

**PREPARE PARTENRISHIP FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS ORGANISING WEBINAR
“RURAL TRENDS AND SOLUTIONS”**

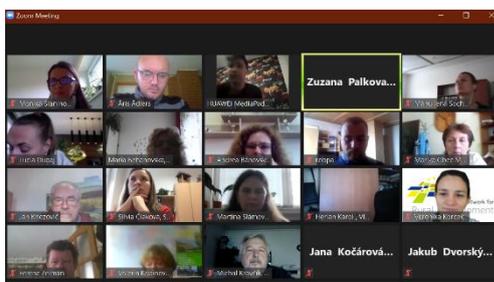
We invite you to participate in the webinar “Rural Trends and Solutions” organised by PREPARE. You can find more information here:

<https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2020/10/26/webinar-rural-trends-and-solutions/>

Pre-registrations, questions and materials: kim.smedslund(at)suomenkylat.fi by 20.11.2020



XI FORUM OF THE RURAL PARLIAMENT IN SLOVAKIA



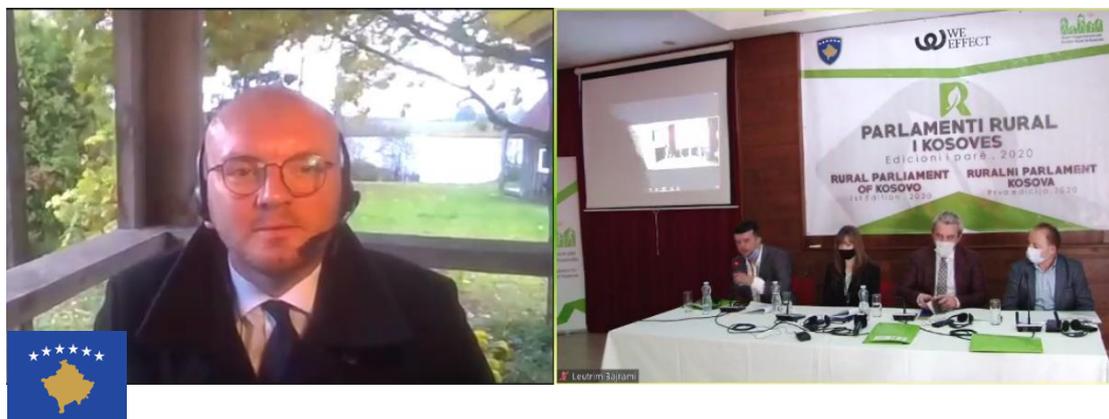
The XI Forum of Rural Palirament in Slovakia took place from the 23rd till the 24th of October in Zvolen. More information at www.vipa.sk (vipa@vipa.sk)

The main themes were: climate change, family farms, rural youth, sustainable development in rural areas and local initiative.



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RURAL PARLIAMENT OF KOSOVO GATHERS RURAL DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS FROM KOSOVO AND EUROPE



The first edition of the Rural Parliament in Kosovo was organised on 22 & 23 October 2020. During the plenary session of the Parliament, president of PREPARE presented “The role of national rural development networks in advocacy and lobby for rural development policies - best models and practices”.



Full programme of the event is here: <https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2020/10/22/rural-parliament-of-kosovo/>

Online speeches are here: <https://www.facebook.com/nordkosovo>

More information will follow: <http://nord-ks.org/>



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KICK START OF THE SLOVAK VISION FOR MORE ATTRACTIVE RURAL AREAS

The 17th annual “Rural Day” was held on 22 September 2020 in the representative premises of the National Council of the Slovak republic at Bratislava Castle. This traditional event was organized by the Rural Parliament in Slovakia (VIPA SK) under the auspices of the Chairperson of the Slovak national parliament Mr Boris Kollár and in cooperation with the Parliamentary Committee for agriculture and environment. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak republic was represented by its state secretary Mr Fecko. A presentation of the Slovak partners of the PoliRural project focused on its current foresight activity aimed at developing a common vision for more attractive rural areas in participative and inclusive way. Representatives of different national and local media were present as well. The members of the parliament as well as the government representative promised to actively engage themselves and participate in the process of elaboration of a new vision for the rural areas. Further meetings are already scheduled to continue in the discussions.



Participants agreed that the Slovak countryside continues to lose its traditional character. Agriculture has declined significantly in recent years, Slovakia has lost its food self-sufficiency, young people refuse to work in primary agricultural production and go to cities or abroad, land ownership relations are still unresolved. All these issues will have to be tackled gradually by all stakeholders together. At the time of the COVID-19 pandemic it is necessary to discuss rural problems even more than ever before, to point out the negative effects of the pandemic for rural areas and to propose solutions. Participants stressed the need for Slovak municipalities and the entire agricultural sector to have the same conditions of state aid and support as they have in the more developed countries of the European Union. It will be very important to pay more attention to the issues of agriculture, nature protection and securing a sufficient amount of food from own production. These vital tasks deserve a higher social award. Special support is needed for the youth to make it attractive for them to work in agriculture and for an active promotion of agriculture. Rural areas without agriculture are no longer rural. The Slovak ancestors lived for many centuries mainly from agricultural production, and to lose food self-sufficiency today is a shame. Only recently, the widespread corona crisis has shown how important it is to be self-sufficient and not be dependent on basic food imports.

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THE PRIORITIES AND ASPIRATIONS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE FOCUS OF PRO RURAL WOMAN II EVENT

ANRD organized the second edition of the Pro Rural Women event on the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women. A Declaration “Fair treatment for fulfilling Albanian rural women’s aspirations” was drafted with the input of participants.



More than 50 women and girls from rural communities of the country gathered in the second edition of ‘Pro Rural Women’, organized by the Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD) and the municipality of Roskovec on the occasion of International Day of Rural Women. ‘Pro Rural Women’, attended by women and girls from all over Albania (Puka, Zadrime, Shkodra, Mirdita, Korça, Berati, Fieri, Tirana, etc.) traveled to the Municipality of Roskovec, rated as “Pro Rural Women Municipality of the year”. This edition, on the approach to become an annual tradition, aimed for the second year in a row not only to celebrate and give prominence to women living and working in rural areas of Albania, but above all to advocate the full recognition and activation of their extraordinary creative and productive potential, as well as their undeniable role as change agents for their families and communities. (UN Women 2020)
Read more: <https://anrd.al/news/the-priorities-and-aspirations-of-women-and-girls-in-rural-communities-in-the-focus-of-pro-rural-women-ii-event/>

SMART RURAL AREAS IN 21 ST CENTURY HAVE PUBLISHED INFORMATION ABOUT 21 PARTICIPATING VILLAGES

Follow project activities here: <https://www.smartrural21.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. 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, September 2020).



PREPARE GA 2019 took place in Majšperk (Slovenia)

During the GA, there was a discussion and approval of the annual report and budget. News from members were shared (a traditional round table of updates from each member organisation). Āris Ādlers was elected as a member of the Executive Board for a term of three years. With this vote, Āris has a mandate to continue the presidency of PREPARE.

The meeting also started the preparations for the next PREPARE GA, scheduled at the beginning of 2020, which would give members an opportunity to discuss PREPARE strategy and annual activities for the 2020.

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