

**THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT GATHERING 2021 HAVE STARTED.**



The ERP-Gathering team invites you to participate in the planning of the 5th ERP event.

The European Rural Parliament (ERP) is a network and partnership that wouldn't be there without your contribution: national rural parliaments, events, all the actions you do at home to raise awareness about rural concerns and possibilities.

For now, we expect the 2021 Gathering to be organised as a hybrid model with a maximum of 100 (150) participants on the spot due to COVID-restrictions. We hope for some virtual visits to interesting host areas and projects.

The ERP Gathering is an event for and with all the ERP partners and should reflect our voice, our messages. We would like partners to volunteer within the following possibilities:

1. Suggest activities and themes for the 5th ERP Gathering as well as what you would like to see as plenary discussions.
  2. Commit yourself to host a workshop on-line on a selected topic
  3. Tell us local stories / cases / practices you would like to share possibly with pictures and/or through short videos
- You are welcome to provide your responses at the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVmdOUvx86Y-n1I4gugcsQ9MTUzO\\_y5gPawP02vDNsTZsCjg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVmdOUvx86Y-n1I4gugcsQ9MTUzO_y5gPawP02vDNsTZsCjg/viewform)

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### CAP-café 2021

Capacities and Partnership come together

### CAP-Cafe themes

PREPARE is happy to invite its members to choose the themes of the upcoming initiative of CAP-Cafés:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnJU0d6jb92RVs5DpmPu - GC2aHa98ban9FfNjL1Fp7E3zQ/viewform>

Dear PREPARE members and friends,

PREPARE aisbl recently invited its members to propose topics for CAP-Café webinars. The idea behind CAP-Cafés 2021 - Capacities and Partnership come together – is to build capacities of the PREPARE network, learn from each other and meet in relaxed webinars around topics of your choice. Members will build the content, PREPARE will provide the platform and reporting.

We received a number of interesting themes suggestions from our members.

Now we are inviting you to help us decide on priorities, based on your opinion on the importance of suggested themes.

While we will give our best to start the series of webinars with topics that are recognised as the ones with highest importance/relevance to our members, the final programme will depend on other factors as well (for example, the readiness of the organiser).

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### 2nd ALBANIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT, MARCH 4-5, 2021



2nd ALBANIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT | March 4-5, 2021  
EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE OF RURAL ALBANIA



The Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD) started the organisation of the 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament on March 4-5, 2021.

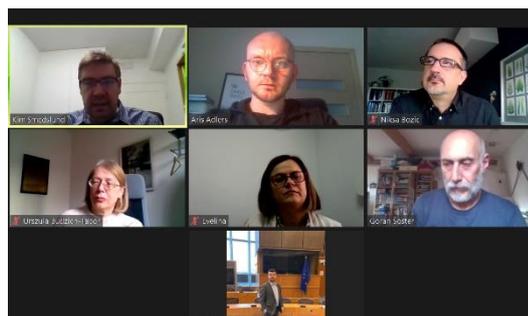
The Albanian Rural Parliament is an inclusive practice that aims to influence and accelerate the reform processes in the rural sector for the revitalization of rural communities. The 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament – a joint effort by the ANRD consisting of twenty eight CSOs in partnership with the Agriculture University of Tirana – will bring together people from all rural areas both in person and online, to discuss the challenges and actions which they can take and to encourage the government and other stakeholders to serve the well-being of rural people.

The organisers are trying to find new instruments and alternatives to enable farmers, women, youth, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to voice out their concerns and aspirations, especially during this time when they are facing the challenges to connect and actively participate in development and decision-making processes.

PREPARE members are invited to participate in the 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament. The program and other detailed information on the event will be provided later.

### PREPAREs FIRST BOARD MEETING OF THE 2021

On 22th of January 2021 PREPARE board have organised a remote board meeting.



The main topics discussed during the board meeting was: (1) CAP-Cafés process (2) ERP preparations (3) PREPARE General Assembly preparations (4) PREPARE working relations and networking with other organisations (LDnet, AIEDL and other)

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### Contribution of the Croatian section of ECOVAST to the reconstruction of earthquake-damaged areas in Croatia



The area of Sisak-Moslavina county, located 50 km south east from Zagreb, was affected by devastating earthquakes on December 28 and 29, 2020. The historic centres of Petrinja, Glina and Sisak suffered serious damage, as well as numerous residential, sacral, public and other buildings. The area affected by the earthquakes is mainly rural and underdeveloped. Even before the earthquake it was in need of a systematic transformation and demographic and economic revitalisation.

Shortly after the earthquakes members of the Croatian section of ECOVAST joined the expert teams for damage assessment in the affected area. They also initiated an appeal for a comprehensive, inclusive and scientifically based approach to the reconstruction of earthquake-affected areas of Sisak-Moslavina County. The appeal was directed to the Government of the Republic of Croatia, relevant ministries and regional and local authorities, and it was signed by a large number of associations as well as academic, scientific, cultural and other institutions. In just one week the document was also signed by more than 950 individuals.

The appeal drew attention to the fact that in the area directly affected by the earthquakes there is a valuable cultural heritage that includes five protected urban centres (Sisak, Petrinja, Glina, Topusko and Hrvatska Kostajnica), eleven protected areas of rural heritage, more than 200 individually protected historical buildings and sites. In addition, there are a large number of traditional wooden buildings of local and regional significance that are not formally protected, but mark an important element in the spatial identity of the area. This cultural heritage is threatened not only by the earthquake damages but also by the efforts to find quick solutions for reconstruction.

This natural disaster comes less than three decades after the 1990s wars which also caused great material damage to cultural heritage of the area and caused migrations of inhabitants, abandonment of urban and rural settlements and loss of economic activities from which this area has not recovered to this day. Approaches to post-war recovery were inadequate, and the rehabilitation and revitalization of valuable cultural heritage and the complete regeneration of communities and spaces were lacking. Historic buildings in historic urban centres and rural settlements were left to decay, and the lack of investment and development projects in this area has affected further migrations, the emergence of a large number of empty and abandoned buildings, abandoned infrastructure, abandoned agricultural land, weak economic activity, numerous vulnerable and marginalized groups, unemployment and poverty.

The appeal initiated by ECOVAST Croatia states that the complexity of the problem of reconstruction of the Sisak-Moslavina County requires a systematic and interdisciplinary approach in order for the space to be transformed into an area of sustainable small towns, settlements and villages where the reading of the historical contents and local identity should lead to the creation of new values and opportunities

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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 **Kristin Langer** from the Netherlands

I am a young activist working on a more inclusive sustainable future. I am from Germany, but I have lived in the Netherlands for the last two years. Before the lockdown I used often move between urban and rural areas of Germany, Netherlands and Italy, where my activities, families and friends are.

I developed my working experience in a cross-border project ("onbegrensd") for youngsters, mainly in rural areas at the Dutch-German border, focusing specifically on their wishes and needs. In 2019 I had the chance to join the Dutch Delegation for the European Rural Parliament in Asturias, Spain, where I got very inspired and deepened my activities in relation to rural development afterwards.

I have a professional background in the development of projects regarding inclusion and empowerment. I graduated with a Master's Degree in Social Inclusion: Education and Health in Social Work at the University for Applied Science in Bochum, Germany.

During my Master's thesis, I had the chance to identify strategies to empower people with intellectual disability for the labour market in the field of agriculture, in cooperation with the Hugenoote Kollege Wellington, South Africa. I learnt a lot about community development, and I investigated gaps of the labour market in terms of gender equality and accessibility.

I am currently working as a research associate for the NGO "Fachstelle Interkulturelle Mädchenarbeit NRW" based in Germany, initiating inclusion projects for girls with disabilities from migration backgrounds. I work to create awareness about gender equality and women's rights at the local, national and international level. Moreover, I started my own Social Initiative "aLLe" by "Krila" thanks to the European program "Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs" in Netherlands. Together with different stakeholders, I create inclusive projects and accessible workshops for political, cultural participation as well as inclusive education for sustainable development (ESD). In my freetime I am active in an inclusive permaculture community garden in the Netherlands.

I am grateful to be part of an international youth network with 15 countries, called Generation Europe, funded by the International Association for Education and Exchange (IBB e.V.) to further an active European Citizenship. The project is focusing on underrepresented youths in international projects, targeting young people from rural areas as well as those with flights experiences or broken educational biographies. In the last three years I helped youngsters from Germany, Belarus and Italy to identify local problems, support each other in their local projects and meet in international encounters.

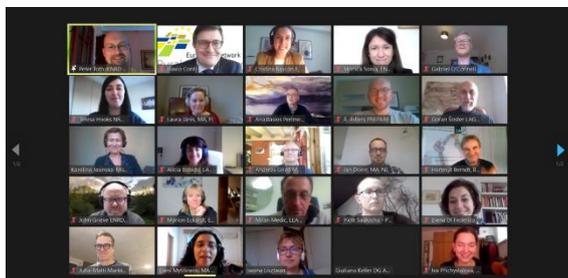
My parents were always supporting me to take action for change. It is also nice to see that some family members have moved (back) to rural areas, where my family was originally from. They support me especially through exchange of thoughts, discussing solutions and showing support for my mission.

My professional goal for the nearest future is to start a barrier-free intergenerational project in a rural area, accessible by climate-friendly transport solutions, offering garden for education for sustainable development, with space for art and music activities, workshops and international meetings. It would be combined with an inclusive organic coffee bar where people from different backgrounds find work and get support in their future plans. In any case, I plan to learn and stay active as much as possible in the areas mentioned. In the current future, I am planning a music camp for girls and young women from Germany and Netherlands and involve more countries in the future. Together with the "MädchenMusikAkademie NRW" we want to invite girls\* and young women\* to do music together and empower each other in 2022. If you know some girls and women who play music or want to learn an instrument, I would be delighted to hear from you!

Contact: [kristinlanger@gmx.de](mailto:kristinlanger@gmx.de)

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### **ENRD LEADER Thematic Lab ‘Designing LEADER for resilience and sustainability’**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of January PREPARE participated in a capacity building event organised by ENRD.

This LEADER Thematic Lab explored various aspects of designing LEADER under the future CAP Strategic Plans for local community resilience and sustainability. Participants also discussed the potential role and contribution of LEADER and existing LAGs on these themes during the transition period to the new CAP.

You can find more information and presentations here:

[https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/enrd-leader-thematic-lab-designing-leader-resilience-and-sustainability\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/enrd-leader-thematic-lab-designing-leader-resilience-and-sustainability_en)

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