

Minutes from the 2nd meeting of the Balkan Rural Development Network - BRDN

Date: 7th December 2013

Place: Hotel "Magerl" Gmunden (Austria)

Attn: Ratko Bataković RDN of Montenegro, Aleksandra Todorovska RDN of Macedonia, Afrim Sarku RDN of Kosovo*, Matija Zamljačanec Croatian Rural Development Network and Dragan Roganovic RDN of Serbia

Topics discussed:

1. Presentation activities of the national networks
2. Admission of new members
3. Defining the Working Plan
4. Other

Report:

1. Presentation activities of the national networks

Representatives of national networks presented network activities:

Macedonia

- The project " Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change " funded by USAID lasts until 2015,
- Activities on the application LEADER approach in Eastern Macedonia funded by USAID,
- Within the USAID project " Adaptation of agriculture to climate change," the memorandum signed with the eastern region of the formation of Local Action Group,
- Representative of the Network participated in the PREPARE in Brussels 14th November 2013,
- Assembly was with 57 members,
- We are working on developing programs for 2014 include new topics : rural tourism , vulnerable groups,
- E-Newsletter is published quarterly,
- Membership is 10 euro.

Montenegro

- The network was formally established in July 2012,
- International Conference on Rural Development is implemented, were present organizations from the region,
- Web site is operational and has 20,000 visitors,
- Representative of the Network participated in the PREPARE gathering in Jahorina (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on September 2013,
- Representatives of the Network participated in a study visit to Slovenia,
- Representatives of the Network participated in a study visit to Bulgaria,
- coordination of participation the Network members in the media,
- 3 project applications were prepared - with a network of Serbian , Croatian network and the National Fund for games of chance (mobile workshop equipment ...)
- Increasing the visibility is an important activity in the current period
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture and RD
- The Network currently counts 12 members, and there is interest for 5 new members.

Kosovo*

- The network was formally established 09/12/2013,
- The network consists of 55 organizations (3 LAG, 2 cooperatives, young farmers clubs and CSO)
- Application for admission to BRDN submitted 10/25/2013.
- Plan for 2014: identified potential projects, two project proposals have been prepared or are in preparation (Finland embassy 16.11, EU 19.12)
- It's planned the preparation of project proposals for alternative energy (potential project and the possibility of cooperation) and the wine road in Orahovac (potential project and the possibility of cooperation)
- The network will organize Eco Day 24th May
- Web site is planned (the idea is to have not only put data on potential projects and then to a democratic vote on the projects that would be developed, data on the network, members, SWG, BRDN) . Asking for money from the Ministry,
- The Office of the network is in Orahovac.

Croatia

- HMRR there since 2005,
- There is a valid experience of other states
- There is international experience
- Projects with LAG and LEADER approach, with Montenegro network
- HMRR monitor and support the work of the LAGs,
- Prepared a report from the shadows on the implementation of IPARD (experience of other networks)
- Board members are responsible for one sector (i.e. Matej is the LEADER, Maja DOOR of energy...)
- is issued HMRR info,
- HMRR newsletter (an electronic) - 3 times a year,
- HMRR is involved in the Council for RD,
- HMRR applied for the competition of the Civil Society Fund,
- Annual membership fee 55 euro,
- HMRR have 40 members,
- A model for admitting new members,
- Open for membership BRDN, but will be at the next Assembly shall decide.

Serbia

- 2 projects are approved and their implementation will go in 2014,
- A new website is under construction,
- Regional cooperation with Montenegro and BiH,
- NRDS participates in the socio-economic Council for Agriculture and RR (SECO),
- Representative of the NRDS is member TACSO Advisory Group,
- Membership in the NRDS is 100.

2. Admission of new members

In accordance with the Statute of the BRDN, the Network for Rural Development of Kosovo unanimously admitted for member.

3. Defining the Working Plan

In this part of working session was defined Working plan for 2014, based on the document defined in Pristina (15th – 18th October 2013).

The proposed Working plan is attached as Annex 1.

4. Other

Mr. Zamljačanec as representative of the HMRR explains to the present representatives main dilemma of HMRR members:

- membership fees, in HMRR there is concern about the obligation to pay dues and able to allocate the available funds fee , and the question of membership applications ;
- Payment of membership conditional on the existence of officially registered are networks for account opening;
- Rule “One state, one vote”, is a potential constraint for countries where there are more rural networks (i.e. Croatia).

By presenting a dilemma HMRR regarding membership, through discussion the shared conclusions:

- All members BRDN emphasized the desire to HMRR join the network as a full member,
- Experience HMRR in a meaningful way can empower BRDN and valuable for all members,
- Members BRDN agree that the issue of membership fees and registration open issue that will decide the states in the future. In case of failure to meet a member of the obligation to pay the membership fee, there is always the possibility that in accordance with the principles of solidarity and good cooperation be freed by member decision,
- rule of Statut "one country, one vote" is defined by the will of the founder, and, as such, should be considered by the new member states and recognized as a model of ensuring equality of countries from which members come, note as exclusivity to each national organization,
- BRDN should be an independent organization and that in the future to develop their capacities to take over tasks related to the operation BRDN.

Kosovo "This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence."*

Annex 1: Working plan 2014

	Activity	Person responsible	Time frame	New time frame	Location
1	Assembly meetings of BRDN	SWG HQ/Bogdanka	From December 2013 – September 2014;		
			1 st in December 2013		Gmunden
			2 nd	February	Bulgaria
			3 rd in March/April 2014	Second part of May or June	Montenegro
			4 th June 2014	?	BiH
2	BRDN Action plan for 2 years	Petar & Dragan	June 2014		
3	Website	Ratko	Februar 2014	March 2014	
4	Promotional activities	Petar, Dragan,	May 2014		Sweden May 2014
		HMRR			Biograd na moru
					Other manifestations
5	Conference theme “Small family farms”	Ratko Bataković	March/April 2014	Second part of May/June	
6	Joint meeting of SWG and BRDN	SWG Bogdanka	December 2013		
7	Traveling workshop	Boban Ilić		First part of April	