

PARTNERSHIP FOR RURAL EUROPE- PREPARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020 WILL BE HELD ON 15TH OF MAY VIA ZOOM PLATFORM

The General Assembly of PREPARE AISBL will be held ON 15th of May, 2020 12:00 CET via ZOOM platform.



During the GA2020, in addition to the mandatory agenda point for official annual assemblies, members will make decision on acceptance of a new member, elect new board members, appoint new Secretary General and Treasurer. Every member will get access to the meeting via a special link, while the agenda and complementary documents for GA will be sent via e-mail. Read latest updates in: <https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2020/04/16/partnership-for-rural-europe-prepare-general-assembly-2020-will-be-held-on-15th-of-may-via-zoom-platform/>

PREPARE INCREASING CAPACITIES BY EXTENDING THE BOARD

During the General Assembly of PREPARE Aisbl, the members of association will vote for new board members.

Candidates to be elected as a board member of PREPARE Aisbl



Evelina Azizaj



Kim Smedslund



Nikša Božič



To increase capacities of the PREPARE Network, during the GA2020 members of the association will be able to vote for new board members.

For the moment, the candidates for the position of board member are Evelina Azizaj, representing the Albanian Network for Rural Development, Kim Smedslund representing the Finnish Village Action Association (Current Secretary General of Association) and Nikša Božič representing ECOVAST. You can read about the current composition of the board here: <https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/board-and-management/>

The PREPARE is open for more candidates, nominated by the members of the Association. According to the Statutes, Executive Board members must be, or represent, full members of the Association. They are elected by the General Assembly for a period of time finishing at the end of the Ordinary General Assembly meeting following the third anniversary of their election.

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BECOME A SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED CIVIL RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF EUROPE



PREPARE Network is looking for passionate rural development enthusiast with the experience in management and civic work who is interested in starting to lead the process of PREPARE AISBL management.

The Secretary General is charged with the day by day management of the Association. The responsibilities of the Secretary General include, but are not limited to, the following matters:

- a) to keep all members of the Association informed of its activities, and of developments related to matters which are handled by relevant international and intergovernmental authorities,
- b) to prepare agendas for meetings of the Association in consultation with the President, and to write the minutes of these meetings,
- c) to prepare, in cooperation with the Treasurer, the annual budget for submission by the Executive Board for the approval of the General Assembly,
- d) to coordinate the working groups of the Association,
- e) to ensure the representation of the Association among the European institutions and at the international level,
- f) all other responsibilities which are assigned by the Executive Board.

The Secretary General can be recruited among members of the Association or from outside the Association.

The work of Secretary General is voluntary, except when implementing projects where external financing is secured.

If you are interested, write to: info@prepare-network.eu

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PREPARE IS ORGANISING SERIES OF WEBINARS

The first webinar is planned on 28th of May, 2020 on the topic of “National Rural Parliaments”



PREPARE management together with the members have started preparation of series of webinars related to different topics on civic participation in Rural development process of Europe.

The first one will be dedicated to Rural Parliaments. The aim is to introduce this method to stakeholders and country representatives who would like to discover this way of rural population involvement on policy shaping. During the webinar, experience from Slovakia, Finland, Albania, Serbia will be presented.

Follow our website to know more. The webinar links will be available later.

HOST FOR THE FIFTH ERP PRE-SELECTED

The 5th European Rural Parliament Gathering host has been pre-selected. We are happy to announce that Kielce, a city in Poland located between Warsaw and Krakow, will host the next Gathering in Autumn 2021. Let's keep working for the Rural Voice of people, villages and communities and make us even stronger



The process of selecting Host of 5th ERP Gathering was organised by Steering group of ERP. You can read more about ERP <https://europeanruralparliament.com/>

SMART RURAL 21 PROJECT

Be part of the Smart Rural 21 project and become one of the supported rural communities. The project supports the development of villages in planning, actions and provides peer events/education to the selected villages. Only 12 villages are to be selected. The deadline is 11 May 2020.



To find out more and apply, you can access call information and the simple application form on the project's website: www.smartrural21.eu.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the project core team through smart-rural@e40.eu.

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IN 2020 THE PREPARE NETWORK CONTINUES 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. 11 (you can read the previous stories in newsletters from January, February, March, April, May, July, August, September 2019 and January, February, March 2020).



PREPARE Gathering in 2010. This year 109 participants from 20 European countries gathered in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) from 30th August to 3rd September. The participants were welcomed by representatives of the organisers (ALKA and PREPARE) as well as by Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Mr. Ljupco Dimovski. Also, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Dacian Ciolos, addressed the PREPARE Gathering participants with a letter that was read out at the conference. Speakers from the Delegation of the European Union from Skopje, AFSARD Macedonia, Standing Working Group, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Leibniz-Institute for Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO), ELARD and PREPARE raised a lot of important aspects of rural development. In their opinion, many European regions were unable to contribute to the three EU goals of sustainability, competitiveness and cohesion, because of limited resources. The LEADER initiative, after having experienced three programming periods, has reached maturity. ARC 2020 was an initiative towards a new common voice for civil society. The human factor in rural development issues was considered of crucial importance. The importance of local people's involvement in rural development, empowering local actors and forests was highlighted. Overall, the presentations about the future of the CAP as part of the ARC2020 process opened many issues which will become more relevant for accession countries in near future. Participants learned about existing problems, possible reform plans and new challenges. The most important thing was ensuring that rural civil society should be fully informed about the functioning of the CAP and the changes which might occur.

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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 **Edisona Franca** from Kosovo

Edisona is a 23 years old agricultural student from Kosovo. She is a youth activist, primarily dedicating time working for the Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo which she joined last year. As an agricultural student she strongly believes in the importance of agriculture in rural development, especially with regard to land use, but also taking into account the potential contribution of farming to rural development in terms of supporting employment and environmental services, thus representing a major component of the viability of rural areas.

Edisona has always loved being in environments where she can grow, learn and be challenged, but most importantly where she can connect with other people. So, besides her involvement in the Network, she has been actively engaged with youth and rural women, mainly in trainings and informative sessions, aiming to raise the awareness and encouraging them to advocate for their community needs.

Before joining NORDK, Edisona was a volunteer in one of the non-governmental organisation "Eco kos women", in the project on "The Capacity Building for Advocacy on the Benefits of Agricultural Grants for Women in Rural Areas". She was also a volunteer at "Alumni UP" with focus on the professional progress of students who have completed studies at the University; been mentor at one of the Peer Educators Network Organisation project's – PONDER, Critical Media Literacy workshop; she was an intern at the Food and Veterinary Agency of Kosovo, and also taken part in a variety of youth trainings and courses.

This year she is involved in one of NORDK projects supported by We Effect and Sida. This is an initiative which aims to address the gender inequality and youth role in rural areas. Related to the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemics, they have published the first analysis about the impact and implication of the pandemics in Gender Equality in Kosovo, and they are working for the next paper addressing the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemics upon women's entrepreneurship in Kosovo. Edisona will also be involved in other activities that NORDK are planning to have, for example on-going discussions regarding the organization of the Rural Parliament of Kosovo 2020.

Her family has always been Edisona's biggest personal and professional growth supporter and guidance. They have continuously been the source of advice, creating a solid foundation upon which she developed professionally, supporting almost every step of her decisions, inspiring and encouraging, and this was a key factor that brought her where she is today.

Growing up in a rural area and being involved in different projects that aims rural development as well as her field of study helped Edisona understand rural communities' needs better, but also seeing their life and challenges they face from close by. This is what made her realise why she would like to participate in advocacy for their needs.

According to Edisona, supporting agriculture, rural development and rural economy in general are sources of employment and income generation for the rural population. This is why being engaged within projects and activities that aim sustainable rural development is a great opportunity to work with, especially toward cooperation with potential stakeholders in rural development.

As we can see rural development cannot exist without the engagement of the local population, and as a rural youth activist Edisona wants to be part of them.



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INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS - Bosnia and Herzegovina Rural Development Network

	http://ruralnamreza.ba/		https://www.facebook.com/MrezaZaRuralniRazvojBiH/?ref=hl
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The Rural Development Organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina (MRRu BiH) is an organization of civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina rural areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The aim is to address this issue in an unambiguous way, so as not to reduce the level of interest in the organization in the rural sector.

The aim of the network is to increase the capacity of rural and rural development, partnering with the private and private sectors in the field of rural development and rural development.

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