



## Forum Synergies News – February 2010

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### Announcements

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#### ▪ Invitation to action for a more sustainable rural Europe beyond 2013

The coming months and years until 2013 will offer an important window of opportunity to engage in reflections and actions on future policies and sustainable practices in agriculture and rural development. The European Union will work on a new reform of the Common Agriculture and Rural development Policies. These are planned to be implemented between 2013 and 2018.

We believe that Forum Synergies can make a substantial contribution to the upcoming reforms, based on a close cooperation with partner organizations and networks like PREPARE, CURE, Groupe de Bruges and many others who wish to join the effort. We would like to encourage you to participate in this process and to commonly develop our “messages from the countryside”. Already in 2002 Forum Synergies co-organized a process called “AgriCultural Convention” which invited stakeholders to elaborate common recommendations for reform which were then presented to the European institutions. 2010 will be a new opportunity for such an exercise. Forum Synergies is currently negotiating with interested partner to launch a new process of self-organized consultation through moderated web-contributions over the coming six months which should culminate in a final conference in Brussels in autumn 2010.

A more elaborated proposal will be published by the end of the month.

#### ▪ Sustainable development of lake areas

After the first two workshops held in 2009 (Lake Võrtsjärv, Estonia, 15-18 June 2009 and Milicz Ponds, Poland, 21-24 October 2009) 2 more workshops are foreseen for 2010:

- Lake Ptju or Triglav National Park, Slovenia, 21-25 April 2010 and
- Thau Basin, France, 22-25 September 2010

The workshops are organized in partnership with German NGO Global Nature Fund (GNF). The workshop structure with field trips and joint evaluation of experiences proved to be successful. The cooperation seems to be very fruitful for both sides.

At the next workshop in Slovenia there will be an additional focus on topics and coalitions for new cooperation activities among participating environmental networks and activists.

Programme, invitation and reports are available at Forum Synergies' website [www.forum-synergies.eu](http://www.forum-synergies.eu) .

- **Fundatia ADEPT Transylvania**

Fundatia ADEPT is organising a conference in Sibiu, Romania, 7 - 9 September 2010, about “*High Nature Value grasslands –securing the vital ecosystem services of European farming.*” They will examine current policies with regard to Europe’s farmed landscapes including CAP, and propose revised priorities/ policies. ([www.fundatia-adept.org](http://www.fundatia-adept.org)).

- **Calendar of events**

See Annex, page 4

## **News from Forum Synergies members & partners**

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- **European Rural Sustainability Gathering, Göhrde, Wendland, October 2009**

The summary report of the venue and the field trips reports are now available on our website [www.forum-syneries.eu](http://www.forum-syneries.eu)!

The European Rural Sustainability Gathering in autumn 2010 will focus on political aspects related to the CAP reform.



- **CURE project FOCUS**

In **December 2009** the project FOCUS (Food Chains for Rural-Urban Sustainability) was approved for financing by Fondation de France. CURE initiated the project in partnership with 4D - Dossiers et Débats pour le Développement Durable, France ([www.association4d.org](http://www.association4d.org)) as well as ADEPT Foundation, Romania ([www.fundatia-adept.org](http://www.fundatia-adept.org)).

FOCUS aims to pilot practical local answers to sustainable food chains, through urban-rural and producer-consumer connexions, so as to enhance education of adults and children and to promote sustainable initiatives for local communities and economies, healthy eating, environmental awareness.

The project will run during 2010 and 2011.

- **CURE project SURE (Sustainable Urban Rural Europe)**

In **November 2009** CURE organised in collaboration with the Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning, Austria, the Polish Rural Forum (Forum Aktywizacji Obszarow Wiejskich), Poland and the Riksorganisationen Hela Sverige skall leva, Sweden a **workshop in Sweden** in the framework of the SURE project which is financed through the European Citizens Programme.

The aim of the SURE project is to connect citizens, through their representative civil organisations, to the Sustainability agenda of the European Union, and to clarify the implications of this agenda for connecting citizens and organisations in urban and rural areas.

The outputs from this will be taken to a **second event** of three days in the form of an 80-people conference to be held during the month of **May 2010 in Krakow**, which will draw

conclusions on the nature of the sustainability challenge, will focus on ways to engage citizens in the great collective effort that is needed, will identify striking examples of good practice in this field and will propose ways in which such practice may be mainstreamed, with the implications that this may have for changes in the policy context.

These conclusions will then be disseminated through the CURE, FORUM SYNERGIES, PREPARE and ICLEI Networks and by other means.

#### ▪ **PREPARE Scholarships**

In autumn 2009 2 scholarships were organized through the PREPARE network: Annamaria Totos from Romanian CIVITAS foundation studied LEADER principles, working methods and processes in Finland. And Emiljiano Kaszaj spent an internship At the organization “Hela Sverige Ska Leva”, Stockholm, Sweden, an organisation mainly working on supporting sustainable villages. The trainee had been working for two years with a project in Albania on rural development.

Both of the trainees highlighted the importance of their experiences which does not only provide them with more professionalism and a better understanding of rural areas but also allowed them to listen to people with ideas and opinions that they had never before considered, and helped them to develop new ways of thinking about the same problems they had to realise in their home countries.

A more detailed report is available on request at [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu)

### **Ongoing activities**

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#### ▪ **Farmers Ecology – New European project**

A new project is going to start, thanks to the support of Fondation de France (“L'Europe en plus large”). The main partnership will include two FS “historical” members (Mas de Noguera, Spain and Geyser, France) and the Rumanian Civitas Foundation. In 2010, several groups in each country will run the collection of local knowledge, after being trained; they will meet in Rumania during the autumn to share their first results.

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

### **Welcoming new members of Forum Synergies**

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We want to offer the FS newsletter as a platform for new members to briefly present themselves and their main focus of activities. For more detailed information, please have a look at our homepage, section “Members”

#### ▪ **Center for Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Rural Development – CeProSARD, Macedonia**

CeProSARD targets sustainable development through multidisciplinary approach. The focus of CeProSARD is on rural development, while considering local economic development, protection of the environment, and protection of the cultural heritage. The specific areas of interest are



agriculture, climate change, utilization of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency resources and energy efficiency.

CeProSARD develops a network in the areas of its specific focus. The network involves Governmental institutions, nongovernmental organisations, cooperatives, private sector and individuals. The cooperation with the Governmental institutions covers policies creation support, based on the program results and recommendations deriving from the field. CeProSARD programs are implemented with active participation of the entire network and its members. Main principle of CeProSARD is to continuously raise awareness on sustainable development on all levels in society. [www.ceprosard.org.mk](http://www.ceprosard.org.mk)

▪ **Jane Paunkovic, Faculty of Management, Serbia**

Ass Professor. I am presently teaching Sustainable development at the Faculty of Management. Faculty of Management has a unique Sustainable development course for managers in Serbia. It has also been involved in Neighbourhood program with Bulgaria (EAR sponsored) and actively participating in education for sustainability in local communities.

## ANNEX

### Calendar of events

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▪ **Upcoming Events February 2010 – June 2010**

For more detailed information, please have a look t our website [www.forum-synergies.at!](http://www.forum-synergies.at!)

*legend according to  
type of event*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title /Topic</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Contact Personne - Documents - Web</b>
<b>Feb. 2010</b>				
17 - 20 Feb. 2010	<b>Biofach 2010 : World Organic Trade Fair</b>	Nuremberg (Germany)	IFOAM	<a href="http://www.biofach.de">www.biofach.de</a>
18 - 22 Feb. 2010	<b>IV Colloque international d'Urgenci</b>	Kobé (Japan)	URGENCI	<a href="http://www.urgenci.net">www.urgenci.net</a>
25 - 26 Feb. 2010	<b>Country life? Building inclusive rural communities - Rural Housing Service Conference 2010</b>	Birnam, Perthshire (UK)	Rural Housing Service	<a href="http://www.ruralhousingScotland.org/">http://www.ruralhousingScotland.org/</a>
<b>March 2010</b>				
22-26 March 2010	<b>Farmer's Ecology training session</b>	France	Geyser / Supagro	Philippe Barret
<b>April 2010</b>				
21-25 April 2010	<b>Thematic workshop: Sustainable Development in Lake Areas</b>	Slovenia	Forum Synergies and	Titus Bahner

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title /Topic</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Contact Personne - Documents - Web</b>
			Global Nature Fund	
April 2010	<b>Political workshop</b> - Training session		Forum Synergies	<a href="#">Simone Matouch</a>
<b>May 2010</b>				
May 2010	<b>SURE - Sustainable Urban and Rural Europe – Workshop / Atelier SURE</b> (Europe Urbaine et Rurale Durable)	Krakow (Poland)	CURE	-
5 May 2010	<b>Cultural Village of the Year – opening day</b>	Kirchheim / Innkreis, Austria	cultural village of Europe network	<a href="http://www.cultural-village.com">www.cultural-village.com</a> Contact: Mayor Hans Hartl <a href="mailto:hans.hartl@kirchheim.at">hans.hartl@kirchheim.at</a>
<b>June 2010</b>				
3-6 June 2010	„Geh'n ma Garten schau'n“ / let's watch neighbours' gardens	Kirchheim / Innkreis, Austria	cultural village of Europe network	<a href="http://www.cultural-village.com">www.cultural-village.com</a> Contact: Mayor Hans Hartl <a href="mailto:hans.hartl@kirchheim.at">hans.hartl@kirchheim.at</a>
8 June 2010	<b>Rencontres inter-regionales sur l'habitat rural : l'habitat choisi</b>	France	Relier	<a href="http://www.relier.info">www.relier.info</a>
16 - 18 June 2010	<b>Université de l'Accueil de nouvelles populations : "Changement de société, nouvelles mobilités, quelles politiques d'accueil?"</b>	Clermont-Ferrand (France)	Région Auvergne, Collectif Ville-Campagne, Diact Massif Central	<a href="http://www.accueil-populations.com">http://www.accueil-populations.com</a>
<b>July 2010</b>				
6 -11 July 2010	<b>Ecovillages and Sustainable Living Conference</b>	Damanhur (Italy)	European Ecovillage Network	<a href="http://www.gen-europe.org">www.gen-europe.org</a>

## Editorial

Forum Synergies  
Philippe Barret, president  
Hannes Lorenzen, vice-president

Rue de Hennin 83  
1050 Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Email : [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu)  
web : [www.forum-synergies.eu](http://www.forum-synergies.eu)



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