldova is ready to implement LEADER as never before. In addition to the 30 LAGs that have been established, the National LEADER Network has also been built in Moldova



Initiatives to implement the LEADER approach in the Republic of Moldova started in 2016. Facilitation of the process of creating Local Action Groups (LAGs) has been carried out by various organizations active in the field of local development. Today in Moldova there are more than 30 established LAG initiatives, some of them functional and implementing development projects through competitions organized and carried out by the LAG.

Recent activities of LEADER progress in Moldova can be found in the webpage: www.leadermoldova.eu/ For those who are interested in the topic, more information about LEADER activities in Moldova can be followed via FaceBook page @leader.moldova

Under ENPARD programme support, the National LEADER Network has been established. The president of LEADER network is Marina Albu.

More information about national level networking activities can be found at <https://www.enpardmoldova.md/>

From PREPARE members, Hungarian Rural Network (Marta Marczis under SARD project support) and Latvian Rural Forum (Under support of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Latvia) have been active in Gagauzia region and Northregion of Moldova for supporting of development of Local Action Groups. The partner of PREPARE in Moldova is ProCore regionala. <http://procore.md/en/>

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH PREPARE REPRESENTATION

February 27, 2019

Brussels, Belgium

“SDG Rural Development”

PREPARE will be represented by Āris Ādleris (PREPARE president)

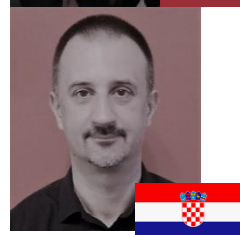


February 28, 2019

Brussels, Belgium

“Structured dialogue with European structural and investment funds’ partners group of experts

PREPARE will be represented by Nikša Božić (PREPARE board member)



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THE EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT IS ON THE ROAD TOWARDS ITS 4TH GATHERING

The 4th European Rural Parliament (ERP) is expecting participants from the 6th to the 9th of November 2019 in the Spanish region of Asturias. On the ROAD to the Gathering, on the 14th of March 2019, a joint event of the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Rural Parliament will take place in Brussels on “Making rural areas the engines of a sustainable Europe”



This event is an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss about recent and future rural policy issues from Brexit to the next programming period 2021 onwards. The final programme will be sent to ERP-partners soon. There are not too many available seats so be there when the registration starts. There is unfortunately no financial support for the travel.

The European Rural Parliament should bring ideas, suggestions and policy messages where appropriate to the event. This can be done by participating in the ERP animation activities, discussion forum activities, surveys and thematic work now available on the ERP website. In PREPARE's case it is important to take up Balkan and Black Sea issues in relation to EU rural programming.

For more information: Kim.Smedslund@suomenkylat.fi

INTRODUCING OUR FRIENDS

Civitas Foundation for Civil Society (Romania)



Over the last 25 years Civitas have been changing the daily lives of people in the local community by engaging them in innovative, sustainable and socially impacting programs.

Organisation believes in the force and civic involvement of the community and brings citizens and authorities together to transform initiatives into projects, plans into reality and development opportunities in prosperity.

The activity of Civitas focuses on the following fields:

- Rural development;
- Social economy development;
- Civil society development;
- Human resources development;
- Administrative capacity development.

More information:

<https://www.civitas.ro>

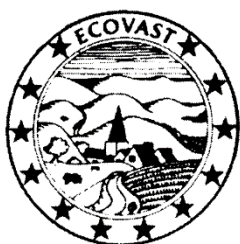
<https://www.facebook.com/fundatiacivitas/>

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INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

ECOVAST

	www.ecovast.org		
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The European Council for the Village and Small Town (ECOVAST) was set up in 1984 to foster the economic, social and cultural vitality of rural communities throughout Europe and to safeguard and promote the sensitive renewal of the built and natural environments.

We are organized as an international network that gathers academics, anthropologists, archaeologists, architects, economists, ethnologists, geographers, historians, industrial archaeologists, researchers, sociologists, town planners, and rural practitioners from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The membership is widely drawn, to include individuals, academic bodies, government and non-government organisations, from local to international level. ECOVAST can thus act as bridge between decision-makers and those who are active at local level, between experts and practitioners.

We have national sections in several European countries, which provide a focus for activities in individual countries to benefit its rural communities and rural heritage. We focus our work on landscape, rural buildings and heritage, small towns and rural tourism. We have organised events and developed position papers, strategies and publications covering culture, heritage, landscape, urban-rural linkages and tourism development in rural areas of Europe.

ECOVAST events always try to involve and encourage active participation of the local communities where they take place. Our conferences always include a study tour of the local area where we can look at relevant projects and meet local people from the rural areas visited. This makes our meetings a two-way knowledge-sharing experience. As we were one of the founding organizations of PREPARE network, this methodology was successfully further developed and can be traced in PREPARE's travelling workshops and annual gatherings.

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PREPARE NETWORK IS PROMOTING NEW ACTIVISTS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

We are launching a new PREPARE Aisbl initiative - Presentations of young rural development enthusiasts. Meet Zane Seredina from Latvia



"Rural activist is a person who strongly believes that what matters is people's skills, relationships and effort, not the place on map where they are located." – this is a significant message from Zane.

Zane is currently working as a Project Coordinator in the NGO Latvian Rural Forum and she is qualified as a "Development Planning Engineer".

Her job experience includes work in the business sector, practice in a Municipality Development Department and in a Planning Region.

However, working in the Latvian Rural Forum gives her the chance to work together with local people and to show them how their needs can be met based on their own ideas and effort. Of course this engagement opens doors to her, to use the acquired planning knowledge at all levels.

Recently, she was involved as coordinator in "Baltic Villages on the move", aiming to activate inhabitants in rural areas to have more movement and more joy of sports.

"Selia islands" is another project related to thematic tourism in small rural settlements as a driver of economic and social growth within the region of Selia. During the whole 2018 she had the opportunity to meet face to face with local people from 17 small rural settlements, to speak about their needs, challenges, ideas, to encourage them to action and to be themselves, the ones who determine the development of the place they live in.

Since 2017, she has been involved in a very important initiative called the "European Rural Parliament" as a youth voice leader within this movement. The Latvian Rural Forum team with support of other stakeholders organised the 1st European Rural Youth Parliament in 2017 and this year will engage more youth participants by organising the 2nd European Rural Youth Parliament.

Anyway, according to Zane, rural development initiatives means also informal meetings with friends to implement ideas for their own childhood home village development because she and her friends care about it.

People who have decided to stay in rural areas need support, they should not be left to lose their dreams and hopes for a better future. Since her family lives in a rural area, they all are happy that Zane speaks out loud about challenges in rural areas. They keep encouraging her to work and increase the well-being in rural areas as much as she can.

Zane strongly believes that she is capable to do more and to encourage more rural development activists with whom to support sustainable local development and thus improve living conditions for everybody.

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

The newsletter was prepared by the board and members of PREPARE AISBL