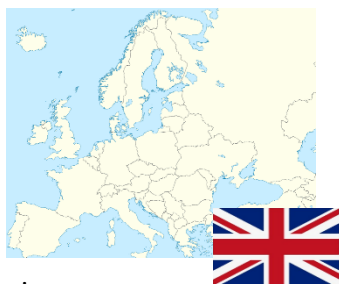


PREPARE- the gate to rural Europe without borders

With the fact that Great Britain have left European Union, the importance of rural agenda for All Europe raise. PREPARE as a network, that highlight importance of cooperation between countries that are in or out of the EU and implementing this ideology in practice, takes more responsibility of building pan- European rural policy and promoting sustainable development not concentrating particularly on EU policies



Our members from PREPARE network representing Great Britain sending message to all friends around Europe, expressing conviction, that people from Great Britain, will feel no less European after 1st of february and political process is not affect vision of wide harmonious Europe. (From open letter by Michael Dower)
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SUCCESSFUL ERP ADVOCACY IN BRUSSELS- PARTNER LOBBYING IN BRUSSELS

The ERP-team (Representatives from PREPARE, ELARD and ERCA) was in Brussels 22-24.1.2020 to present the results of the two-year activities and the Gathering.

From the meetings rose new cooperation and partnership opportunities. We were invited by several of the EU stakeholders to participate in the preparation and the process of the Future of Rural Europe 2050 paper and different events. Event cooperation was suggested by the Presidency (enlargement conference, FAO /ERP 18.3.2020, the future of Europe conference), EESC and CoR (EESC-CoR-ERP joint meeting with date to decide, CoR meeting on long term vision of Rural Europe in spring 2020). The Finnish presidency told of an opportunity to join informal council meetings. MEP Bogovic suggested a presence in the parliamentary committees Agri and Regio. All these important activities will be followed up by ERP. Remains to see how all of this will be concretised, but doors seem to be opened.

Our main messages in the discussions to EU and national governments were

- A real rural agenda base on integrated, place-based development
- Strengthening LEADER and promoting CLLD also in relation to smart villages
- Including rural in the programming and financing of the Green deal and digitisation
- Pursue actively the relations, programmes and funding also with countries outside EU
- A growing partnership between ERP and EU-institutions

More information: <https://www.europeanruralparliament.com/>



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INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST FOR HOSTING THE ERP 2021 GATHERING

The ERP Steering group has decided to open the call to host the **5th European Rural Parliament** to Eastern European partners of the ERP. You are hereby invited to submit an Expression of Interest to host the 2021 ERP Gathering by Friday 28th February 2020. For those partners who expressed an interest, a full Call for Proposals will follow in the beginning of March 2020. The full proposal must be sent to ERP by 1.5.2020 and the decision of the Host is made latest 1.6.2020. The expressions of interest and the full proposals are to be sent to [kim.smedslund\(at\)suomenkylat.fi](mailto:kim.smedslund(at)suomenkylat.fi).



Concept: The ERP 2021 Gathering is provisionally conceived as a three-day event, held in a reasonably accessible rural region of a European country, and attended by at least 280 people, including delegations from all over Europe, plus other leading rural organisations and invited representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe etc. It should be held in autumn 2021.

Thematic focus: The ERP Gatherings enable the work ongoing between Gatherings to be reported, debated and shaped into future ERP Manifesto, policy papers and Action Programmes. Voice of rural people, villages, communities and NGO's, advocacy and partnership between all stakeholders are permanent key elements of ERP-Gatherings. In addition to this, there is scope for the host partner to suggest a leading/locally specific theme.

Financial background: It is important to note that the ERP Steering Group has no confirmed funds from which it might contribute towards the cost of the ERP 2021 Gathering. This must be considered before submitting an expression of interest. ERP is however looking for means to support the organisers financially.

Information to be included in the Expression of Interest

- Arranging organisation(s)
- Country/ies, Region, Venue (capacity and facilities for arranging a big Gathering)
- A leading theme and/or a specific local theme of European interest.
- Preliminary information on funding/funding efforts
- A preferred date, or optional dates for the Gathering in Autumn 2021.

The Expression of Interest signed by authorised personnel of the host candidates

Information. If you have queries related to this Expression of Interest, please send a message to

Kim Smedslund ERP-team kim.smedslund@suomenkylat.fi

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European Rural YOUTH parliament movement representatives have bought ERYP Declaration to Brussels

ERP Youth delegation of 14 young activists have made important meetings with European Stakeholders in Brussels 30 of January 2020 to disseminate the results of ERYP – an event that in November 2019 gathered more than 70 young professionals from 16 countries



ERYP delegation started their meetings with inspirational discussions with representatives of European Network for Rural development (ENRD) and Hannes Lorenzen from ARC 2020. Those fruitful conversations about changing current rural policies and issues concerning the future of Europe that took place in the first part of the day were continued by a meeting with Members of the European Parliament Dace Melbārde, Isabel Bejumea and Niklas Nienaß,.

Rural youth representatives shared their view on 5 objectives of ERYP declaration, discussed current policies and how they can be improved for the next planning period to respect the needs of the rural youth and to take actions accordingly. Importance of involvement of youth in policymaking process as well as the necessity to reach out for people in remoted rural areas in order to have an inclusive opinion have been stated from both sides, opening a further involvement possibility of rural youth in decision making processes.

The meeting in Brussels with European stakeholders was processed within the project “The best is yet to come. Youth create tomorrows’ rural reality from village to wider Europe”, financed with the support of European Commission’s “Erasmus+: Youth in Action”

ALBANIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT II 2020 | EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE OF RURAL ALBANIA



Albanian Rural network for Rural Development (ANRD) have announced 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament. ANRD is organising parliament incooperation with Agricultural University of Tirana on april 2-3, 2020

The Albanian Rural Parliament (ARP) represents an advocacy, capacity building and networking event dedicated to rural development in Albania. The ARP is the instrument through which the Albanian Network for Rural Development seeks to influence the agenda of rural development in Albania.
Read more: <https://anrd.al/rural-albanian-parliament/>

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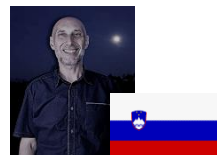
UPCOMING EVENTS WITH PREPARE REPRESENTATION

February 4, 2020

Brussels, Belgium

“Permanent Subgroup on LEADER and Community- Led Local Development”

PREPARE will be represented by Goran Šoster (PREPARE Vice- President)



February 7, 2020

Brussels, Belgium

“Meeting of the CDG Rural Development”

PREPARE will be represented by Urszula Budzich-Tabor (PREPARE board member)



IN 2020 THE PREPARE NETWORK CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE 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. 9. (you can read the previous stories in newsletters from January, February, March, April, May, July, August, September 2019)



PREPARE Gathering 2006 was held at Velehrad, in south-eastern Moravia, Czech Republic, 21 to 23 June 2006. The Gathering was preceded by two-day Travelling Workshops, starting in Prague on Monday 19 June. The hosts were the Czech National Rural Observatory, the Czech Network of Local Action Groups and the Buchlov Local Action Group in Moravia. The theme of the Gathering was „The evolution and activity of Local Action Groups, and their role in Rural Development Programmes?” .

All members of the PREPARE network were receiving the detailed announcement of the Gathering.

At the meeting in Prague in June, the PREPARE partners accepted with pleasure requests from two recently-formed national rural networks to join the partnership in the PREPARE programme. The Czech National Rural Observatory was set up in 2005 by twelve individuals who are active in rural development at national or regional level. The decision to create the Observatory followed three years of initiatives by these individuals to bring together people involved in rural action, including national and regional conferences, training programmes and promotion of LEADER-type local action groups. PREPARE had given financial support to this set of initiatives, from the funds given to us by the Mott Foundation. The new Observatory operates through a National Network for Rural Development, as the network of more than 40 Local Action Groups throughout the Czech Republic.

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PREPARE NETWORK IS PROMOTING NEW ACTIVISTS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue the PREPARE Aisbl initiative - Presenting young rural development enthusiasts. In this edition, meet Marta Vergara Fores



Marta Vergara Forés lives in Oviedo, in the capital of the beautiful land of Asturias, Spain. She considers herself a cheerful, outgoing person, with character and self-confident when Marta have to make her own decisions. She like to get as involved as possible in work to achieve the goals. In relation to the rural milieu, she believes that anyone who is dedicated to and empathizes with this field of work (a very extensive and beautiful area) could be considered a true activist and defender of the rural environment. “You simply have to believe in what you think. I believe that the rural world needs a boost and reinforcement — support from young people”, sais Marta.

Marta studied a Law Degree at the University of Oviedo and she have two Master's Degrees from this same university: University Master's degree in Legal Protection of Vulnerable People and Groups, and University Master's degree for Access to the Legal Profession. Marta loves reading and learning every day from countrie and its laws, legal procedures, etc. She was also an Erasmus student at Clermont-Ferrand (France), and this has been a stage that Marta will never forget.

A a lawyer she met the Asturian Network of Rural Development — READER, through a scholarship from the university, mainly to organise the ERP 2019 and of which she was the Project Coordinator. After this period, Marta have been hired in READER and I she already part of the team: The whole team of READER is made up of wonderful people who take care of her a lot, which is a real luck. Marta is in charge of legal advice and assistance within the Department of Legal and International Affairs.

The most recent rural development initiative Marta have come into contact with are ERP 2019 and ERYP 2019, as these were the main objectives and purposes of scholarship and her first contact with rural development. Within READER they are teaching many things and training both professionally and academically to support and help the rural milieu to be better, to be part of the future (more than it is) and that the villages are seen as something positive and not negative.

Family have been always supporte Marta and will be my maximum and biggest support: a fundamental pillar Martas life. She have never been or felt conditioned by family, they have always supported in making my decisions, they have known how to advise in both good and bad times, and Martas parents are the reason for having come this far and where she is. All training, studies and achievements so far, Marta owe to them. And although the question is about family, she don't want to forget about real and close friends, they are also a fundamental part of her, who are always there when they are needed, and of course boyfriend, since without him many of Martas decisions would have been meaningless; he is always helping her, advising, looking for the best, which is fundamental, a big pillar too.

At the moment Marta feels comitted to rural development, because it is an area of work in which she is trained strongly. READER is made up of wonderful people who are helping each other a lot on this path and have always offered to Marta their help when it is needed. “I feel very supported and cared for by everyone. Furthermore, I don't want to forget the GREAT work they do and the involvement they have with rural development, not only because of their interest at a general level (whether national or international) but because of the real substance of their work: ASTURIAS”, admit Marta. Rural development in the hands of READER has had, has and will have a great future.

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INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

Croatian Rural Development Network

	www.hmrr.hr		https://www.facebook.com/Hrvatska.mreza.za.ruralni.razvoj
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Croatian rural development network - HMRR is an organisation and a network of organisations that promotes sustainable development of Croatian rural areas since 2006. By working together, networking, partnership and knowledge transfer we aim to improve conditions for sustainable development and high-quality life in rural communities. At this moment, the Network counts 43 members.

We advocate an evenly developed Croatia, in which residents of rural areas actively contribute to developing their communities by their social and economic activities.

HMRR's areas of activity are: (1) advocating interests of rural stakeholders in creating and implementing public policies, (2) networking and informing our members and contributors to rural development, (3) education, exchange of knowledge and experiences and (4) organisation development.

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

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