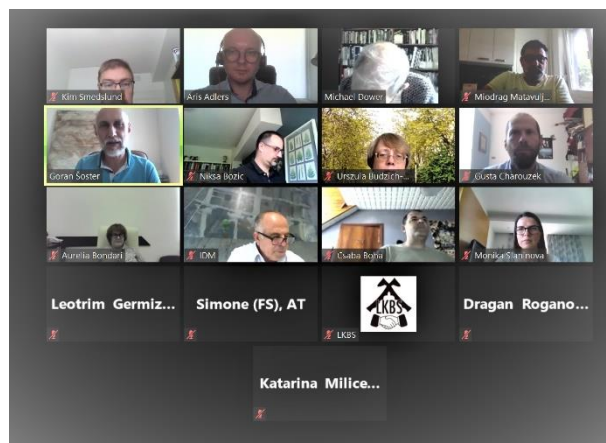


### THE PREPARE NETWORK HAS SUCCESSFULLY HELD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



With the majority of members attending, PREPARE has held its seventh General Assembly on 18 June 2021.

PREPARE welcomes two new members of its executive board: Csaha Boba from Hungary and Miodrag Matavulj from Bosnia-Herzegovina (you can find the full composition of the PREPARE board and management here:

<https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/board-and-management/>). Also, a new Associate Member “Borghi Autentici d’Italia” has been accepted. We have at present 20 members and 2 associate members.

**Full information about GA has been distributed to members.** If you have questions, please contact [info@prepare-network.eu](mailto:info@prepare-network.eu)

### PREPARE HAS SIGNED TWO COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Two important cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding have been signed by PREPARE in June 2021.



During the past year, the three partners of the European Rural Parliament (ERP): the European Rural Community Alliance (ERCA), Partnership for Rural Europe (PREPARE) and the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD), have been working on a memorandum of understanding concerning the ERP governance and responsibilities. This memorandum has now been signed.

Taking into account the increasing challenges facing European rural areas, the memorandum sets out the commitment of the three European organisations representing local rural stakeholders to ensure good management and continuity of the European Rural Parliament.

The second document signed in June is an agreement between ERCA and PREPARE to provide an even stronger, coherent voice for rural communities.



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### A TRANSNATIONAL EVENT “TOWARDS A HOLISTIC STRATEGY OF SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE RURAL/URBAN DEVELOPMENT” HELD BY EESC AND ERP WITH STRONG PARTICIPATION OF PREPARE



Thank you for your time!

PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe / ERP



An online hearing organized by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Rural Parliament (ERP) took place in 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021

Aiming at a holistic approach and an equal treatment of rural and urban issues are two fundamentals that are needed to achieve a paradigm change in EU policies. “No-one should be left behind”.

The various obstacles and concerns are well known, but what are the next steps? Several solutions were suggested for the EU and governments to take into consideration.

#### **At an upper level:**

Hilkka Vihinen, professor (LUKE) and ROBUST horizon project: “We need to get rural-urban to the political agenda and promote place-based horizontal implementation” Also less favoured areas shall be developed.

ERP: Equitable treatment must be ensured in accordance with the article 174 of the TFEU and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

#### **At a functional level:**

ERP proposals: Create a working group around the rural-urban, like in the smart village process; use rural-urban proofing for common and shared benefits; a holistic approach should be included into planning, programming and funding schemes and be implemented through existing or newly created structures; for young people, can education and jobs be part of decentralised teleworking and education models?

Pol Huguet, Deputy Mayor of Manresa, Spain: “Could we reach more integration of sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, leisure and education activities in rural and peri-urban areas? Could medium-sized cities have a stronger role?”

Mr Milouchev (DG agri) recommended developing rural agglomerations.

Prepared by Kim Smedslund

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## THE 2nd BALKAN RURAL PARLIAMENT HAS ANNOUNCED ITS RESULTS



More than 60 different stakeholders from rural areas of the Western Balkan countries, including representatives of civil society, Managing Authorities, national governments and relevant donors, gathered in Ohrid, North Macedonia, on 15 and 16 June, for the 2nd Balkan Rural Parliament, organised by the Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN), with the financial support of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG).

You can read all about it here: <http://www.brdnetwork.org/2nd-balkan-rural-parliament/>

You can watch the Youtube video from the event also in the PREPARE web page:  
<https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2021/06/29/results-of-2nd-balkan-rural-parliament/>



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