



## Forum Synergies

Linking sustainable practices throughout Europe

[www.forum-synergies.eu](http://www.forum-synergies.eu)

Number 5/11  
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## NEWSLETTER

### News

#### **New Funding Opportunity – Before January 6 2012**

*THE ARKLETON TRUST FUTURE THEME, CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST*

#### **“Doing Rural Development in the Economic Downturn”**

Are you interested in an opportunity to promote, and possibly research, an emerging issue concerning rural areas? If so, the Arkleton Trust is inviting expressions of interest from those wishing to develop proposals which will help to determine the future theme(s), on which the Trust will focus its efforts for 2 – 3 years from 2013.

The Arkleton Trust, United Kingdom, London, <http://arkletontrust.eu/?q=node/458>

### Outlook / Events

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Workshop “Sustainable Development in Lake Areas”**

For any questions regarding programme or registration please contact [lakeproject@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:lakeproject@forum-synergies.eu). Programme and registration form will be available on our website from mid December!

#### **Forum Synergies Capacity Building Workshop, 13-14 January 2012**

For questions or registration, please contact Simone Matouch: [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu)

Even if you will not be able to participate in our Capacity Building workshop we would like to invite you in “making memories”, that is to say identifying skills you have experimented in some FS activities you have participated in (in the past months, years, gathering, workshops etc...).

So please send your contribution (which event, type of tool, purpose and brief description) to Simone [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu)

On a 1st stage, we would like to focus the following aspects:

- how to moderate an international network exchange
- how to enhance collective activities/exchange
- how to build up a common agreement / position

In case you remember further skills please feel free to make suggestions!! Thanks in advance...

#### **Forum Synergies LifeShop in St.Michel l’Observatoire, 8-14 January 2012**

For questions or registration please contact Simone Matouch: [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu)

## The new FS calendar of events is now available

Please visit our website [www.forum-synergies.eu/](http://www.forum-synergies.eu/)

### News from Forum Synergies projects

#### Sustainable Forestry

"Sustainable forestry" is new thematic activity of Forum Synergy. We plan to exchange practical experiences in the multifunctional development of private and public forests, supported by civil society. . The European Network pro Silva is interested in cooperation on that topic.



A first preparatory meeting will take place in January 2012



#### Rural Actors for Health

The **1<sup>st</sup> European Herbal Gathering** will take place in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of October 2012 in Austria, Lesachtal. It will be hosted by the "Natur- & Kräuterwerkstatt Lesachtal" [www.kraeuterwerkstatt-lesachtal.at/](http://www.kraeuterwerkstatt-lesachtal.at/).

The Austrian national UNESCO committee for the intangible heritage programme has shown interest to take over the patronage for this event. Their interest to promote and safeguard traditional knowledge and practices concerning nature fits perfectly to our focus on rural actors and their contribution to valorize the local knowledge about medicinal and spice plants.

A first preparatory meeting will take place in January 2012



In case you are interested to cooperate or for more information in general please contact Simone Matouch, [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu)

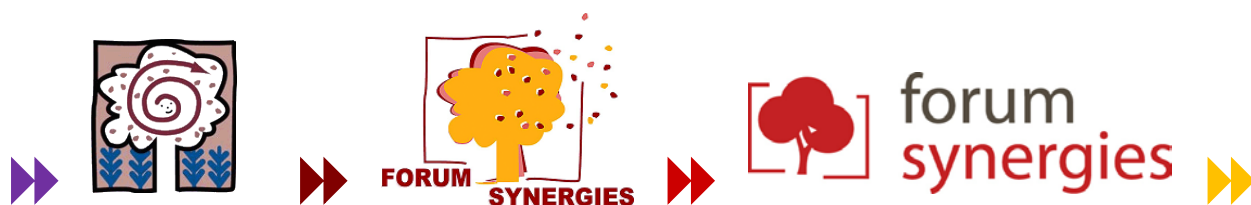
#### Farmers Ecology: «Ecosaberes» meeting in Spain

The Spanish partners of Farmers Ecology (Mas de Noguera and Pebrella Consultora) organised a meeting on November 11th and 12th. It was an opportunity for organisations working on rural heritage, ethno ecology, farmers knowledge to get to know each other and to make benefit out of that exchange for further collaborations in Spain or in the frame of Farmers Ecology.



You can download some of the presentations in Spanish on the following page:  
<http://www.alter21.es/JORNADAECOSABERES>

### Forum Synergies gets a new outfit



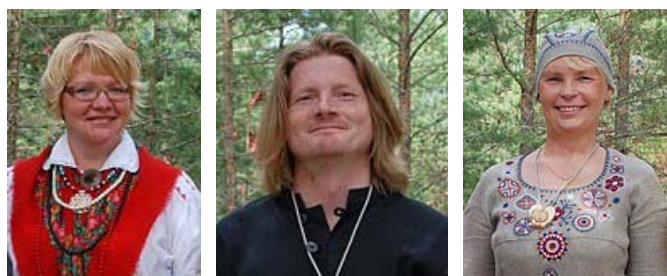
On our journey through the European rural countryside, through years of travelling, through serious, breathtaking and amusing encounters we've learned a lot of things. We've learned that life is like photography – we use the negatives to develop. We've learned that a new destination doesn't have to be a place but is rather a new way of looking at things. And we've learned that change always can be a threat and a blessing in the same moment.

Forum Synergies has evolved through the years and we are facing new demands and options related to an exploding world of technical supplements. So we're not only getting a new outfit but also a new website which intends to be more user-friendly and more inviting for dialogue.

The new website will be online in January 2012.

### News from Forum Synergies members and partners

#### **KODUKANT has a new board!**



New laughing faces to encounter when we contact Kodukant!

**Liina Saar:** member of board, volunteer- responsible for foreign issues, representing Kodukant in the commission of Ministry of Interior, representing Kodukant, PREPARE, ERCA. Work in Riga, EST-LAT-RUS ENIP program Technical Secretariat. [liina70@hotmail.com](mailto:liina70@hotmail.com)

**Margus Vain:** member of board, volunteer. Responsible for internal issues, represents Kodukant in the commission of Ministry of Agriculture. Work in an architecture office. [margus.vain@gmail.com](mailto:margus.vain@gmail.com)

**Kaie Toobal:** manager of Kodukant, board member. She is responsible for organisation development, communications with members and dealing with every day issues. [kodukant@kodukant.ee](mailto:kodukant@kodukant.ee)

### ARC – a hot spot in the debate about the future CAP

The last couple of months have been a busy time for the ARC. On November 23<sup>rd</sup> the website [www.arc2020.eu](http://www.arc2020.eu) was (re)launched. The interactive site has a number of new features and is supported by the new [ARC web team](#).

This team includes correspondents based in capitals across the EU, who keep readers informed of what ministers and Members of the European Parliament are saying – in Brussels and at home. If you want to join the team and provide news and information on campaigns from your country and networks, get in touch!

The ARC network continues to grow, with over 150 signatories of their [Communication from Civil Society](#) – the most recent signatory is Slow Food. In November, the ARC also contributed to an article in *The Parliament Magazine* – the article (and a number of translations) can be found [here](#).



### PLANED – a new Forum Synergies member – welcome!

**PLANED** (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise & Development) is a process as well as the name of our organisation. The ethos of **PLANED** can be summarised as:

*“An enterprising community can help to build a better future.*



*Developing local resources can strengthen the local economy.*

*The greatest resource of any area is its people, their skills, knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment.”*

Contact: Jane Howell [jane@planed.org.uk](mailto:jane@planed.org.uk);  
[www.planed.org.uk](http://www.planed.org.uk)

*Working with communities, delivering for Pembrokeshire*



*Cydweithio gyda chymunedau, cyflawni dros Sir Benfro*



### **About Forum Synergies**

Forum Synergies is a European non-profit organisation. Since 1994 our network of engaged citizens and associations has gathered rich and varied experience in sustainable practices, mainly in rural areas. Trying out the best ways to save resources and energy in our local communities, combining the intelligent use of modern technologies with traditional know how, and sharing our successes and weaknesses throughout Europe, have given us faith in getting involved in political decision-making on our future.

Forum Synergies is kindly supported by



Fondation de France  
<http://www.fdf.org>



Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme  
<http://www.fph.ch>

Contact: [info@forum-synergies.eu](mailto:info@forum-synergies.eu)