



Bringing Organisations & Network Development
to higher levels in the Farming sector in Europe

STUDY TOUR in ITALY

12-16 MARCH 2018

GUESTS PRESENTATION

Name: VINK Hugo

Country: Norway - Lofoten Island

Age: 46

About you:

I am an organic/bio-dynamic goat farmer.

This is a family farm, run by me and my wife Marielle. Our two sons of 16 and 19 participate in the farming.

We have 150 goats on the farm. We produce about 110.000 liter of milk. Of this, we deliver 65.000lt to the cooperative Tine, we make cheese ourselves of about 35.000 liter. About 10.000 liter goes to feed the small goat lambs. Some of them are for replacement in the herd, most of them are slaughtered at about 6 weeks. We also make sausage / salami at the farm from goats that are 1 - 4 years old. We sell cheese, fresh goat lamb meat and goat sausage from our farm shop and deliver to restaurants and shops.



We are member of the Norwegian small farmers association (Norsk bonde og småbrukerlag). Marielle is a board member of this organization, and she is a member of the CC in the ECVC (Via Campesina)

I am interested in nature, agriculture, good food, agroecology, agritourism.



Name: MORCOV Cristina

Country: Moldova

Age: 25

About you:

In 2015 I decided to start my own firm just to buy some land. At that time I was still living in the capital of Moldova, in

Chisinau, because I was still studying but I never thought things would turn this way. That same year I moved to the north of Moldova, the city where my father was born in because my family was living there and because the land in the north was cheaper. Also, I thought my



family would support me and it would be easier for me in every way to stay with them. The next two years I collected increasingly land, I did some research and decided that I would like to try to plant a **cherry** and a **plum orchard**. So, in the spring of 2017 I planted 8 hectares of cherries and 7 hectares of plums. I received state subsidies and I decided to get more and more involved. So, my plans for this year are to plant another 10 hectares of apples, 6 of cherries, 6 of apricots and 4 of plums. I know I have a lot of work to do and a lot of things to learn. I am just at the beginning of this journey and I'm involved with small, local organizations but for the future I hope I will be able to make strong partnerships not only inside my country but also with the European and more advanced and developed countries. This is why I can't wait to take part in the BOND experience.

Name: BAKI Arjan

Country: Albania

Age: 38

About you:

I live and work in the village of Dvoran of Korca region in Albania. I own a 2ha farm where the main direction is the **cultivation of apple and cherry** as two of the most cultivated crops in our region. For five years I have been a member of the Agrinet Albania network which operates in three regions of Albania supporting 20 farmer associations.



My interest in participating in this study tour consists in:

- Gaining experience in the organization and functioning of networks and farmer's organizations;
- Establishing partnerships with other farmer's organizations in the region;
- Profit experience in modern cultivation technologies and farm management.

Thanking you for my selection in the study tour group and I hope that the experience gained will be useful not just for me but also for the other members of the network.

Name: GALUSCA Inga

Country: Moldova

Age: 32

About you:

My activity is related to two areas: the first is the growing of grapes and the production of wines, and the second one is the growth of table grapes and their fresh marketing.

I work with my family, we process 17 ha of table grapes and 6 ha of grapes for wine. The winery produces 100,000 bottles of wine per year which we sell on the local market and we export them to China and Romania.

I am interested in agricultural projects related to table grapes and wine trade, I am interested in the producer-distributor-retailer relations as well as the quality and the certificates accepted in the EU market

I hope to be able to have a good communication, to meet specialists who have business and who can confirm their confidence in business. I am confident that we will be able to discover new opportunities that will help us in the future.

Name: HASMETA Albana

Country: Albania

Age: 28

About you:

I work as a **Project Officer at the Albanian Network for Rural Development**. My work focuses in the field of **sustainable and rural development, community mobilization, good**



governance, and research related activities. The Network is member of PREPARE Network and Balkan Network for Rural Development. ANRD is very active in policy engagement with the objective to accelerate the country rural reforming process in approximating EU policy of Community Led Local Development (CLLD). Additionally, I'm involved in the work of, where her main contribution includes peer education and organization of community programs.

Name: VRBANEK Josip

Country: Croatia

Age: 31

About you:

I professionally work as director and project manager in GEORG Ltd. that gives advisory services to large number of Agri-companies and family farms regarding EU funds and Agribusiness management. I'm also member of family farm that has 2ha of **grape production** and around **40.000 bottles of wine per year**. As a member of Croatian Chamber of Agriculture, I **represent wine sector for Croatia in Copa-Cogeca** and I'm constantly in contact with several wine organizations and wine producers.



I'm very interested in BOND project because one of biggest problems in Croatia and especially in my region is lack of cooperation among farmers. I see big potential in co-operation regarding reducing cost of inputs and more successful representation and distribution of final product. Cooperation could be very applicable to wine sector especially in Croatia because there is a big number of small producer (less than 4ha) and there is few real cooperations that function on business level. We are now in process of

preparing several producer organizations for fruit and wine sector, but we still have resistance from potential members. Therefore I would be grateful to have more information about positive examples from other EU members and information's about positive impacts of cooperation. I'm also interested in sustainable and innovative production and market approach. Through Croatian Chamber of Agriculture and my professional work I could present these findings on large number of producers from small scale producer to large companies.

Name: PETROVSKA MITREVSKA Biljana

Country: Macedonia

Age: 37

About you:

Biljana Petrovska Mitrevska is responsible for research and development of new agricultural analysis projects in National Federation of farmers, as well as for managing one of the most important long-standing projects for Institutional Development of the organization in partnership with the Swedish organization *WE EFFECT* and supported by SIDA. She was manager on other projects for small and media entrepreneurs for horticulture and animal breeding sector, agriculture cooperatives and agriculture NGO. She is also editor of magazine “My land” that NFF published and person for PR in National Federation of farmers. In her free time, she is a human rights activist and a lover of the beautifully written word.



“My expectation of study tour is to share information, connection, knowledge and experience for making create strong networks for farmers, strong links with larger organizations, and strong ties with those involved in making decisions and making policy on the local, national and EU levels”.

Name: KARAPANCI Nikolin

Country: Albania

Age: 34

About you:

I studied agronomy at the Agriculture Faculty in Korca's University. From 2008 and present I am working at Agrinet Albania organization, a network of farmers associations that support them in the process of strengthening their capacities to become sustainable, effective and productive organizations that give strong contribution to sustainable development of rural communities and also provides to its members:



- Education and training – education of people living in rural areas, able to be organized in rural organizations (associations, forums, and cooperatives) involve men, women and youth;
- Technical assistance in agriculture value chain;
- Organize study tours and exchange the experience;
- Support initiatives of youth and women.

My role in AgriNet Albania network is technical advisor for farmer associations. My responsibility is to provide assistance to farmers related to organization in associations, cooperatives, technical assistance, marketing information etc. The BOND project provides to me a better opportunity to participate in different project activities that aim to increase my capacities and knowledge for improvement of farmer organizations. Best experiences on farmers organization as associations, cooperatives, seller groups etc. will help me to strengthen our membership in farmer organizations.

Thanking you for my selection in the study tour group and I hope that the experience gained will be useful in my future work.

Name: TARIBA Bruna

Country: Croatia

Age: 40

About you:

I am PhD of Veterinary clinical sciences in field of Theriogenology of domestic animals, working in Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, Croatia. I was borne in Spilt (coast) and I have moved to village near town Križevci (NW Croatia) with my family, because we wanted to work in agriculture. Now, we (my husband and I) are owners of two farms (5 ha) and in long term rent of 10 more ha, where we are **producing hay and grain for animal feed**. We are part of small cooperative of 5 farms all in close surrounding and together with them we are selling our farm products through web application. We are producing whole pallet of different products from fresh meat, to cooked meals and cakes. On my farm I have **sheep, domestic pigs, hens, broilers, ducks, quails, orchards, and garden**. Our main goal together with our cooperative is to implement holistic management (by Allan Savory) way of. Since we are young families and we succeeded to develop pretty good farming and selling in short chain supply, we believe that that would be attractive for many other small family farms to imitate us and to start using “holistic management”. Mentioned would have great impact on soil regeneration and climate changes together with rural restoration. Although we already have established many parts of our production, and we have growing market in whole Croatia, we need to develop our farms more quickly our (in holistic way). That is on my opinion tricky part for many farms because there is lot of money invested in programs of education but not so much invested in farms. I hope that with BOND project that will change since BOND includes networking and connecting many different points. I would like to be point of such knowledge transfer to students of faculty of Agriculture, since I am working there, to have strong example of how can organic (but holistic and biodynamic) production be successful (you can live from that), because most people in Croatia have strong mindset that that is impossible (people on Faculties too).



Name: DJUKIC Vesna

Country: Serbia

Age: 57

About you:

I was born in Central Serbia in 1961. After primary school and Classic Gymnasium, I have been studying Agriculture Faculty, University of Belgrade. I attended lot of courses (for panelist in olive oil judge, Sustainable agriculture, Voluntourism, Agritourism ...). Now I am studying the Organic Agriculture in Novi Sad and hope to graduate in October. Since



the April 2007 I am working as Executive Director in NGO Growers Association Boka - Boka of Kotor. Maintaining the olive production with my husband and enjoy it. I am mother of three sons. Living in family house, like classic and modern music, art, theatre, photographing, tradition values, singing...

Always ready to learn and accept (and share) new ideas from other people. Being one of represent of producers at Conference on agriculture in Bruxelles I was involved in some projects, SWG, FAO, IPA, COI (Mediterranean diet and establishing the REcoMED).

I'm also preparing the material for cook book with local food recipes.