

newsletter #WeArePrepare

News

May, No 2019/5

THE 4TH EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT – INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR PREPARE MEMBERS

The organising team of the European Rural Parliament have launched ERP2019 web page and opened preregistration



Since May 2019, you can follow the latest updates about the European Rural Parliament at <http://www.erp2019.eu/>

The preregistration/registration for the event, planned for 6-9 November 2019 in Asturias, Spain, has started and goes on until end of September. All ERP partners, including all PREPARE member organisations, have a quota of 5 participants. This quota is reserved only until the 30th of June, whereafter preregistered participants from the waiting list can be selected. You can suggest additional participants for registration outside your partner quota, but these will be on the waiting list and selection will be made at different time spots between July and September. You will find all necessary information on <https://www.europeanruralparliament.com/>.

PREPARE has the organising role in at least two workshops, the Balkan and Black Sea Workshop and the local economy Workshop.

PREPARE BOARD HAVE AGREED ON THE SIX MAIN WORKING DIRECTION OF PREPARE AISBL

Based on the answers of PREPARE members gathered via questionnaire, PREPARE Executive Board have agreed on the six main working directions for PREPARE AISBL: (1) Expanding its membership (2) Capacity building for PREPARE members (3) Vibrant platform for cooperation (4) Well functioning organisation (5) Raising the impact of PREPARE (6) Improving recognition of PREPARE



One of the requests from PREPARE members was a strategic vision of developing the network. At the beginning of 2019, a questionnaire was disseminated among members to gather their vision and expectations. On this basis, the PREPARE board have developed the main working directions. From now on, every EB member will focus particularly on one working direction: Goran Šoster for WD "New members", Urszula Budzich-Tabor for WD "Strong Members", Nikša Božić for WD "Vibrant platform", Āris Ādleris for WD "Well functioning organisation", Kim Smedslund for WD "Significant impact", and Leotrim Gërmizaj for WD "Proud to be PREPARE".

As development of PREPARE strategy is open and inclusive process, all members are asked to contribute and provide comments and recommendations. The PREPARE president Āris Ādleris is responsible for the overall strategy development (aris.adlers@gmail.com)

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PREPARE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ENRD STEERING GROUP

Prepare Secretary general has participated in the ENRD steering group in Brussels, 13 May



The Steering groups discusses matters related to the strategy and annual work programme of the European Network for Rural Development. This session was dedicated mainly to self-evaluation and feedback from the April networking event in Brussels. All participants agreed on that events like NetworkX should be organised more often, although ENRD could not make such commitment. Communication by ENRD should be developed to connect more to the local level and local actors with an understandable language. On social inclusion theme, ENRD has started to gather information on fighting rural exodus. In the next programming period 2021-2027 the ENRD network will be renamed CAP-network, covering all rural and agricultural action. This requires rethinking of the network's structure and horizontal themes to be developed. The smart village process goes on.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A MODEL FOR MARGINALIZED GRUUPS EMPLOYMENT

From May 29th to 30th 2019 in the ethno complex "Kolibe", near Niksic in Montenegro, a training of trainers will be organised on "Social entrepreneurship as model for marginalized groups' employment" within the project "Innovative support to employment of rural marginalized groups – SyneRgi".



12 representatives of the Western Balkan rural development networks will participate at this two day training, which will be conducted by trainers from Rural Parliament in Slovakia and Regional Association of the National Network of LAGs Czech Republic, South Bohemia. The participants are expected to transfer the gained knowledge within their national networks in order to improve their capacities to work actively on the employment of marginalised groups in their countries.

The project "Innovative support to employment of rural marginalised groups – SyneRgi" is funded by the Visegrad International Fund and it is implemented by nine partner organizations from the Balkan and Visegrad countries: Network for Rural Development of Serbia as lead partner; Polish Rural Forum (PRF); South Bohemia Regional Association of the National Network of LAGs in Czech Republic; Rural Parliament in Slovakia; Rural Development Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Albanian Network for Rural Development; Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo; Network for Rural Development of Montenegro and Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia

More about project: www.synergiesofbalkan.org/

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3rd CROATIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT (Vodice and Tisno, May 20-23, 2019)

The Third Croatian Rural Parliament was held from May 20 - 23, 2019 in Vodice and Tisno, in the Šibenik-Knin County on the Adriatic coast. The main theme was "Smart villages", or the villages of the future. The organizers were the Croatian Network for Rural Development (HMRR), the Ministry of Agriculture and the national Network for Rural Development (MRR). Local Action Group Sea 249 was host and co-organizer of the event.



The Parliament gathered more than 300 participants from all over Croatia - representatives of LAGs and associations dealing with rural development, professional and scientific organizations, representatives of ministries and state administrative bodies, regions and municipalities, local and regional development agencies, entrepreneurs, agricultural producers, craftsmen and other rural stakeholders. International guests included Mr. Tom Jones of the European Economic and Social Committee and representatives of the European Commission - Michael Pielke and Stefan Jensen.

The President of the HMRR Mr. Albert Varga and the Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia and the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Tomislav Tolušić opened the Parliament, followed by introductory speeches of other high dignitaries.

On the second day, presentations were focused on current topics - smart villages, the future of the CAP and guidelines for the new programming period. In a panel discussion the participants had the opportunity to ask questions and get the answers from the panellists – Mr. Krešimir Ivančić (Ministry of Agriculture), Ms. Spomenka Đurić (Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds), Mr. Michael Pielke (European Commission) and Ms. Svetlana Edmeades (The World Bank). On the same day participants continued discussions on various topics in five smaller groups in the format of the world café / rural café.

The third day was devoted to field workshops, ten of them in total on various topics. The participants were able to exchange experience and opinions on topics crucial for the growth and development of rural areas. Topics included discussions about smart management, co-operation of stakeholders at the local level and possibilities for multi-funded financing of rural development, environmental protection, nature and climate, resource conservation, sustainable development, digital villages, transportation options in rural areas and islands, how to keep young people in rural areas and resources in fisheries.

On the last day, the very valuable conclusions of all the thematic workshops were presented, many of them overlapping through many groups. The importance of continuous education of all those involved in rural development was emphasised: from farmers, pupils and students, to employees of various bodies and services, and especially researchers and educators, who need to transfer their knowledge to new users and generations. Also, mutual learning and the use of good practice were emphasized. The conclusions of the Third Croatian Rural Parliament will serve as a very important element in discussions about the next programming period.

More materials from the Third Croatian Rural Parliament will soon be available on the website www.ruralniparliament.com.

More posts and photos can be found on Facebook by using search hashtag #hrp2019. Prepared by Žana Počuča (HMRR)

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GATHERING OF LITHUANIAN RURAL COMMUNITIES 2019

The main aim is to promote cooperation and partnership between Lithuanian rural community organizations by strengthening their mutual relations, developing the dissemination of good practice, promoting community movement initiatives, promoting healthy lifestyle, physical activity and traditions



This year the gathering of Lithuanian rural communities will be held on 7-9th of June in Karkle, Klaipeda region. More than 1000 participants are expected. During event there will be:

- demonstration and education on traditional crafts;
- improvised discussion cafes where on issues relevant to rural communities: youth involvement in community activities; social inclusion of people from vulnerable groups in community activities; implementation of Lithuanian law on local government and the law on the development of community organisations; environmental protection and gender equality; short food supply chains;
- those who want to do sports will be invited to the fun ethno competition "Strong, fast and beautiful";
- young people will have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills on the stage during performances of the youth collectives "Small rural Diamonds".

LATVIAN – ESTONIAN COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAGS IN MOLDOVA

As a result of succesfull cooperation between Estonian Tartu Development association and Public Private Partnership association "Sernikon" the study visit for Ungeni LAG from Moldova was organised.



From 6 to 10 May, two delegates from Moldova (LAG Ungheni) visited three Local Action Groups in Latvia to learn about the seven LEADER principles, technical administration of EU funds and to understand how local partnerships are working and implementing their local development strategies.

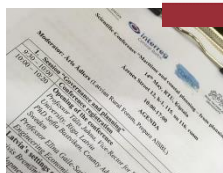
The programme was based on mixing theoretical and practical information that can be useful for the newly established LAG from Moldova. The main topics were related to practical administration issues and on how Latvian LAGs and municipalities are developing small entrepreneurship, local branding and improving life quality in coastal areas of Latvia.

The project was financed by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign affairs from funds of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RELATED TO COASTAL DEVELOPMENT WAS ORGANISED IN LATVIA

In May 14th, President of PREPARE AISBL was moderating international conference “Maritime and coastal planning – from planning to results” in Riga



Conference gathered representatives from Latvia, Estonia, Sweden and Finland to discuss the main challenges of coastal planning and village development activities. The main stakeholders: scientists, municipalities and governmental bodies were gathered at the event organised by the Riga Technical University.

The activity was organised under project Interreg project “Coast4US”. Full video of the conference can be found there:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=64&v=TF1R_Ycj83w&fbclid=IwAR35uc0oa3XA4VwcxIHLYyk0h_aXDrsV82PqPezRplIP7MGuAEE0ksNgtu4

UPCOMING EVENT- NATIONAL RURAL PARLIAMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The first National Rural Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia will be organized in the period from June 12th till June 14th in the town of Krushevo.



The Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia, CNVP – Connecting Natural Values and People and ARD – Action for Rural Development are organising this event as part of the jointly implemented project “National Rural Parliament as a voice of rural citizens”, funded by the EU.

The aim of the first National Rural Parliament in North Macedonia is to create a nation-wide platform of rural CSOs, LAGs, agricultural and rural development associations to interact with the local and national government in jointly defining policies and issues related to rural development. This event will be an opportunity for around 60 rural stakeholders to meet in a spirit of cooperation and develop action for sustainability and welfare in rural areas of the country. At the same time, the Rural Parliament will facilitate the exchange of experience among the rural organisations from the country, but also with the international organisations and experts working in the same area.

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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. 6 (you can read the previous stories in newsletters from January, February, March and April 2019).



The PREPARE Travelling workshop to Finland on 6-9 September 2002, the third one in the series, following Estonia/Sweden in 1999 and Hungary in 2000, had a greater emphasis that these earlier workshops upon governmental approaches to rural development. Finland offers a remarkable example of determined action by government and rural people to pursue an effective nationwide programmes of rural development. At that time (early 2000), the key elements of the Finnish system included:

- the Rural Policy Committee, which (under Prime Minister's authority) bringing together representatives of 10 Ministries and government agencies, plus representatives of leading non-government organisations, and coordinated all policies related to rural areas;
- the scope of rural development work of the Committee is the "broad" rural policy (as opposed to the "narrow" rural policy, i.e. activities directly targeting rural areas), covering all policies affecting rural areas in a different way than the cities. Most policies have to be looked at with a rural lens. These "broad" policies have a greater impact on rural areas than the narrow ones.
- the Village Action movement, with small groups working at local level all over the country, linked to each other through county-level groups and the national Village Action Association
- determined use of both national budgets and EU funds through a nationwide pattern of Local Action Groups. These were based on the LEADER model, but were variously funded by EU funds or national funds (POMO).

During the workshop the participants visited the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Helsinki, the Village Action Movement (SYTY), the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, POMO, the national programme in Ostrobothnia, the Local Development Partnership in the Kaustinen Subregion, the Leader+ programmes in the Middle Ostrobothnia, the village of Eskola (nominated the Village of the Year 2001 in Finland), took part in the Middle Ostrobothnian Village Days and a meeting with the Finnish NGOs. Key persons from these organisations were giving lectures and taking part in discussions with the participants.

21 persons took part in the workshop (not counting local hosts) from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Finland. Also including James McEldowney, Desk Officer, EU-Commission, SAPARD Unit, DG Agriculture, Hannes Lorenzen and Michael Dower, representing the organiser PREPARE.

Prepared by Peter Backa

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INTRODUCING OUR FRIENDS

Pro Cooperare Regională



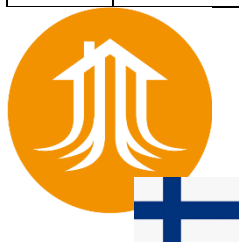
Pro Cooperare Regionala NGO (Pro-Regional Cooperation) from Moldova is active from 2006 and has experience in community mobilization in rural areas, in particular focusing on vulnerable groups. NGO "Pro Cooperare Regionala" during the last 10 years of activity has facilitated and managed the implementation of numerous projects for NGOs, local governments and public institutions in the North of the country. During this period, a close relationship has been established with local public authorities, and civic and community education activities have been organised in about 140 villages from the region. Practically in all those villages from North region of Moldova which directly or indirectly benefited of the organisation's services, partnerships have been established with local public authorities, local NGOs, social institutions (schools and kindergartens) and other CSOs (Local Action Groups). In all activities of the organisation, a special attention is paid to empowering individuals and communities to understand and claim their rights. To do this effectively, they must be able to access information, to organise and participate, to advocate for policy change and obtain redress. The organisation believes that only such actions as mobilisation, organisation, and active participation of the various stakeholders will contribute to raising awareness of people living in rural communities and will empower them in holding state institutions accountable through advocacy efforts and constructive cooperation. In all projects implemented by ProCoRe the key target is young population, especially from rural areas: young farmers and especially women who want to develop their farms, young leaders of rural NGOs, young women who want to develop a business in rural areas.

The mission of the organisation is sustainable development of rural communities from Moldova. Its vision is as follows: each community in the North of Moldova has the initiative and the necessary capacity to assume an active role in building its own future
www.procore.md

INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

SUOMEN KYLAT FINDLANDS BYAR

	https://suomenkylat.fi/		https://www.facebook.com/Suomenkylat/
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Suomen Kylät ry collects Finnish local developers under one umbrella. The organisation represents about 4,000 village associations and committees, 19 provincial village associations, 54 regional LEADER groups, and a growing number of municipal level associations and neighbourhood associations.

The organisation carries out nationwide advocacy for the local level. We connect local actors into a nationwide network that utilises the existing expertise and develops new expertise in a common effort.

Our main goal is vibrant villages and communities whose inhabitants have the opportunity to influence their own living space. Our work includes securing livelihoods, good environment, adequate services and wellbeing for rural residents.

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PREPARE NETWORK IS PROMOTING NEW ACTIVISTS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue a new PREPARE Aisbl initiative - Presenting young rural development enthusiasts. In this edition, meet Zachary Dolomanzhy from Gagauzia (Moldova)

Zahari Dolomanji (Zachary Dolomanzhy) is a rural development activist from Moldova, who started with active engagement at the beginning of his university studies.

He was a volunteer in different programmes including small projects, focused mostly on the village where he was born and where he lived for a while. The village is called Tvarditsa and is located in the south of Moldova, in Taraclia district, a Bulgarian-speaking district. As a representative of the Bulgarian minority (known as Besarabian Bulgarians), he was working on improving the living conditions in the village, mostly focusing on ecology problems and other activities dedicated to the youth, including some open-air events in the village.

He is studying for Civil Law, as a student of the 4th year of the Law Faculty in the Comrat Public University, but his passion is linked with the challenges of rural areas.

Zahari got an opportunity to work in the LEADER programme as LAG manager, and due to this, he started to spend more time in the villages with members of LAG, helping them improve the living conditions in rural areas. He provided various ideas on infrastructure and tourism development, by using his language skills for attracting new contacts, new opportunities and donations to their region. Therefore he considered himself as a rural development activist.

Since his university studies are continuing, he cannot be LAG manager anymore. However, he is still a member of the LAG, in the position of consultant. His involvement with the LAG is based on his volunteering experience in various forums and on his English language skills, as well as on his experience in the identification of problems in rural areas.

Currently, he is working as PR manager in the Association of Gagauzia "NEXT" and project manager in the Public Association "Youth of Gagauzia".

Zahari takes part in a youth project called "Activisation of Youth and Responsible Citizenship", funded by SlovakAid and implemented in partnership with the Slovakian Foreign Policy Association. The project is focused in three main priorities: 1) Education of young leaders from the whole Gagauzia (rural and urban area) 2) Youth Policy Platform - platform for youth policy implementation stakeholders, who are interested in real improvement of the life of youth; it involves a working group of representatives of local authorities, youth NGOs, activists and young community leaders; 3) National Forum of young leaders - platform of confidence building between different regions of the country, which aims to develop solutions to different youth challenges.

For all these challenges, Zahari has support of the family; even his father joined him in some of the activities in village. They understand that youth have to be able to develop their skills and to contribute for overall development of Gagauzia and of Moldova.

Zahari, sees his future life connected to rural development. At least for the next 2-3 years he is planning to work on the involvement of youth in LAG decision-making processes and supporting youth initiatives in rural areas. He has prepared an application for a project that will support youth initiatives in rural areas and in the development of LAGs in Gagauzia, especially on the topic of youth involvement in decision-making processes. He also aims to contribute to increasing the number of small and medium enterprises in rural areas, since business development is the only way to create sustainability and to prevent migration of the population

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