



Република Македонија

Министерство за земјоделство, шумарство и водостопанство

PREPARE Gathering – Ohrid, Macedonia  
31.08.2010

**Opening speech of Mr. Ljupco Dimovski - Minister for Agriculture,  
Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Macedonia**

Distinguished members of PREPARE organization  
Respected guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Partnership for Rural Europe that has its goal to promote transnational cooperation in rural development especially with new country members, as well with accession countries to European Union, is of special interest for our country. The goal of this program that overlaps with Macedonian national Program for rural development is to strengthen civil society and to promote multinational exchange in rural development.

As it is already known, development of rural communities is most successful and sustainable there where strong partnerships are created, on national, regional and local level and where local population is actively involved in the whole process.

From our up to date experience with the Program for rural development it can be concluded that Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy builds exactly this kind of cooperation. Partnership attitude trough co-financing of projects for development of rural areas confirm the ultimate objective that policies are relevant and sustainable, and that budget money with citizens and public sector participation multiply and increase.

The essence of the Program for rural development whose basis is modernization and development of rural economies, farmers understood well. Only last year through this Program 250 new tractors are supplied, agriculture mechanization, large number of cattle breeding farms are modernized, which in bottom line positively accomplish the objective, and that is improvement of the living standard of the rural population and the live in villages. Well concept and realized last year government policy for rural development, for the producers this year has been signal strong enough for submitting double number of requests for co-financing from the foreseen finances with the Program.

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From this year agriculture economies have opportunity for utilizing of European funds trough IPARD program. On the first open call published in December last year 24.3 million Euro were available for the programs for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. A total of 133 applications were submitted, 58 of which for investments in agriculture economies with aim of theirs restructuring and further building up in order to achieve European standards, 41 for investments in processing and marketing of agriculture and fish products and 34 for diversification and development of rural economic activities. After completion of administrative checkups and field controls, Agency signed contracts with 27 funds applicants.

This annual gathering will I hope give a great contribution in the integrated development of rural areas and will bring closer representatives of the civil society and public sector organizations from Central and Southeast Europe and accession countries for EU membership. This is an opportunity to see the ongoing and future challenges for Europe's rural development, a foundation for experience and idea exchange, for stimulation of cooperation, as for promotion of dialog between institutional, private and civil sector.

Holding this gathering for rural development in our country opens the possibility for joining the Networks for Rural Development of EU.

I believe that this event will have a positive effect on the rural development of the whole region, especially for building sustainable development of the republic of Macedonia.

Thank you for the attention.

