

EU RECOVERY PLAN FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

During a webinar organised by PREPARE, Silvia Michelini from the EC told about the EC proposals of the recovery plan – following Brexit and Corona, and the plans to include citizens in the preparation of the Future of Rural Europe paper. She also mentioned the increased possibilities for networking between EU and non-EU countries. You can find a short paper of the essential proposals for rural areas in the recovery plan.



Silvia Michelini
PREPARE- Partnership for Rural Europe AISBL
www.prepare-network.eu
www.facebook.com/PrepareAISBL
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The Commission will increase the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) by €9 billion (€4 billion for the CAP's European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and €5 billion for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) and the European Maritime and the Fisheries Fund (EMFF) by €500 million. An additional €15 billion will be made available for rural development under Next Generation EU to further support rural areas, which have a vital role to play in delivering the green transition and meeting the Union's climate and environmental targets.

Read more:

<https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2020/06/13/eu-recovery-plan-for-rural-developemen/>

PREPARE INVITES NEW ORGANISATIONS TO JOIN PREPARE

PREPARE is an open network that unites rural development organisations from all Europe. If your organisation represents a significant part of the rural population, you can join us!



During June 2020, PREPARE President and Secretary General had a Zoom meeting with the Italian village network <https://www.borghiautenticiditalia.it/> to talk about cooperation between the two organisations. See list of our members here: <https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/members/>

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WEBINAR: IMPROVING PERSPECTIVES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEADER APPROACH IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



PREPARE invites you to the webinar on the topic of LEADER approach in Western Balkans.

July 08, 2020, starting at 10:00 a.m. (CET) via Zoom meeting

Follow the agenda here:

<https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2020/06/13/webinar-improving-perspectives-for-the-implementation-of-leader-approach-in-the-western-balkan-countries/>

The European Union's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance to Rural Development (IPARD) supports agricultural and rural reforms in the Western Balkans. The EU financial and technical assistance to beneficiaries' countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey) aims to improve the competitiveness of the agri-food sector and rural areas, and the alignment with EU acquis in agriculture and rural development. Implementation of local development strategies – the LEADER approach – is one of the measures supported by IPARD through financial support to Local Action Groups to implement their bottom-up local development strategies. Moreover, the Technical Assistance measure also supports the establishment of Local Action Groups.

While the pre-accession countries are embarked in reform processes and in different stages of IPARD implementation, rural networks have invested in Leader promotion, capacity building, stakeholder engagement and animation activities etc. In this context, the webinar will take a closer look at the progress of Leader implementation in the pre-accession countries and highlight the challenges in this regard. What are the main common challenges? What are key factors of success in Leader implementation? What role do rural networks play and how can they be strengthened? What roles can PREPARE or other rural networks play? As the EU is trying to enhance the accession process (a credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans), how does Leader approach help pre-accession countries in their reform process on the way to the EU?

If you have a comment on the topic, contact us: info@prepare-network.eu

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WEBINAR ON THE FARM TO FORK STRATEGY WITH COMMISSIONER WOJCIECHOWSKI



During webinar (9th of June), organised by the EC, the Commissioner gave a short introduction followed by a brief session of Q&A. PREPARE was represented by Anita Selicka (Latvian Rural Forum)

* Farm to Fork Strategy: https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/f2f_action-plan_2020_strategy-info_en.pdf

* Commission Staff Working Document "Analysis of links between CAP Reform and Green Deal": https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/sustainability_and_natural_resources/documents/analysis-of-links-between-cap-and-green-deal_en.pdf

* Q&A about F2F:

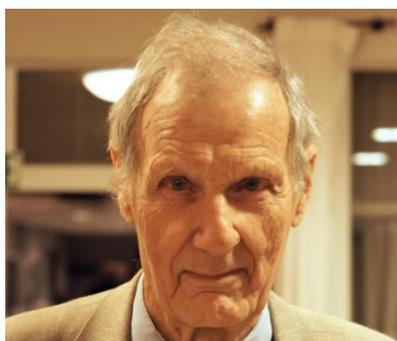
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Some of the quotes & notes from discussion:

- Covid-19 has changed multi-annual financial framework negotiations. EU is on the path of sustainability even more than before. Hoping that Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy will be accepted by member states.
- Farmers and producers ensure us food security, and the EU should ensure economic security to them.
- The challenges of access to land and generational renewal are missing from the strategy, but land property is a national, not EU issue. The Commissioner says that the CAP second pillar and support for young farmers should be stronger and the EC is planning to ensure this.
- Possible financing organic farming from I pillar can be available through eco-schemes.
- The Commission is responsible to ensure that F2F strategy is implemented in close coherence with the other elements of the Green Deal, particularly the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the new CAP and the Zero Pollution ambition.
- To the question on how intensive farmers will be able to go on with already existing investments, machinery etc. the answer was that concentration of resources in intensive farming cannot be controlled, but the EC intention is to provide more support for small and medium farmers and to provide alternatives to intensive farming. The EU strategy will have positive impact on farmers' income.
- There should be new possibilities in Europe to fight with overproduction and overconsumption, therefore in future sustainable farming will be more supported than intensive one. Consumption can be changed by offering alternative to intensive farming, more organic. Organic food accounts for 0.3% of EU consumption. There is space to promote it.
- Extra funding to RDPs pillar II for Green Deal - MS will be encouraged to spend this money for implementation of F2F and bioeconomy strategies.
- Sustainability involves balance between economic, social and environmental. A key challenge is to find the best balance. It can happen through discussions.
- We need not just sustainable agriculture, but also sustainable policy.

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THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL- MESSAGE TO PREPARE PARTNERS FROM MICHAEL DOWER, FORMER PREPARE COORDINATOR



I draw your attention to a major policy statement, recently approved by the European Commission after consultation, which will be reflected in many of the main EU programmes in the period 2021 to 2027.

I refer to the European Green Deal, which is based strongly on the tackling of climate change, sustainable use of resources and protection of wildlife. The Green Deal approach will be applied to all main sectors of the European economy, including the rural economy which matters so much to us in PREPARE.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

Alongside the main Green Deal statement, the Commission has published proposals relating to

- Sustainability in EU agriculture and rural areas, through the Common Agriculture policy (CAP)
- More sustainable food systems
- Opportunities for alternative, cleaner sources of energy
- Ways to ensure more sustainable, more environmentally-respectful production cycles in manufacturing and processing industries
- A cleaner construction sector
- Sustainable means of transport
- Measures to cut pollution rapidly and efficiently

Biodiversity Strategy. Published alongside these proposals is a separate EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which aims to “put Europe’s biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030, for the benefit of people, climate and the planet”.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu-eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030_en

Climate Pact. Of particular interest to PREPARE partners is a proposal by the Commission to launch a Climate Pact, through which it will offer financial and other support to all relevant stakeholders within the EU who pledge themselves to contribute to the climate-related targets in the Green Deal. A public consultation on the Climate Pact has been running for the last two months. I only discovered it on its final day, 16 June! Reading it, I felt strongly that PREPARE might well be able to benefit by signing up to the Climate Pact. I did not have time to consult the President or Executive Board, so I took the risk of completing the consultation paper on behalf of PREPARE. In doing so, I drew attention to the role of national rural networks, of PREPARE and of National and European Rural Parliaments.

https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eu-climate-action/pact_en

Effect outside EU? I realise that seven national partners of PREPARE are currently outside the EU, and may not be directly affected by the programmes mentioned above. But – as those of you who have worked with IPARD will know – the EU brings its own ways of working into its support systems for candidate and associated countries. So the Green Deal ideas will probably find their way into EU support systems, and government thinking, in your countries.

I believe this new central emphasis on climate will be reflected in the EU policies and programmes to which PREPARE may find itself responding, and from which potential funding for the activities of PREPARE and its partners may flow.

I will try to keep track of how these policies develop, including the Commission’s reaction to the public consultation on the Climate Pact; and I will report further in due course.

Michael Dower

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ERP PARTNERS MEETING WILL BE ORGANISED THROUGH A WEBINAR ON 1ST OF JULY, 2020

The purpose of the meeting is to invite partners to participate in the planning and implementation of the ERP activities leading to the Gathering and to the 5th ERP Gathering itself in Kielce Poland during autumn 2021.

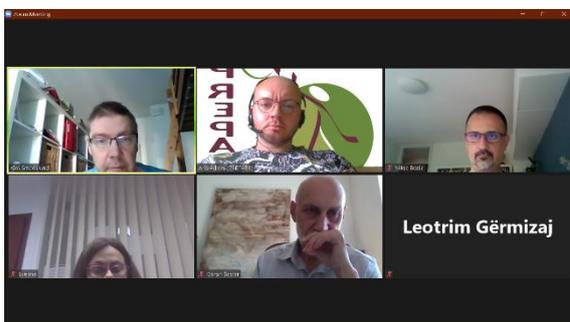


The participation is restricted to partner organisations, but if there are obstacles for you to join as an observer, send the request to info@prepare-network.eu

You can follow the ERP process here:

<https://europeanruralparliament.com/>

PREPARE BOARD MEETS TO FINALISE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE GOVERNANCE CONCERNING EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT



During a remote Zoom board meeting on 12th of June, PREPARE board members finalised final proposals and improvements for Memorandum of Understanding on the governance and responsibilities concerning the European Rural Parliament (ERP)

Taking into account the increasing challenges facing European rural areas, three European organisations representing local rural stakeholders: European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD), European Rural Community Alliance (ERCA) and Partnership for Rural Europe (PREPARE) (hereinafter the co-initiators), undertake a commitment to ensure continuity of a long-term campaign to express the voice of rural people in Europe, including a bi-annual gathering, and to promote self-help and action by the rural people in partnership with civil society and governments.

The memorandum of understanding will improve the process of cooperation and increase the effectiveness of rural development advocacy.

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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, April, May 2020).



PREPARE Gathering in 2013. In September 2013, more than 100 participants from about 20 European countries gathered in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the gathering “Community Spirit Wins” - an introduction to PREPARE’s new book was presented and working groups were organised on such topics as: Networking on the European level, Networking across ethnicities, and Public-private partnerships.

INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS - Albania Rural Development Network

	www.anrd.al		https://www.facebook.com/anrd.al/
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Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD) is a genuine initiative of civil society that strives to contribute to sustainable development of rural communities by taking up an active role in the reforming process of the agriculture and rural development, especially in approximating EU policy of Community Led Local Development (CLLD). At the end of 2015, fourteen CSOs agreed to network to advocate and lobby for effective rural policies which are closer to rural communities’ residents, designed with the participation of local communities, understood and implemented with people on the ground. To date, ANRD counts twenty seven member organizations which are active and visible at local level across Albania and contributing in various themes of rural development. ANRD is making intensive and continuous efforts to build an active, inclusive and participatory national rural agenda including LEADER/CLLD, civil society empowerment, policy engagement, green economy, agri-tourism, gender equality, family farming, sustainable agriculture, youth and VET education, etc. Locally-led development based on the EU LEADER approach is at the centre of Network’s activities. In this light, ANRD is putting a lot of effort in introducing LEADER approach, capacity building and know-how transfer on LEADER LAGs from different European countries and of those in the region to a broad spectrum of Albanian stakeholders

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