

### PREPARE's STATEMENT ON EU ENLARGEMENT AND EUROSCEPTICISM DURING THE MID TERM EVENT OF EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT



The Mid-term event of European Rural Parliament took place online in 27<sup>th</sup> of October. The event was organised by ERCA, PREPARE and ELARD- three Co-organisers of the European Rural Parliament process. Besides valuable presentations and discussions, PREPARE made a strong statement on EU enlargement process and rising Euroscepticism.

Even in 2021 rural development as a wider concept has not been fully included in national policies in many European Union countries as well as in countries which are not a part of EU. National policies in many countries still follow the paradigm that industrial agriculture will make rural areas liveable and vibrant. However, we already know that we will not resolve rural challenges by continuing the approaches that caused them. We believe that the EU has a significant role in moving forward, introducing, supporting and financing rural development which recognises the role of communities and their needs as a key for hopeful future. This relates to the tools covered by the CAP for EU rural areas, as well as supporting mechanisms targeting rural populations in non-EU countries.

Because of that, we would like strongly highlight two issues:

First: PREPARE member organisations would like to express their concern about the recent increase of anti-European statements and actions by some politicians, especially in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe. **Rural communities of these countries have greatly benefitted in many ways from EU accession**, and their continued development depends on the European spirit and values being maintained.

Second: **Enlargement!** During the Slovenian EU Presidency, the following commitment was announced: "Special attention will be devoted to the Western Balkan countries, their future in Europe and the credible continuation of the EU enlargement process". We were hoping the Brdo Summit on 6 October would result in clear information and timetable, but there was almost nothing. We call for this process to be continued during the French Presidency.

We believe that the rural community needs to be in the centre of key policies whether the country is a part of the EU or not. Every national government needs to develop policies and instruments for rural people.

We hope that Community Led Local Development, Smart Villages, the Green Deal, digital transformation and other initiatives will be important for Europe's rural areas. If they are taken into account when shaping policies and budgets, they can bring significant benefits to rural people.

Those that manage and support the ERP process – civil society organisations, researchers and politicians, can design and put in place the right tools for rural Europe. We need joint projects, supporting knowledge and experience transfer in all Europe without borders. We need to raise awareness of citizens and politicians about the importance of cross-sectoral and sustainable development.

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### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 5TH EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT

Welcome to

The 5<sup>th</sup> European Rural  
Parliament  
in Kielce,  
Świętokrzyskie Region,  
POLAND

12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September  
2022



The date of the 5<sup>th</sup> European Rural Parliament (ERP) was announced during the Mid-Term event of the ERP. The event will take place in Kielce, Poland from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 2022

Announcement and introduction of the host organisation can be found here: <https://europeanruralparliament.com/index.php/44-home/services/277-the-erp-mid-term-event-27-10-2021-2> (see last presentation, by Piotr Sadłocha, President of the Polish LAG Network)

We also invite you to see all other presentations and statements from ERP Mid-Term event following the same link.

### THE CROATIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK HAVE ANNOUNCED ITS 4<sup>TH</sup> CROATIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT

The event will take place in Šibenik, Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia in Amadria park Hotel Ivan from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of November



This event will bring together various stakeholders from rural areas as well as important actors of agricultural and rural development to discuss the challenges and actions they can take to serve the well-being of the rural population. PREPARE will send an official delegation of two representatives.

The theme of this parliament is “Sustainable development of rural areas in Croatia”

You can follow the programme here: <https://hmrr.hr/4-hrvatski-ruralni-parlament-2/>

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### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “SMART VILLAGES FOR A GREEN, DIGITAL AND RESILIENCE EUROPE WAS ORGANISED IN SLOVENIA



#### Smart Villages for a Green, Digital and Resilient Europe

International Conference  
Castle Rajhenburg, Brestanica, Slovenia



High level event focusing on Smart Villages took place in Slovenia on 1 October. The event was organised in hybrid format and all Europe could follow presentations online. PREPARE's President and Vice-President had special invitations to take part in the conference.

If you missed the event and have some time to follow an 8 hours video, here is the link: <https://rajhenburg.pametne-vasi.info/en/stream/>

### RURALISATION CONFERENCE 2021

The Ruralisation conference 2021 is taking place from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2021 in Budapest.

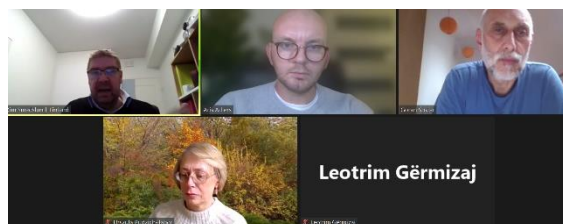


Follow the conference link here: <https://ruralization.eu/news-events/ruralizationconference/#>

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### PREPARE BOARD IS ANNOUNCING DISCUSSION AMONG MEMBERS ON CHANGING REGISTRATION COUNTRY FOR PREPARE



During the last PREPARE Executive Board meeting, the official discussion on changing the address (country) of PREPARE AISBL was opened. During November, a special survey will be circulated among the members.

The current official address of PREPARE AISBL is in Belgium. The decision of changing the country relates to administrative and operational reasons.



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