

Network for Rural Development of  
Montenegro

# Rural development in Montenegro and activities implemented by the NRDMN

2nd Balkan Rural Parliament

“Reviving of rural Western Balkans - moving towards EU integration”

15th June - 16th June 2021

Hotel “Unique”, Ohrid, North Macedonia

- ▶ Agriculture and rural development in Montenegro, for the past few years, have been highly on the agenda of the government and it is recognized as one of the top development priorities. One of the reasons is that the whole territory of Montenegro can be considered as rural.
- ▶ According to EU Progress Report from 2020, Montenegro remains moderately prepared in the area of agriculture and rural development.
- ▶ Good progress continued in particular regarding the implementation of the instrument for pre-accession assistance for rural development programme (IPARD II) through 2 calls and applying for entrustment in one further measure and in implementing and updating the action plan for EU acquis alignment in chapter 11.

- ▶ IPARD II Program is finished and the IPARD III program is being drafted so we expect the first draft until the end of this year and implementation in 2022.
- ▶ Significant amount of time has passed but we haven't seen any substantial progress in implementing activities that will eventually lead to accreditation of LEADER.
- ▶ For now, from the state level, more or less the whole agricultural and rural policy is focused on the subsidies given to the producers and less on the other activities that have the goal to create more balanced territorial development of rural areas in Montenegro.

- 
- ▶ In the coming period, Montenegro should in particular:
  - ✓ continue to implement the measures entrusted to it under the IPARD programme and seek to be entrusted with budget implementation tasks for the Technical assistance measure;
  - ✓ continue to implement the action plan to ensure alignment with the EU acquis on agriculture and rural development.

- ▶ It is expected that the Rural Development will be boosted by implementing the LEADER measure in the future IPARD III program since this was not the case with previous one.
- ▶ We firmly believe that the state should pay more attention on creating and implementing more concrete policies that will focus on the preconditions for the people to stay and live in rural areas, thus to make the life in the rural areas fit for the people living in digital era.

# Main activities implemented by the NRDMN

- ▶ Network for Rural Development of Montenegro (NRDM) is nongovernmental organization established on 6th of June 2012.
- ▶ Network has 40 organizations from all of the municipalities from Montenegro.
- ▶ Our primer partner is the Ministry of agriculture and rural development following the Ministry of sustainable development and tourism as well as the local self-governments from Montenegro. We are one of the founders of the Balkan network for rural development and a member of the PREPARE network.

# Main activities implemented by the NRDMN

- ▶ Representatives of the Network are members of various working groups at the national level, such as: Working Group on Negotiating Chapter 11 - Agriculture and Rural Development, Working Group for the Development of the Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, IPARD Monitoring Committee.

# Main activities implemented by the NRDMN

- ▶ The main goals of the Network are: development of a set of service for network members and other users; establishing mechanisms for the exchange of information between members of the Network and relevant institutions; facilitation between beneficiaries and relevant rural development institutions; acting as an independent consultative body with an active role in programming rural development policy; acceptance of the Network as a relevant partner by the European Institutions and Rural Networks; active role in monitoring and implementation of the Rural Development Program of Montenegro.

# Main activities implemented by the NRDMN

- ▶ Regional Rural Youth Camps for young people from the region, so far we have organized camps in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 (with BRDN as a co-organizer). We had more than 150 young people from eight countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia.
- ▶ Organization of National Conferences on Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro
- ▶ Participation in the IPARD II Monitoring Committee
- ▶ Organization of Fair of the local products

# Main activities implemented by the NRDMN

- ▶ Implementation of activities within current projects:
- National Forum on Rural Development Policies;
- Promoting and supporting the implementation of the LEADER approach through the organization of a local events;
- Development of a study on social entrepreneurship in rural areas;
- Workshops, seminars, study visits: Planning and reporting; Advocacy, lobbying, networking and empowerment of NGOs; Financial management and procurement; Green economy, Green entrepreneurship caravans...

# Future activities implemented by the NRDMN

- ▶ Set of various activities to mark the 10th anniversary of the Network
- ▶ Facilitation of the process of creation of first LAGs in Montenegro
- ▶ Preparation for the 1st Montenegrin Rural Parliament that is planned to be organized on spring 2022.

Network for Rural Development of  
Montenegro

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION!**