



The project "ALTER - Active Local Territories for Economic development of Rural Areas" is supported by European Commission



# PREPARE Gathering 2018

The multi-national thematic meeting within the ALTER programme



Institute for Democracy and Mediation  
Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim



Network for Rural Development of Serbia Mreža za ruralni razvoj u Bosni i Hercegovini



ANRD



**HMRR**  
CROATIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



**TÜRKİYE KALKINMA VAKFI**  
Development Foundation of Turkey



**MREŽA ZA RURALNI RAZVOJ CRNE GORE**



RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

**PREPARE - Partnership for Rural Europe** - aims to strengthen civil society and promote transnational cooperation in rural development, especially in the new member states, accession countries and the "new neighbor countries" of the enlarged European Union. Essential components of the PREPARE programme are multinational events - the "PREPARE Gatherings".

**Network of Organizations for Rural Development in Kosovo (NORDK)** is non-profitable civil society organization founded by 55 organizations with main activity - agriculture and rural development in less developed areas of Kosovo. The aim of NORDK is to increase the influence of organizations and rural communities in the formulation of policies and measures for rural development in Kosovo.

**PREPARE Gathering** is the main annual event of the PREPARE Network, organized each time in a different country. This year around 60 participants from about 15 European countries will gather in Peja from 30 October to 1 November 2018 to meet, to exchange and to learn from each other with a common objective: to **contribute to networking for sustainable rural development**.

**ALTER project**, which is focused on the strengthening of civil society organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey, was started in December 2015 after receiving funding from the European Commission's Civil Society Facility programme and will last for 40 months. The partners in the ALTER project are the civil-society-based Rural Development Networks in Serbia (the leading partner), Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia (FYROM) and Montenegro and the Development Foundation for Turkey. Co-partners are the Croatian Rural Development Network HMMR; and the Latvian Rural Forum, representing PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe. The Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development in South East Europe is a formal Associate of the project. This multi-national thematic meeting between CSO Networks in the applicant countries and countries within the EU is a part of the project to ensure intensive dialogue with EU institutions and CSO networks with relevant experience within the EU.

## Rural areas in Kosovo

The population distribution of Kosovo defies any binary classification into “urban” and “rural”. According to the 2011 population census, 62 % of the population live in towns and villages so small that they are administratively classified as “rural”. However, these settlements are clustered together so densely that applying the OECD threshold of 150 people/km<sup>2</sup> results in half of Kosovo’s municipalities being classified as rural and half as urban (18 vs. 19); 23 % of the population live in rural municipalities so by the OECD definition Kosovo overall is classified as “Intermediate” – neither urban nor rural:

Settlement (administrative definition)	Municipality (OECD definition)		
	Rural municipalities	Urban municipalities	Total
Rural settlements	321,000 (18 %)	758,000 (44 %)	1,079,000 (62 %)
Urban settlement	54,000 (3 %)	607,000 (35 %)	661,000 (38 %)
<b>Total</b>	<b>375,000 (22 %)</b>	<b>1,365,000 (78 %)</b>	<b>1,740,000 (100 %)</b>

This table shows that 18 % of the population is clearly rural, 35 % is clearly urban, and 47 % live in intermediate areas that combine some urban and some rural features.

## Rural economy in Kosovo

The rural economy in Kosovo is dominated by small farms and rural entrepreneurs who have limited resources to finance their development and modernization.

In Kosovo, the food and agriculture sector has the potential to contribute significantly to overall economic development, poverty reduction and food safety, as in 2016 had a share of 10.5% in GDP. The share of agricultural products export value to total export value in 2016 was 15%. The total value of agricultural production including services is estimated to be 736.8% million €, where the plant products had a value of 412.3 million €, with a share of 56%, livestock products 302.4 million € or 41%, and services 22.1 million €, which had a share of 3%. To further advance and improve the situation, agricultural policies are oriented towards increasing sustainable agricultural productivity, including policies that affect the agricultural business environment and the manner of using of using natural resources to support structural transformation and innovation in agriculture.

Regarding to the employment aspect, the most important economic sectors which lead in terms of employment continue to be: trade with 14.8%, production with 13.2%, construction with 11.5% and education with 10.6%, while other sectors have a lower share in employment. Females are employed mainly in education, trade and health sectors, with 51.3%, while males are mainly employed in production, construction and trade sectors, with 44.3%

**Key themes for the Gathering.** By bringing together CSO Networks from PREPARE and ALTER partner countries, the Key themes that will be discussed can be summarized as:

- **Strengthening the capacity of CSOs and CSO Networks** to participate actively in policy planning and implementation, to build a strong civil society in rural areas, and to enhance regional development through networking and cooperation
- **Building the partnership of CSOs and CSO Networks with public institutions** and their involvement in decision-making and governance processes, for the well-being of rural communities in those countries.

**Topics of discussions:**

**Role of civic society in the Rural Policy development**

**Capacity building and sustainability of PREPARE Network**

**LEADER as a driving force for the integrated local development**

**Communities' development and volunteering**



# PROGRAMME

## Monday, 29 October

Arrivals.

*Precise information for logistics will be given to the participants with approved registration.*

## Tuesday, 30 October

09.00- 19.00 Travelling workshops

### **Group 1 Route: Peja – Deçan – Gjakove – Peje**

The Group 1 will travel to western region of Kosovo part of Dukagjini Region, which is well known for the agriculture and for the interesting countryside.

### **Group 2 Route: Peja– Prizren– Suhareke – Dragash – Peje**

The Group 2 will be orientated in the south part of Kosovo within the Prizren region.

### **Group 3 Route: Peja– Krushe e Madhe – Rahovec – Hoçe e Madhe – Peje**

The group 3 will visit the region of Kosovo which also is known as a **Capital of Agriculture**.

### **Points of Interest:**

- a) **Agriculture Company "Rizam Holding"** for calf breeding and other agricultural activities. It is founded and developed by family Morina as a family business. Rizam Holding enterprise is a family production company that started their activity



since 1989. The fathers of the owners – Riza Morina in 60's was the first wagon artisan in Prizren region and Dukagjini valley that uses rubber instead of wooden wheels. Company employs 120 workers.

- b) **Dairy Company "Bio Sharri"** in Village Kosve, Dragash. The milk collection and milk processing point were established in 2016 and started with a couple of hundred litres of milk, now this milk collection point is processing more than 1000 liters of milk per day employing 6 people. Main products are Sharri Cheese and White cheese, 80% of sells ensuring through the shop in the centre of Prizren, other ~20% is distributed in local supermarkets.



- c) **Family business DPZ “Beha-N” is doing massive wood processing** - production of wood barrels for wineries and tables and chairs in the form of wine barrels for restaurateurs and families and also production and production of doors, windows, stairs and kitchens from massive wood for the private home.

As a craft appears in the family since 1934. The business was officially registered since 1992. It has been developed gradually with its own strength without side support. The craft as a business was re-registration in 2000. It has been developed and still functions without any intervention or assistance from either local or foreign institutions or organizations.

In the last 15 years focus is on the production of wooden barrels for the staging and aging of wine and rakia, and for the last 5 years there has been a trend and the demand for tables and seating with the motives of wooden wheels and wooden barrels

Selling is done directly in the carpentry, while the clients are from Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia and in the last 4 years there are also buyers from Switzerland, Germany, Montenegro, etc.



- d) **Family business NTP “Erblini” deals with the sale of milk and calves.** The farm has been set up in 2010, and has started its activity with three head of Milk Cows and to date. It has managed to increase the capacity up to 25 Milk Cows. The sale is done to the milk collection point “SHARRI” in Prizren. Increase the production and processing capacities of milk and its products, as well as the establishment of a Mini Milk Factory.
- e) **Bee farm - family Business “Bletaria e Re”** has been set up in 2010. Farm started activity with 3 beehives and now developed to 360 beehives, employing 3 family members. The main activity is production of honey and production of bee queens. The sale is done directly to the farm and selling on different agricultural events (agricultural shows). The plan is for the farm is to increase honey production and other products from honey and building of honey collection point with equipment for packaging.
- f) **Agriculture Cooperative and Chicken Farm NTD “Dardania”** in Krushe e Madhe. The farm was established in 1997, initially with a capacity of 4000 head, thus continuing until 2012, where was build second facility with the capacity of 4000 other head, Next facility for broiler was set up in 2014, and in 2015 another facility was built again for hens, with a capacity of 8000 head. 7 family members are employed. Main activities are production of red eggs, growing of broilers, production of poultry food and trade with food products in non-specialized stores. The sale is made directly through distribution of products by the manufacturer, mainly in local shopping centres and markets. The future plan is to Extending current capacity, as well as slaughtering of broilers.



- g) **“Vinery Manitasević” in the village Velika Hoca, Rahovec.** The family business winery was build and started to work in 2016. It's producing different varieties of red wine and white wine, Rakia and other product by grape, and it is a member of winery association. The sale is done mostly in own shop which is part of winery and in different agriculture shows and events Family business employs 1 permanent and 10 seasonal workers. Vinery is planning to increase of production capacities and employment of youth.

- h) **Family business -Fish ponds “Velika Hoca”** was established and started to work in 2013, employing 5 people.. The sale of trout is done in the owner shop near by the fish pond and planning to increase capacities to develop fish production.



## Evening – all groups arrive to Peja

20.00 **International Buffet Dinner and Trade Fair** of local products brought by participants in the Gathering, in order to reveal and celebrate the diversity of Europe

### Wednesday, 31 October

From 8.00                      Breakfast

#### 09.00 to 10.30    **Opening Session**

Greetings from the Representatives of:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Kosovo;
- Municipality of Peja;
- Municipality of Rahovec;
- President of NORDK;
- President of PREPARE aisbl;
- Self-introduction by all other participants;
- Introduction to the theme and programme of the Gathering,
- Practical advices and technical information about the Gathering

10.30 to 11.00              Coffee break

#### 11.00 to 12.30            **Plenary session**

- Role of civic society in the Rural Policy development
- LEADER as an driving force for the integrated local development
- Communities development and volunteering, supported by European Rural Parliament (ROAD project)
- Capacity building and sustainability of PREPARE Network

12.30 to 13.30              Lunch

**13.30 to 14.30      The first session of four simultaneous multi-national Workshops.**

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*Each working group will have a facilitator to guide the discussion and a rapporteur (chosen among the participants in the workshop), who's role will be to synthesise the ideas emerging in the workshop and to report to the subsequent plenary session.*

**14.30 to 19.00      PREPARE AISBL General Assembly**  
(only for official representatives of PREPARE aisbl member organizations)

and simultaneously **Visit of Peja**

**19.30                      Conference Dinner** – Local Music Band will perform musical program including local/traditional music.**Thursday, 1 November**

From 8.00                      Breakfast

**09.00 to 11.15 The second and the third session of four simultaneous multi-national Workshops**

11.15 to 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 to 13.30 Final Plenary Sessions

- Conclusions and comments on future work by the PREPARE Partnership and by the ALTER partners to follow through the discussions during the Gathering
- Reactions and comments
- Conclusion and end of formal proceedings

13.30 to 14.30 Lunch

**Departures**