

OUR VALUE IS OUR MEMBERS #WeArePREPARE

It's crucial that we stay connected and informed about the latest happenings in our field. One effective way to achieve this is by exploring the official webpages and social media accounts of other members in our rural development networks. By doing so, we can stay up-to-date with the latest trends, learn about new initiatives and opportunities for collaboration, and discover new ways to make a positive impact in our communities. Furthermore, engaging with the content shared by our fellow members can help us build stronger relationships and develop more meaningful partnerships. Here are official webpages of our members.



Albanian Network for Rural Development	www.anrd.al
Network for Rural Development of Serbia	www.ruralserbia.rs
Rural Parliament in Slovakia (NGO)	www.vipa.sk
Croatian Rural Development Network- CRDN	www.hmrr.hr
Latvian Rural Forum	www.Laukuforums.lv
Slovenian Rural Development Network	www.drustvo-podezelje.si
Lithuanian rural communities' union	www.lkbs.net
Rural Development Network of North Macedonia	www.ruralnet.mk
Polish Rural Forum	www.faow.org.pl
Rural Development Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina	http://ruralnamreza.ba/
Finnish Village Movement Association	www.suomenkylat.fi
Estonian Village Movement Kodukant (NGO)	www.kodukant.ee
National Network of LAGs in Czech Republic	http://nsmascr.cz
ECOVAST – European Council for the Village and Small Town	www.ecovast.org
Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo	www.nord-kosovo.org
NGO “ Forum Synergies”	https://forum-synergies.eu
Hela Sverige ska leva	https://www.helasverige.se/

5th EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT RESULT DISSEMINATION EVENT TOOK PLACE IN BRUSSELS



Delegation consisting of PREPARE, ELARD and ERCA visited Brussels to meet officials in Brussels to disseminate results of 5th ERP. PREPARE was represented by board member Urszula Budzich-Tabor. You can read agenda of event here: <https://prepare-network.eu/index.php/2023/01/16/5th-european-rural-parliament-results-dissemination-event/> Here

are some insights from our meetings with EU institutions

Recent conversations with various European Union (EU) institutions on rural development have provided us with valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in this area. Our discussions with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), EU CAP Network, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, RUMRA and Smart Villages intergroup, and the Cabinet of several EU Commissioners have highlighted some important recurring themes.

Cross-sectoral, multilevel governance, known as CLLD, emerged as a means to achieve real change and avoid conflicts in the process of rural development. Civil society, specifically ERP, is seen as the main partner to institutions in making the long-term vision of rural areas a reality. Additionally, real inclusion of youth in the decision-making process is crucial, not just through listening to them, but including them as real partners throughout the process.

Our conversations with various EU institutions also focused on the need to empower the next generation of youth living in rural areas to develop their own opportunities and quality of life. Young people can offer different ways of management and new proposals, and not including them in decision-making could have negative consequences. Establishing local democracy to empower local communities, creating intergenerational mentorship programs, and promoting remote work as a working model were some key suggestions put forward by rural youth.

Our meetings with the European Committee of Regions (CoR) provided additional insights into the targets and tools for a smart rural Europe. We also had the opportunity to establish new contacts and collaborations, spread our declaration and manifesto, and gather new information during these meetings.

Overall, our conversations with various EU institutions on rural development have highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral, multilevel governance, civil society, and youth engagement in achieving the long-term vision for rural areas. It is crucial to empower and include the next generation of youth in the decision-making process, and promote their active role in policy-making processes. Through these efforts, we can create a smart rural Europe that meets the needs and aspirations of all its citizens.

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THE DESIRA FINAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register now for the amazing closing of the project and get the opportunity to connect with the European #rural digitalisation ecosystem!



The registration link is here:

https://mailchi.mp/desira2020/final-conference-registration?fbclid=IwAR0evi7eL5g7lynkJMj09YI66kgTIANsODx69xR9PETA_2st024INznOmAU

You can read more about project here:

<https://www.facebook.com/DESIRA.H2020>

RURAL PACT CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN SWEDEN

“Acting for Rural Areas – Sharing Rural Pact Experiences and Learning for the Future” – the slogan of upcoming Rural Pact conference in Upsala, Sweden that will be organised in 3rd and 4th of May



The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas was launched in June 2021. Since then, rural pact mobilization has started in various parts of the Union, to make rural Europe stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous by 2040. What are the experiences so far and what can we learn from each other in order to take the next steps for a revitalised rural Europe?

Some of the topics will be:

- Best practices and examples on the implementation of the Rural Pact at national level.

- Local Action Groups as Local Pacts.

- Young people's involvement and participation in the Rural Pact.

Meet up with colleagues from different member states, politicians, researchers, and representatives of the EU institutions. More information and registration:

<https://landsbygdsveckan.se/ruralpactconference>

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VALUABLE INFORMATION IN AEIDL NEWSLETTER!

This month Newsletter contains following articles:

- SafeHabitus : EU Farm Safety project kicked off in Ireland
 - Montpellier welcomes SHERPA partners to co-create rural futures
 - The EU Rural Observatory is not GRANULAR enough
- and others:

Mar 23, 2023 | News

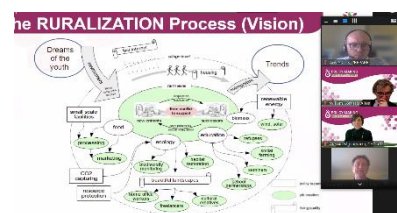


Read the Newsletter here: <https://mailchi.mp/aeidl/aeidl-newsletter-local-innovation-news-and-analysis-b05xwe67qi-13641976?e=7583415c44>

PRESIDENT OF PREPARE PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT ORGANISED BY RURALIZATION PROJECT

President of PREPARE Network took place in the event "New Rural Generations in National CAP Strategic Plans: Policy recommendations from the H2020 RURALIZATION project" organized by Ruralization project.

The event brought together stakeholders, and experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities for rural development in the context of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans. One of the key messages from the event was the need for clear links between the sustainability required for rural development and the CAP Strategic Plans. The speakers emphasized the importance of taking into account environmental, social, and economic sustainability in the design and implementation of the CAP. Another theme discussed was the need for soft measures, such as education and training, to be included in the CAP Strategic Plans. The event also identified several possibilities for improvement in the CAP Strategic Plans. Recognizing trends and weak signals, such as demographic changes and technological advancements, can help policymakers anticipate future challenges and opportunities for rural development. The speakers also stressed the importance of supporting young farmers and non-farming rural newcomers, as well as focusing on people rather than hectares, to ensure sustainable and inclusive rural development.



FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GRANULAR PARTNERS TOOK PLACE IN MONPELLIER (FRANCE)

GRANULAR will produce a rural compass with novel data and tools to characterise rural diversity and guide actors in the design of tailored rural policies.



The recent GRANULAR Assembly provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on the progress made since the project started in October. The event involved setting up steps to take and conducting a field visit to the Living Lab coordinated by the Pays Pyrénées Méditerranée.

To kick off the meeting, Alexia Rouby from EU Food & Farming shared her insights on the need to improve statistics and encourage Member States to share geographical data, as there is currently a lack of data available around rural areas.

The Living Lab located in a diversified rural area with a cross-border territory was visited by the participants, consisting of over 108,000 inhabitants living from mountains to the coast. The GRANULAR Assembly concluded with thematic discussions on the upcoming activities related to data and indicators for rural areas, the GRANULAR Digital Platform, and the needs and actions required for the Living Lab. The event provided an opportunity for participants to come together, discuss and plan for the future of rural areas.



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