



PREPARE News 4

July 2004

For members of the PREPARE Network and all friends of the PREPARE programme

PREPARE Gathering 2004

As stated in PREPARE News 3, the PREPARE Gathering 2004 will be held at Chiflik, 80 km east of Sofia in Bulgaria in late September. It will be preceded by three-day Travelling Workshops, starting in either Sofia (capital of Bulgaria) or Bucharest (capital of Romania) : this gives participants a choice to visit rural initiatives and enterprises in either country. The dates are Friday 24 September (arrival in one of the two cities) to Friday 1 October 2004 (departures, with an option to spend a few more days in Bulgaria or Romania).

A detailed announcement, with application form, appears at the end of this Newsletter.

We invite you to apply – noting, however, that we are limited to 100 places, and that we have decided to allocate these places to 10 participants from each of Bulgaria and Romania, 6 from each of the 8 new member states in central Europe, 2 from each of 8 Balkan or CIS countries, and 16 others from the PREPARE network living elsewhere. As in earlier events, we will seek a mixture of government and non-government participants, since our purpose is to promote partnership between government and civil society in rural development. For this reason, if you do apply, please wait for confirmation before you arrange any travel.

Other news

This News also :

- describes PREPARE's reaction to the Draft Rural Development Regulation 2007 to 2013, published by the European Commission on 15 July
- reports on the visit by a PREPARE delegation of 50 participants from 12 countries to the Cooperation Forum at Cáceres, Spain, in June
- includes an offer by a Spanish LEADER Group to train central Europeans in how to manage LEADER-type activity
- announces the opening of the new LEADER+ Contact Point in Brussels

We look forward to contact with many readers of this News, at the Gathering or at other events over the coming year.

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Members of the PREPARE Organising Group

Draft Rural Development Regulation 2007 to 2013

In the previous News, we described the contribution that PREPARE made, in the first four months of 2004, to the debate in Brussels on the shape of Rural Development programmes in the European Union. We continued this process actively through May to July, and (at the moment of completing this Newsletter) have submitted a reaction to the Draft Rural Development Regulation published by the European Commission on 15 July.

The Regulation appears at http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/new/index_en.htm
The full text of PREPARE's reaction can be found, under 'Publications', at our website, www.preparenetwork.org,

Here, we summarise the main points that we have been making during the debate, and the key ideas in our latest reaction. We shall be continuing our active contribution to the debate in the autumn, as the focus of discussion moves into the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. We shall welcome ideas from members of the PREPARE Network, and will keep you informed as the debate progresses.

Our main points. In our submissions during the first 65 months of 2004, we called for :A idening of the scope of rural development, 'beyond agriculture'

- A new European Rural Development Fund, linked to the CAP but separate from it
- A significant increase in funding for rural development
- A simplified procedure for European Union support in this field, coupled (however) with clear provision for the European Commission to set out EU priorities for rural development programmes, for member states to prepare national rural development strategies subject to approval by the Commission, and for the strategies at European and national level to provide a clear indication of how the RD programmes would complement other EU policies and programmes, notably the Structural and Cohesion Funds
- A strong emphasis on 'territorially-based local development strategies' (a phrase from the Commission's document of May), which should be integrated in scope and based on partnership and participation
- The effective mainstreaming of the LEADER approach into all local development programmes, coupled with an initiative which would give the new member states a decade of experience of this approach, parallel to the three phases of LEADER in EU-15
- Immediate access to LEADER-type funding for Bulgaria and Romania
- Measures to stimulate a contribution from Foundations, the private sector and civil society to rural development processes, and to provide a clear role for NGOs in those processes
- Provision for technical assistance budgets to be used to strengthen civil society, notably in the new member states
- The creation in 2007 of a European Rural Development Observatory, with a wide brief.

Conditional welcome. Our commitment to these ideas led us to give a conditional welcome to the draft Rural Development Regulation for the period 2007 to 2013, published on 15 July by the European Commission. The broad thrust of this Regulation reflects the call that we had made for a wider approach to rural development and a significant increase in funding. However, we expressed substantial reservations about parts of the proposal, and will press for these to be reconsidered during the debate in the European Parliament and among member states during the coming months.

Our key concerns are :

- The scale of funding proposed for rural development – rising from c.11 billion to c.14 billion euros per year over the period 2007 to 2013 – is welcome, and should be vigorously defended by the Commission. The grave weaknesses in the social and

economic structures of rural areas in the new member states and the accession countries imply that these sums may indeed need to be increased further if the Union's aims for cohesion are to be realised.

- The scope of the measures included in the Regulation is still too much focused on agriculture or items directly related to it. The wording should be widened to include all sectors of the economy of rural areas.
- We welcome the simplified procedure for European Union support in this field. But it is not enough for the Commission to allocate funds to member states and to insist on minimum amounts being allocated to the four axes stated in the Regulation. The Commission should be empowered to prepare a strategy for rural development at European level, in consultation with the stakeholders. This European strategy should then guide the preparation by member states of national rural development strategies.
- The Regulation provides for a minimum of 7% of the programme funding to be reserved for the LEADER axis. This does **not** (in our view) represent the “mainstreaming of LEADER” to which the Commission refers. It provides no strong incentive to member states to embrace the principles of territorial, integrated, partnership-based development which have been proved by the LEADER Initiative to have high value. Member states should be required to apply the LEADER principles to all their rural development programmes, except where they can show (to the Commission's satisfaction) why they cannot do so. The new member states should be required to apply part of the funds to support for the creation and capacity-building of local partnerships. If these measures are not accepted, then we shall press the Commission to continue the Community Initiative LEADER in the period 2007 to 2013.
- The experience of LEADER and other programmes has shown the importance of strong civil society as a key element in successful rural development policies. The scope of the technical assistance funds should be widened to support the creation and basic operational costs of civil society organisations who are committed to an active role in rural development, and to support capacity-building in civil society organisations and in partnerships established on the LEADER principles.
- The Commission should adopt measures ways to stimulate a contribution from Foundations, the private sector and civil society to rural development processes, and to provide a clear role for Non-Government Organisations in those processes (see article by Hannes Lorenzen on page 6 of this news).
- We welcome the recent amendment to the SAPARD Regulation, as applied to Bulgaria and Romania, which will allow them to put SAPARD funds into LEADER-type activity.

PREPARE in Spain

Through the generosity of the Spanish Network for Rural Development (Red Espanola de Desarrollo Rural – REDR), 50 people from the PREPARE network were able to visit Spain in early June, and to see the activity of Local Action Groups in that great country.

Our ‘delegation’ included 4 or 5 people from each of the 10 acceding countries of central Europe. The focal event of the visit was the ‘Forum for Cooperation in Rural Development’, held in the fine historic town of Cáceres in the province of Extremadura in western Spain. Also attending were over 20 people from Local Action Groups in Spain; and a smaller number from similar networks in Portugal, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

We met in a remarkable setting, the nave of the great monastic church of St. Francis, whose quiet cloisters provided ample space for displays, refreshment and informal discussion. Directly above us, on the pinnacles of the monastery, were the nests of a large colony of storks.

A succession of Spanish speakers described how awareness of the needs of rural areas had risen over the last 15 years; how the LEADER programme had developed, as a driving force for locally-based rural development; and how the LEADER approach had been, to some

degree, 'mainstreamed' in Spain by the introduction of PRODER, a programme (parallel to LEADER) through which national funding supports Local Action Groups.

Several of the LEADER and PRODER Groups described their activity, or showed displays in the cloister. Contributions were also made by Portuguese and French speakers. It became clear that there is much enthusiasm for the LEADER approach, and a strong desire to see it continue beyond 2007.

For the PREPARE partners, short presentations were made by Márta Márczis (Hungary), Urszula Budzich-Szukala (Poland), Kaja Kaur (Estonia), and Jela Tvrdonova (Slovakia); and by Michael Dower, who stated the attitude of PREPARE to the European Commission's consultative document of May on the shape of Rural Development programmes from 2007 to 2013. The PREPARE team contributed to the drafting of the Declaration of Cáceres, which was approved by the Forum and which appears on the PREPARE website.

We then enjoyed a half-day and a whole day of excursions to visit Local Action Groups and to see projects funded by them. This also allowed us to see some of the remarkable landscapes of western Spain, including the snow-capped Sierra de San Pedro; the rolling *dehesa*, with its handsome cover of evergreen oak trees; and the fertile *campiño*, with fields of grain, olive groves and vineyards.

In the Alcántara sub-region, near the border with Portugal, the Los Baldios PRODER Group showed us two strong examples of enterprises (grant-aided by them) which add value to local products – a company which uses the bark of cork-oak trees to make corks for wine and champagne bottles; and a factory, run by six stalwart brothers and their wives, which uses the meat of the famous Iberian pigs to produce high-quality sausages and hams. This tour ended with a visit to see very attractive tourist accommodation in a renovated farmhouse.

In the province of Badajoz, we were received by CEDER, the LEADER Group of Campiño Sur, who showed us projects which they had grant-aided. These included a small bakery, recently started by two local women to produce traditional cakes; a small ceramics workshop, run by a married couple, producing hand-made tiles and flooring in Moorish style; a factory which produces galvanised steel components for electricity pylons and other purposes; and a delightful ethnographical museum in the town of Azuaga. The vineyard Bodegas Otero received a grant of 60,000 euro from CEDER under LEADER II to enlarge the cellar for wine-making, and a further grant of 42,000 euro under LEADER+ to build a reception area (where groups can come to taste and buy the wine) and a laboratory.

Meanwhile, our Hungarian members had joined a group of Spaniards to visit a LEADER Group near the famous Roman town of Merida. They saw enterprises grant-aided by the Group, including a fruit-processing plant, a producer of meat *pâté*, and a rural hotel created by conversion of a disused mill. They were impressed by an enterprise, started by 5 local women, to add value to chestnuts from the 300-hectare forest nearby, including production of jam and liqueurs. They saw a bird sanctuary, and a training centre focused on nature study, of which the buildings (which also house the LEADER Group office) had been constructed by the students of the local technical school.

This remarkable experience enabled the PREPARE participants to make useful contacts with Local Action Groups in Spain and with the European LEADER Association for Rural Development, which is a grouping of the national LEADER Networks in Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Ireland and Greece. PREPARE has agreed with the hosts to sustain the contacts that have been made, and to cooperate in contributing to the rapidly-evolving European debate on policy and practice in rural development.

Learn about LEADER in Spain

- an opportunity for Spanish-speaking Central Europeans

The Asociación Salamantina de Agricultura de Montaña (ASAM) Spanish LEADER Local Action Group is organising a short course (about 1 month) on the implementation of the LEADER Programme, for rural development activists from the New Member States.

During the course, they will try to pass on the essence of their 13 years' experience of organising partnerships, designing development programmes, financial management and administration, and other topics related to the implementation of LEADER. They intend to explain the best way to negotiate with EU and domestic bureaucracies, and those small tricks which enable them to spend the received rural development aid in a useful, but at the same time accountable way, complying with the strict financial regulations of the EU.

The course will be free of charge : food and accommodation will also be provided. There are five requirements for the participants:

- they should live and work in one of the New Member States
- they should be committed believers in bottom-up rural development
- they should have at least some domestic experience on this field
- they should work in an NGO or other civil organisation
- they should fluently speak and understand Spanish.

The course will be held in November 2004 or early 2005, provided that there are at least 12 to 15 participants.

More information on ASAM can be found at the homepage of the organisation **www.iasam.org**. The Central and Eastern European organiser of the course is Gusztav Nemes, a research fellow of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Economics. Send applications or enquiries by e-mail, in English, Spanish or Hungarian to him at *nemes@econ.core.hu*.

Cooperation among national rural movements

The Swedish Rural Parliament 2004 was held at Ystad, on the south coast of Sweden, between 21 and 23 May. The event included a series of international Workshops, of which two were closely related to the theme of PREPARE. Vanessa Halhead led a Workshop on 'National Rural Movements', with speakers from a number of those movements. Michael Dower led a workshop entitled 'Is there a case for a European Rural Parliament ?' These workshops were attended by representatives of the PREPARE partner associations, and of national rural movements in Denmark, Iceland and the Netherlands.

The discussions revealed the growing strength of the pattern of national rural movements, which now exist in 15 European countries; and desire among these movements to cooperate with each other. The Swedish Popular Movements Council, as host to the Rural Parliament was asked to arrange a meeting in the autumn to enable the movements to discuss the form of that cooperation.

PREPARE in Latvia

In PREPARE News 3, we reported on an initiative, stimulated by PREPARE, to plan the creation of a national rural movement. A working group was set up, which in February visited Estonia to see the activities of Kodukant, and since then has organised a series of regional workshops. The group is now working towards a national conference in September, at which a national rural movement may be launched.

Information from Janis Kleins, *tel +371-9183128, e-mail janiskleins@hotmail.com*

The EU must invest more in civil society

Extract from an article by Hannes Lorenzen which has been published in German and Polish newspapers.

Private foundations have done much for civil society in the new Member States. They have, in particular, used small-scale loans and network-creation to support thousands of non-profit making organisations. One striking feature is that the money mostly originates, not in Europe, but in the USA. Not only is this commitment motivated by geopolitical considerations, but a law governing foundations in the USA is also responsible for the generous assistance provided. It stipulates that 5% of each foundation's annual budget must be invested in external projects. The European Foundations Centre (EFC) in Brussels therefore recommends that the Commission work to comparable rules so as to ensure that fewer national and in-house projects, and more European ones, will be financed in future.

Greater cooperation between the EU Commission and private foundations and initiatives might well also solve the problem that EU structural funds fail significantly every year to exhaust their appropriations. The reason is that Member States cannot or will not spend enough money in co-financing. Unspent EU monies are then returned to the Member States. Given known shortfalls in public-sector funding, it would make sense for the missing cash to be mobilised as private investments. The Commission could at the same time remedy its staffing problems in managing community projects with the assistance of the foundations. Provided that they accounted publicly for the uses to which the monies were put, they could do much more to advance smaller projects by managing small amounts more efficiently.

For example, the *Carpathian Foundation*, a member of the European Foundations Center, and the pan-European Network for Rural Development, *PREPARE*, which assists civil society in the new Member States, have now submitted a proposal to the Commission and the European Foundations Center calling for a third pillar of project financing from private funding to be set up. The proposal is that, under the acronym of SPIRE (Social and Private Investment in Rural Europe), a fund should be established from contributions from EU and Member-State foundations, enterprises and banks from which cooperation between those public- and private-sector partners would be financed. The EU would thus be enabled to hive off labour-intensive project management from its range of responsibilities, while at the same time boosting more private initiatives and investments in that very area.

Just how effective such reforms to EU aid mechanisms and administrative structures could be in promoting European civil society can be seen from the example of a remote region in south-eastern Poland (Dolina Strugu) threatened by depopulation. There, a consortium of four local authorities, one local limited company exploiting a local source of mineral water, and the Church have between them set up a regional development programme. The authorities hoped to create jobs by boosting the local economy; the Church wanted an action programme against alcoholism; the limited company sought a regional market for its mineral water and other drinks.

The consortium drew up a contract with local smallholders in the catchment area of the water source. The smallholders agreed to farm locally without polluting the source: in return, their relatively small output was consolidated and marketed along with the mineral water on the internet and by telephone. The project created a good number of jobs; the mineral water sells better in the region than on other markets because of the connection to local specialities; 10% of the limited company's profits go to social investment: anti-alcoholism campaigns, reforestation, cultural activities. Hopes that this approach to development and financing would be extended to the whole region under the expected LEADER programme

could not be fulfilled, to the deep disappointment of local people, because the LEADER Community initiative has not been offered in Poland or any other new member state.

Whether or not there is any causal connection here with the high percentage of votes gained by Eurosceptics in that region and the very low voter turnout must remain an open question. It will, at all events, be important in future to invest more in the capabilities of local people and, with increasing shortfalls in public-sector funding, to do more to bring private investment and social responsibilities together. For the EU will, for the foreseeable future, have very restricted funds to support efforts to redress the balance of economic and social disadvantage by way of traditional structural policy.

Hannes Lorenzen

Opening of the LEADER + Contact Point

PREPARE has been pressing the European Commission to set up a LEADER+ Observatory, on the lines of the previous Observatories which did so much to stimulate multi-national contacts and exchange of good practice during the period of LEADER I and LEADER II. At last, the opening of the Observatory for Rural Territories Leader+ Contact Point has been announced.

The aims of the Contact Point are:

- Dealing with requests for information, reception of visitors
- Development of the Leader+ Website
http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm
- Production of an electronic newsletter
- Promotion and representation of Leader+
- Planning and organisation of seminars
- Methodological support for those engaged in Leader+
- Editing of the Leader+ Magazine
- Summaries and analysis of Leader+ programmes and pilot activities at the European level.

The calendar of planned events and the planned publication date of the Leader+ magazine will be announced soon. The National Network Units have been asked to send their mailing lists to the Contact Point, in order to provide an update of the Observatory's contacts lists and to enable a wide distribution of the electronic newsletter from the Leader+ Observatory.

For further information and enquiries, contact Véronique Weyland-Ammeux, Team Leader; Martin Law, Publications Co-ordinator; or Carla Palmieri, Events Co-ordinator at Leader+ Contact Point, 81 Rue du Marteau, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 235 2020, fax +32 2 280 0438, e-mail contact.point@leaderplus.org

The PREPARE Network

The aim of the PREPARE Network is to promote multi-national exchange between those who are involved (as individuals or organisations) in rural development anywhere in Europe. It is conceived as an open network of individuals, multi-polar in nature, controlled by its membership, flexible in operation. There is no subscription, unless the members later decide that there should be. The network is conceived as a meeting-point for people who work in the public, voluntary or private sectors : thus, people from government and from non-government organisations are equally welcome.

The main medium of the Network is the Website, **www.PREPAREnetwork.org**. If you are involved in rural development in any capacity, anywhere in Europe, and you share the idea that drives PREPARE – to strengthen civil society and to promote multi-national exchange in rural development – we invite you to join the PREPARE Network. The accession form can be found on the PREPARE Website : please let us know if you have difficulty in accessing it.

Information

For information on PREPARE, visit the PREPARE Website, www.PREPARENetwork.org, or contact Michael Dower, PREPARE Coordinator, 56 Painswick Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2ER, England, *Tel +44 1242 226511, e-mail mdower@glos.ac.uk*

PREPARE Gathering, 24 September to 1 October 2004

The second multi-national gathering of the PREPARE network will be held in late September 2004, in Bulgaria. It is open to all members of the Network, subject to the limit of 100 places.

The focus of this year's Gathering is on

The local partnership-based approach to rural development, drawing on the example of LEADER and LEADER-type programmes.

This theme is chosen because the EU's Rural Development Regulation, as now operating in the new member states, makes provision for LEADER-type programmes; the updated SAPARD Regulation, applicable to Bulgaria and Romania (and potentially to further accession countries) has a similar provision; and several of the new member states have anticipated these measures with their own territorial, partnership-based programmes.

The Gathering will take an unusual form, which we pioneered in the Gathering last year in Slovakia. It has two connected elements :

- Travelling Workshops, starting in Sofia, Bulgaria and in Bucharest, Romania, between 25 and 27 September
- the main Gathering, at Chiflik in Bulgaria, from 28 to 30 September.

Travelling Workshops. The first part of the gathering will be a series of travelling workshops, made by bus or minibus between 25 and 27 September. Participants will be asked to arrive in either Sofia (capital of Bulgaria) or Bucharest (capital of Romania) on Friday 24 September. On the Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, there will be a briefing at the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture (for those who arrive in Sofia) or Romanian Ministry of Agriculture (for those who arrive in Bucharest). This will include a meeting with senior officials of the Ministry. This will enable the participants to understand the policies and programmes for rural development which underlie what they will see during the Travelling Workshops; and will permit discussion with Government officials about the prospects for partnership with civil society in their programmes.

The Travelling Workshops, from mid-day on 25 September to the evening of 27 September, will take the form of tours, lasting three days and nights, travelling across country from Bucharest or Sofia to the venue of the main Gathering. Each tour will be taken by a minibus with a group of mixed nationality; and will visit between 6 and 8 distinct action groups or enterprises in the rural areas that they pass through. At each point, the visiting group will be received by the people who run the initiative or enterprise, and will have the opportunity to understand how it was initiated and how it is run.

Main Gathering. The Gathering, with all 100 participants, will be held at Chiflik, 80km east of Sofia in Bulgaria from 28 to 30 September. The Gathering will be for three full days, with the following provisional programme :

- a completion, by each Travelling Workshop group, of a report on their experience during the Workshop, followed by oral presentations of these reports to the whole Gathering;
- b. presentation of the LEADER programme, by speakers from the European Commission and from chosen countries of EU-15; and of the experience of LEADER-type activity in two or more of the accession countries;

- c. discussion in workshops and in plenary session, with a focus on the means by which civil society may be strengthened, and partnership between civil society and government in rural development may be promoted.

Departures. On Friday 1 October, at the end of the Gathering, each group will return by bus or minibus direct to the starting-point (i.e. Sofia or Bucharest), for their journey home. If you are travelling home by air or other public transport, we advise that you should not expect to leave Sofia before 12 noon or Bucharest before mid-afternoon on 1 October. If you wish to stay over that night or longer in either city, the organisers can help you to find accommodation, but cannot pay for that accommodation.

Late arrivals. Those who cannot join a Travelling Workshop should arrive on 27 September either in Sofia (from where conference transport will be arranged to Chiflik) or direct to Chiflik. Details of how to reach Chiflik can be requested from the Fair Chance Association.

Venue. The Gathering will be held in the small rural village of Chiflik, 80km east of Sofia. The meetings will take place in the Diva hotel, which has a large conference room and other small meeting rooms. Accommodation will be in the same hotel or in the Venika hotel, 5 minutes walk from the Diva. The hotel has generous grounds, and swimming pools with mineral water, so we encourage you to bring your swimsuits. Also bring portable musical instruments to help our group entertainment.

Costs. The Gathering and the Travelling Workshops are being organised in Bulgaria by the National Fair Chance Association and the UNDP team; and in Romania by the Romanian Association for Community Development supported by the Center for Rural Assistance, Timisoara. They and the PREPARE Partners are securing funds which will cover the costs of all participants on food and accommodation while they are in Romania and Bulgaria; and the travel costs to the starting-points for those who come from the new EU member states and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. We may be able to contribute towards the costs of participants from EU-15 countries, but this is subject to later confirmation.

All participants will however, be asked to pay a **Gathering Fee** of 30 euro for those from Central and Eastern Europe, or 60 euro for those from EU15, on arrival at Chiflik. This small sum will help towards the significant costs of organising the event.

Allocation of places. Because the PREPARE Network is now so widespread geographically, the Organising Group has decided on the following provisional allocation of the 100 places that are available - 10 each from Bulgaria and Romania, 6 from each of the 8 new member states in central Europe, 2 from each of 8 Balkan or CIS countries, and 16 others from the PREPARE network. As in earlier events, we will seek a mixture of government and non-government participants, since our purpose is to promote partnership between government and civil society in rural development.

Registration. If you would like to join the Gathering in October, please complete the form attached, and send it (preferably by e-mail) to the National Fair Chance Association at the address shown. You should then await confirmation that you have been allocated a place : please do not arrange your transport until you have received that confirmation.

Information. If you need information about the Gathering or the Travelling Workshops, please contact :

Albena Dimcheva Palpurina, Executive Director, National Fair Chance Association,
Floor 5, room 518, 16-20 Alabin Street, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria,
Tel/ fax +359 2 985 11 132, e-mail fairchance@abv.bg **or** capacity21@mbox.cit.bg.

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PREPARE Network
Application to take part in the Network Gathering in Bulgaria
and (if desired) in the Travelling Workshop before the Gathering

I have applied through the PREPARE Website to become a member of the PREPARE network. Yes No

Name Male Female

Organisation or enterprise (if any)

Role in this organisation or enterprise

Postal address (please include full postal code and country)
.....
.....

Telephone numbers, including mobiles if you wish (please include international code)
.....

Fax number (please include international code).....

E-mail address.....Website.....

please tick boxes

I would like to attend PREPARE Gathering in Chiflik, Bulgaria 28 to 30 September

I would like to take part in a Travelling Workshop 25 to 27 September

I would prefer the following starting-point for that Travelling Workshop :

Bucharest, Romania

Sofia, Bulgaria

and ** I propose to arrive on Friday 24 September at hours (time)

at Sofia airport, Bulgaria **or** at Sofia main railway station

or at Bucharest airport, Romania **or** at Bucharest railway station

or ** I propose to arrive on afternoon/evening of 27 September athours (time)

at Sofia airport, Bulgaria **or** at Sofia main railway station

and I would like to take advantage of Conference transport to Chiflik

or ** I propose to find my own way to Chiflik, arriving onOctober

At Chiflik, I am willing to share a two or three bed room Yes No

I would like to share this room with *Insert name(s)*

I ask for special diet as follows

After the Gathering, I wish to return by conference transport to :

Bucharest, Romania

Sofia, Bulgaria

where I would like to stay for one or more nights at my own cost

or I will find my own way from Chiflik to start my journey home

Please return this form, preferably by e-mail, **before 5 September 2004**, to
Albena Dimcheva Palpurina, Executive Director, National Fair Chance Association
Floor 5, room 518, 16-20 Alabin Street, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria,
Fax +359 2 985 11 132, e-mail *fairchance@abv.bg or capacity21@mbox.cit.bg*.

**Please do not book your transport before you receive confirmation of your place.