



RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK  
OF NORTH MACEDONIA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Balkan Rural Parliament**  
**15-16<sup>th</sup> June, Ohrid**



## Major fact concerning rural areas in North Macedonia

- ▶ **Rural areas** in NM are the **most undeveloped parts**, in terms of **economy, infrastructure, employment, income and quality of life**.
- ▶ The **population density** in rural areas (40 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>) is **even lower than shown by national official documents** (discrepancy between official statistics and reality).
- ▶ **Agriculture is a mayor employer**. Full-time formal agricultural employment accounts for 18 percent of total employment. The sector also comprises a **large number of part-time farmers and** a significant number of **informally employed**.
- ▶ **Small rural households have up to 2 ha of land**, divided into several plots. **Small and fragmented farms** have hindered growth and competitiveness of agriculture. On the other hand, the limited amount of food produced is mainly satisfying the producers' own needs, while small surpluses are free for offering through rural tourism or direct marketing, for instance.



## Major Challenges for rural development in North Macedonia

- ▶ Rapid depopulation of rural areas,
- ▶ Available local resource potentials, but limited availability of human capital in most of the rural areas.
- ▶ Rural infrastructure and the capacity of the government to provide adequate and timely support for developing rural areas with rather diverse properties and needs.



## Opportunities for rural development in North Macedonia

Besides agriculture, non-agriculture diversification in rural area is most likely to drive rural development and can help rural population:

- ▶ build new economic activities within and outside the food production process,
- ▶ create new products, employment possibilities and incomes, especially for women and young population
- ▶ promoting and protecting natural resources and green economy



## Responsible Authorities for rural development in North Macedonia

- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy is responsible for sector policy, design and coordination;
- IPARD Managing Authority
- Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development (AFSARD), i.e. the Paying Agency.
- Sector for Rural Development



## Strategic documents for rural development in North Macedonia

### ▶ **National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027**

**Strategic objective: Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development of rural areas**

- ▶ Co-financing the starting up of **rural businesses** and diversification of economic activities in rural areas that are **not necessarily related to agriculture**(**rural tourism, wood/food processing, services, crafts**);
- ▶ Subsidies of new employee in agricultural holding **under age of 25**;
- ▶ Renovation and construction of **rural infrastructure**,
- ▶ **Support to** local development initiatives arising from the activities of **LAGs through the LEADER measure.**



## Opportunities for rural development in North Macedonia

- ▶ IPARD 3
  - Accreditation of LEADER measure
- ▶ National Rural Development Program- LEADER
  - Support for establishment of new LAGs
  - Support for implementation of Local Development Strategies



## Role of RDN of NM in rural development in North Macedonia

- ▶ RDN is social-economic partner of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy;
  - active participant in creation of national strategic documents for agriculture and rural development
- ▶ RDN member of IPARD monitoring committee;
- ▶ RDN and LEADER.





Thank you for your attention!