

CROATIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Main activities and projects 2020./2021.

Second Balkan rural parliament
Ohrid, North Macedonia
15.-16.06.2021.



Matija Zamljačanec
Croatian rural development
network

Croatian network for rural development

Croatian rural development network – CRDN is an organisation and a network of organisations that promotes sustainable development of Croatian rural areas since 2006. By working together, networking, partnership and knowledge transfer we aim to improve conditions for sustainable development and high-quality life in rural communities. At this moment, the Network counts 43 members.

We advocate an evenly developed Croatia, in which residents of rural areas actively contribute to developing their communities by their social and economic activities.

CRDNs areas of activity are:

- advocating interests of rural stakeholders in creating and implementing public policies,
- networking and informing our members and contributors to rural development,
- education, exchange of knowledge and experiences and
- organisation development.

COVID 19

2020/2021 was marked by the emergence of a major threat, the Covid-19 virus where we are forced to change our lives and adapt to a whole new different form of work. For a while, work was done from home, meetings were held online, the Zoom platform became a normal tool for us to work with, which we did not use often until 2020. Despite the pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus, we must point out that we continued to work, but in slightly different conditions and with less activity than it would have been if we had not been affected by the pandemic

At the beginning of 2020, the Operational Office started operating in Županja in February, and two program associates were hired. At the annual assembly held in December 2020, the proposal to change the seat of the Croatian Network for Rural Development from Zagreb to Županja was unanimously adopted.

Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia 2014 - 2020 / 2021- 2027

- CRDN continued its activities in the field of cooperation with relevant state bodies and organizations, as well as participation in the work of various bodies and the development of proposals for public policies and regulations.
- CRDN advocates the interests of rural stakeholders and participates in monitoring the implementation of public policies by acting in the Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia 2014-2020.

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

- The CRDN representative is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), a body advised by the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission, and provides assistance in ensuring that European policies and legislation better reflect the economic, social and citizens' needs.
- HMRR representatives in the EESC are Lidija Pavić-Rogošić (ODRAZ / HMRR) and Višnja Jelić Mück (ODRAZ / HMRR).
- EESC news in Croatian and information on plenary sessions with links to adopted opinions can be found at <http://odraz.hr/hr/novosti/novosti-iz-egso-a>.

Horizontal Working Group on Youth and Demography Commission for the Development of the Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy for the Period 2021 - 2027

- Representative of the Croatian Network for Rural Development Marijana Vidić Poletto (LAG Zapadna Slavonija) participated in the beginning of February at the 1st session of the Horizontal Working Group on Youth and Demography of the Commission for the Development of the Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy for 2021-2027.
- CRDN is involved in creating policies and interventions for the new programming period. We have submitted our materials with suggestions and informed the Commission that the key demographic problems of rural areas and generational renewal of the Croatian countryside should be identified as soon as possible.

CRDN participation in networks

PREPARE

The members of PREPARE are European and national rural development organizations belonging to the civil sector. During 2020, a representative of CRDN, Katarina Miličević (Program Associate, HMRR), participated in the PREPARE bodies on behalf of the Croatian Rural Development Network.



ELARD

The European Association LEADER for Rural Development is a network that works to raise the profile of LEADER among European decision-makers and seeks to strengthen the role of LEADER as an essential part of European rural development policy. Representatives of CRDN are Dragica Roščić (LAG Adrion), and Verica Mušić (LAG Šumanovci).



CRDN participation in networks

BRDN - Balkan rural development network

The representative of CRDN in BRDN is Matija Zamljačanec. In February 2020, a workshop on Improving Fundraising Skills was held for members of the working groups of the Balkan Rural Development Network in Belgrade. The workshop for the members of the working groups was aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the BRDN by raising funds through the European Commission's call for project proposals, as well as other possible sources of grants.



Croatian Rural Development Network

Since August 2012, Croatian Rural Development Network has been a member of the National Rural Development Network (MRD) at the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 2018, the Ordinance on the Rural Development Network was adopted and CRDN has a member in the national RDN Steering Committee.

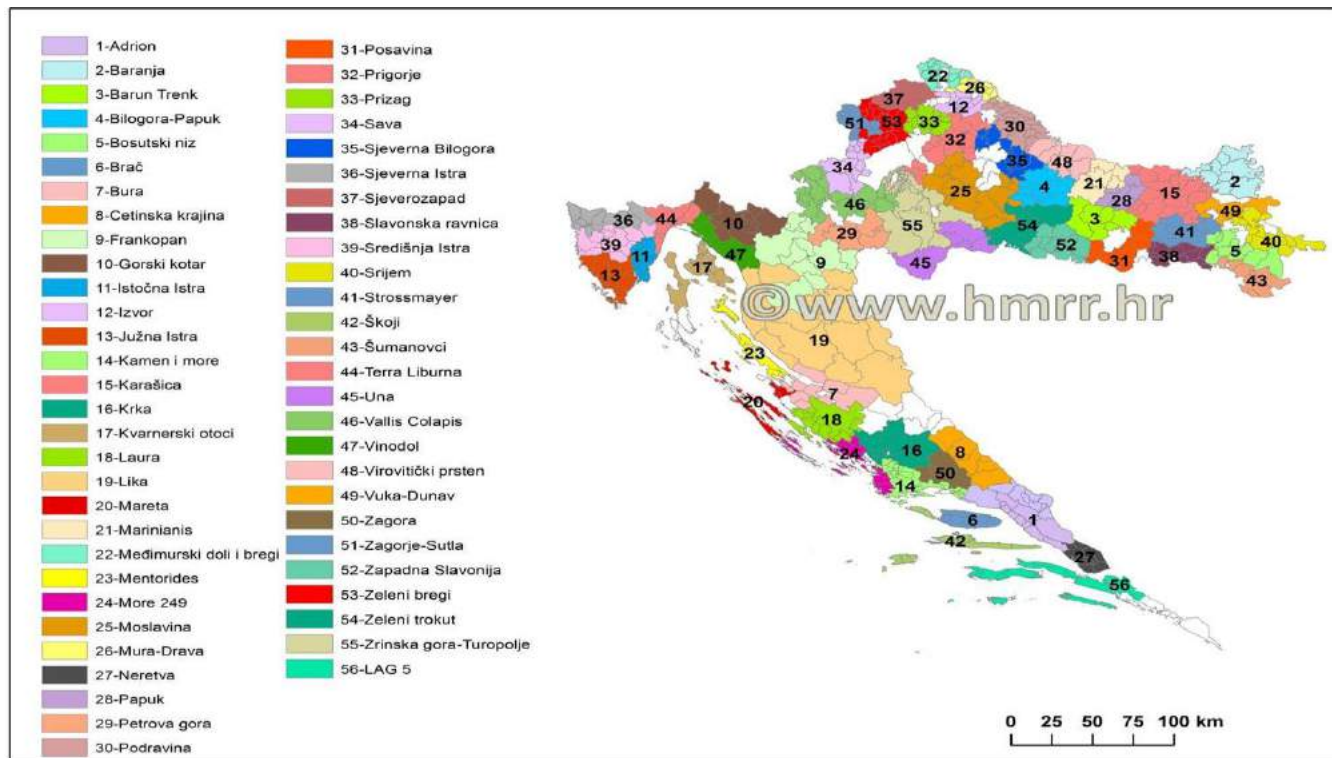


Collection and exchange of data and dissemination of information relevant to rural stakeholders

- **Website** - we report on news in rural development, activities of CRDN and its members, the state of LAGs in Croatia, regulations, regulations, manuals, articles, tenders, etc. We emphasize the activity of monitoring LAGs in Croatia which is published on the web -pages with cartographic presentation and basic data. CRDN continues to monitor the situation and trends in the implementation of the LEADER / CLLD approach in Croatia and the EU
- **Facebook profile** - we publish interesting facts about activities and events related to the activities of members, LAGs, rural Croatia and rural development in general.



Local Action Groups in Croatia



Project activities

Promoting rural development and diversification in Khulo municipality

The project is funded by the European Commission - EuropeAid in the period 1 May 2017 - 28 February 2021.

The main goal of the project is to improve the conditions of employability and living in Khulo municipality through the diversification of the rural economy, which contributes to the reduction of rural poverty in Georgia.



Networking and Advocacy for the Green Economy (NAGE),

Project is funded by the European Commission

The main goal of the project is to provide support for improving the policy impact and decision-making of the Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN) and its constituents (members), through involvement in the reform processes of agricultural and rural programs and policies to include the green economy concept.

As a great success, we can say that we have contributed to the study of the Green Economy, which includes our three examples from Croatia, ZMAG from Zagreb, Humana Nova from Čakovec and ACT PRINTLAB from Čakovec.



ROAD - Rural opinions, advocacy and development

CRDN is one of 20 partners from 17 EU countries in the ROAD project, the implementation of which lasts from 1 August 2018 - 31 January 2021, and is funded by the European Union - Europe for Citizens

Its purpose is to prepare, implement and disseminate activities related to the European Rural Parliament

The main activities of the project include a communication campaign on the EU and the European Rural Parliament, social media and media campaigns, mini debates, research, six thematic events and the main final event - the European Rural Parliament (ERP), which will bring together all project activities for even stronger partnerships in European rural communities and among the EU's rural population

RURBEST "The best is yet to come. Youth create tomorrows"

CRDN is one of the partners in the RURBEST project "The best is yet to come. Youth create tomorrows" whose implementation runs from May 15, 2019 to March 14, 2021.

The project is designed to ensure and strengthen the participation of young people in the European Rural Parliament (ERP) movement



SUSTINEO

The Croatian Rural Development Network is a partner in the SUSTINEO project, which aims to contribute to sustainable development at the local level by creating a network to promote local sustainable development and strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and higher education institutions to work together to implement sustainable development.



HEALTH OBSERVATORY

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to achieve effective dialogue with public administration, social partners and scientific higher education institutions in shaping and implementing reforms that contribute to citizens' equality in access to quality health care and preservation and development of public health system.



EU Political Institutions Project

The EU Political Institutions project was co-financed by the Ministry of Interior and Foreign Policy from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020. During the six months of the project, five lectures were held to educate rural youth on EU political institutions: European Commission, European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Council.

For the purpose of project educational publications were made for children and rural youth. After a successful training, the participants of the workshops were given brochures "EU Political Institutions" printed as part of the project. Everything that participants learned about the European Union during the implementation of the EU Political Institutions project can be checked in a short virtual quiz about the European Union institutions designed for mobile devices. An animated educational video was also made in which the EU political institutions were explained in detail.



“Golden years”

"Golden Year" project was co-financed by the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy from September 1, 2020 to February 18, 2021.

During the implementation of the project, a number of activities were carried out aimed at rural elderly. The activities contribute to the inclusion of older people in community life. It reduces the feeling of isolation and increases the feeling of security.

The aim of the project was to make the target group aware that they can help themselves maintain health through diet and exercise, and to gain new knowledge and skills in improving the quality of life.



Workshop "Examples of good practice"

Despite the pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus, the Croatian Network for Rural Development successfully organized and held a workshop "Examples of good practice". At the workshop, Local Action Groups exchanged experiences and presented examples of good practice funded by the Rural Development Program, and examples on how did local small producers faced a global pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.



Animated informative video on the topic "Smart Villages"

The animated informative video on “Smart Villages” starts with more than 300 stakeholders gathered in Ireland in 2016 to develop a vision for the future of EU rural areas and an **EU Smart Village Action Plan** based on a vision for the balanced development of European regions. and supporting rural development.

Animated video shows how Europe sees the future of the European countryside .

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r7qR9Mlvo0>

