

WE STAND FOR PEACE IN NAGORNO KARABAKH

PREPARE - Partnership for Rural Europe expresses concerns with the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. We stand for immediate peaceful dialogue and ceasefire. Conflicts between countries can't be a reason for death of civilians.

Europeans are aware on what lies behind the conflict, that is why Rural development civic organisations appeal for the start of a peaceful, respectful and open dialogue for a prosperous Nagorno-Karabakh.



XI FORUM OF THE RURAL PARLIAMENT IN SLOVAKIA



The XI Forum of Rural Palirament in Slovakia will take place from the 23rd till the 24th of October in Zvolen. More information at www.vipa.sk (vipa@vipa.sk)

You are invited by our member Slovakian Rural Parliament to participate. This will be a two days forum with the following themes: climate change, family farms, rural youth, sustainable development in rural areas and local initiative. During the forum you will be able to follow presentations from the Poli Rural project and several presentations on good practices such as social agriculture, social enterprise, examples of cooperation between local government and youth, volunteer entrepreneurship and others. The forum will also feature a discussion on "Rural Areas Need Support".

<https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2020/10/01/xi-forum-of-the-rural-parliament-in-slovakia-23rd-24th-october/>

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RURAL PARLIAMENT OF KOSOVO – A UNIQUE ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING PLATFORM OF NORDK

The first edition of the Rural Parliament in Kosovo will be organised on 22 & 23 October 2020.

The Rural Parliament in Kosovo represents an advocacy platform, capacity building and networking dedicated to rural development. It is a joint effort of the Network of Organisations for Rural Development of Kosovo (NORDK). Organisations, activists and active groups in cooperation with partners will gather in a unique event with expected attendance of 100 participants. RPKS 2020 is the instrument through which NORDK and partners seek to advocate and influence the rural development agenda in Kosovo. The partnership and cooperation of NORDK with other relevant institutions and actors aims to foster evidence-based and research-based rural development policy-making. The main beneficiaries of this advocacy effort are central and local government institutions, as well as other public and private actors, civil society organizations, informal groups, the business community etc. The main purpose of the Rural Parliament is to advocate for rural development in Kosovo and ensure that the rural agenda and its priorities are reflected in local, regional and national policies. RPKS 2020 will bring together a wide range of rural actors in order to accelerate the country's rural development reform processes in line with the EU Policies (including CLLD approach). Rural Parliament of Kosovo will provide a space which aims to exchange experiences and transfer knowledge and capacity regarding the implementation of LEADER / CLLD from different European countries and those in the region. The platform, agreed by all the actors involved, will seek to make the governance of public sector institutions at the national and local level more proactive and accountable in promoting EU policies and practices in rural development.

Follow the recent developments: <http://nord-ks.org/>

OUTCOMES FROM THE 8TH RURAL NETWORKS LEADER/CLLD SUB-GROUP MEETING



LEADER Sub-group

The eighth meeting of the European Rural Networks' Assembly's permanent Sub-group on LEADER/CLLD provided an update on Commission initiatives relating to LEADER. Local Action Groups, LEADER and rural networks presented an overview on recent LEADER activities, responses to the COVID-19 situation, and how lessons from these can be used in planning for LEADER in the next period.

You can find all presentations here: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/8th-rural-networks-leaderclld-sub-group-meeting_en

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AGRICULTURAL POLICY FORUM 2020: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS IN TIMES OF THE PANDEMIC

The SWG Agricultural Policy Forum 2020 will take place from the 12th till the 16th of October.

APF 2020 is organised by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Kosovo. It will once more serve as a platform for international dialogue on policy settings and perspectives of common interest to agricultural policy makers and stakeholders, especially under extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The topics that will be covered at APF 2020 are:

- Regional cooperation in times of pandemic: lessons learnt
- The impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture and rural areas in the Western Balkans
- Recent agricultural policy developments in the context of the EU approximation process in the pre-accession countries
- Best practices and potential of participation of the smallholders in the short-value chains in the Western Balkans region and Turkey
- The role of rural tourism in diversification of economic activities and its implications in times of pandemics
- Research, innovation and technology transfer capacities in the Western Balkans
- The LEADER approach in the Western Balkans

More information: <http://apf.seerural.org/>

GET INSPIRATIONS FROM SMART VILLAGE WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS



The webinar on Smart Villages was hosted by two Finnish LAGs on 3th of September.

All presentations are available here:

<https://kalenteri.maaseutu.fi/tahtaumat/webinar-smart-village-leader-network/>

Go to the section: Liitetiedostot

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THE 18TH EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES (5TH TO 22ND OCTOBER 2020)



sessions focus on LEADER/CLLD and other rural development topics. More information here: <https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/>

The European Week of Regions and Cities (#EURegionsWeek) is the biggest annual Brussels-based event dedicated to regional policy. The purpose of event is to discuss common challenges for European regions and cities and to exchange ideas on possible solutions by bringing together political representatives, decision-makers, experts and practitioners of regional policy, as well as stakeholders from business, banking, civil society organisations, academia, the EU institutions and the media. In 2020, the EWRC events are organised on-line. Several

RURAL DEVELOPMENT - LONG TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

The European Commission has launched a consultation to update the EU rural development policy.



The EU aims to start a debate on the future of rural areas and the role they have to play in our society.

This initiative will set out a vision for the future of rural areas by 2040 and gather views covering challenges such as: demographic change, connectivity, low income levels, limited access to services.

It will also explore innovative, inclusive and sustainable solutions in the light of climate and digital transformation and the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12525-Long-term-vision-for-rural-areas>

This consultation is open for feedback until 27 November 2020)

ELARD HAVE PUBLISHED SURVEY RESULTS ON THE FUTURE FOR RURAL AREAS

Which future do you want in rural areas?



The European Leader Association for Rural Development have published summary of responses to their Macro Survey "Which future do you want in rural areas?" You can read the report here: http://elard.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ELARD_REDR_Report.pdf

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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. 12 (you can read the previous stories in newsletters from January, February, March, April, May, July, August, September 2019 and January, February, March, April, May, June, August 2020).



A fruitful exchange with farmers during field trips warmed up the participants from 13 countries, all members of the European PREPARE Network. On the second day the Minister of Agriculture of Kosovo, Mr Nenad Rikalo, opened the conference together with Goran Šoster, president of PREPARE, Dragan Roganović, coordinator of the ALTER project, and with Afrim Sharku, president of the host NORDK. The leading theme of the gathering was “Strengthening capacities of civil society organisations and building partnerships with governments”. After the conference, participants worked two days in four working groups and concluded the gathering with reports, conclusions and recommendations. All participants were amazed by the great hospitality and efficient organising team from NORDK, an umbrella rural NGO from Kosovo. NORDK was accepted in the PREPARE network as the newest, 20th member organisation.

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