

Statute

Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN)

PREAMBLE

The Member organizations of the Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN) are listed as follows:

- Rural Development Network of the Republic of Serbia
- Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia
- Rural Development Network of the Republic of Montenegro

based on:

- Declaration on networking signed at the Regional Participatory Planning Workshop on “Establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries” March 4th 2011 in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia ;
- Meeting of the initiative board for establishment of Balkan Rural Development Network – BRDN March 28th 2013 Belgrade Republic of Serbia

and willingness to establish an organization to work on rural development on sustainable principles, believe in common human and social principles, open to new membership through transparent networking, and permanent cooperation between all rural development stakeholders in SEE, decided to approve the underlying Statute:

NAME AND SEAT

ARTICLE 1

The name of the organization is Balkan Rural Development Network hereinafter named BRDN.

The seat of the BRDN will be chaired annually by one of the member organizations. The Assembly of the BRDN will determine the annual chairing of BRDN as per decision of the majority of the member organizations, hereinafter named Members.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ARTICLE 2

Member means civil society organization that acts as a network, movement or umbrella organization dealing in the area of rural development.

BRDN member can be a civil society organization registered according the national laws of civil society organizations in the SEE countries which in its Statute and programmed goals is associated with rural development and that will join BRDN voluntarily with signing a document for membership by which it also agrees with the BRDN Statute.

The final member admittance is done by the BRDN Assembly.
BRDN guarantees the discretion of each member

The BRDN is consisted of Members from SEE dealing in rural development on national/regional levels. The Members are Civil Society Organizations which are/have:

1. established in a state/territory in the SEE;
2. expressed their interest to join BRDN;
3. accepted the Statute of the BRDN.

Members are represented in the BRDN by delegating one representative (further: Delegates).

The BRDN Delegates are to be: representative on a decision making level,

Each officially appointed BRDN delegate has a mandate from its` organization to participate in decision making within the BRDN, on behalf of the Member.

If appointed delegates cannot participate at the BRDN meetings/activities, the Member should delegate another representative of the BRDN Member to participate in a BRDN meeting/activity.

In case the Member decides to replace a delegate in the BRDN, a written information and explanation should be submitted to the BRDN Chairperson.

The BRDN, is an international independent, non party, non-profitable civil society initiative, working according to its` own principles, which are not binding for the Member's policies on national and regional level.

The BRDN is open to any civil society network from State/territory from SEE, which expresses an explicit interest to become a Member and is deemed to be able and willing to fulfill the principles and the objectives as set forth in articles 3, 4, 5.

Applications for new membership shall be submitted to the BRDN Assembly, for consideration and approval.

PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 3

The guiding principles are:

Acting in a spirit of friendship and good neighborliness and enhance mutual respect and confidence, dialogue and cooperation among the Members;

Improving environment for development and promotion of individual and collective initiatives of stakeholders on all levels;

Sustainable rural development based on preserving and development of the resources of the environment, human, social, and creative/production potential;

Support of diversity of the rural regions, which are all similar and yet so different. This should be taken into account when the future development plans are created.

Bottom up approach and involvement of the local communities, especially the public in the development processes. Local partnership development and cooperation culture;

Networking and cooperation promotion, synergy in the development processes and exchange of experience and knowledge;

Tradition support and promotion of innovations for utilization of traditional values;

Support and promotion of integral actions and sector linking of the local and national institutions in the process;

Promotion and support of ownership of the local projects through their local management and administering.

Transparency in working will be achieved through publishing occasional printed materials, bulletin, information in the public media, web site and other forms of communication for the members and all other interested in the Network activities.

ARTICLE 4

The aims of the BRDN are:

- To connect and align different profile organizations for exchange of opinions, information and experiences as well as promotion organization and assisting in activities from the sphere of the rural development.
- To promote rural communities development and to connect different sectors in those communities;
- To work on promotion of the conditions for consistent development of the rural areas and improvement of the quality of life.

Areas of cooperation

In accordance with the agreed principles and with the aim of utilizing more effectively their human, natural and other resources for attaining a sustained growth of rural areas, the social well-being of their people and democracy development the members shall cooperate in the following areas:

- Rural development;
- Trade and economic development;
- Agriculture and agro-industry;
- Environmental protection;
- Protection and promotion of cultural heritage;
- Tourism and rural tourism;
- Exchange of statistical data;
- Knowledge, experience and information;
- Support of the marginalized groups and their socio economic integration, and
- Collaboration between authorities or in any other related area.

ARTICLE 5

The general objective of the BRDN is:

- to facilitate the identification of mutual needs and interests,
- to provide a platform for exchange of information on rural development topics;
- to provide a platform for regional cooperation and joint action

The main objectives were defined as:

- to support different institutions in fulfilling needs of the countries/ territories.
- Joint planning and implementation of cross-border projects;
- Organizing support for solving problems and satisfying needs related to rural development issues in the SEE.

ARTICLE 6

Specific tasks of the BRDN are to provide a platform for exchange of experiences and assisting each other in:

1. Direct support for conducting studies, assessments and research in rural development;
2. Facilitate communication between all stakeholders of rural development in the region;
3. Rise awareness for rural development within local communities and rural development stakeholders;
4. Assist strategic planning and programming for rural development.

Through:

- exchange of information;
- initiation, preparation and implementation of joint projects,
- lobbying and fund raising;
- exchange of personnel;
- building up rural development expert pool;
- actively supporting capacity building on all levels.
- The BRDN work is based on annual/biannual operational plan endorsed by the BRDN Assembly

BODIES

ARTICLE 7

a. BRDN has two bodies:

- The Assembly
- The President of the BRDN Assembly

The Members of the BRDN may organize themselves in sub-areas within the framework of the BRDN.

THE ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 8

a. The BRDN Assembly is consisted of delegates, nominated by the BRDN members. The Assembly is the principal decision making body of the BRDN.

b. The Assembly is entitled to:

1. coordinate initiatives and activities in line with the Statute of the SWG;
2. decide on application and exclusion of Members, Partners and Observers;
3. approve staff, budget and treasury regulations;
4. elaborate all internal regulations;
5. decide on all issues needed to functioning of the BRDN;
6. consider all matters submitted and make appropriate decisions accordingly;
7. adopt and modify documents of the BRDN;
8. establish bodies within the BRDN, assign tasks, define, modify or terminate their mandates;
9. consider any other related matters which may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE 9

The voting within the Assembly takes place by consensus of present members with the exception of the application, suspension and exclusion of Members and the change of Statute that requires consensus of all members of the BRDN. If the consensus cannot be achieved, voting will be applied. Each Member has only one voting right. In case when one or more members are coming from the same country, the voting right is restrained to one (1) vote.

Decision is made on the bases on simple majority principle.

Quorum for the Assembly shall be 50 percent plus one of the BRDN Members.

ARTICLE 10

The Assembly is normally convened at least once a year. An extraordinary meeting of the Assembly may be convened at the suggestion by the simple majority of the BRDN Members.

The Assembly is entitled to invite guests or guest delegations to the Assembly Meetings.

ARTICLE 11

The regular BRDN meeting related to technical issues is scheduled by the President of the BRDN Assembly, according to the needs and intensity of activities undertaken.

PRESIDENCY OF THE BRDN ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 12

The Presidency of the BRDN Assembly is switched annually to the Member on the rotational basis, based on the decision of the BRDN Assembly and is represented by the Delegate from the Member.

The President of the BRDN Assembly is an honorary position with a mandate to represent the BRDN within the time frame of his/her mandate.

The President of the BRDN Assembly is chairing of the Assembly meetings and events organized by the BRDN Assembly.

The Member, hosting the Presidency of BRDN include responsibilities for overall management, coordination and representation of the BRDN as well as for reporting to the Assembly on annual basis for all performed activities, including financial reporting for the preceding year.

FINANCING OF THE BRDN

ARTICLE 13

In principle the financing of the organization/network is based on fundraising processes.

Fundraising for BRDN activities is conducted upon internal agreement and confirmed by the BRDN Assembly.

Financing of the BRDN is provided by different sources such as:

- Membership and sponsoring
- Earmarked funds from organizations
- Donations from citizens and legal entities
- Presents and grants
- Organizing humanitarian events;
- Organizing other events
- Joint projects
- Other sources

The membership fee will be determined, based on the decision of the BRDN Assembly.

To this purpose, contributions on voluntary basis from the international organizations, institutions, observers, third parties-donors shall be welcomed.

The support provided of such voluntary contribution is conditional and consistent with the principles and objectives of the SWG.

SUPPORTERS

ARTICLE 14

Supporter are national authorities, national or international organizations or institutions and others willing to support the BRDN to meet its aims, objectives and tasks. Supporters are entitled to support BRDN by providing technical assistance, logistic and financial support.

PARTNERS

BRDN partners are not members, but are registered in the list of providers or co-operators of the BRDN. They will cooperate with the BRDN in accordance with a separate Agreement named by the type of work that is regulated in it. If is not otherwise regulated with this Statute, these Agreements will be approved by the BRDN Assembly and signed by the BRDN President. The President has time line of 8 days to register the subject in the registry of service providers. When by any legal grounds this Agreement ceases, the subject shall be removed from the registry of service providers by the power of this fact. By the act for beneficiaries, it may be regulated that Partners of the BRDN, under certain conditions may also gain a recipient status.

OBSERVERS

ARTICLE 17

The BRDN may as per the proposal of the Member, grant observer status to an organization, institution or individual, expressing interest for BRDN activities. Having the status of an Observer, does` not automatically mean membership in the BRDN or, it is a condition for application. Observers can disseminate information, bring information from outside, contribute with information, facilitate BRDN meetings, provide inputs for discussions etc.

RELATIONS WITH THIRD PARTIES

ARTICLE 18

The BRDN shall promote a relationship with third parties such as states, international organizations, national and worldwide organizations, institutions and networks, interested to cooperate on various matters of mutual interest through:

- a) Dialogue, within a frame of periodic exchanges and consultations;
- b) Sector partnership, dialogue and possibility of attending meetings on specific subjects;
- c) Invitation of guests; possibility of attending sessions of the BRDN upon the invitation of the President with the consent of all the Members.

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 20

Any Member may propose an amendment to this Statute.

The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated to the Member and submitted for consideration and approval.

Amendments, approved pursuant to paragraph above, shall be subject of acceptance and/or approval by the Members.

RDN Republic of Macedonia
President
Petar Gjorgievski



RDN Montenegro
President
Ratko Batakovic



RDN Republic of Serbia
President
Dragan Roganovic

