



THE BALKAN RURAL PARLIAMENT

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HISTORY

- ✘ During 2013, the Balkan Network for Rural Development was established as an informal regional network by the rural networks of Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia. In the next four years, it was joined by national networks from four other Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Croatia.
- ✘ From the very beginning, BRDN strives to articulate common issues of the Balkan countries in rural development and to encourage and support the processes of European integration of both the region and each country individually.
- ✘ Also BRDN strives democratization of the region and each country individually, through the strengthening of rural communities and their active involvement in the decision-making processes and implementation of rural development programs.

1ST BALKAN RURAL PARLIAMENT

- ✘ The number of participants was 65 people.
- ✘ it is organized by 7 national rural development networks;
- ✘ focused on defining a common regional platform and joint advocacy for the needs of the region,
- ✘ seeking to promote the activism of rural communities;
- ✘ as a regional platform, it encourages national networks to work at the national level and improve the position of rural communities.

THEMES OF THE 1ST BALKAN RURAL PARLIAMENT

- ✘ Theme 1 Youth and women in rural development of the Balkan;
- ✘ Theme 2 Short supply chain and role of the networks of the Balkan;
- ✘ Theme 3 Social entrepreneurship as chance for diversification economic activities in rural communities of the Balkan;
- ✘ Theme 4 How to use LEADER/CLLD for faster development of rural communities in the Balkan;
- ✘ Theme 5 Balkan culture and heritage as chance for rural development.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✘ The first BRP contributed to improvement of regional cooperation of national networks of civil society organizations from the Balkans,
- ✘ Inter-sectoral dialogue have new dimension,
- ✘ Knowledge exchange on topics addressed by the parliament was supported,
- ✘ Clearly expressed the views of rural communities in the Balkans about future and community needs, through defining a Declaration,
- ✘ It's improved cooperation of rural actors in the Balkans with rural actors from other European countries, European networks and decision makers at national and European level

FUTURE OF BRP

- ✘ It is planned to hold the 2nd Balkan Rural Parliament in autumn 2020, and the coordinator is the Network for Rural Development of North Macedonia
- ✘ Further cooperation with the European Rural Parliament, as well as with other national rural parliaments, is also planned in the future

STRONG VOICE FOR SURVIVING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE BALKAN!

