

EUROPEAN RURAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT WILL EMPOWER YOUTH VOICE REGARDING RURAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

As a pre-event of European Rural Parliament, not less important, the second European Rural Youth Parliament will take place in Asturias, Spain from 4 till 6 November 2019. More than 70 young professionals from around 10 countries will be gathering to state youths' perspective on European Rural manifesto. Later, constructive discussions with European Parliament representatives will be held in Brussels



The European Rural Youth Parliament is a powerful platform of making youth opinions regarding rural development challenges heard in European level. The most urging issues will be identified and brought to the table to find solutions tackling them. All outcomes will have a strong foundation – diverse views from people representing different countries and fields.

Young professionals are invited to apply for the event starting from the beginning of August. The participation costs (travel, accommodation and program) for 6 people aged from 20 to 30 years from each organisers' country will be covered. More information soon will be published in the ERP2019 web page erp2019.eu.

ERYP is organised by Latvian Rural Forum (Latvia), Red Asturiana de Desarrollo Rural (Spain), Centre for Economic (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Rural Development), Croatian Rural Development Network (Croatia), International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth – Europe (pan-European), LAGs in Vysocina Region (Czech Republic), Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo, Rural Development Network of The Republic of Macedonia (North Macedonia), Slovak Rural Parliament (Slovakia) and Forum Synergies (pan-European).

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THE PROJECT "Together for Community and Nature: Strengthening of Development Process in Miory District by Partnership of Authorities and Civil Society" HAVE STARTED IN BELARUS



June 26 this year in Miory Regional Executive Committee held an introductory workshop and press event in the framework of the project "Together for Community and Nature: Strengthening of Development Process in Miory District by Partnership of Authorities and Civil Society." The project, which is designed for three years, implemented by local authorities in collaboration with the NGO "BirdLife Belarus (APB)" (Minsk) and the Latvian Rural Forum (Riga, Latvia).

Miorsky area is a corner of the Belarusian Lakeland. On its territory there are about 100 lakes, as well as a unique nature object in Belarus - bog Yelnya - one of Europe's largest raised bogs, whose age is about 9000 years old. Every year there are collected 500 tons of cranberries here, people watching hundreds of species of birds including tens of thousands of cranes during their migration.

An informal Project slogan "Think globally - act locally" is taken as a basis for the concept of sustainable development of the area in which the three main components are: nature (savings potential use of wetlands), economy (support for small businesses) and social dimension (improving the quality of life of local residents).

By the way, nearly 20-year history of the movement for sustainable development in Belarus began precisely in Miory region, to be exact - in the small town Disna country. Residents of Disna together with Belarusian and foreign experts among the first to develop a local strategy for sustainable development. Back in the 2000s, its goal was to improve the quality of life, preserve the natural environment and cultural heritage. Example pushed many other regions and cities of the country. To date, in Belarus about 50 local and regional sustainable development strategies were published and are under execution.

Much attention in the project "Together for Community and Nature: Strengthening of Development Process in Miory District by Partnership of Authorities and Civil Society" is given to trainings. To do this, we planned numerous seminars, workshops, information sessions, a number of environmental and educational activities for volunteers, guides, artists, locals, farmers, owners of agrotouristic sites and other stakeholders. In order to study the best practices in the field of sustainable development information and training trips to European Union countries are planned.

One of the components of the project is development and promotion of local brand "Cranes and Cranberries of the Miory region." Since 2012 the festival under this title every autumn brings together people not only from the district and the region, but also from across the country, and it is known among foreign lovers of rural tourism. Also, local festivals will be held in the framework of the project to Disna town and in Perabrodze village.

As for the social work, the project provides creation of sports fields and camping, purchasing of an ambulance car, construction of the nature observation towers, extension of ecological trails in Yelnya, landscaping of "Peninsula" site in Miory - the main area of the town for public events and so on.

200 thousand euros will be allocated for implementation of 10 local initiatives, two of which will receive 60,000 euros, the rest - for 10 thousand each. According to the plan, it will serve as an impetus for the development of entrepreneurship in Miorski District for those who have good ideas, but does not have the financial ability to implement them.

The implementation of the above measures will contribute to the major objectives of the project: an increase in activity and the expansion of the inclusion of the population of Miory District to the preservation of the unique natural potential of the region, strengthening the capacity of local authorities and the management of sustainable participative development in the District, increase the level of social infrastructure and small businesses in the area.

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CONFERENCE “Social Agriculture and Care Farm: Work opportunity, Social Partnership and Inclusion” HAVE BEEN ORGANISED IN BRUSSELS IN 25TH OF JUNE

The Conference was organised by Care- t- Farms projekt (<http://care-t-farms.eu/index.php/en/>) Erasmus + programme, willing to encourage the use of farms as places promoting positive mental and physical health and wellbeing.



·Social farming, also known as care farming, is based on the principal of using farms as providers of social and health support services. While social farming is suitable for all ages, it mainly targets disabled and elderly persons as well as people suffering from diseases. Use of farming activities is associated with a range of benefits, including increased self-esteem and feeling of inclusion, as well as improved health and wellbeing.

More information in <https://www.euromontana.org/en/how-to-foster-social-farming-in-mountain-areas/>

PREPARE AISBL PRESIDENT IS INVOLVED IN EVALUATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS IN MOLDOVA

Åris Ådlers under project “Civil society engagement in improving the rural development processes and promotion of efficient models for sustainable local development” have started the conducting analysis on agro- rural policies implementation at national level.



Besides analytical work, several interviews were organised in Chisinau to get more clear vision of actual issues related to agro- rural policy implementation. During the visit in Moldova, the meetings with FARM, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, LEADER Moldova, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova and other stakeholders were organised.

On base of analysis and other project activities, implemented by lead partner FARM, the working plan for Rural Development network will be developed.

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FORUM SYNERGIES AND LATVIAN RURAL FORUM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME JOINS PEOPLE

In July under the Scholarship programme Latvian Local Action Group “Sernikon” host young man from Lithuania Darius Vaškys. Here are some photos from his daily diary which is published in his Facebook profile. More information about programme: <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/article154.html>



ESTONIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT

During the 13th Estonian Rural Parliament (July 26-28 2019) in Röpina, Pölva County (Southern Estonia) the rural manifesto was



announced.

The manifesto invites the Government of the Republic, ministries, partners and communities to consider the following points in planning and implementing Estonian village and rural development: Integrated rural coordination, Clarification of the concept of rural area, Accessibility, Involving the community in decision-making processes, Enforcement of Village Elders, Development of community services, Social work in the community, Raising heritage awareness in communities, Empowering people and lifelong learning, Innovation in rural entrepreneurship, Protection and safety of the public, National Support Programs, Enhance the role of communities in the use of European Union funds.

More information in : <https://kodukant.ee/uudised/eesti-kulade-xiii-maapaeva-manifest/>

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



PREPARE gathering, October 2003

The first full multi-national gathering of the PREPARE network was held in October 2003. It was open to all members of the Network. The main organiser was Jela Tvrdonova.

The gathering took an unusual form, with two connected elements: (1) travelling workshops, bringing participants from their home countries to Slovakia and (2) the main gathering at Banska Stiavnica in Slovakia, from 15 to 17 October.

The first part of the gathering was a series of travelling workshops, made by bus or minibus between 11 and 14 October. Each travelling workshop was organised by a member of the PREPARE network. On the evening of 14 October at Banska Stiavnica, the main gathering took place with the following agenda: one day (15 October) -introductions, reports on the travelling workshops and plenary discussion, one day (16 October) of working groups, on subjects chosen by the participants, together with an 'ideas market' which will offer the chance to compare ideas, find partners for future projects etc and a final day (17 October) of plenary discussions, including a **first formal meeting of the PREPARE Network**.

INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

SLOVAKIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT



www.vipa.sk



The Rural Parliament in Slovakia was established in 2000 as an informal platform for rural initiatives.

In 2001, the platform was added to the Civic Association of the Rural Parliament in Slovakia (OZ VIPA SK), which is the executive component of the platform.

The mission of the organization is to promote quality of life in rural areas and support rural initiatives in the management of rural development. Slovakian Rural Parliament proceeds to fulfill this mission mainly by supporting integrated rural development through professional advocacy and information and communication activities in the form of a dialogue conducted at the national level based on the identification of rural needs at the national level.

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PREPARE NETWORK IS PROMOTING NEW ACTIVISTS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue a PREPARE Aisbl initiative - Presenting young rural development enthusiasts. In this edition, meet Aleksandra Todorovska from North Macedonia

Aleksandra comes from North Macedonia, a small country in the Balkan Peninsula with beautiful lakes, scenic mountains and rich cultural heritage in art, architecture, poetry, and music. As a passionate fan of nature and travels, working on utilization of the natural and cultural potentials for developing the rural areas and improving the living conditions is a great pleasure for her, even though quite challenging, bearing in mind the many problems and issues faced by the rural communities. Considering this, she took the opportunity to engage actively in the rural development since of 2012 when Aleksandra joined the Rural Development Network of North Macedonia.

Working as a Project Manager at the Rural Development Network of North Macedonia – RDN of NM, she is actively engaged in the implementation of different activities and projects that contribute to sustainable rural development in the country. As a union of civil society organizations which currently allies 101 CSOs dealing in the area of rural development, RDN advocates for the needs of its members at local, national, as well as at international level. At international level, RDN represents its members through its active involvement and membership in many international organizations such as the Balkan Rural Development Network – BRDN, PREPARE and ELARD. Since last year Aleksandra coordinating the activities for developing the capacities of BRDN to become accountable actor for development of sustainable rural areas in the Western Balkan Region. Having the chance to cooperate and exchange experience with the rural stakeholders from different Balkan and EU countries, She constantly learning innovative rural development practices and positive examples which Aleksandra disseminating in the country through trainings, workshops and even through the daily communication with the rural stakeholders. The current position allows her to have frequent cooperation and to make friendships with rural people, and therefore to get better familiarized with the rural life, the benefits and the disadvantages of living in rural area. Starting with identification of the main problems in the rural areas, she is happy that as part of RDN Aleksandra have the opportunity to address these issues at national and EU level and to work on finding appropriate solutions in direction of improvement of the rural livelihoods.

Coming from an urban area, she always enjoyed the escapes from the city and the walks through nature and small picturesque town and villages. But Aleksandra believes the moment when she became aware about the real problems and disadvantages of the people leaving in rural areas was the time of her student days when she met many friends coming from rural areas around the country. Aleksandra's formal and informal educational background has helped to support the youth in finding their appropriate internship opportunity, creating their portfolios and preparing for job interviews. When she learned about the opportunity to join the Rural Development Network Aleksandra was thrilled to direct her efforts towards developing rural areas and creating better living conditions for the rural youth.

From 2017 until this year, Aleksandra was actively involved in the project initiative carried out by RDN that aimed to enhance the capacity of rural CSOs for networking and advocacy in order to influence local decision making processes. By coordinating the research activities she have helped the creation of a comprehensive register of CSOs that work in different fields of rural development. Having the opportunity to see the positive example of the European countries that have been organizing rural parliaments for many years as an efficient process of inclusion and discussion among the rural population and the policy creators, Aleksandra was actively engaged in the organization and outreach of the event. She is pleased to say that this first rural parliament in North Macedonia fulfilled expectations and succeeded to activate all rural stakeholders in the process of jointly improving rural policies and addressing certain challenges related to rural development.

Rural development is the area where Aleksandra see herself having the most influence, considering professional background, as well as personal believing that efforts should be put in improvement of the rural livelihoods as most of the people still live in rural areas. Hence she will firmly stand for creating equal opportunities for people living under the same sky, no matter whether it is rural or urban area

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

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