



PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe

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What is PREPARE?

- **PREPARE Programme – to strengthen civil society and promote multi-national exchange in rural development**
- **PREPARE Network**
- **Focus: Central and Eastern Europe (New Member States, accession countries and EU new neighbours)**



PREPARE partners

- Czech National Rural Observatory**
- Estonian Movement of Villages „Kodukant”**
- Finnish Village Action Association**
- Hungarian Rural Parliament**
- Latvian Rural Forum**
- Lithuanian Rural Communities Union**
- Polish Rural Forum**



PREPARE partners

- ❑ **Slovakian Rural Parliament**
- ❑ **Slovenian Rural Development Network**
- ❑ **Swedish Popular Movements Council**
- ❑ **Swedish Federation of Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies**
- ❑ **Forum Synergies – transnational network for sustainable development**
- ❑ **ECOVAST (European Council for the Village and Small Town)**



PREPARE activities till 2008

- **Multi-national activities (e.g. Gatherings)**
- **Support to strengthening civil society in specific countries:**
 - **Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia;**
 - **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia-Montenegro, Macedonia;**
 - **Ukraine, Belarus, Kaliningrad**
 - **Turkey**

PREPARE activities till 2008

– cont.

- Support to PREPARE partner organisations and the new national networks (capacity building)**
- Cooperation with the European Commission and national governments (e.g. LEADER conference for NMS, Hungary, October 2006)**



Funding sources

- **C. S. Mott Foundation (three grants)**
- **Partner contributions, national governments**
- **Related programmes (e.g. UNDP – Localising Sustainable Development)**
- **?**



Relationships to Leader

- **Some partners are (linked to) national Leader networks**
- **From the very beginning – strong advocate of the Leader approach (integrated, bottom-up, partnership-based)**
- **Involvement in programming 2007-2013**
- **Cooperation with ELARD (e.g. joint events, statements)**



Survey of Leader in NMS

- Questionnaire composed of:**
 - previous Leader-type activities;**
 - Leader in 2004-2006;**
 - Leader axis in 2007-2013;**
 - national rural networks**
- Sent to PREPARE partners in March 2006**

Summary of results (1)

- **Responses received from: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia (Romania still to come)**
- **In most countries, pre-Leader activities were carried out and local partnership created before accession**



Summary of results (2)

- ❑ **Pilot phase – mostly limited to creation of LAG and strategies, in most countries LAGs are not allowed to finance projects**
- ❑ **Civic society involvement in programming is mostly formal**
- ❑ **Limited choice of measures, usually only from Axis 3**
- ❑ **Restricted autonomy, regranting – ?**



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