

## Forum Synergies News – July 2009

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### Announcements

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- **REMINDER - New ways of access to land**

Regarding the problems of people to have **access to land** and support in starting farming, Forum Synergies has started to cooperate with **Terre de liens** in France and **Stroud Common Wealth** in the UK in order to work on sustainable solutions for generational change in family farming and related rural policies. For more information on the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting which took place in Nogent sur Marne 9. Nov. 2008, please have a look at our homepage! <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/index.php?pid=1>

A thematic conference is planned for 22-25 Sept. 09 in Stroud/ GB.

- **REMINDER - Forum Synergies meeting in Wendland, DE “European Sustainable Rural Gathering”**

Forum Synergies' "Sustainable Rural Gathering", which will be held in Wendland, Germany from the 8th to 11th of October this year will be an occasion to get together with new initiatives. This meeting will be an opportunity to discover and visit practical experiences of local sustainable development, to plan common activities and also exchange on rural policies (specially highlighting how local experiences can inspire sustainable policies).

For more detailed information have a look at the FS website <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/>

- **Calendar of events**

See Annex, page 7

### News from Forum Synergies members & partners

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- **1<sup>st</sup> workshop “Sustainable development in Lake Areas”, 15-18 June at Lake Võrtsjärv, EE**

The first workshop of our thematic exchange project "Sustainable Development in Lake Areas" (short "lake project") took place from 15-18 June 2008 at Lake Võrtsjärv in Estonia. 16 participants had an intensive time of exchanges, field visits and reflections about the general topic of empowering local initiatives and civil society in the framework of the implementation of EU environmental policy. Additionally to participants from six EU-countries, we



even could welcome NGO-activists from China and Botswana. The workshop was organized in co-operation with the "Living Lakes Network" of Global Nature Fund ([www.gnf.org](http://www.gnf.org)) and financially supported by Fondation de France's program "l'Europe en plus large". It was the first in a series of four workshops. You can find a more detailed report on our website <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/>

The next workshop will take place from 21-24 October 2009 at Milicz ponds near Wroclaw in Poland. Programme documents and registration options will shortly be available on [www.forums-synergies.eu](http://www.forums-synergies.eu).

▪ **Forum Synergies Gathering “Our Common Good – Enhancing sustainable life-styles for ecological and social recovery”, 26-27 June in Mas de Noguera, ES**

The meeting was dedicated to an evaluation of our FS programme and planning of future activities. It also offered space for a political discussion on the main challenges for the Valencian region with representatives of civil society organisations and politicians in the region.



We had discussions about our strategy to strengthen FS membership and our relations with the “bigger family” of European networks like ERA, ERCA, CURE or PREPARE. The logistical and programmatic preparation of the upcoming “European Rural Sustainability Gathering” taking place in Göhrde, Wendland, Germany from 8-11 October was another priority of the meeting.

We also enjoyed a field trip in Mas de Noguera and Pina del Montalgrao, a place which is involved in the Farmers Ecology project. As a side event on the 1st day there was held a special Farmers Ecology meeting, in which Spanish, Romanian and French groups exchanged on possible common activities to realize in the frame of Farmer’s Ecology project we are drawing up.



During the meeting we also started a new methodological approach in order “to spread our messages and ideas”. Video clips were produced where each participant had the opportunity to proudly present his or her local experience or project and the special relation with Forum Synergies. This exercise will be continued during the Wendland meeting. The video clips will be available on our FS website.



- **PREPARE Gathering Slovenia and Croatia**

This years PREPARE gathering took place from 30th of June to 4th of July in **Ptuj**, Slovenia, and **Stubicke Toplice**, Croatia, hosted by the Slovenian and the Croatian Rural Development Networks. The core theme of the meeting was "Economic recovery of rural areas and involvement of civil society in the enlargement process in South Eastern Europe and new neighbor countries".

About 80 participants from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the European Institutions took part in "travelling workshops" focusing on good practices in sustainable, bottom-up rural development in both countries. The gathering focussed on needs and potential of the South European Region (SEE), the role of rural civil society in building rural networks and strengthening cooperation between EU member countries, accession countries and neighbouring countries from the region.

A more detailed report is available at the PREPARE website [www.preparenetwork.org](http://www.preparenetwork.org).

- **CURE seminar on urban-rural linkages fostering social cohesion in Europe, 2 July 2009 in Brussels**

The third seminar on urban-rural linkages organised by DG Regio in collaboration with the **Universities of Gloucestershire** and of the **West of England** took place on the **2nd of July 2009** in Brussels.

The debate was oriented by 4 key note speeches:

- Presentation from Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (Antonia Carparelli, Head of Unit, Inclusion, Social Policy Aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies)
- Keynote speech: "A learning agenda for promoting urban-rural linkages and social cohesion" (Seija Virkkala, Professor of Regional Studies, Faculty of Public Administration, University of Vaasa)
- Rural-Urban linkages and social cohesion: a position paper (Ian Smith and Paul Courtney)
- Illustrating the issues of social cohesion and rural-urban linkages (Mark Sucksmith)

More detailed information is available at the CURE newsletter:

[http://www.cureforsustainability.eu/fileadmin/template/projects/cure/files/CURE\\_Newsletter\\_July\\_2009.pdf](http://www.cureforsustainability.eu/fileadmin/template/projects/cure/files/CURE_Newsletter_July_2009.pdf)

- **China-Europe Forum**



The China-Europa-Forum goes back to an initiative and continued financial and management support of *Fondation Pour le Progrès de l'Homme (FPH)* and many other supporting governmental and non-governmental bodies, including European institutions, regional authorities, universities, chambers of commerce and civil society organisations. The Forum brings together participants from all regions and all socio-professional backgrounds. In order to prepare next years China-Europa-Forum in Hong Kong, China, a meeting of prime movers' of the process was organized in Paris from 22.-24.July. Forum Synergies was

represented at the meeting to work with Chinese partners on common strategies towards sustainable rural development projects



You will find a more detailed report on the FS website <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/>

#### ▪ **Re-announcement Estonian Rural Parliament**

As already announced next week the 8<sup>th</sup> Rural Parliament of Estonian Villages will open its doors. From 5-6 August about 40 international guests will have a study trip in different counties of Estonia.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of August an international conference will deal with the topic “**Development of rural areas needs our activities**”. Topics will be: the Cooperation between different rural development organisations in order to influence EU and national rural development policies (ERA, ERCA, PREPARE, Forum Synergies); the possibilities of village associations (village movements) in implementing rural development strategies; changes of the CAP.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August about 10 working groups will gather and travel to several villages and on the 9<sup>th</sup> the Rural Parliament will be closed after a fair with handicrafts and farm products open to the general public and the final presentation of the working groups.

For more information please have a look on the Kodukant website [http://www.kodukant.ee/index.php?id=&news\\_id=102887](http://www.kodukant.ee/index.php?id=&news_id=102887) or the Forum Synergies website <http://www.forum-synergies.eu>

#### ▪ **Twinning Project Dolina Strugu (PL), Ukraine**

Since 2002 Dolina Strugu Association together with the Ukrainian partner has carried out several cross-border projects. We also run a INTERREG III A project entitled “Met by the knowledge”.



The purpose of the project was:

1. to broaden and develop sustainable cross-border cooperation between organizations from Ukraine and Poland
2. to establish direct contacts among NGO employees
3. to initiate actions that led to the acquisition and improvement of the knowledge and skills on how to write and manage UE projects
4. to train NGO staff in acquiring funds for their organizations statutory activities

Twenty-nine persons representing a group of informal and non-governmental organizations from Ukraine participated in the project. The project familiarized its participants with the legal

aspect of organization activity through trainings. They acquired basic information needed to manage the funds available to Poland and Ukraine.



Marek Ząbek, Dolina Strugu

- **Foula Heritage**

The newsletter reports about the Scottish Biodiversity week which was held from 16-23 May 2009. The Ranger Service News Update of early summer 2009 is also available on the FS website! <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/>

## Ongoing activities

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- **Activities in Farmers Ecology**

The workshop “Local regulation of the access to natural resources” organised by AGTER ([www.agter.asso.fr](http://www.agter.asso.fr)) and co-animated by F.Barret, took place in Rhône-Alpes (Beaufortain) and PACA region (Alpes de Hautes Provence), from 28 June to July 2, 2009. A previous similar event was organised in 2008 in Mexico, with mostly the same participants and the same objective: to stimulate the debate on the governance of natural resources management, to exchange experiences and to highlight the most important elements of success or failure in order to elaborate policy proposals and/or recommendations.

Local experiences visits, meetings with the main stakeholders, conclusion meeting at the end of each day, viewing of Mexico video helped knowing and analysing the initiatives. And the personal experience of the 15 Mexican and French participants, involved in the management of natural resources with participation of local communities was a rich added-value to the exchanges. Each experience will be summarized as a success story in AGTER website and some of the knowledge will be integrated into the Farmer's Ecology project.

A more detailed report on the AGTER workshop will be available on the FS website <http://www.forum-synergies.eu>.



Farmer's Ecology's new website is available, please visit: <http://ecologie-paysanne.org>

## **Call for proposals**

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- **Re-Announcement: L'Europe en plus large**

The programme by Fondation de France called "The enlarged Europe" – "L'Europe en plus large" is open for applications again. Fondation de France hereby supports projects which promote a better relationship between French society and new EU member states in the field of sustainable development. The call for tender 2009 is open now! **Deadline for submission: 15.9.2009.**

For further information please consult the FDF homepage:

[http://www.fdf.org/jsp/site/Portal.jsp?page\\_id=200](http://www.fdf.org/jsp/site/Portal.jsp?page_id=200)

- **Re-Announcement: PREPARE Scholarships**

In the context of the PREPARE Network, Forum Synergies is supporting, thanks to Fondation de France, a training exchange programme, the PREPARE scholarships. The overall goal of this exchange programme is to give support to develop human resources and ensure better exchange of experiences within the PREPARE group of countries.

For more information please have a look on the PREPARE homepage:

<http://www.preparenetwork.org/web/index.php?pid=2>

# ANNEX

## Calendar of events

### Upcoming Events August - September 2009

*Legend according to type of event*

	<i>other (national etc...)</i>
	<i>EU- Official</i>
	<i>EU- NGO's and other organisations</i>
	<i>FORUM SYNERGIES project's meetings</i>
	<i>EU- FS sister organisations</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title /Topic</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Organized by</i>	<i>Contact Personne - Documents - Web</i>
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<i>5-7 August</i>	Tour around Estonia for foreign guests to introduce village movement success-stories	Tartu County (Estonia)	Village Movement Kodukant	Download programme and inscription form on <a href="http://www.forum-synergies.eu">www.forum-synergies.eu</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:sirjevinni@gmail.com">sirjevinni@gmail.com</a>
<i>7 August</i>	International conference : Development of rural areas needs our activities.	Estonia	Kodukant	
<i>7-9 August 2009</i>	VIII Rural Parliament of Estonian Villages: "Active villages help to guarantee the sustainability of rural areas"	Tartu County (Estonia)	Village Movement Kodukant	Programme also available on <a href="http://www.kodukant.ee/index.php?id=&amp;news_id=102887">www.kodukant.ee/index.php?id=&amp;news_id=102887</a>
<i>5-7 August 2009</i>	L'Europe et le monde. De crises en déprises... L'alimentation à couteaux tirés	Marciac - Gers (France)	Les Controverses de Marciac. 15ème Université d'été de l'innovation rurale (	Programme on <a href="http://www.agrobiosciences.org">www.agrobiosciences.org</a>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<i>10-11 Sept. 2009</i>	2nd SEMS Summer School on "Sustainable Energy for communities and regions"	Beckerich (Luxemburg)	Sustainable Energy Management System	<a href="http://sems-project.active-cms.de">http://sems-project.active-cms.de</a>
<i>22-25 Sept. 2009</i>	New Ways of Land Access for Communities and Farmers: Re-connecting with sustainable farming for a resilient local food culture	Stroud, Gloucestershire (GB)	FS, Terre de Liens and Stroud Commonwealth	<a href="http://www.forum-synergies.eu">http://www.forum-synergies.eu</a>
<i>23-24 Sept. 2009</i>	Conference "Climate change: securing workplaces in agriculture, food and tourism"	EESC building - Brussels (Belgium)	EFFAT (European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions)	<a href="http://www.effat.org">http://www.effat.org</a>
<i>30 Sept., 1 et 2 Oct. 2009</i>	Oser l'innovation dans les partenariats'	Vichy (France)	19 ème Université d'été du tourisme rural	<a href="http://www.ue-tourisme-rural.fr">http://www.ue-tourisme-rural.fr</a>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title /Topic</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Organized by</i>	<i>Contact Personne - Documents - Web</i>
30 Sept., 1 et 2 Oct. 2009	Congrès des Parcs naturels régionaux « Les parcs, terres d'innovations »	Parc Naturel Régional de la Chartreuse (France)	Fédération des Parcs naturels régionaux de France	<a href="http://www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.fr">http://www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.fr</a>
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
07 Oct. 2009	The Future of Mountain Livestock Farming: A Territorial and Economic Stake for Europe	Clermont-Ferrand, (France)	Euromontana	<a href="http://www.euromontana.org">http://www.euromontana.org</a>
8 - 11 October 2009	FORUM SYNERGIES Rural Sustainability Gathering	Goehrde, Wendland region, (Germany)	Forum Synergies	<a href="http://www.forum-synergies.eu">http://www.forum-synergies.eu</a>
14-16 Oct. 2009	Europe's mountain bonus – how communities and land management provide positive externalities for European society, and the related policies and opportunities	Arantzazu, (Spain)	Euromontana	<a href="http://www.euromontana.org">http://www.euromontana.org</a>
16.-17 Oct. 2009	Séminaire : Développement équilibré des régions urbaines et rurales des Alpes	Bad Reichenhall (Germany)	Alliance dans les Alpes (www.alpenallianz.org)	<a href="http://www.cipra.org/fr/alpmedia/manifestations/2193">http://www.cipra.org/fr/alpmedia/manifestations/2193</a>
21-24 Oct. 2009	Sustainable Development of Lake Areas	Milicz Ponds, near Wroclaw (Poland)	FS and Global Nature Fund	Titus Bahner
28-29 Oct. 2009	"Rural areas shaping the Future" (RuralFuture09)	Uppsala (Sweden)	Swedish University of Agricultural Science	<a href="http://www-conference.slu.se/ruralfuture09/">http://www-conference.slu.se/ruralfuture09/</a>
29-30 Oct.2009	7th European Rural Development Network Conference 2009: Linking Competitiveness with Equity and Sustainability: new Ideas for the Socio-Economic Development of Rural Areas	Debrecen (Hungary)	European Rural Development Network (ERDN)	<a href="http://nodes.agr.unideb.hu/avk/">http://nodes.agr.unideb.hu/avk/</a>

For more information please have a look on our FS homepage:

<http://www.forum-synergies.eu/index.php?pid=11>

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