

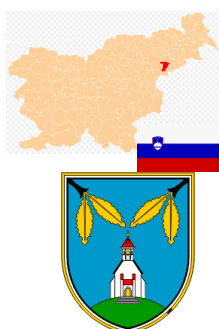
## newsletter #WeArePrepare

News

September, No 2019/9

### PREPARE AISBL MEMBERS WILL MEET IN MAJŠPERK (SLOVENIA)

On 9<sup>th</sup> of October, the PREPARE AISBL General Assembly will take place in the Majšperk (Slovenia)



2019 is an incredibly important year for rural professionals, activists and people who are living in rural areas of Europe. This is the time when the rural agenda under the umbrella of Common Agriculture Policy is being shaped. This is a chance to raise the voice and say: "All Europe shall live". As PREPARE is one of main organisers of the European Rural Parliament, the GA will be a place and time to discuss and agree on the main messages we can (or should) bring to ERP2019.

This time GA host country is Slovenia. PREPARE GA is linked with the 5th Slovenian Rural Parliament

### SLOVENIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT WILL HOST AN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE ON THE TOPIC OF RURAL ECONOMIES

The 5th Slovenian Rural Parliament will take place in Haloze on the 8th and 9th of October 2019.



Upon the initiative of the Slovenian Rural Development Network, the co-organizers of the event are partners of the National Rural Network with cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

More information about the 5th Slovenian Rural Parliament: <http://drustvo-podezelje.si/en/rural-parliament/slovenian-rural-parliament/5th-srp>

### UPCOMING EVENTS WITH PREPARE REPRESENTATION

**November 19, 2019**

Brussels, Belgium

**"Structured Dialogue with ESIF Partners"**

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



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#### THE 4<sup>TH</sup> LITHUANIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN RAUDONDVARIS MANOR ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER

Lithuanian Rural Communities Union is organising the 4th Lithuanian rural Parliament which will be held on the 18th of October 2019 in Raudondvaris manor



The aim of the Lithuanian Rural Parliament is to mobilize the voice of the Lithuanian villages and to decide where the Lithuanian villages should go and what they should be. It is a platform for exchanging ideas, experiences and practical advice on how to preserve the Lithuanian countryside with its inherent social and cultural spirit. It is a joint decision and a joint effort by all of us!

The Rural Parliament will bring together representatives of communities, rural organisations, local and national authorities with one purpose: to discuss and find solutions to rural development problems. The main topics of discussion are:

- the Lithuanian rural development programme 2014-2020, achievements, contribution to the welfare of rural Lithuania, insights into the RDP after 2020
- Experience of other countries in implementing RDP and insights for the future.
- Law on the Development of Community Organizations and other laws affecting community activities.
- White Book on Rural Development and Agriculture in Lithuania - measures to strengthen rural communities.

On behalf of the organizers, we kindly invite you to participate in the event and actively participate in discussions. You can get more detailed information by contacting the organisers (e-mail: [lkbsajunga@gmail.com](mailto:lkbsajunga@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lietuvos-kaimo-bendruomeni%C5%B3-s%C4%85junga-285416331895119/>

#### LEADER IN ARMENIA – LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The President of PREPARE AISBL participated in a UNDP seminar on “How to implement the LEADER/CLLD approach for Local Empowerment of Actors for Development in Armenia”. The event took place in Yerevan (24<sup>th</sup> of September)



The aim of seminar was to provide comparative experience and information to assist partners relevant to LEADER/CLLD implementation in Armenia in harmonizing the approach, tools and vocabulary. During the seminar Āris Ādleris (Representative of PREPARE AISBL) presented the topic “International LEADER experience- achievements and lessons learnt”.

The LEADER piloting in Georgia was considered a good example that can be used in Armenia, as well as recent development of LEADER in Moldova.

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#### SUCCESSFUL FINALISATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM OF SEE COUNTRIES 2019



The 3rd Rural Development Policy Forum of SEE countries was held from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 in Zlatibor, Serbia.

The main theme for this year's forum was youth. The agenda included such presentations as "ENRD and supporting rural youth at the EU level", "Local self-government and local policy for rural development support", "Rural youth policy and young farmers support in Serbia", "The role of CSO and CSO networks in improving policy for rural youth support". Working groups prepared rural youth contribution for the European Rural Parliament.

On the second day of the Forum, inspiring travelling workshops here organised.

For more information, contact Balkan Rural Development network <https://www.facebook.com/Balkan-Rural-Development-Network-2270965519812935/>



#### LOCAL BRANDING AS A TOOL FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS APPRECIATED IN MIORY DISTRICT (Belarus)

PREPARE President participated in an event related to local development initiatives and local resource promotion event in Miory (Belarus) on the 15th of September, 2019



The activity was implemented under the project "Together for Community and Nature: Strengthening the Development Process in Miory District by Partnership of Authorities and Civil Society", implemented in cooperation with the Latvian Rural Forum (PREPARE member) and funded by the European Union. The major objectives of the project are: to increase the activity and enhance inclusion of the population of Miory District in the preservation of the unique natural potential of the region, to strengthen the capacity of local authorities for the management of sustainable participative development in the district, and to increase the level of social infrastructure and small businesses in the area.

During the opening the event, Āris Ādlerš shared the experience of international cooperation for rural development.

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#### IN 2019 THE PREPARE NETWORK CELEBRATES ITS 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

In connection with the 20<sup>th</sup> 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, August 2019)



#### **3rd - 8th October 2005: A long but interesting PREPARE Gathering in Latvia and Lithuania**

Participants from Croatia, Cyprus, Slovenia, Hungary, Macedonia, UK, Belarus, Poland, Romania, Belgium arrived in Lithuania on the 3rd of October 2005 and gathered in Ukmergė. After a nice social evening with different drinks brought by international participants, early on the chilly morning of 4th of October, they left by minibuses to different parts of Lithuania

The first team, led by Guoda Burokienė, headed south to the ethnographic region of Lithuania – Dzūkija, where they met local rural movements, rural activists, visited rural tourism farm. There was a discussion about problems and achievements, hopes and perspectives on how rural territories should look like in a future.

The second group had the possibility to visit rural communities in central and northern Lithuania and participate in a discussion with rural activists in Biržai manor. Participants not only heard about the situation in different regions, but also had to answer many questions on how rural problems are tackled in their countries.

After 2 days of travelling workshops in Lithuania and Latvia all participants met in Birštonas and had a fruitful two-and-a-half-day event with group work and many discussions related to the theme of the whole Gathering – to create a vision for the future of rural Europe.

The organisers of the Gathering stressed: We want our rural communities to be able and empowered to participate in decision making processes on future rural development.

On the 7th of October participants had an impressive gala evening with performance of local musicians, later in the evening started Greek dances with plates breaking, followed by a long night with songs and guitar music.

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### INTERESTED IN LEADER DEVELOPMENT WORLDWIDE?



PREPARE is publishing short updates from different counties. In this edition – news from Albania



Thanks to donor support (World Bank and Swedish government) three LEADER Local Action Groups have been established and supported in rural areas that are highly dependent on natural resources. The intention is to improve the management of natural resources through Local Action Groups.

However, the legal framework is not in place yet. The IPARD II programme envisages the implementation of a LEADER measure and support for LAG establishment. The technical assistance package is not accredited yet, in spite of the deadlines set.

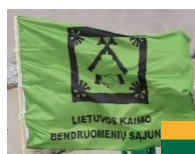
The need for information and capacity building on Leader and LAGs is high among stakeholders. There is limited knowledge on such approach and apparently LEADER measure is not a priority for the Ministry and other decision makers in the rural sector.

Source: Evelina Azizaj

### INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

Lithuanian Rural Communities Union

	<a href="http://www.lkbs.lt">www.lkbs.lt</a>		<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Lietuvos-kaimo-bendruomeniu-sajunga-285416331895119/">https://www.facebook.com/Lietuvos-kaimo-bendruomeniu%C5%B3-s%C4%85junga-285416331895119/</a>
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The Lithuanian Rural Communities Union has 38 umbrella organisations bringing together 1341 rural community organisations.

LRU is an independent union of non-governmental organisations of rural communities registered and operating in Lithuania, coordinating and carrying out the tasks assigned by the members of the Union of Lithuanian Rural Communities and representing their interests. Rural areas in Lithuania cover all types of villages and towns outside the city administrative boundaries. Rural areas make up 97% of Lithuania's territory. The Union represents rural communities from various regions of the country and has a database of legally registered and operational rural communities

The objective is to make the Lithuanian countryside an attractive and safe place with good infrastructure, vital sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other activities, with healthy environment, preserved and cherished landscape.

All rural areas must be developed in a balanced way, combining social and economic policies.

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