



Travelling Workshop in Armenia and Georgia

24-28 October 2016

Draft Programme at 18 October 2016

Sunday 23 October

Arrivals in Tbilisi

Overnight in Cron Palace Hotel, Tbilisi

Monday 24 October, 2016

09.30 **Minibuses leave Cron Palace Hotel**

10.00 to 12 00 Initial Conference at Radisson Blu Iveria, Tbilisi

10:00 – 10:20 **Welcome from :**

- Nodar Kereselidze, Deputy Minister of Agriculture
- Zviad Devdariani, Director of CiDA
- Anahit Ghazanchyan, President of Development Principles, Armenia
- Goran Šoster, President of PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe

10: 20 – 10:55 **Introduction of participants and the aim of the Travelling Workshop**

Michael Dower, PREPARE Coordinator

10:55 – 11:15 Description of key challenges for rural development in Georgia, and of Government policies and actions in this field

Nodar Kereselidze, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Georgia

11:15 – 11:35 European Union for Agricultural and Rural Development in Georgia

Alvaro Ortega-Aparicio, ENPARD

11:35 – 11:50 Brief discussion

11:50 – 12:00 Outline of the Traveling Workshop programme and logistics

12.00 **Lunch**

13.30 **Departure for field visit in Georgia – Kakheti region
in two minibus groups**

Group 1

- 14:30 Visit Winery and vineyard in Sagaredjo (supported by national programme "Produce in Georgia")
- 16:00 Visit Poultry Factory in Sagaredjo
- 17:00 Meeting at Kachreti Community Centre with small producers (farmers)

Group 2

- 15:30 Meeting with representatives of Regional Civil Society Network (R-CSN) to discuss practice of cooperation between local self-governments and civil society
- 16: 40 Meeting at Municipality of Telavi City with the elected mayor, head of Council (Sakrebulo) and local authorities of Telavi Municipality

All participants Dinner and overnight at Ambassadors Hotel, Kachreti

Tuesday 25 October, 2016

Continued field visits in Georgia - Kvemo Kartli region

07:30 – 08:15 Breakfast at Ambassadors Hotel, Kachreti

08:30 Departure

Group 1

- 10:00 Visit Agricultural Mechanisation Centre in Marneuli Municipality, presentation of center and its services, discussion with local producers
- 11:30 Visit Marneuli Food Factory, processing local products (tomato, cucumber, apple etc.)

Group 2

- 10.00 Visit Bolnisi cheese production factory at Ratevani village, discussion with small farmers
- 12:00 Visit Bolnisi Sioni (Historic monument)
- 13:00 **Lunch** in Bolnisi "German Mill" Hotel and Restaurant
- 14:00 **Departure to Tbilisi**

15.30 to 18.30 Interim Conference at Radisson Blu Iveria, Tbilisi

(attended by invited representatives of public authorities, donor organisations, civil society etc.)

15:30 – 15:45 **Welcome from:**

- Nodar Kereselidze, Deputy Minister of Agriculture
- Zviad Devdariani, Director of CiDA
- Anahit Ghazanchyan, President of Development Principles, Armenia
- Goran Šoster, President of PREPARE

15:45 – 15:55 Introduction to the purpose of the Travelling Workshop
Michael Dower, PREPARE coordinator

15:55 – 17.45 **Presentations and discussion related to the role of national and multinational networks in rural development, with examples from EU member states, Western Balkans and Black Sea countries.**

Facilitated by Goran Šoster, PREPARE President

15.55–16.45 **Presentations by:**

- National rural civil-society networks : example of Estonia
Anneli Kana, Kodukant
- Multi-national rural civil-society networks : Balkan Rural Development Network
Dragan Roganovic, Serbian Rural Development Network
- Regional cooperation between governments in rural development : the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South East Europe (SWG)
Boban Ilic, Secretary General, SWG:
- The Carpathian Foundation
Sandor Koles, chair Carpathian Foundation Hungary

16:45-17:00 **Coffee break, refreshments**

17:00–17:45 **Presentations (continued) by :**

- National Rural Parliaments Goran Šoster, Slovenian Rural Dvelopment Network
- The European Rural Parliament (ERP) Michael Dower, ERP Joint Coordinator
- Regional Civil Society Network in Georgia - Zviad Devdariani, CiDA :
- Rural Development Networking in Armenia and Black Sea Basin region
Anahit Ghazanchyan, Heifer Internatsional/ Development Principles :

17:45–18:15 **Open discussion on outcomes of the Field Visits in Georgiar**

18:15–18:30 **Conclusion of the Travelling Workshop in Georgia**

19.00 **Dinner at Georgian Restaurant "Samikitno",**
Overnight at Cron Palace Hotel, Tbilisi

Wednesday 26 October

09:00 Departure from Tbilisi for travel to Armenia

Arriving at the border around 10:30

Crossing Sadakhlo/Bagratashen customs

Around 13:00 - **Lunch** for both groups at Gayane Hotel, Haghpat Community, followed by :

Brief presentation "Key challenges for rural development in Armenia and government policies and actions in this field"

Anahit Ghazanchyan, Heifer International/Development Principles NGO, Armenia.

14:00 Field visits continue in Armenia

Group 1

15:30 Visit Stepanavan small town and Veterinary Service Center.

16:45 Visit Cheese plant in Tashir

Group 2

15:30 – 17:00 Visit Gargar community – Cooperative NAREK (Greenhouse, production of non-traditional high-value vegetables, Milk Cooling Unit, etc.)

Both groups

19:30 PM **Dinner and overnight** at Dilijan Best Western Paradise Hotel

https://www.tripadvisor.ru/Hotel_Review-g1160895-d3152045-Reviews-BEST_WESTERN_Paradise_Dilijan_Hotel-Dilijan_Tavush_Province.htm

Thursday 27 October Field visits continue in Armenia

09.30 Leaving Dilijan

On the way, short visit to Sevan peninsula, visiting Sevan monastery (at 10:30 am).

Group 1

- Visit Tsovagyugh community and Tsovagyugh Pasture Users Union Cooperative (Agricultural machinery services provision to community members, effective usage of pastures, buckwheat production, honey, etc.)
- Visit Tsaghkunq guesthouse in Tsaghkunq community (Rural Tourism community-based project).

Group 2

- Visit Hayrivanq Integrated Farm Center in Hayrivanq community
- Visit Sevan Youth Club
- Visit Tsaghkung guesthouse in Tsaghkung community (Rural Tourism community-based project).

Both groups

14:00 Lunch at Tsakhkung guesthouse (Chef Yura Sargsyan)

https://www.tripadvisor.ru/Hotel_Review-g666442-d7692995-Reviews-Tsaghkung_Guest_House-Sevan_Lake_Sevan_Gegharkunik_Province.html

16:00 Return to Yerevan at

17:00-18:00 Prepare Group reports for Concluding Conference

19:00 Dinner with Armenian hosts in Yerevan.

Overnight in Ani Plaza Hotel, Yerevan

Friday 28 October

09.30 to 13.00 **Concluding conference** at Ani Plaza Hotel, Yerevan

09:30 - 10:00 - Registration of participants

10:00 - 10:10 Welcome from Mr. Ignati Arakelyan, Minister of Agriculture

10:10 - 10:20 Introduction by Anahit Ghazanchyan, President of Development Principles

10:20 - 11:00 Reflections on the Travelling workshop experience, introduced through short presentations by the Rapporteurs of the two groups of participants in the field visits in Georgia and Armenia 24 to 27 October, Aris Adlers and Michael Dower

11:00 - 12:30 Debate on key themes – facilitated by Michael Dower , PREPARE
with tentative choice of speakers to give brief introductions to each theme

- Well-being of small farming communities in Black Sea countries – *Valentin Filip, Romania; Vyara Stepanova or Iva Tsenkova, Bulgaria; Anahit Ghazanchyan, Armenia*
- Policies and actions of governments in this field – *Armen Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Armenia; Mihai Herciu, Head of National Rural Network; Sergey Adashkevich, Chief of Department of International Cooperation Ministry of Agriculture and Food , Republic of Belarus*
- The role of civil society organisations in rural development – *Andrzej Halasiewicz, Polish Rural Forum*
- Partnership between civil society organisations and government – *Anneli Kana, Estonian Village Association Kodukant*
- Regional networks of civil society organisations and of government agencies focused on rural development – *Dragan Roganovic, BRDN; Boban Ilic, SWG*

12:30 - 13:00 Concluding discussion on future exchanges, and ideas for the next steps in PREPARE's Black Sea initiative - facilitated by Michael Dower, PREPARE.

13:00 End of Conference

Lunch for Traveling Workshop participants

Departures either from Yerevan or by bus to Tbilisi for those who wish to catch flights there (Logistics arranged according to information provided in Registration Forms)

Afternoon/evening

- Working group to consider the way forward on the Black Sea Initiative
- Guided tour of Yerevan for those who would like it
- Dinner and cultural programme for those who fly at night.

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