



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



1

MAY 2020

BULLETIN

The Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo - NORDK aims to advance approach and cooperation between different organizations and non-formal groups of same profile (rural), to exchange ideas, information, and experience and to promote assistance and organization of activities in the field of rural development aiming to promote this community in Kosovo.

The vision of NORDK is to promote and develop relations and partnerships between different sectors of the rural community in Kosovo through advocacy activities aimed at its sustainable development.

NORDK strategically and structurally gives special importance to the involvement of women, youth and all non-majority communities living/working in rural areas and in the rural development sector. Network of Rural Development Organizations of Kosovo is a founding member of the Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN), a member of the Partnership for Rural Europe – (PREPARE) and a member of the European Rural Parliament.

Otherwise, NORDK is active in promoting its work, through its official website: www.nordks.org as well also on the official Facebook page: Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo.

Bulletin - It is the newest product of NORDK that will be published four times per year and will contain summary information on the current period of work, activities and developments within the Network, membership and international partners. The bulletin as a product will be realized in electronic form and its realization is supported by our partner, 'We Effect' within the ADEN project. The bulletin can be read on the official website of NORDK as well as on the official profile in Facebook, then by being distributed directly to the board, membership and all partners.

Annual Assembly of NORDK - was organized in December 2019, where among other topics and issues were reported and discussed about activities, challenges and recent achievements at the national level but also at the regional and European level. After the presentation and discussions, the members-delegates by a majority of votes approved the Review of the NORDK Strategy (2017-2021) from a gender perspective, emphasizing the integration and active participation of women in the objectives and programs of the Network in national level. Also, the Assembly with a majority of votes approved the Review of the NORDK Strategy (2017-2021) from a gender perspective, emphasizing the integration and active participation of women in the objectives and programs of the Network in national level.

Also, the Assembly with a majority of votes filled the vacancies within the Board with new members who were proposed and voted to join the current structure of the Board with the following mandate.

Thanks to the work, and dedication for promotion and fair addressing of gender equality, now NORDK with official commitment offers active involvement of women's in strategic, organizational and structural aspect, through participation, work, contribution and qualitative engagement in the Board and in the executive team of the Network.



Images: Annual Assembly- NORDK

The Annual Assembly was held successfully, with sufficient quorum and substantial contribution from the members-delegates from most municipalities, organizations, associations, and active groups from different communities that are an integral part of the Network.

The full report from the Annual Assembly was also distributed to the delegates from the unions, organizations, associations, groups, members of the Network and was published as complete on the official website of NORDK.

Regular meeting of the Board of NORDK - after the Annual Assembly held in December 2019, NORDK hold the first regular meeting of the Board, a meeting which took place with attendance of majority of board members. The focus of this meeting was the organization of the Kosovo Rural Parliament, an event with comprehensive rural dimensions which characterizes our network, but without neglecting the discussions regarding the other activities in the framework of network projects.



Images: Regular meeting of the Board - NORDK

Briefly, about the following projects:



NORDK with support of We Effect is implementing the project: "Active Development and Empowerment of NORDK". The project contains four main components:

1. Organizational development of NORDK;
2. Gender mainstream;
3. Lobbying and advocacy for the interest of the membership / civil society and for the interests of the rural community with special approach on women, youth and minorities from rural areas; and
4. Women's entrepreneurship in rural areas.

The overall goal of the project is empowerment of the NORDK, as an active, powerful and transparent network that represents interests of its members and CSOs in rural development sector, with special approach on gender mainstreaming.



NORDK is in the process of implementing the regional project 'NAGE - Networking and Advocacy for Green Economy' which aims to promote the green economy with special emphasis on the rural development sector. The project is led by the Rural Development Network of North Macedonia in partnership with other partner networks member of the BRDN including NORDK.

Activities of local and international events

NORDK, as a full member of the European Rural Parliament, successfully represented Kosovo in the sessions and activities of the European Rural Parliament Gathering that this edition was organized in Candas, Spain. In parallel with the European Rural Parliament, there were organized also the first edition of the European Rural Youth Parliament, which was also held in Spain, where NORDK as one of the initiating networks of this platform was represented and contributed to this very important event of the civil sector of rural development in European level.



Images: Rural Parliament in Spain

Throughout the situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, NORDK has taken several initiatives to address the issue of gender equality with a focus on the rural context:

1. Analysis “Impact and implications of COVID-19 pandemic on addressing gender issues in Kosovo

This analysis highlights that in general, even with past pandemics experiences, women are affected differently than men, so it is essential to understand the effects of a health emergency like this, in order to create adequate and effective policies and interventions. Furthermore, the analysis reflects the situation of women in the labor market in Kosovo, where it is seen that their unemployment rate is still higher or 34.32%, compared to men 22.62%. Otherwise, from the analysis findings, some of the most pronounced implications for addressing gender issue are: health and social norms, domestic violence and protection crises, (non) employment, and gender implications in rural areas: access to information, banning the continuation of schooling and consequently early marriages to young girls, etc. You can read more details of the analysis on the official website of NORDK.

2. Analysis “Economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women entrepreneurship in Kosovo-

This analysis raises new concerns about the impact of COVID-19 which suggests that the economic sphere of women will be disproportionately affected by that of men, because across the globe, women earn less, keep jobs less secure and they are more likely to be employed in the informal sector, and such a situation is also reflected in Kosovo. Therefore, some of the reasons that women are most at risk from economic shocks caused by crises such as COVID-19 pandemics are: unpaid work, not wide enough safety nets, limited credit access. Regarding the relevant situation of women entrepreneurs in Kosovo, the NORDK has also given recommendations to the actors involved: women's involvement in drafting plans and policies to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, special measures and ongoing efforts should be taken to identify human rights violations from the informal economy sector addressing the needs of women who make up the vast majority of this sector, as well as taking into account that women-owned businesses are more likely to be small businesses in the retail and services sectors, so it is also recommended to provide short-term liquidity through loans. You can read more about the analysis on the official website of NORDK.

3. The first 'Webinar' with 'Focus Gender' -

a virtual discussion during which with activists of civil society was discussed about the challenges, needs, problems that have affected gender equality in a rural context during the COVID-19 pandemic period. Previously elaborated: a presentation of NORDK activities from a gender perspective during the last period: presentation of two published analyzes on the impact and implications of COVID-19 pandemic in gender inequality, a summary of the current pandemic situation in Kosovo regarding addressing gender equality.



Images: First Webinar “Gender Focus”

While activists raised issues such as: unpaid work and overload of women's household chores, domestic violence and the lack of doing business especially for rural women during the pandemic situation.

At the end of the meeting, the participating activists expressed their readiness to cooperate with NORDK to be close to rural women during the current situation in the context of identifying their needs, problems, challenges which will be addressed to the competent institutions at central and local level and in future activities, events and forums organized by the Network and its members.

The member of NORDK, Edisona Franca at the Newsletter of PREPARE aisbl

NORDK continues to promote the youth and women rural activism from Kosovo in the European level through Partnership for Rural Europe – PREPARE. NORDK was pleased to promote the work and commitment of Edisona Franca, a young rural activist, graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture. She is actively engaged in the Network, by working on gender and youth issues as very important target groups of the Network in all aspects. For more details you can read the article on the official PREPARE website:

www.prepare-network.eu.

Note: Other editions of the Bulletin will cover in more detail the activities of the last period as well as other important sections.



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