

# **Traveling Workshop: Empowering Rural Stakeholders**

AGR 55764

**organised in co-operation with**  
Standing Working Group for Rural Development in the Western  
Balkans and the PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe

## **Venue:**

Hotel Arka

[www.hotel-arka.com.mk](http://www.hotel-arka.com.mk)

Bitpazarska 90/2, 1000 Skopje

**Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of  
Macedonia**

## **Date:**

**31 March – 2 April 2014**

For more information on TAIEX assistance and to download presentations of this event, please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux>.

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## **Aim of the meeting :**

The governments of the Western Balkan Region and Turkey are engaged in an intensive and demanding work in preparation for accession to the European Union. The Common Agriculture Policy, including rural development, plays an important role in this process. Pre-accession support programmes are being implemented in this field and have a major impact on rural economies and societies.

Besides the specific support for farmers, the development of the wider rural economies plays a significant role in preparing rural populations for opportunities to shape their own future. Especially the empowerment of rural people to participate in designing their rural development projects in local action groups is vital for innovation and integration of the various sectors and stakeholders.

The LEADER method has proven to be a major success story in mobilizing rural stakeholders for cooperation on a local and sub-regional level and in building good relations between administrations and the key actors in rural development. National and European rural networks, including LEADER, PREPARE and others have shared their experiences since many years and are increasingly present and active in the region. They have always emphasized, and sought, to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between governments and stakeholders, and partnerships between public, private and civil sectors at sub-regional level. They have also stressed, and demonstrated through their own programmes, the value of international exchange and face-to-face contacts among all involved and the reality check which can be provided by exchange of experiences and networking.

This event is jointly initiated by the Standing Working Group for Rural Development in the Western Balkans and the PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe, with the support of TAIEX.

It has a dual objective:

First, it seeks to raise awareness among all rural development stakeholders, in particular local action groups, of the opportunities and means for involvement and cooperation in relevant policy and decision making at a national level.

Second, it will draw the attention of national administrations and decision-makers to the importance of having structured means for involving stakeholders, and in particular the local actors in rural areas, in designing and implementing agricultural and rural development policies.

**This meeting is being organised by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission**

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## Travel day: Sunday 30 March 2014

Arrival of the participants to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia / Skopje

## Day 1 : Monday 31 March 2014

Time	Group I	Time	Group II
8:45-9:30	Program briefing		
9:30	Departure from Skopje to Staro Nagoricane	09:30	Departure from Skopje to Krusevo
10:30-13:00	Presentation of local development projects involvement of civil society and discussions with local farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit of 2 livestock farms</li> <li>• Meeting at the Municipality</li> <li>• Presentation of national heritage (The Church St. George from 11 century )</li> </ul>	12:00-13:00	Presentation of activities of the Association “Cvet” (focused on the local crafts, food tradition and culture). Meeting with representatives from the Municipality of Krusevo. Tasting local sweets(“locum” and “celuvka”)
13:00	Departure to Demir Kapija	13:00-14:00	Trip to village Logovardi (Municipality Bitola)
15:00-16:30	Visit of winery- rural tourism accommodation/restaurant facility “Popova Kula” (presentation of the winery and discussion regarding the wine production and tourism opportunities wine tasting and light lunch included)	14:00-15:00	Visit of vegetable farm. Presentation of the activities and discussion regarding funding opportunities IPARD, RDP and marketing opportunities
16:30	Departure to Strumica	15:00-15:40	Travel from village Logovardi to Village Dihovo (Pelister Mountain) -
17:30	Visit of vegetable farm Presentation of the farm and discussion regarding climate change adaptive measures in agriculture, marketing of vegetables, utilization of IPARD (village Dobrejci )	15:40-17:10	Lunch at rural accommodation facility “Vila Dihovo” Presentation of the business and discussion with the owner regarding rural tourism opportunities, IPARD, national RDP

		17:10-18:30	Presentation of the experiences with LEADER approach in this area (RDN and Civil society stakeholders)
18:30	Travel to the Hotel in Strumica	18:30	Travel to the Hotel in Bitola
18:45	Arrival & overnight in Strumica	18:45	Arrival & overnight in Bitola

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## Day 2 : Tuesday 1 April 2014

Time	Group I	Time	Group II
08:15	Departure from the hotel in Strumica	07:30	Departure from Bitola to Negotino Municipality
08:30-10:00	Visit of Municipality of Strumica/ Center for Development of South East Planning Region- Introduction of activities and discussion with stakeholders involved in LEADER approach	08:45-9:45	Visit of vineyard in the village Timjanik, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the farm activities and discussion regarding: grape production in Negotino region</li> <li>• On farm presentation regarding the advisory services in agriculture and cooperation with farmers by representatives from National Extension Agency,</li> </ul>
10:00-11:00	Departure from Strumica to Pehcevo Municipality	9:45-10:00	Trip to village Marena ( Kavadarci Municipality)
11:00-13:00	Visit and presentation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sheep-breeding farm</li> <li>• orchard (plums);</li> <li>• small processing facility of forest fruits</li> </ul>	10:00-11:00	Visit of organic farm for production of vegetables. Presentation of the production and discussion regarding organic farming potentials in primary production and processing industry.
13:00-13:15	Trip to Berovo Municipality	11:00 12:30	Trip to village Rezanovce (Kumanovo Municipality)
13:15-14:15	Visit of woman entrepreneur in crafts production in the neighbouring municipality of Berovo ; Presentation of the products and discussion regarding small business opportunities and needs	12:30-13:30	Visit of the school in Rezanovce discussion with pupils and teachers about their views about the life in the village
14:15-15:15	Lunch	13:30 -14:30	Visit of 2 local farms/households in Rezanovce Village
15:15-16:15	Meeting with Civil Society organizations; Discussion regarding the potentials and needs	14:15 -15:15	Lunch in Rezanovce
16:15	Departure to Skopje	15:15-16:15	Visit to the traditional costumes museum in Rezanovce
		16:15	Departure to Skopje
Moderators and rapporteurs meet to prepare for the next day			

## Day 3 : Tuesday 2 April 2014

### Venue: Skopje

09:00-09:10	Introduction of the morning, group work session to the traveling workshops participants )
09:10-10:00	Summarising of the findings during the travelling workshops and preparation of PPP (the 2 groups work separately)
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30 - 10:45	Welcome by the Chair, TAIEX, SWG, PREPARE
10:45-11:00	Welcome by the Minister of Agriculture
11:00-11:50	Presentation of report by the first traveling workshop General discussion
11:50-12:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:15-13:00	Presentation of report by the second traveling workshop General discussion
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30-15:30	Sharing of experiences in public/civil partnership in EU Member States <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three case studies presented by experts (10 minutes each)</li><li>• Questions and discussion</li></ul>
15:30-16:30	Panel discussion
16:30-17:15	Concluding discussion, focused on implications for policy and action within the country and on issues to be raised at the multinational conference to be held on April in Brussels.
17:15	Closing of the event

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