



TWO MONTHS LEFT TILL THE MAIN GATHERINGS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS AND ENTHUSIASTS OF EUROPE

On 28th of August, the registration of young professionals from Europe for the 2nd European Rural Youth Parliament has been finalised and confirmation of delegations for 4th European Rural Parliament will be finalised till 15th of September. Thus, we will start final preparation for ERP-Youth (4 -6, november 2019) and ERP (6- 9, november 2019). Both events will take place in Spain.



The European Rural Parliament is a long-term campaign to express the voice of rural people in Europe, and to promote self-help and action by the rural people, in partnership with civil society and governments. The European Rural Parliament is co-initiated by three pan-European networks: PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe, European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD) and European Rural Community Alliance (ERCA). For ERP 2019, the official partner is The Spanish Network for Rural Development (REDR). To know recent developments find information in www.erp2019.eu and follow www.facebook.com/4thERP2019/

SMART VILLAGES AS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO ADRESS KEY CHALLENGES IN RURAL AREAS - WORKSHOP IN POLAND 21-22 OCTOBER 2019

Already now in many rural areas communities are organising to look for innovative, smart solutions to a variety of local challenges (the meaning of “smart” in this context is much broader than just digital technologies and covers a wider range of social, economic and environmental innovations). Member States are encouraged to promote such “Smart Villages” and offer them enhanced support in the next programming period.



The Polish Rural Forum and the Institute for Rural and Agricultural Development, with the support of the Polish National Rural Network, is organising a transnational workshop in Warsaw on 21-22 October to present existing Smart Villages initiatives (focusing particularly on Central and Eastern Europe) and discuss how this experience can be transferred and upscaled in the next period, e.g. to improve mobility, develop entrepreneurship, benefit from the opportunities of bio-economy and circular economy, ensure quality education and health services or prevent social exclusion. This will be linked with the ceremony of awards for most interesting Smart Villages initiatives in Poland. English interpretation will be provided. Recommendations from the discussion will be shared with the participants of the November meeting of the European Rural Parliament in November. If you would like to share a project of addressing rural challenges in an innovative way, or take part in such discussion, please contact r.kaminski@pro.onet.pl or sekretariat@faow.org.pl by 20 September.



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RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM OF SEE COUNTRIES 2019 WILL TAKE PLACE IN SERBIA FROM 10TH TO 12TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2019

Balkan Rural Development network in September is organising Rural Development policy forum in Serbia, Zlatibor



We are happy that majority of topics are related to youth: “Policy in supporting youth in rural areas in Western Balkan countries, Turkey and EU”, Economic activities of youth in rural areas – how to establish stimulating environment, Role of civil society organisations in supporting youth in rural areas and activism of youth, Improving living conditions for youth in rural areas.

You can follow recent developments at <https://www.facebook.com/Balkan-Rural-Development-Network>

PREPARE will also make updated announcements regarding the forum <https://www.facebook.com/PrepareAISBL/>

ALTER PROJECT BRINGS TOGETHER PARTNERS FROM 9 COUNTRIES

In august Serbia hosted the ninth meeting of the ALTER project partners-members of PREPARE AISBL



For over three years, the ALTER project has been the first EU project for most partners (rural networks from South-Eastern Europe and Turkey), the first re-granting experience in support of local initiatives, and the first intensive collaboration with partners in their countries and other national rural development networks through more than 50 meetings, research , opinion papers, and other activities in each partner country.

THEMATIC LAB ON SMART VILLAGES IN BRUSSELS, 17 OCTOBER 2019

The ENRD Contact Point is organising a workshop for LEADER stakeholders about Smart Villages.



This ‘Thematic lab’ will explore the interaction between LEADER and Smart Villages and the lessons learned to date together with their current and future relevance to LEADER. This workshop will take place on 17 October 2019, in Brussels, Belgium.

For more information follow <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/> and <https://www.facebook.com/ENRD/CP/>



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POST- 2020: LOCAL ACTION IN A CHANGING WORLD IN BRUSSELS, 3-4 DECEMBER 2019

The Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission is organising a major event showcasing how thousands of citizens are successfully using the “bottom up” approach for sustainable development in their areas, with the support of European funds.



Some of the key features of the event will include: A high level discussion panel involving the new Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and a variety of local stakeholders, An interactive exhibition of 40 CLLD projects from across the EU, Inspiring FLAG-made videos, Group work on tackling different local challenges, A special session on improving CLLD under the EMFF. Registration process will start in September. More information at: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/news-events/events/conferences/post-2020-local-action-changing-world-3-4-december-brussels_en

IN 2019 THE PREPARE NETWORK 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. 8. (you can read the previous stories in newsletters from January, February, March, April, May, July 2019)



After the PREPARE Gathering in Slovakia in 2003, next big milestone for PREPARE Network was organising the **PREPARE Gathering and Travelling Workshops in Latvia and Lithuania in 2005**. The name of the gathering was “**A vision for the future of rural Europe**”. The activities in Latvia were organised by the newly established “Latvian Rural forum” in cooperation with Daugavpils partnership. The event started on 3 October 2005 with a meeting in Riga with representatives from Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia, and continued with travelling workshops to Bauska municipality (South Latvia) and Daugavpils (East Latvia). The coordinators of the event in Latvia was Inga Krekele and Valdis Kudiņš. Representatives of Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia were present in workshops.

Here are some thoughts participants shared about the situation in Latvia in 2005: “The process of local partnership has just started (and little business in it; new established NGOs, capacity building exists – building of self-esteem)”, “Counting on Leader approach (too much?)”, “Partnership principles and Leader can serve as a method of social cohesion and sustainable development of local communities? LAG combining all domestic and international resources”

On October 5th, participants crossed the border and moved to continue the meeting in Lithuania.



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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 Jakub Dvorsky from Slovakia

Jakub Dvorský (25) is from a small village called Lišov, situated in the south part of Slovakia with only 250 inhabitants now, while in the past it was around 800. The village is without water and sewage system, no phone reception, very high unemployment. When he was 18, Jakub left home and went to work abroad, mainly as a volunteer. He was involved in several projects based in rural areas, in different countries of Europe and Africa.

In 2015 Jakub came back and set up a new NGO called Lišov Múzeum. The main idea for this organisation is rural development in Lišov and the surrounding area, including four pillars of sustainability (environmental, cultural, social and economic). All that the organisation does revolves around sustainability, which means: working with local people – artists, craftsmen and farmers, using local materials, and with local skills creating local products ...and linking up with like-minded organisations who have other local products, which can be showcased and sold in the museum's 'little green village shop'. The buildings are restored using traditional methods and the museum draws from a wealth of local art and craft for decoration. It is important that the museum has a place in the wider community of the village and Hont region, so it cultivates and enjoys a fruitful relationship with the mayors, villagers and friends and bottom-up organisation such as the local LEADER group. They welcome visitors from all over Europe, who share their methods and can swap skills and knowledge to help themselves and the museum to grow towards a more sustainable rural future.

In 2017 Jakub became a member of the Slovak Rural Parliament, where he is involved in several projects based on rural development, work with youth, farmers, policymakers. The aim of the SRP is to support integrated development in regions through professional, advocacy and instructive communication activities, mainly through a dialogue conducted on national level, based on the identified needs, to prioritise increasing the quality of life in the countryside, to support rural initiatives in the management of rural development, implementation of educational and mediation activities, organising events, market research and public relations.

Currently Jakub is director and co-founder of NGO Lišov Museum. The organisation is developing new opportunities for local people, helping them to set up their own businesses and reduce high unemployment in the region by organising events, workshops and making the museum 'Living history'. It also wants to create new jobs and possibilities to run own workshops. Over the last years, based in Lišov, Jakub has been involved in several placements, with Erasmus+ and Green Village projects, where learned new skills which he tries to implement in his current position.

Now Jakub is studying history at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. He enjoys traveling and meeting new people, getting experience from different countries and different people about rural life and the countryside.

His family supports Jakub very much. He has set up the organisation with his partner, whom he met on a similar project in Cyprus, and both together they support each other. His sister is also involved in some projects as well as his two cousins from the village, who are studying similar topic and get very much inspired by what Jakub does; they have also participated with him in project in different countries, which they really liked and appreciated very much.

"Rural development, working in rural areas has become my lifestyle"- says Jakub. The village where he comes from is Lišov, and whole area around is really poor, there are not many job opportunities, infrastructure is missing, and this is in his opinion not an interesting place for youth... but he can say it is changing. Even though the number of people who want to live here keeps getting smaller, and young people have to leave to find their jobs in cities, but Lišov Museum is becoming an example of why to stay. Jakub is very happy because in five years his organisation managed to bring some young people back to the village, help them with their own business – they organised small visits to their farms, workshops where they presented their work, so Jakub believes it will be better, and rural areas got a good potential, healthy lifestyle, environment, they just need a little bit of help and should follow the four pillars of sustainability (environmental, cultural, social and economic) and try to keep them in balance.



PREPARE- Partnership for Rural Europe AISBL

www.prepare-network.eu
www.facebook.com/PrepareAISBL



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INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

THE LATVIAN RURAL FORUM (LATVIJAS LAUKU FORUMS)

	http://lf.partneribas.lv/en/		https://www.facebook.com/laukuforums/
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The Latvian Rural Forum (LRF) was established on 22.12.2004. and registered on 27.05.2005. LRF unites rural non-governmental organisations for definite purposes: promote sustainable development of Latvian rural territories, strengthen civil society in rural territories, promote local initiatives and cooperation, represent interests of rural population at national and international levels, cooperate with government, municipalities, NGOs, business persons and other institutions.

The Latvian Rural Forum brings together 69 rural non-governmental organisations. The main LRF activities are: development of NGO cooperation network, explanatory and educational activities for activating local initiatives, strengthening LRF position in the dialogue between politicians and organisations.

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