



PREPARE NETWORK

the voice from civil society

Goran Šoster
PREPARE Coordinator
Zlatibor/ Serbia, 29. June 2011

Overview of the presentation

- ▶ About PREPARE Network
 - activities
 - involvement
- ▶ PREPARE's involvement in the CAP reform process
- ▶ Partnership principles as we understand it



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?

- ▶ National networks for rural development in 10 EU member states: Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia and in one EU candidate country: Croatia
- ▶ Two EU-level NGOs: ECOVAST, Forum Synergies
- ▶ Recent focus:
 - South Eastern Europe,
 - Ukraine, Belarus 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)
- 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



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



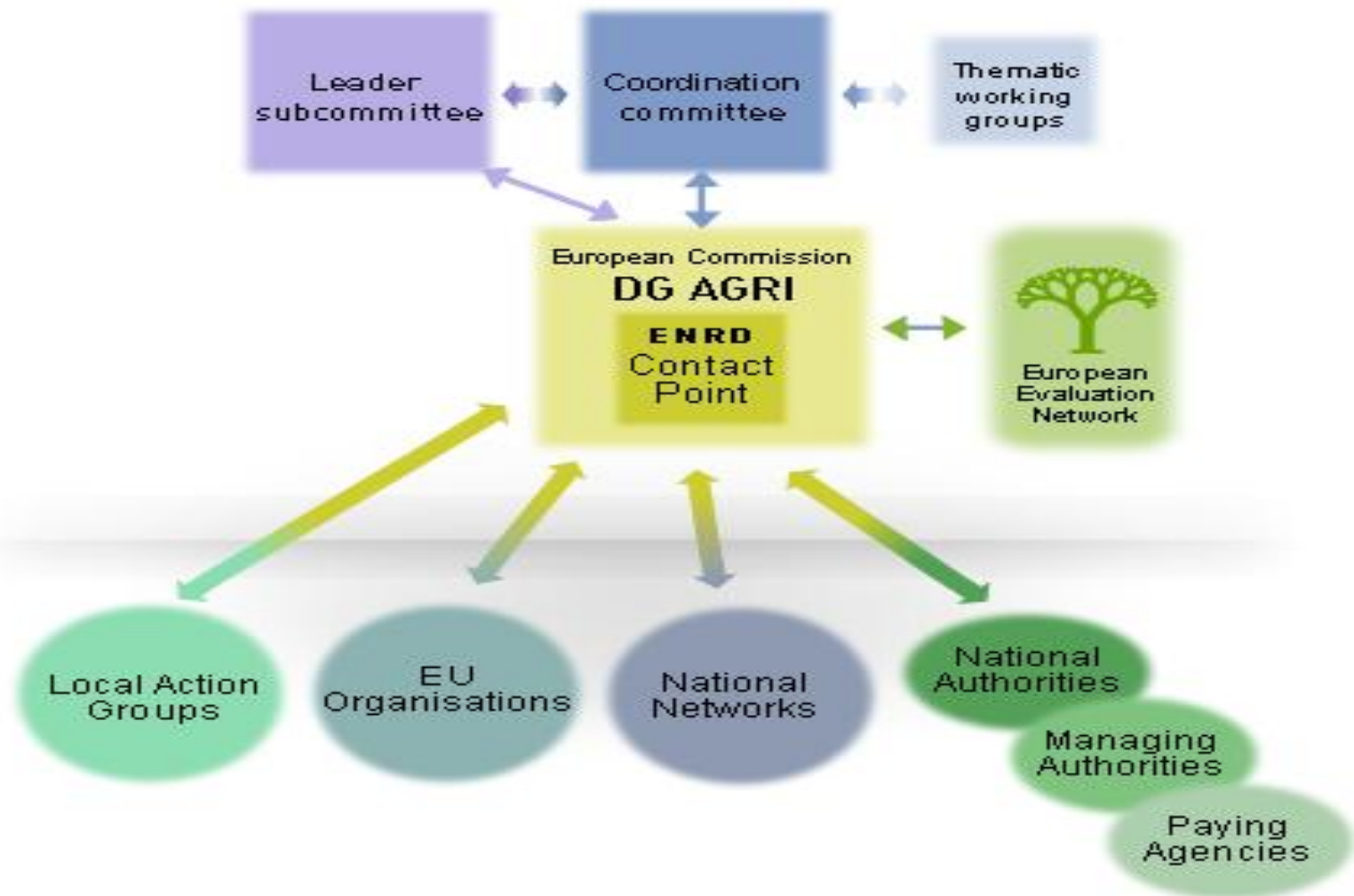
PREPARE involvement in:

- ▶ 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 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



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



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



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



VISIT US AT



www.preparenetwork.org