

## **Mission Summary June 21th – 25th**

Robin van de Poll (NEHEM)

The mission was dedicated to the following activities:

- Meeting with Lepel district to investigate the cooperation in the project
- Meeting with Ivanovo district to discuss the EU application and the organisation of the culinary festival in August
- Preparing a brochure for Selchanka
- Writing of the 1st Progress Report

The meeting with Lepel district was organised to check if they want to continue participating in the project. In April and May it became clear that the central office and Lepel district have different ideas about the objectives and activities of the project. The five hour meeting didn't bring consensus, but Ludmila, vice chairwoman of Lepel Selchanka, understood the intentions of the project and we came to the following agreement:

- The ladies will invite all 15 members for a meeting in the week of July 5th
- Ludmila will inform the members about the discussion we had and the intention of the project (explain how the project works)
- Than the members will vote/decide if they want to continue or not

In the city of Motol Valeria Klitsunova, chairwoman of an agrotouristic organisation (official partner in our project), organised – with assistance of UNDP – a brainstorm session regarding the organisation of the culinary festival late August. Approx. 30 persons participated in the event.

The festival will take place on Friday and Saturday 27 – 28th of August. Selchanka will have their own stand during the festival and we suggested asking a Dutch (hobby) cook to participate. This cook can organise workshops with typical (traditional) Dutch dishes. We suggested organising the stand outside with butagaz. So people can stand around it and see the cooking process from nearby. Small portions should be available for the audience to taste.

We also suggested repeating the cheese making workshop during the festival. Both ideas were received with enthusiasm. It will be a good opportunity for Selchanka to promote itself to the women and increase the number of members.

A first design for the Selchanka brochure was made. The intention is to have the brochure finalised and printed before the end of August (before the culinary festival).

The provision of seed capital for the six districts was discussed (6 x € 7000). A mechanism should be developed. Currently we are thinking of micro-lease approach with involvement of a micro credit fund which was established by a French project.

Almost half of the time during this mission was dedicated to write the first progress report.

The report was finalised and sent to Matra office on June 30th