

### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PREPARE MEMBERS - SAVE THE DATE FOR PREPARE GA!

The General Assembly of PREPARE aisbl will be held on 15 of May 2020 in Moldova



We are happy to invite all Members of PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe to General Assembly 2020. Among other questions, the members will take decision on the acceptance of the National Rural Development Network of Moldova as a full member of PREPARE, as well as elect new board members, Secretary General and Treasurer.

### PREPARE REPRESENTS ITS MEMBERS IN CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



PREPARE board member Urszula Budzich-Tabor participated in the Civil Dialogue Group for Rural Development meeting in Brussels (7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020).

The meeting focused on the following main themes:

- preparations for the EU legislative framework for the years 2021-2027, in particular the CAP reform and “transition rules” for rural development: taking into account that the preparations for the new CAP are delayed, the European Commission is proposing to put in place temporary legislation which will allow Member States running out of rural development funding 2014-2020 to use, for one year (2021), their new EAFRD allocation according to the “old” funding rules.
- the European Green Deal as a priority of the new European Commission, in particular the “Farm to Fork” strategy soon to be put in place, and the possibilities of using financial instruments to contribute to the Green Deal objectives.
- work on the long-term vision of rural areas: a reflection exercise on how different EU policies can address challenges facing rural areas (such as depopulation, basic services and connectivity, education, poverty and social exclusion), which the European Commission is shortly going to launch together with civil society actors as well as national, regional and local authorities.

There was also discussion about the future of the CDG in the next programming period, especially its relationship with governance bodies of the rural networks at EU level

#### Long term vision of rural areas

Rural areas seem to be a priority for the current Commission, they are explicitly mentioned by the President in her political guidelines and in the nomination letter to the AGRI Commissioner. They are affected by many policies, and the CAP cannot respond to all challenges (demographic and others) – a more joint approach is needed. Therefore Commissioner Wojciechowski has the task to develop – in consultation with rural inhabitants, local and national authorities etc. – a long-term vision shared by all MS and rural people; the whole process is to be coordinated by Commissioner Šuica, EC Vice President for Democracy and Demography.

For more detailed information, refer to Urszula Budzich-Tabor: [ula@preparenetwork.org](mailto:ula@preparenetwork.org)

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### EU-MOLDOVA LEADER CONFERENCE – BUILDING RURAL PROSPERITY FOR PEOPLE



The 2nd edition of the EU-Moldova LEADER Conference – “LEADER across Europe”, is scheduled to take place on May 13th-16th, 2020 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

The main goal of the event is to present the implementation of the LEADER approach in Moldova and to create a platform to exchange EU and non-EU LEADER experience. Thus, the event will provide networking opportunities and will share the Moldovan experience in

implementing a locally tailored LEADER programme.

And one of the most important purposes of the Conference is to serve as a platform for LAGs from non-EU countries to build and strengthen sustainable and fruitful collaboration and share valuable experience.

The webpage of the event <http://www.conference.leaderin.md/> will be launched on 1st March 2020. To learn more about Moldovan LEADER please visit website of the National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova and follow us on Facebook: <https://leaderin.md/> <https://www.facebook.com/leader.moldova/>

### PREPARE, ELARD AND ERCA WILL SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF ORGANISING THE EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT AND RURAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Presidents of three civic rural developments platforms of Europe: Āris Ādlers (PREPARE), Marion Eckardt (ELARD) and Staffan Nilson (ERCA) have prepared a draft agreement for the organisation of European Rural Parliaments and European Rural Youth parliaments.

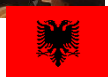


All 3 organisations are having internal discussions regarding the agreement and after final negotiation, the plan to sign the document till the mid-2020. This will facilitate work of the next round of ERP. The full text of agreement will be available for members of PREPARE.

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### PROGRESS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES IN ALIGNING THE EUROPEAN AGENDA OF RURAL AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA

The Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD), with the support of the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), organized on January 15, 2020, at the premises of the EU House, the Round Table on 'European Rural and Agricultural Development Agenda in Albania: Progress and future challenges'



About 40 participants, including senior representatives from main institutions of the sector, members of the IPARD II Program Monitoring Committee, key donors supporting agricultural and rural reforms, academics and experts, representatives of ANRD member organizations and other actors of rural and agricultural development attended this roundtable. More information: <https://anrd.al/news/progress-and-future-challenges-in-aligning-the-european-agenda-of-rural-and-agricultural-development-in-albania/>

### CZECH REPUBLIC WILL HOST 11<sup>TH</sup> LINC CONFERENCE



LEADER Inspired Network Community – LINC – is European LEADER academy which promotes exchange of experience between different LEADER communities in the European union and beyond. The LINC initiative was formed by local action groups ten years ago. The first LINC conference was held in Austria in 2010. Further conferences were hosted in Italy, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden, Hungary, Latvia or Estonia. The Czech Republic will host the LINC conference for the first time in 2020. More information about the whole concept: <http://www.info-linc.eu/>.

Apart from LEADER projects presentations, the organiser LAG Šumperský venkov is preparing non-traditional sport activities, regional cuisine, food and drinks for all participants coming to the region of Jeseníky mountains, where the LINC 2020 will take place. Don't hesitate and come to experience the mountainous region, beautiful nature, kind people, nice atmosphere and much more – everybody is invited! See <http://www.linc2020.eu>.

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### THE FIRST NATIONAL RURAL PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

Montenegro will hold its first rural parliament on the 20th and 21st March in

Kolasin.



More than 100 participants from the civil sector, state institutions, various forms of associations and individual agricultural producers are expected to participate. Participation of representatives of civil society related to rural development, as well as institutions from the neighbouring countries and the EU, is also expected. The parliament will cover current topics related to rural development, such as how to keep young people in rural areas, empowering short supply chains, increasing the competitiveness of agriculture, establishing LAGs, exchanging experience with other countries and similar topics.

### SWEDISH RURAL PARLIAMENT 2020



Welcome to participate in Landsbygdsriksdagen 2020. The event will take place in Jönköping County from the 8th till the 10 of May. Please note that all sessions are in Swedish. We offer translation for parts of the program. Two excursions and two seminars will be held entirely in English. More information : <https://landsbygdsriksdagen.se/english/albania/>

WELCOME TO THE SWEDISH RURAL PARLIAMENT 2020.

### UPCOMING EVENTS WITH PREPARE REPRESENTATION

**March 17, 2020**  
Brussels, Belgium  
**The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Structured Dialogue with European Structural and Investment Funds partner group experts**

PREPARE will be represented by Āris Ādleris (PREPARE president)





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**IN 2020 THE PREPARE NETWORK CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE 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. 10. (you can read the previous stories in newsletters from January, February, March, April, May, July, August, September 2019 and January 2020)



The 2007 PREPARE Gathering was organized by the Polish Rural Forum (FAOW). The main meeting took place in Przemysl, and the four Travelling Workshops (with 45 Travellers and 54 local participants) visited projects on both sides of the Polish-Ukrainian border, including bicycle routes dedicated to the memory of the Good Soldier Svejk; small community schools and educational organisations; historical monuments and a wide range of local business activities.

The plenary meeting on October 11 was attended by almost 70 participants from 20 countries and included reports from Travelling Workshops with local comments, a discussion panel on the preparation of the Rural Development Programmes, and work in smaller groups on cooperation between civil society and governments and expectations of rural organisations for the future PREPARE activities.

In spite of the busy schedule, there was time for informal networking, music and singing!

### INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

Serbia Rural Development Network



The association “Network for Rural Development of Serbia” is a voluntary, non-governmental and non-profit organization, based on freedom of association of natural or legal persons, established to improve the quality of life and promote balanced regional development in rural areas of Serbia. The Network for Rural Development of Serbia is a young organisation in the sector of rural development in Serbia. However, a strong advantage of the network is its members, having a significant experience and remarkable results in rural development. The area of activity is the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

<http://www.balkan-noborder.com/content/network-rural-development-serbia-0>

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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 **Tomas Harant** from Czech Republic

Tomas Harant is 24 years old and comes from Czech Republic. A university student, fan of technological innovation, he has been working since two and half years in the Local Action Group "Naděje", located in north-western part of Czech Republic.

As an active Local Action Group, they are using the LEADER/CLLD method, which is very important instrument in a rural development sector, so they are constantly analysing problems and situation in respective LAG area and according to results they are addressing the voice of rural area to higher level authorities and institutions. In their daily work and mission they use the integrated CLLD funding to address the concerns and needs of rural community.

Tomas is working as a project manager in the LAG with special tasks related to administration, communication with the applicants and evaluation of the projects according to funding applications. In addition, Tomas is member of a working group on Smart Villages and working group on international cooperation within the National Network of Local Action Groups of the Czech Republic. Based on his role in these working groups, he gained an additional opportunity to be a part of the European Rural Youth Parliament. He is actively trying to address and develop the idea and initiative of the National Rural Youth Parliament, which can be an important step to minimize the significant problem of depopulation and migration of youth from rural areas.

Beside these, he is a student at the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University and currently he's writing a bachelor thesis focused on Smart Villages.

Tomas took part in the European Rural Youth Parliament 2019 in Spain, where the challenges and needs of rural youth were discussed. The final outcome of their work was a declaration presented to the European Parliament and in other EU stakeholders during the advocacy meetings organized recently in Brussels.

Another recent initiative at national level is to communicate, together with other members of working group of Smart Village, with the Ministry of Industry and Trade about the role of LAGs as an innovation broker.

Tomas has significant support from his family, who give him the freedom in personal growth issues. They fully support him in the way he has chosen for his life and career.

According to Tomas, rural development sector is facing many challenges and problems, especially depopulation consequences and problems, so he is glad that he can to some extent contribute to improving the conditions for the citizens living in rural areas.

Rural development is a long-term process in a dynamic sector, and he sees his work as an important mission.

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