



Our friend **Michael DOWER passed away** on 7 November 2022. A great champion of rural communities, well known to generations of rural activists in Europe. Retired professor of the University of Gloucestershire, but active to the very last moment – we will remember his passionate video speech to the Kielce meeting of the European Rural Parliament in September. Michael was the initiator and founder of PREPARE and its first Coordinator, always willing to give support and advice to his successors and all PREPARE members. Active at national and transnational levels in the EU and beyond as well as in his own LEADER LAG, gifted with exceptional clarity of thought and ability to convince all kinds of audiences, he was tireless in mobilising support to initiatives strengthening rural civic society, especially in Central and Eastern Europe and in EU candidate countries. We will not forget him!

THE DECLARATION AND MANIFESTO OF THE FIFTH EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT IS SIGNED AND PUBLISHED

Around 350 participants from 39 European countries, met during the 5th European Rural Parliament at Kielce, Poland, from 12 to 15 September 2022.



Drawing on the National Rural Parliaments and other events organised by our European and national partners, the discussions in Kielce resulted in a call upon citizens and policymakers at all levels to mobilise resources and people, and ensure policies and programmes are coherent and rural-proofed. We are ready to take responsibility and call upon fellow citizens and policymakers to assist in the creation of sustainable rural communities.

You can read the full declaration here:

https://www.erp2022.eu/admin/zal/5_ERP_Declaration.pdf

You can read the 2022 manifesto here:

<https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2022/11/01/the-european-rural-parliament-manifesto-2022/>

NEW CAP NETWORK IS LAUNCHED



On 5-6 October in Brussels rural stakeholders had the opportunity to get to know the new EU CAP network.

This network was contracted by DG AGRI in late 2021 to provide support to the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in the 2021-2027 period. This network will replace networks operating in 2014-2020, namely:

- the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)
- the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (formerly part of the ENRD but with a separate identity and tasks)
- the agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP AGRI).

These three service units will now become a single EU CAP network, covering the whole CAP (both pillar 1 – direct payments – and pillar 2 – rural development). DG AGRI has also added a fourth component – a dedicated service unit to handle communications and logistics.

At the last meeting of the Rural Networks' Assembly (5 October) the four service units integrated in the single network presented their activities and work plans for the near future; DG AGRI plans for the governance structure of the new CAP network were also outlined. Rural civil society organisations (including PREPARE), together with farmers' organisations representing pillar 1 of the CAP, will be able to select representatives to the main governance bodies, i.e. the Assembly and Steering Group, through their participation in the Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) process. The permanent sub-group on LEADER is likely to be continued.

The launch event of the new network (6 October) started by handing out [Rural Inspiration Awards 2022](#), and then a representative of the Agriculture Commissioner officially opened the EU CAP network. A series of interactive sessions enabled participants to explore more in depth the various components of the new network and make suggestions concerning the contents of their work.

Article by Urszula Budzich-Tabor (Board member of PREPARE Network)

Follow the CAP network here <https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu>

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NEW FAMENET NETWORK IS LAUNCHED

On September 20, 2022, FAMENET launch event was organised virtually

FAMENET is the Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring, Evaluation and Local Support Network. It supports stakeholders in the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).

FAMENET merges the support previously provided by FAME and FARNET in three core areas:

- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the EMFAF and the EMFF.
- implementing community-led local development (CLLD) in fisheries and aquaculture areas to foster a sustainable blue economy.
- communicating on the results of the EMFF and EMFAF through written stories and videos, and supporting the INFORM EU network.

FAMENET organises events for managing authorities, experts and other bodies to communicate on the latest working papers, foster dialogue and capacity building between stakeholders and ensure all Member States receive the support they need

You can follow network here https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/famenet_en

JOIN EUROPEAN LOCAL INNOVATION FORUMS

EUROPEAN LOCAL INNOVATION FORUM (ELIF)

The European Local Innovation Forum (ELIF) is an EU-wide initiative of AEIDL to provide a space for experts and organisations operating at the local level in both urban and rural settings, in which to facilitate the exchange of ideas, learn from experiences and draw lessons to boost innovation in local communities across Europe.

At AEIDL, we believe that innovation driven and implemented by local communities is essential to boost the transformative changes needed in Europe and offers opportunities to generate local socioeconomic and environmental wellbeing. Gathering like-minded people and community-oriented organisations will help improve local living and ultimately generate a more cohesive Europe.

What does the Forum offer its members?

- Participate and contribute to targeted thematic communities
- Network and learn from peers, experts and actors
- Voice your ideas that deserve acknowledgement
- Access to relevant information on innovative initiatives and experiences

"Innovation led by communities committed to positive social and environmental change is the key to building inclusive and resilient societies"

Marta Marczis, President of AEIDL

AEIDL encourage stakeholders to join European Local Innovation forum. This is a space for experts and organisations operating and connected at local level in both urban and rural settings, to facilitate the exchange of ideas,

learn from experiences and draw lessons to boost innovation in local communities from across Europe.

You can read more and join the forum here: <https://www.aeidl.eu/forum/>

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RURAL PARLIAMENT OF KOSOVO

We congratulate the Rural Parliament of Kosovo for its successful Second Edition (18th to 21st of Oct)



The Second Rural Parliament was organized by the Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo (NORDK), which is a partnership of 35 different organizations, such as: Local Action Groups (LAG), unions of farmers, cooperatives of farmers, women's associations, different non-governmental organizations and young farmers' clubs. Besides the members of NORDK this event was attended also by the business community and representatives of central and local institutions that work for the rural community.

See more: <https://www.facebook.com/nordkosovo>

DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC “RURAL PARLIAMENT OF MOLDOVA” TOOK PLACE IN CHISINAU

On the 8th of October, 2022, stakeholders of the Moldova Rural Development Network and LEADER Moldova gathered in the country's capital of Chisinau to discuss opportunities to organise the Rural Parliament in Moldova.



During the event, the concept of National Rural Parliaments was introduced and discussion took place on the following topics: the goal or goals of the potential Moldovan Rural Parliament; involved organisations/institutions; connections with grassroots; coordination and governance of MRP; financing model; themes addressed; MRP agenda; international perspective and recognition of the MRP; and communication and national recognition.

The discussion on the Rural Parliament of Moldova was organised under a cooperation project financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.

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20th Anniversary of the Slovenian Rural Development Network (SRDN)

On 21st October 2022, the Slovenian Rural Development Network celebrated its 20th anniversary and on that occasion the expert consultation on “The importance of civil society for rural development” was held in Sveti Jurij ob Ščavnica



More than 80 participants from numerous professional institutions in the field of rural development, representatives of the majority of LAGs, representatives of all key institutions that manage funds for the implementation of LEADER/CLLD confirmed by their presence the importance and crucial role of the SRDN in rural development in the country and abroad. The Minister of Agriculture of Republic of Slovenia, Mrs. Irena Šinko also honoured the organizers and participants by attending the event. During the event, the PREPARE Network had an opportunity to present all efforts that were made in developing rural movements in Western Balkan countries and to point out the important role of SRDN and its representatives in this process.

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

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