

According to article 5, 6, 18 and 104 from the Law for citizens associations and foundations ( in The Official gazette of RM 52/2010)The Assembly of the Alliance of citizens associations RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (Network) on it's foundation assembly held in Skopje on 07.12.2010 declared the

## STATUTE

Of the citizens association

RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### Article 1

This statute defines the goals and tasks of the RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK of the Republic of Macedonia, form of association , organization, title and headquarters, requirements and gaining membership , terminating membership; rights and obligations of the network bodies, procuration and representing , financing and Network trademarks , mode of passing amendments and appendices of the Statute, mode of passing decrees of the Alliance cessation, managing the Network's property in case of Network cessation and other issues.

#### Article 2

The title of the Citizen's Association (Network) is : RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.

The short name of the Association (Network) is RDN of RM.

#### Article 3

The Alliance is a legal entity , responsible for it's duties in the legal and financial transmission, with all available assets.

#### Article 4

The Headquarters of the Network is in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Parapunov 27/1-29.

#### Article 5

The Network is a non - profit non-government organization. The Network may not perform commercial activity, but may found a limited responsibility associations or shareholding associations to implement their goals determined by the Statute. Political involvement of the Network is not allowed.

The Network will operate independently on the territory of Republic of Macedonia in accordance with the Network's internal acts and positive legal acts.

The Network will cooperate with other citizen associations and other organizations as well as other citizen Associations.

#### Article 6

The Network is a legal entity that acquires this feature with the day of its entry in the Registry of Citizen Associations and Foundations.

#### Article 7

The Network has its own stamp and seal with dimensions and shape in accordance with positive legal acts.

The stamp and seal have Cyrillic version in Macedonian and Latin version in English.

The seal has round shape and contains the title and headquarters of the Network.

The stamp is square root shape and the Cyrillic inscription of a number and a blank space to write number, date, Skopje.

#### Article 8

The Network shall have an account, register number and tax number.

### BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZING

#### Article 9

The Network is independent, non party, non-profitable citizen association, founded by the free will of citizens for associating, exercising of basic rights and liberties, openly and transparently for public and open to new memberships, associated because of the believe in the same human and social principles organized voluntarily.

Transparency in working will be achieved through publishing occasional printed materials, bulletin, information in the public media, web site and other forms of communication for the members and all other interested in the Network activities.

#### Article 10

The Board management of the Network will keep records of the Network members.

### 2.BASIC WORKING PRINCIPLES

#### Article 11

Generally the work of the Network is based on the positive European experience and LEADER program.

In its work, the Network will follow the following principles:

**Sustainable rural development** based on preserving and development of the resources of the environment, human, social, and creative/production potential;

**Support of diversity** of the rural regions, which are all similar and yet so different. This should be taken into account when the future development plans are created.

**Support of the communities** in development processes. This support will be for those who have already started these processes and those who are late. The latter will be especially attended.

**Bottom up** approach and involvement of the local communities, especially the public in the development processes.

**Local partnership development** and cooperation culture;

**Networking and cooperation promotion**, synergy in the development processes and exchange of experience and knowledge;

**Tradition support and promotion of innovations** for utilization of traditional values;

**Support and promotion of integral actions and sector linking** of the local and national institutions in the process;

**Promotion and support of ownership** of the local projects through their local management and administering.

### 3. GOALS AND TASKS OF THE ORGANIZATION

#### Article 12

To connect and align different profile organizations for exchange of opinions, information and experiences as well as promotion organization and assisting in activities from the sphere of the rural development.

To promote rural communities development and to connect different sectors in those communities;

To work on promotion of the conditions for consistent development of the rural areas and improvement of the quality of life in them.

#### Article 13

Tasks of the Network:

- Establishing of the system and Network development.
- Creation of development strategy and program for Network development;
- Defining priorities for development of agriculture, tourism and other branches in the rural areas and their promotion;
- Following of the legislative in the rural development sector on national and international level;
- Following and informing about public appeals and tenders of interest for the Network members;

- Promotion of the experiences of the meaning of the rural development;
- Cooperation with relevant national and local institutions, especially with the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management;
- Cooperation with relevant international institutions, including international organizations in the field of rural development, European rural development network, as well as EU institutions;
- Experience exchange from the rural development sector;
- Consistently directing and planning of help and support which will be realized inside the program activities;
- To support growth of its own resources in the operating areas and the projects in which it will be involved;
- Training on different levels and trainees (training and education of adults; technical and professional education, entrepreneurship etc) especially training of professional teams with the Network members in topics related with the rural development;

#### 4.ACTIVITIES

##### Article 14

The Network will perform the following activities:

58.11 Publishing books

58.12 Publishing directories and address lists

58.13 Publishing newspapers

58.14 Publishing magazines and periodical publications

58.19 Other publishing actions

63.12 Internet portals

63.99 Other informative services that are not mentioned elsewhere

70.21 Public relationship and informing related activities

70.22 Advisory regarding work and rest of the management

70.20 Research and experimental development in the field of social and liberal arts

73.20 Market research and public opinion analysis

74.30 Translating activities and services

74.90 Other scientific, expert and technical activities not mentioned elsewhere

82.11 Combined office activities and administrative services

82.19 Photocopying, document preparation and other special office services

82.30 Organizing meetings and business fairs

85.59 Other educational activities not mentioned elsewhere

Network's main activity will be: 94.99 other organizations' activities on membership basis, not mentioned elsewhere

## 5.MEMBERSHIP

### Article 15

Network member can be an association of citizens registered in Republic of Macedonia which in its Statute and programmed goals is associated with rural development and that will join the network voluntarily with signing a document for membership by which it also agrees with the Network Statute.

The final member admittance is done by the Managing Board resolution.

Network member may also be non citizens, legal entities, registered trades and informal groups in a mode determined in paragraph 1 and 2 of this article.

The Network guarantees the descretion of each member.

## 6.PROCEDURE FOR MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION

### Article 16

Each potential member submits admittance request to the membership body.

The request is reviewed on the Network Management Board next meeting. The first member admittance is always a part-time admittance. In exceptional cases the Management Board may make a decision of regular membership, if the conditions of this article are fulfilled and the contribution of the future member is obvious.

With the assessment of the contribution and efforts of the future member, by suggestion of any regular member or member of the Network bodies, the Management Board may make a decision for regular membership admittance.

The contribution is assessed according the dynamics of the engagement in the Network activities, contribution to the realization of goals and tasks of the Network etc.

### Article 17

Each (potential) member has the right to object against the decision of the Board for membership (non) admittance about which the final decision is made by the Network Assembly.

### Article 18

Membership in the Network can be:

- 1. Regular membership**
- 2. Non-regular membership**

### **3. Honorary membership**

Regular member can be any legal entity or registered trade from the country or abroad that fulfills the conditions of Article 15.

Regular member has the right to take part in the Assembly's work, to take part in decision making and other rights determined by the Legal acts and the Statute.

Regular member is obliged to pay a monthly membership fee; the amount of this fee is determined by the Managing Board. The Board also is in charge for the reputation of the Alliance and other duties determined by the law and the Statute.

Non-regular member can be any physical entity from the country and abroad with special merits in the field of for the Network. Non-regular member has no obligation to pay the monthly fee and has no right to take part in decision making inside the Assembly, but may take part in the debate.

Honorary member can be each legal or physical entity from the country and abroad, that has special contribution to the field of the rural development or Network activities, and is neither regular nor part-time member of the Network. The honorary member does not pay the membership fee, and has no right to vote in the Network bodies, but may take part in the debates on Network meetings. Each Network member may suggest a person that can be elected a honorary member. The suggestion is received and reviewed by the Management Board and finally the honorary members are proclaimed by the Network Assembly.

### **Article 19**

In its work the Network shall cooperate with two kinds of specimen that are either providing services for the Network or use the services of the Network:

- 1. Partners**
- 2. Recipients**

Network's partners are not members, but are registered in the list of providers or co-operators of the Network. They will cooperate with the Network in accordance with a separate Agreement named by the type of work that is regulated in it. If is not otherwise regulated with this Statute, these Agreements will be signed and approved by the Network's President. The President has time line of 8 days to register the subject in the registry of service providers. When by any legal grounds this Agreement ceases, the subject shall be removed from the registry of service providers by the power of this fact. By the act for beneficiaries, it may be regulated that Partners of the Network, under certain conditions may also gain a recipient status.

Recipients are not members, but are registered in the recipients evidence of the Network. They can use some of the Network perks. The list of the Network perks available to the recipients, describing the kind of the perk and the period of availability is determined by the President of the Network.

## 7. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

### Article 20

Members of the Network have rights and obligations in accordance with the acts of this Statute and positive legal regulations. Network members are active participants in realization of it' s program goals, tasks and orientations , especially:

- To participate in decision making and administrative activities;
- To use the privileges that come from Network's resolutions;
- To have the right to elect and to be elected;
- Have the obligation to pay monthly fee;
- And other rights and obligations in accordance with this Statute and other internal acts.

Part –time members have no right to elect and to be elected in the Network bodies.

Partners and Recipients are not members of the Network.

### Article 21

Member admittance is done if an association or a person requests it.

Admittance is done with a admittance card which is one is obliged to return in case of membership cessation.

### Article 22

Membership cessation is if:

- a) **Voluntarily** , for which the Network's competent body submits written act with in which the will for membership cessation is clearly stated. In such cases the competent body automatically registers the membership cessation, without debating or any other way of examining the act for cessation. If the withdrawing member requires it, the competent body that verifies the cessation, is obliged without any delay to return the admittance document to him.
- b) **By exclusion** from the Management Board of the Network due to disrespecting of it' s rules in cases like:
  - Offending the Statute and other legal acts of the Network
  - Acting against interests and program goals of the Network
  - If the offence is confirmed by the Board management of the Network and more than half of it' s members decide upon it.

## 9. MEMBERSHIP REGISTRY

### Article 23

The Association keeps a registry and evidence of members of the bodies.

The registry data are amended at least once in every two years.

The Associations guarantee for the anonymity of the personal data of the members that requested so. The data are protected in accordance with legal acts for personal data and classified information protection.

## 10. NETWORK ASSOCIATING

### Article 24

The Network may associate with another alliances, organizations or other forms of associations of citizen organizations and non-government organizations, in order to promote joint activities and coordinating of special and mutual interests in the field for which they are established, as well as realization of other activities of mutual interest.

The Network in accordance with the Law may found a commercial company for realization of its determined goals and tasks.

## 11. LOCAL OFFICES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

### Article 25

The local office or other organizational unit is a unit that mobilizes the subjects in the area for which it is founded, for the purpose of quality and efficient realization of the goals and tasks of the Network. The local office or other organizational unit administers the goals, tasks, programs and projects of the Network , according to directions of the President and the Management Board of the Network.

The initiative for establishing local offices or other organizational unit may come from each member of the Management Board, and the Board proposes initiative for eventual adoption to the Network assembly.

The local office or other organizational unit is managed by a coordinator that performs administrative-technical services for the local extension or other organizational unit.

The local offices or other organizational unit submits new ideas and suggestions throughout the whole year before the Management Board of the network, and the board disregards them or takes them into consideration during the preparation of the working and financial plans of the Network.

## 12. BODIES OF THE NETWORK

### Article 26

Bodies of the Network are:

- Assembly
- Management Board
- President



## Article 27

The Assembly is the highest body of the Network , consisted of representatives of Network members. The mandate of the Assembly members is unlimited. Changing a representative of the member of the Assembly does not mean changing of the mandate of the member in the Assembly.

The Assembly performs the following functions:

1. Ratification of the Statute, Action program and other acts in it' s jurisdiction;
2. Ratification of all acts according to the Statute and attends to their realization;
3. Ratification of the annual report of the Network activities and the annual financial report, and publishes them on it's web site;
4. Ratification of directions and working plan for a period of one year, or shorter period in exclusive cases.
5. Ratification of financial plan(budget) for the next year;
6. Ratification of the periodical and annual reports of the Management Board;
7. Decides upon changes of the purpose for association
8. Decides of the internal organizing and organizational forms of the association bodies
9. Decides upon establishing or annulment of extension services or other forms of organizing of the Network;
10. Decides upon associating or separating from other association or membership in alliances and international organizations;
11. Proclaims honorary membership
12. Elects the members of the Network bodies, including the Management Board;
13. Decides upon network cessation with two thirds of the votes of all association members;
14. Decides upon other issues that are not in jurisdiction of other bodies of the Network;
15. Performs other activities in accordance with the Statute and general regulations of the Network.

## Article 28

The Assembly has meeting that may be regular or extraordinary.

## Article 29

Assembly meeting is summoned by the President of the Assembly.

Assembly meeting is also summoned on a suggestion of the Management Board or 1/5 of the total Network members.

If the Network President has not summoned an Assembly meeting 14 days after receiving the motion, the Management Board or other nominators may summon it.

The network is obliged to summon at least one meeting a year.

Extraordinary Assembly meeting may be held after submitted written request of one third (1/3) of the members of the Association. The meeting may be summoned only if there are urgent matters that cannot be delayed. Extraordinary assembly meeting is scheduled within 30 days from the day of receiving the motion, and only for the issues that it has been summoned for.

#### Article 30

The Assembly may function only if more than half of its total number of members are present.

The Assembly may decide on certain matters by the principle of majority of the present members, except the following for which a majority of the total number of members is needed:

- Management Board election
- President of the Assembly election;
- Member exclusion
- Network cessation

Each member has the right of only one vote.

The voting in the Assembly is public, except for the issue of member exclusion which is secret. By Assembly's special decree voting may be secret for other issues as well.

#### Article 31

In special cases, if there is need, decisions of the Assembly may be made without personal presence, of member-that is by written DOCUMENT . The president of the Assembly will ask for written consent to make decisions by written document from each member. The consent may be given by an electronic mail.

The quorum for making decisions with a written consent is regulated in Article 30 of this Statute.

#### Article 32

The Assembly elects the President from the membership. The President's mandate is four years with the right to be re-elected unlimited number of times.

The President summons and presides with the Assembly meetings, and in his absence he designates a deputy.

The Assembly president performs the protocol function of audience and contact with local and international associations and organizations.

### 13.NETWORK REPRESENTATION

#### Article 33

The Assembly President is at the same time President of the Network and represents and stands for the Network. The President performs the rights and obligations in accordance with the Law, this Statute, and other Network regulations.

#### Article 34

The President determines the meeting agenda which is adopted by the Assembly and conducts the meeting according to it.

The Assembly President especially performs the following :

- Signs the Statute and all other legal acts of the Assembly;
- Signs decisions made in the process of working of the Network;
- Financial and material working of the association and implementation of the Statute, strategic and program activities and directions assigned by the Assembly;
- Searching for funds for realization of the program and project activities, objective informing of the public, realization and preparing of special events for self-promotion and self financing and maintaining the reputation of the Network and it' s members;
- Follows and manages the realization of the program goals, Statute and Regulation of the Network and gives an opinion to the Management Board about misuse and offence of Network Acts.
- Gives opinion of the submitted projects and approves their realization.
- Organizing and function of the administration of the Network;
- Election and mobilization of the administration;
- Election and mobilization of experts for the needs of the Network projects;
- Other operative and executive matters of daily management character for the Network.

#### 14. MANAGEMENT BOARD

##### Article 35

The Management Board is a managing body of the Assembly.

The Board has at least 3 members proposed by the membership and elected by the Assembly . The mandate of the Board members is unlimited.

The person proposed to be a Board member must be a member of the organization ( Network member) that proposes him. One person may not be a member of two or more network bodies at the same time.

One member of the Board cessation does not mean whole Board cessation. This Statute has specific article that regulates the election of the new replacing member .

The President of the Board is elected from one of the members of the Board.

##### Article 36

In case when the Board does not perform it's tasks and duties in accordance with the goals and tasks of the Network, the Assembly may exclude it.

If the Board does not perform its functions in accordance with the goals, tasks and interests of the Network, the Assembly may exclude the whole Managing Board by majority system voting from the total number of members.

#### Article 37

The Managing Board is the highest managing body of the Network and is responsible before the Assembly for the Network activities between two Assembly meetings.

The Management Board initiates all consultations and joint activities of the Network bodies, follows and searches for solutions for the activities, prepares Assembly meetings and is responsible for administration of agreed decisions and resolutions.

The meetings of the Management Board are summoned by the Board President and are held at least twice a year, and if need be, more frequently. The meeting may be summoned with a written invitation or any other means of communication.

The Management Board is elected by secret voting. The President of the Board is elected from one of the members of the Management Board. Each Board member may suggest one candidate including himself and may vote himself no matter who proposed the candidacy.

The agenda with short description of topics discussed is distributed to all Board members at least 5 days prior to Board meeting.

The Board is valid if more than half of its members are present and the decisions are made by principle of majority of the members present.

#### Article 38

Board member is exempted when voting for issues regarding him, his spouse or a close relative and for issues regarding legal entity that he may influence or may have economical interest in.

#### Article 39

The Management Board discusses all topics of the agenda and is competent for:

- Creation of Working procedures
- Creation of annual work program for its activities
- Taking steps for organizational and material enhancement of the Network;
- Implementation of the policy and working program realization, financial plan, decisions, conclusions and directions ratified by the Assembly;
- Prepares and submits Annual working Program to the Assembly of the Network, in cooperation with the President of the Network,
- Prepares and submits a budget to the Assembly of the Network, in cooperation with the President of the Network;
- Manages and is responsible for the Network property;
- Prepares periodical and annual report for its work;
- Admits new members;

- Excludes a member at a first degree
- Performs other duties regarding realization of Network tasks designated by the Assembly.

## 16.MONITORING COMITTEE

### Article 40

The Assembly may make a decision after suggestions of each Network member to nominate a Monitoring committee.

The monitoring committee monitors the Statute implementation and working program of the Network, controls the management of funds and finances, inspects the documentation of the Network and performs other activities.

### Article 41

The Monitoring committee consists of three members and its President is elected from one of them.

At a request of the Monitoring committee, a member or a body that is in possession of material and financial data, is obliged to provide all requested information or documents.

The Monitoring committee submits annual report for it's work to the Assembly of the Network.

### Article 42

The Monitoring committee has meetings whenever there is a need for it. The summoning procedure is not a formal one.

The members of the Monitoring committee have the right to attend all meetings and sessions of the Assembly, without the right to vote. Because of this, bodies of the network are obliged to send invitations for the meetings or sessions to all members and to members of the Monitoring committee.

## 17.NETWORK ADMINISTRATION

### Article 43

Network administration, if founded, consists of experts and administrative workers which the Network may employ according existing legal acts in the state.

Network administration will perform expert and professional duties in order to realize the Network goals and tasks, such as preparation of material for assembly meetings, and Management Board meetings, taking part in realization of the activities of the network etc.

Detailed regulation about administration organizing is designed by the Network President.

## 18.PROPERTY OF THE NETWORK

### Article 44

The Board management manages the whole property of the Network.

The Network property is used only for the purpose of realization of the goals and tasks of the Network.

### Article 45

In case of Network cessation, part of the real assets with the amount of the debt is sold to repay the debt, if there is one , towards loan holders, invoices, fees loans etc.

After repayment of debts if any, the rest of the amount or property of the Network may be donated to humanitarian or non government organizations, or as the Assembly and Network founders (ones that provided the assets) may decide.

## 19. NETWORK FINANCING

### Article 46

For realization of the program goals and tasks the Network will use the following funds:

- Membership and sponsoring
- Earmarked funds from organizations
- Donations from citizens and legal entities
- Registration fees for participating in a Network activity in the country and abroad
- Presents and benefactions
- Organizing humanitarian events;
- Organizing other events
- Projects
- Other sources

### Article 47

Financial and material managing is done in accordance with positive legal and other acts, and the evidence about managing is determined in accordance with general acts of the Network.

## 20. WAYS OF UTILISATION AND DISPOSITION WITH THE NETWORK FUNDS

### Article 48

All allocated assets shall be used for realization of the goals and tasks of the Network. Permission for utilization of the funds is signed by the President of the Network.

## 21. RESPONSIBILITY ABOUT THE DUTIES

### Article 49

The Network is responsible for its duties with all its property and assets.

Members of the bodies are personally and unlimited responsible for their duties towards the organization, for misuse of organization assets, for misusing the organization as a legal entity to cause damage to their trustees or accomplish goals that are prohibited to individuals inside the organization.

## 22. DAMAGE RESPONSIBILITY

### Article 50

Members of the bodies of the organizations and their legal advocates are jointly responsible by the law about any damaging of the organization caused by their work, if it is caused from negligence or to cause damage intentionally, except for the cases when a member has its opinion in a separate report, or have not had part in decision making.

## 23. ACTIVITIES REPORT

### Article 51

The Network publishes its annual work reports on its website or other way.

The Network prepares annual financial report, submits it to the relevant body in accordance with the law and publishes it on its website or makes it available to public in other way.

The Network will publish the reports (for the previous year) mentioned in this article no later than 30 of April of the current year .

## 24. STATUTE OF THE NETWORK AND WAYS OF MAKING AMENDMENTS AND ADDENDUMS

### Article 52

The Network Statute is passed by the Network Assembly.

### Article 53

The Statute draft is prepared by the Management Board and brought before the Network members for examination.

The examination term is seven days from the day of submission.

In this term members may give opinions, notes and suggestions.

### Article 54

Amendments of the Statute of the Network are done with draft amendments proposed by the Management Board and submitted to the Assembly for adoption. Amendments are adopted with a statutory decree of the Management Board.

Initiative for Statute amendments may be submitted from the Network Assembly, Management Board and each Network member.

The decision for amendments is made by the Network Assembly on a suggestion from the Management Board.

The amendment is considered as adopted if it has been voted by the majority of members.

## 25. NETWORK CESSATION

### Article 55

The Network ceases it's work with a decision of the Network assembly.

The decision is made with two third majority of the votes of all members of the Assembly or founder organization.

The Network ceases work if:

- Their members agree upon this
- If the number of it's members is under the number designated for network establishing
- The time for meeting of the highest body designated by the Statute has been exceeded twice, and the meeting has not been held yet,
- A balance sheet in accordance with the law has not been submitted for two subsequent years;
- Status change that prescribes Network cessation;
- A relevant court has made a decision
- Declared bankruptcy and insolvency

## 26. PROVISION TRANZITIONAL

### Article 56

This Statute is coming into force with the day of it's adoption and registering of the Network in the Integral registry of Associations and Citizen associations and foundations of Republic of Macedonia.

**PRESIDENT**

**Petar Gjorgievski**