

DECLARATION ON NETWORKING

Signed at the Regional Participatory Planning Workshop on: "Establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries", in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia on March 4th, 2011, by:

- a) The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE;
- b) Registered National Rural Development Networks of the Western Balkan countries;
- c) Initiatives for National Rural Development Networks of the Western Balkan countries in the establishment phase;

I GENERAL INFORMATION

The Declaration on networking aims to establish a framework and give directions for future cooperation in the area of rural development among the organizations currently represented by the undersigned signatories.

We, the signatories of the Declaration on networking, consider the importance of regional cooperation, therefore, we express our readiness to work together on improvement and strengthening of cooperation of the rural development networks in the Balkans and for establishment of a platform which will serve for regular exchange of information, experience and knowledge, as well as for joint initiation and implementation of multi-lateral project "Balkan Rural Network".

The overall joint objective of such framework is utilization of available capital, foreign assistance and national resources in building up and strengthening capacities for rural development support, in order to increase the economic competitiveness of rural areas of the Balkan countries.

The joint activities will be focused on:

- Strengthening of organization structure and capacities of the rural development networks and initiatives;
- Establishment of umbrella organization "Balkan Rural Network" which will represent the common ideas, goals and needs;
- Preparation and implementation of programmes and projects for sustainable regional cooperation and sustainable rural development in the Balkan countries;
- Promotion of networking, cooperation, synergies in the development processes, exchange of knowledge and experience, capacity building in the area of rural development;
- Exchange of information and promotion of knowledge and best practices in rural development;

- Promotion and implementation of the LEADER approach in the Balkan countries;
- Exploring and promotion of the opportunities for financing from national, EU funds and other funds related to rural development;
- Establishment cooperation and networking with similar organizations from the countries members of the European Union, and worldwide.

II PROFESIONAL COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE

In order to achieve the cooperation objectives, we the signatories have agreed that at the management level of our organizations will create conditions for realization of agreed cooperation goals and activities. The operative and effective way of exchange of correct, trustful and significant information of common interest, will be agreed and ensured.

We, the signatories of the Declaration, confirm our willingness for cooperation and agree that the national rural development networks of the Balkan countries and the initiative "Balkan Rural Network" will join the Stakeholders Rural Club of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG).

We will create conditions and will include activities in the annual plans of our organizations for permanent and long-term cooperation, and the representatives our organizations will be allowed to participate on professional and other events (Conferences, presentations, professional seminars, study tours, sports and other activities) in order to promote and strengthen the establishment of contacts and cooperation.

We agree that in case of a need; a support will be provided for the establishment of common working groups or professional bodies, which will work on common projects' proposals or solving problems that are of common interest.

All signatories have absolute autonomy in choosing their representatives in working groups, or professional bodies, or the right to delegate as many representatives to assess how they can make the maximum contribution to the work of these bodies.

We agree to protect business; personal and other confidential information, including written or electronic materials that are result of cooperation and are in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration. Information or material will not be published or made available to third parties without written permission of the concerned party.



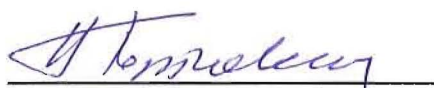
III FINAL PROVISIONS

Signatories of the Declaration express the readiness to comply with its provisions, and will do everything in their power for mutual cooperation and achievements of the goals that are set.

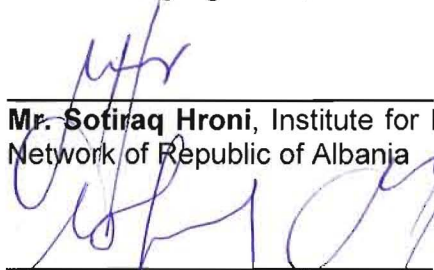
Signed by:



Mr. Tugomir Majdak, Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group
in Southeast Europe, SWG Assembly President



Mr. Petar Gjorgievski, Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia



Mr. Sotirag Hroni, Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Initiative for Rural Development
Network of Republic of Albania



Ms. Marina Brakalova, FOR A Foundation, Initiative for Rural Development Forum of the
Republic of Bulgaria



Ms. Sladjana Ujic, NGO "SNOP" Rogatica, Initiative for Rural Development Network of
Bosnia and Herzegovina



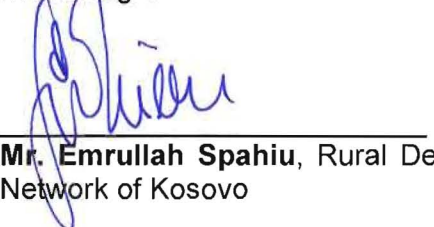
Ms. Nina Vinski, Croatian Network for Rural Development



Mr. Dejan Velimanovic, Network for Rural Development of Serbia



Mr. Ratko M. Batakovic, Agro-Group, Initiative for Rural Development Network of
Montenegro



Mr. Emrullah Spahiu, Rural Development Service "CG", Initiative for Rural Development
Network of Kosovo

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Initiated by



The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE



Rural development network of the Republic of Macedonia

