



PREPARE NETWORK **PARTNERSHIP FOR RURAL EUROPE** ...the voice from civil society...

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Overview of the presentation

- ▶ **About PREPARE Network**
 - activities
 - involvement
- ▶ **PREPARE's involvement in the CAP reform process**
- ▶ **PREPARE and European Rural Networks**



Why is civil society important in rural development?

- ▶ Trends in most new Member States: transformation of agriculture and industry (loss of jobs), lack of opportunities, depopulation of many rural areas
- ▶ Failure of traditional „mainstream” policies (agricultural support, infrastructure schemes)
- ▶ New approach – territorial, integrated, bottom-up, partnership-based (LEADER) – e.g. OECD „new paradigm” of rural development



WHAT IS PREPARE?

The PREPARE partnership is a group of European and national non-government umbrella organizations.

The partnership was created in 1999, and has expanded as new national rural movements have joined



WHO IS PREPARE?

- ▶ Networks for rural development in:
 - 10 EU member states: Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia;
 - in one EU candidate country: Croatia;
 - In two EU accession countries: Serbia and Macedonia
- ▶ Two EU-level NGOs:
 - ECOVAST and Forum Synergies
- ▶ Recent focus:
 - **South Eastern Europe,**
 - Ukraine, Belarus, Monte Negro, BiH and Turkey



WHAT WE DO ?

- ▶ **SUPPORT** national campaigns in our member countries to strengthen civil society
- ▶ **ORGANISE** and support multi – national exchanges between people and organisations in the rural field
- ▶ **CONTRIBUTE** actively to the debate of European policy
- ▶ **PROMOTE** networking in rural development throughout Europe
- ▶ **ESTABLISH** trustful dialogue and cooperation between governments and civil society organisations



PREPARE multi – national activities

Travelling workshops

- Estonia and Sweden 1999
- Hungary 2000
- Finland 2002

Annual Gatherings

- 2003 Slovakia (Pocuvadlo)
- 2004 Bulgaria (Chiflik)
- 2005 Lithuania (Birstonas)
- 2006 Czech Republic (Velehrad)
- 2007 Poland (Przemysl)
- 2009 Slovenia and Croatia
- 2010 Macedonia – FYROM (Ohrid)
- 2011 Serbia (Zlatibor)

Workshops : Turkey and BiH 2012



PREPARE GATHERINGS

- ▶ **PREPARE member** organisations and representatives of rural movements from **target** countries
- ▶ Involvement of high representatives from **EU institutions and National Governments**
- ▶ Combining **3 methods** of work:
 - Conference
 - Thematic working groups
 - Travelling Workshops – field visits and exchange by practitioners



PREPARE activities

- ▶ Support to strengthening civil society in **specific countries**
 - South–Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Belarus, Turkey
- ▶ Support to PREPARE **partner organisations** and the new national networks (capacity building – small scale, flexible projects e.g. study visits, national meetings)
- ▶ **Networking** (website, newsletter)



PREPARE activities

- ▶ PREPARE Scholarships – trainee exchange programme financed by Fondation de France
- ▶ Cooperation with the European Commission (membership in the official advisory bodies) and national governments
- ▶ Cooperation with other European networks



Inspiring joint action

- ▶ **TEPA – Training of European Partnership Animators** (to develop training programme and materials, network, pilot trainings)
 - a joint project by Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovakian and Slovenian partners, Swedish partner as evaluator
 - financed by Socrates–Grundtvig
 - implemented Oct. 2006 – Oct. 2008



Transnational exchange about Rural Parliaments

- ▶ Aim of PREPARE is to strengthen civil society and promote transnational cooperation in rural development
 - useful exchange of know-how
 - encouraging new countries to apply new methods of democracy
 - raising the voice of civil society from rural areas
 - intensifying exchange among member organisations



PREPARE in CAP reform process: 3 goals of EU – 3 faces of rural area

- ▶ Many European regions can not contribute to 3 EU goals – LIMITED RESOURCES
- ▶ Sustainability
 - Living in HNV areas – disadvantage
 - Overexploited natural resources
- ▶ Competitiveness
 - Weakening of local food systems
 - Small and traditional farmers out of game
- ▶ Cohesion
 - Depopulation of rural areas
 - Huge administration for low benefit
 - Limited absorption cap. of disadvantaged areas



CAP reform: the chance for PARADIGM SHIFT

- ▶ Radical changes needed from perspective of many rural areas:
 - **Balance** between environmental, economical and social measures, for the long term life quality in rural areas– differences
 - **Fair sharing of added–value** between farmers, processors, traders and consumers
 - Territorial cohesion through flexibility and **simplification**
 - Stronger involvement of **civil society** organisations in RD
 - Integrated rural development based on the sub – regional strategies, steered by **local partnerships** (LEADER)
 - **Complementarity** between funds and measures for efficient territorial cohesion



PREPAREs suggestions to CAP

- ▶ **Environment**
 - Multisectoral responsibility for public goods
 - Contribution of other sectors for stronger environmental measures – Public goods
- ▶ **Economy**
 - From large to small scale food systems
 - Looking for alternatives: CSA, Local food chains
- ▶ **Society**
 - Simplification and extension of the LEADER
 - Care for vulnerable territories and groups



PREPARE supporting new approach to rural development

- ▶ **Territorial** – aid addressed to territory, not to individual projects
- ▶ Need for **partnership** (involving three sectors: public, private and NGO)
- ▶ **Integrated** approach – linking various aspects (agriculture, SME development, environment, social policy, education, health etc.)
- ▶ **Bottom-up** – the initiative lies with the local people



PREPARE's involvement in the networks:

- ▶ Coordination Committee of the European Network for Rural Development
- ▶ European Leader Sub-committee
- ▶ Advisory Group for Rural Development at the European Commission
- ▶ Thematic working groups of the ENRD
- ▶ European Rural Association – ERA
- ▶ European Rural Communities Association – ERCA
- ▶ Convention for Sustainable Urban and Rural Europe – CURE
- ▶ Agricultural and Rural Convention – ARC



EN RD European Network for Rural Development



Composition of the EN RD Coordination Committee

- ▶ 27 from EU MS authorities
- ▶ 27 from national networks
- ▶ 12 from EU-wide organisations (among members of RD Advisory Group), max 4 from each RD objective:
 - improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry;
 - improving the environment and the countryside;
 - improving quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy.
- ▶ 2 from Leader sub-committee
- ▶ 1 from EU-wide LAG-s organisation



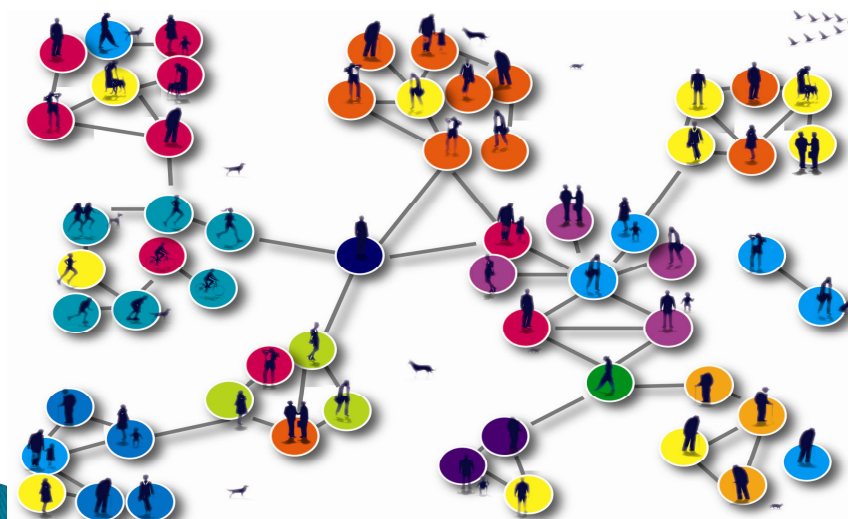
PREPARE – Promoting partnership principles

- ▶ Partnership is not the same as cooperation!
- ▶ Partnership – long-term commitment and respect for each other
- ▶ Partners share responsibility for successes and failures
- ▶ Need for strategic thinking (partnership is not a one-off action)
- ▶ Creating value added locally



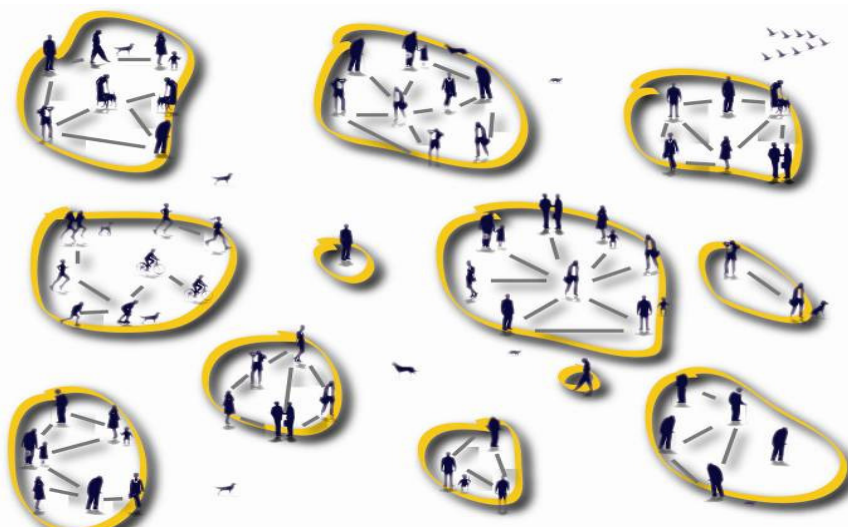


Rural community diversity

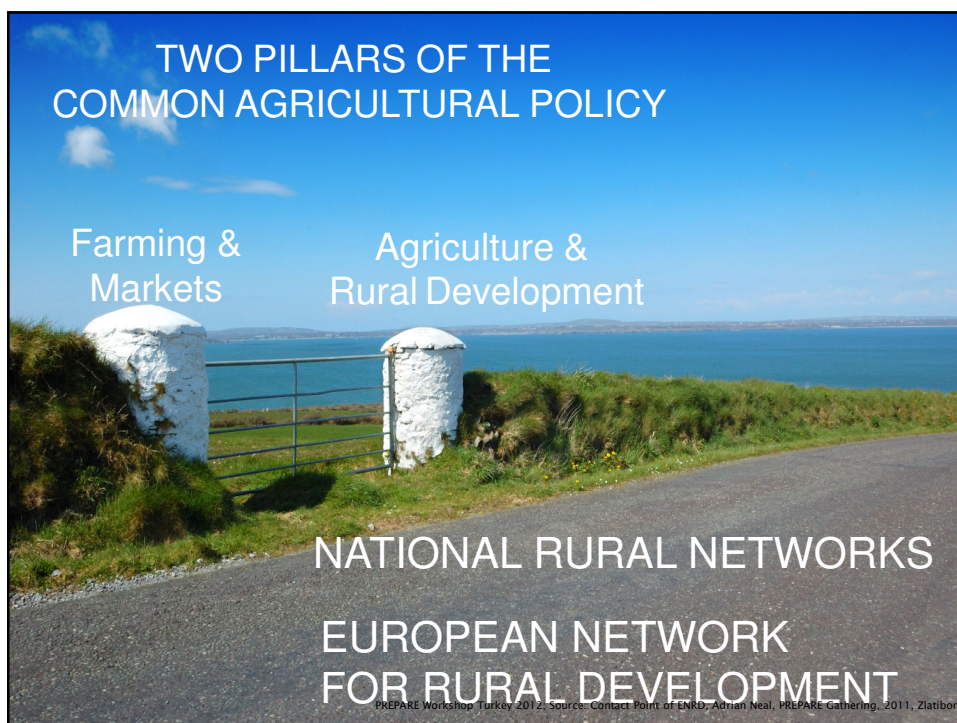


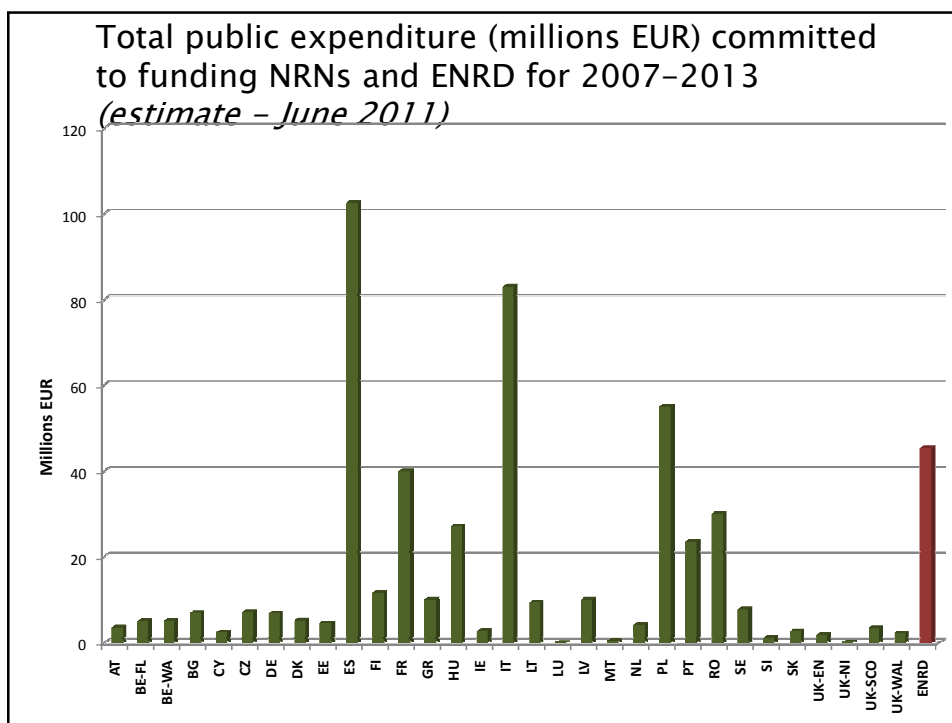
PREPARE Workshop Turkey 2012; Source: Contact Point of ENRD, Adrian Neal, PREPARE Gathering, 2011, Zlatibor

Lack of rural connectivity



PREPARE Workshop Turkey 2012; Source: Contact Point of ENRD, Adrian Neal, PREPARE Gathering, 2011, Zlatibor





What are the essential 'success' factors for RD networking?

- Clearly defined goals
- Appropriate partners
- Appropriate governance structure(s)
- Sufficient resources
- Range of communication channels & methods
- Flexible and adaptable

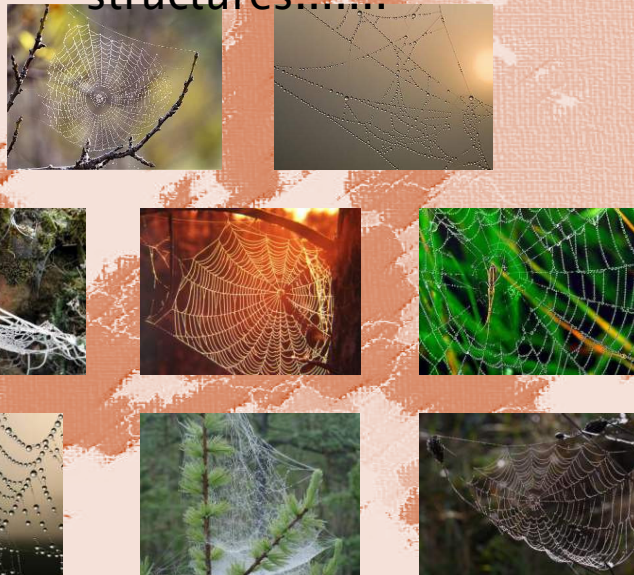


PREPARE Workshop Turkey 2012; Source: Contact Point of ENRD, Adrian Neal, PREPARE Gathering, 2011, Zlatibor

Building the network from bottom up:

- ▶ Individuals
- ▶ Organisations
- ▶ Projects
- ▶ Programmes
- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Regional networks
- ▶ National networks
- ▶ International networks

Huge variety of different network structures.....



PREPARE Workshop Turkey 2012; Source: Contact Point of ENRD, Adrian Neal; PREPARE Gathering, 2011, Zlatibor

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