



Rrjeti i Organizatave për Zhvillim Rural të Kosovës - RROZHRK
Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo - NORDK



3

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BULLETIN

The National Event of Cooperatives

Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo- NORDK has successfully organized the National Event of Cooperatives on 25th September in Prizren, with active participation and contribution of women's activists from members and partners of the network. Representatives from Kosovo's institutions at local and central level were invited to this event, but due to the pandemic situation they could not physically participate, so the access to the event was provided through "Zoom" platform. Also present were representatives of civil society in Kosovo, partners and collaborators of the network, and other stakeholders in this issue such as representatives of agricultural cooperatives in Kosovo.

In this event, it was initially discussed in broad lines about the functioning of agricultural cooperatives in general, to continue with the issue of the current state of agriculture cooperatives in Kosovo, challenges and opportunities for cooperation. Some of the key issues raised during the discussion and presentation of the findings from the research "Functioning of Cooperatives in Kosovo, opportunities and challenges", were the familiarization of women in rural areas for the advantages of cooperation in order to encourage them to cooperate. Also there were made efforts to identify the reasons for the lack of agricultural cooperation which resulted: lack of trust in institutions, lack of trust among farmers when it comes to profit sharing, then the feeling of individual success etc.

However, the opportunities that women farmers have for cooperation are also highlighted, which are quite large, and not that there is a lack of will and desire for cooperation, but it is the lack of initiatives from them.

On behalf of NORDK special thanks to Regional Director of We Effect Europe, Anneli Leina for her online presence and for the important speech at the event and also special thanks to all activists, members and stakeholders that are in harmony with NORDK's vision to improve the role of cooperatives especially in generating work and employment possibilities for women's in rural areas.

Recommendations: Some of the recommendations highlighted from the National Event of Cooperatives were:

1. Implementation of the law on cooperatives and its harmonization with the current state of their functioning in the country;
2. Greater institutional support on preparation of a special measure for the functioning of cooperatives or liaison with any of the current measures;
3. Promotion of advantages of cooperation;
4. Limited access of women to land and capital;
5. Lack of innovative agricultural mechanization; etc.



Figure . National Event of Cooperatives

Rural Women's Day in Kosovo

The Network of Rural Development Organizations of Kosovo - NORDK, as one of the contributing actors of rural development in the country, organized the event “Rural Women's Day in Kosovo”, an event within the framework of International Day of Rural Women which was officially marked on October 15th.

During the event organized in Ferizaj with women and girls from rural areas from the Municipality of Ferizaj, the Municipality of Vushtrri and Municipality of Drenas, participants contributed on the open and interactive discussion on the challenges and stereotypes faced by girls and women in rural areas in all segments of daily life: because of gender-based discrimination and social norms, their life is shaped how they should be and how they should live, including their school attendance, workload, marriage, voice in the household, autonomy and overall well-being. Also from the participants was raised the issue of their employment where it was emphasized that as young rural workers they are much less likely to have employment contracts, particularly permanent ones, than urban workers.

That's why were recommended:

1. Supporting young women and girls for career advancement,;
2. Providing training in the development of soft skills and computer skills for young girls in rural areas who have dropped out of school;
3. Providing moral support from the family in case they want to be employed;
4. Creating opportunities for self-employment of women in rural areas through training in: tailoring, design, hairdressing;
5. Institutional support for young girls who want to do agribusiness;
6. Facilitation of administrative procedures in the case of grant applications;
7. Drafting a special measure for women and girls in rural areas in case of various crises such as this pandemic.

These and other issues related to young girls and women from rural areas were addressed at the one of the thematic sessions of the Rural Parliament.



Figure 2. Rural Women's Day

First Rural Parliament of Kosovo 2020

For the first time in Kosovo was held the Rural Parliament, an event of national character which aims to gather all the contributing actors of the rural sector in order to identify and address the needs of this sector.

The event was held on October 22-24 at "Sharr" Hotel in Prevala, Prizren, while guests and regional network partners were provided with online access through zoom platform.

On the first day of the event, were organized several field visits:

1st Field visit- Hit Flores SHPK - Municipality of Dragash

A successful Agro-company (cooperative) founded in 1987, specialized in collection of medical herbs. All sorts of herbs and fruits are collected by local, rural people living in villages of this part of Kosovo and also in another side of the border in Albania.

All products-herbs collected and processed by this cooperative are exported in EU countries and in United States as well.

2nd Field Visit - Vataj family in Sallagrazhdë of Suhareka

Poultry farm, cow farm, bees, fantastic lunches with traditional food and unique cheeses prepared by the ladies of the Vataj family, were some of the characteristics of the activity - the next visit within the first Rural Parliament. Of course the hospitality and stories presented were aspects highly valued by the participants.

3rd Field Visit- Farm of Family Ademaj - Municipality of Shtime

Raising buffaloes - a not very common activity in Kosovo but quite profitable for the Ademaj's family. Therefore for the participants this visit was different from the others and it aroused their curiosity to know more about it.

The second day of the event was the day of the conference and thematic sessions, which were attended also the representatives of PREPARE and BRDN which addressed the topics: LEADER approach in Western Balkans; Role of national networks in advocacy and lobbying for development of rural communities and of the rural sector; Inclusion of women's from rural areas, property rights, economic status.

The Minister of Regional Development of Kosovo was also part of the discussion panel.

After the conference, workshops were held through which the participants were engaged in the following topics: Program for agriculture and rural development, Effects of the pandemic on rural development and Integration of women and youth in rural development.

At the conclusion of the 1st Rural Parliament of Kosovo held from 22 to 24 October 2020 in Prevala - Prizren, Kosovo with attendance of 53 participants from all over Kosovo, including representatives from Albanian Rural Development Network, has been prepared MANIFESTO. Representatives of the regional, european and international networks, joined and contributed to the sessions through Zoom platform in real time as other participants. The representatives of the rural community of Kosovo have adopted the Rural Manifesto of Kosovo as a joint statement of aspirations, commitments, and demands of the rural community, drafted based on meetings with rural community residents, meetings with representatives of rural community organizations, and based on the results of the working groups during the holding of the First Rural Parliament of Kosovo 2020.

Present during the three days of the event were also the media in Kosovo which followed closely all the organization and as a product came out a special TV Program 'Agro' dedicated to the 1st Rural Parliament of Kosovo.







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