

RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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Dear Readers,
You have the first electronic bulletin of the Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia in front of you. Every three months this bulletin will relay different information on activities, events, projects, achievements and publications connected to the rural development of Republic of Macedonia, and which are

of interest to the members of the Macedonian RDN and the public. The bulletin will also inform on the latest information on laws and regulations, as well as financing capacities in the field of agriculture and rural development. It will be distributed by e-mail to the RDN members and to all relevant institutions (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water

Economy, National Extension Agency, Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development, Farmers' federation of the Republic of Macedonia and other organizations and individuals that have interest to receive it. It will also be displayed on the Rural Development Network website.

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1. RDN MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

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EXCLUSIVE IN SLOESHTICA!

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ART POINT ACTIVITIES

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Information about KOLIBRI
24.08.2011 Sloestica

CHILDREN AND ART FOR THE NATURE

Children of Sloeshtica and the Tunisian guest of the workshop ART POINT – Gumno, help "White river" to save the fish

The Tunisian sculptor visited Sloeshtica from 13 to 31 August as a guest of the international art center ART-POINT – GUMNO.

Despite all current events in her country where she took active part in the revolutionary movement for overthrowing the dictator's regime, Najet Gherissi managed to make time to visit Macedonia where she will try to present the magic blue of Cartagena.

Old metal objects discharged from fast technology changes, out of use for a long time, were the main material woven in this sculptor's imagination, and she already started their construction intensively in the middle of the village for the celebration which was due on 28 of August.

Gherissi is inspired from the rocks modeled by the fast running river (White river) that flows in Sloestica.

Metal is Najet's favorite medium and her giant sculptures are already posted throughout Tunisia. The sculptures expressiveness is highlighted by the mediterranean blue-author's signature.

At the moment she is famous for her traveling exhibition in France named "Ultramarine" set in Marseille.

Najet Gherissi the first woman sculptor in the history of Tunisia, visited Sloeshtica and created there inspired by the beautiful nature of Sloeshtica situated in the Demir-hisar region at the Mount Plaken abundant with diverse flora and fauna.

Enchanted by the natural beauty of the countryside and local inhabitants' spirit, Najet was upset to see a sad scene in and beside the river that supplies water to the village and gives life to their inhabitants. Note: we left out the photos of the scattered garbage along the riverbank on purpose, not to ruin this report!

This was the moment when the idea for a project called "Nature's friends" was born and immediately accepted by all the children.

This creative meeting





started on Wednesday noon with small introduction into basis of art – more precisely of sculpture making. Najet works with metal but also uses rock and wood. In the village she is especially inspired from the rocks modeled from the water of the fast white river of Sloeshtica.

We look at the sculpture with eyes wide open, but in order to enter inside its soul we touch it with eyes shut!

Old metal objects, discharged by the fast technology changes, out of use for a long time, here in the art center ART POINT –GUMNO are being transformed into creatures that live a new life.



5 ГОДИНИ СЛАВЕЊЕ НА ПИРЕЈОТ
с. СЛОЕШТИЦА, 27-28 АВГУСТ 2011



The project realization started with a talk about us and our role in the preservation of our environment. The grey metal plate that symbolizes the river that will live again thanks to the children, and all the dying fish will come back and swim again in the water that is now all grey and full of litter inside it!

Children worked with non-toxic acrylic washable colors (easily washed from clothes and hands)



11 children (part inhabitants of Sloeshtica and the others on a summer vacation at their grandparents, worked in groups of three.

There was enough working space for everyone, and each of them painted two or three fishes! The children simply enjoyed the work which in the end was 'crowned' with a birthday cake for little Jana that turned eight that Wednesday.

Najet 'brought' clean water for the fish in the river!

The project as a message to all, was displayed in the middle of the village during a feast held on the 28 of August which also is the day of the St. Mary protector of the village.



PROMOTION OF NEW FOUNDATION PREDa PLUS

The sustainable development foundation PREDa PLUS in cooperation with the Swiss agency for cooperation and development and the Bureau for equal regional development , on 07.04.2001 in Skopje organized Promotion of the newly founded PREDa PLUS and Presentation of the Call to all Regional Development centers in Macedonia for entering the project "Action for Development".

At this meeting PREDa PLUS Foundation and the Bureau for equal development signed an Understanding Memorandum according to which they both will provide Technical support of all the Centers for regional development .



This event also included the presentation of The call for support from all the Development centers from mountain regions in Republic of Macedonia as a part of the project "Action for development". The call would provide technical support and improve the structure of two Development centers in regions of Macedonia. As a result of the European aspirations we want to raise the awareness level of the relevant structures of their role in the planning of the regional development, which on the other hand is also a prerequisite for decreasing of the disparity among regions and faster meeting the EU standards.

Sustainable development foundation PREDa PLUS is a newly founded legal body with a vision for a sustainable economical development and social prosperity through support of public, private and citizen initiatives, on a local/regional level in Macedonia and the Balkan. Although it is a new organization, it's members are professionals with long years working experience in the fields of local

PREDa PLUS ACTIVITIES

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economical development, regional development, support of micro businesses , professional support and project administering, infrastructure ,value chain analysis, sector analysis etc.



The realization of the project "Action for development" is financially supported by the Swiss agency for cooperation and development (SDC) in Macedonia represented by the Cooperation chamber of the Swiss Embassy in Republic of Macedonia.

BUSINESS FORUM OF ENTREPRENEURS FROM PRILEP AND PRIZREN, KOSOVO

Regional agency Jug Kosovo, PREDa Plus and the Regional branch of Economic chamber of Prilep on 29.04.2011 (Friday) in the hotel "Salida", organized Business forum between the

entrepreneurs in Prilep and Prizren, Kosovo.



During the forum PREDa Plus and Regional Development Agency "Jug" from Kosovo signed a Cooperation Memorandum.

The Prizren delegation included representatives of many companies that are interested in mutual cooperation in the following areas:

- Agricultural products trade
- Tobacco trade
- Marble processing and trade
- Shoes trade
- Various services



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER GEVGELIJA ACTIVITIES

Local development and cybernetic technology development foundation from Gevgelija, from June 2011 will start realization of the project "Cooperation over border in the field of sustainable energy sources and energetic efficiency" in partnership with the "Ecological energy producers alliance" from Blagoevgrad Bulgaria.

The goal of this project is to create sustainable development conditions and diversity in the mutual economy of this cross border region of Bulgaria and Macedonia and support of

the entrepreneurship and investments in the field of using sustainable sources of energy. The project implementation should create opportunities for mutual over border region development, and using its huge potential in the field of alternative energy and energetic efficiency, as well as preserving the local environment and biodiversity at the same time.

- In order to achieve all abovementioned goals of the project, a series of activities directed towards the specific targets of the project with following details are planned:
- Promotion of the cross border exchange and networking of the small and medium entrepreneurship and business associations active in the field of alternative energy and energetic efficiency
- Improving the access to information and advices regarding sustainable energy production for small and medium companies in the border region

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER GEVGELIJA ACTIVITIES

- Affecting the awareness and knowledge of young people for rational using of the energy
- Increasing the knowledge and positive experience and cross borders exchange for improving the capacity and promotion and introduction of sustainable energy sources
- Increasing of the awareness of the target cross border communities of the potential and possibilities for energy production and utilization of different sustainable sources in the border region.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE SWEDISH RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

THE SWEDISH VILLAGE ACTION MOVEMENT "Hela Sverige ska leva"

The Swedish Village Action Movement consists of about 4 700 village action groups, and the number continues to increase. We estimate that roughly 100 000 individuals are involved directly in village action groups and that their work affects three million people - a third of the Swedish population.

The village action groups are spread all over Sweden and deal with all sorts of matters. They run shops, organise childcare, set up wind power plants and improve roads.

Often it starts with a local crisis, for

example, a factory shuts down or a school closes. The villagers recognize the need for collective action. Usually a few dedicated persons take the lead - in Swedish we call them "fiery spirits" - and others follow.

HISTORY

Hela Sverigeska leva was established in 1989 as the result of a campaign under the theme "All Sweden shall live".

The depopulation of the Swedish countryside formed the setting for this campaign. Especially the sparsely populated areas in the northern inland

regions faced a troublesome situation with a lack of jobs and service facilities. The ones who moved away were mostly young people. The villagers felt abandoned by the authorities.

The aim of the campaign was to mobilise the people in the rural districts and to change the attitudes of the general public and the decision makers. Last but not least, the objective was to improve national rural policies.

The campaign was very successful. Letters were sent across the country that filled up with suggestions, ideas and demands from individuals and various organisations levelled against the government. When the official letter was handed over to the politicians, it contained approximately



6 000 suggestions and demands that treated the rural issues!

At the end of the campaign around 1 000 village action groups had formed. The most important insight we gained by this is the enormous capacity that the rural population can muster.

There is hope for every village if only people are given the chance to act.

ORGANISATION

Hela Sverige ska leva (All Sweden shall live) is a national association consisting of the above mentioned 4 700 village action groups and 40 member organisations - many of these are large national NGOs.

There are 24 county networks, working with information and advisory services on a county level. These county

councils are formed by the local action groups of the county.

Aboard consisting of representatives from the local groups and member organisations is responsible for current activities. A small secretariat in Stockholm handles contacts, administration and information.

TASKS

The mission of Hela Sverige ska leva is to support local development towards a sustainable society. We stimulate cooperation, advice and support local groups, and furnish them with tools to help them succeed in working with local development. Our objective is also to influence public opinion and rural policies - in order for all Sweden to live!

Hela Sverige ska leva cooperates internationally. We are one of the driving forces in Hela Norden ska leva ("All North shall live"), as well as a part of the Village Action Movement in Europe, and we collaborate with European rural networks.

RURAL PARLIAMENT

Every second year a Rural Parliament is organised - an event that gathers around 1 000 people from Sweden and other countries. During a couple of days they meet, discuss and highlight rural matters. The Rural Parliament also aims at drawing attention to and rouse public opinion for rural Sweden.

The next Rural Parliament will be held in Ronneby in Blekinge between the 7th and 8th of September 2012.

3. MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES OF RDN IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA IN 2011

RURAL NETWORK DEVELOPMENT OF MACEDONIA ACTIVITIES IN 2011



Rural Network Development of Macedonia conducts its program for 2011 using its previously accumulated experience in creating regional strategies for rural development from the agriculture support program MAASAP (2004-2010) This support of municipalities will continue in 2011 as well. The program is based on two strategic goals:

1. Building capacities for all three sectors (public, business and citizen) on a local level in local action groups LAG and development of the LEADER program through using a regional based approach and local strategies for rural development improvement.
2. Building capacities for member organizations for women support in the rural areas

Realization of the activities for achieving the first strategic goal started in five selected municipalities: Stip, Kocani, Vinica, Centar Zupa, and Dolneni.

Each municipality formed an informal Local Group for Rural

Development LGRD. To guarantee good cooperation between local authorities, business sector and citizens, each of the LGRDs consisted of members-representatives of all three sectors.

The methodology prepared provided transfer of experience and knowledge in establishing a LGRD (before official LAGs will be established in future), as well as development of local rural development strategies. Besides this, after preparing of the strategy, each of the groups was ready to prepare and administer a local strategy project, in order to be able to practice the methodology of "managing a project cycle". Alongside with this process there was a training for strategic planning, and developing skills for community participation. In the end the strategies were revised from a mentor (trainer). In order to make these strategies an official



municipality's document, LGRDs submitted them to the Municipal Council to be legitimated.

For realization of the second strategic goal RND continued the animating process of new women organization members in order to encourage them to take part in the rural movement in RM through RND. This is provided through direct meetings of the rural women and their organizations and presentation of good practices from home and abroad as well as organizing special trainings to improve each woman personal upgrade. In this direction RND supports members of women organizations using technology transfer and women skills for making traditional local products. The expertise that is used is also from the good practices of women manufacturing organizations, members of RND.



4. THE FUTURE OF LEADER PROGRAM

The Future of LEADER – An inside view by Robert Lukesch

From 27 – 29 April 2011, the second conference of **LINC (LEADER Inspired Network Community)** took place in Bad Schandau (Sachsen, Germany). At the LINC conference, representatives of Local Action Groups (LAGs), stakeholders in rural development and for the first time also representatives from the European Network for Rural Development and the European Commission were present in this vibrant cooperation and networking event.

ARC Core Group member Robert Lukesch (ÖAR Regional Consulting, Austria) attended the conference and summarised the main ideas of the European Commission's plans for the future LEADER programme. The Commission expects initiatives and projects at sub-regional level to be crucial in achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The relevant legislative proposal is expected to be adopted by the Commission in autumn 2011 along with all other CAP post 2013 proposals. In this framework, LEADER is considered to become the main development instrument at sub-regional level and the Commission even plans to grant EU priority status to sub-regional development.

The Commission's plans for the next programming period 2014-2020 include the following **key proposals**:

- Shared strategic framework and management of different EU funds at Commission and Member States' level, including a strategic framework and guidelines for sub-regional and local development.
- More, but not too prescriptive, guidance to EU member states for the effective implementation of LEADER. Member states will have to choose areas eligible for LEADER. There will be a lead fund for every local action group (these can be four: ESF, ERDF, EFF, EAFRD). The financial base will be broadened.
- Requirement for local action groups and programme administrations to show consideration for all eight LEADER specificities (Decentralised decision-making, area-based approach, bottom-up approach, the local group {=partnership approach}, innovation, multi-sectoral integration, networking, trans-national co-operation) in local development strategies and in the working mode of the local partnership.
- More flexibility and orientation towards innovation and local governance. Local Development Strategies will be the main tool to meet these objectives at sub-regional level.
- Increased operational freedom for Local Action Groups (LAGs). This should be ensured by a clearer distribution of tasks between managing authorities and LAGs, with more private sector participation and various forms of public-private partnerships.
- More funds for animation and capacity building (also to set up a local development strategies, i.e. in the run-up time).
- Strengthening transnational co-operation across Europe via reinforced networking tools at EU and Member States' level.
- Strengthening of rural-urban links.

The Commission expects that not all components of its ambitious plans will be unanimously supported by the Member States and therefore calls for vital support from rural development and LEADER stakeholders to carry the proposals through the negotiations of the upcoming legislative process.



5. LEADER IN EUROPE

The experience with the LEADER program in EU members showed that it is an efficient method for realization of the necessary common approach. It supports projects that include more than one aspect of the rural development which is not the case with other similar programs. LEADER enabled the rural communities to make key decisions regarding the priorities and necessities in their regions and provides financing and capacities for realization of their goals. It helped in the enlargement of the capacities of the local organizations for supporting sustainable rural development actions. It also can support regeneration in those regions that would not usually be included in financing programs but

there is an evident need of financial help. Besides this, it can give ability of the local factors to see further than their own projects and see how it affects the society in general.

- LEADER method should support ecological, economical and social projects/goals;
- The realization should be through LAG Local Action Groups. In the choice LAG should have in mind the interdependence of economical, social and ecological issues in context of the sustainable rural development and measured assessment of needs.
- LEADER actions should supplement other initiatives, including relevant urban programs. Networking

has essential role in providing complementarity and in exchanging positive feedback. Trans-regional and transnational cooperation can be an important way of exchanging experiences and skills with simultaneous capacity building in the communities.

- LAG should have a significant contribution from volunteering organization and relevant individuals of the community. Their economical, social and ecological goals should reflect in their membership;
- LEADER must be administered by an organ that will have mandate to support actions through a range of sustainable development goals.

Successful stories (Spain, Italy and France)

Regional LEADER + Program Lombardy-Italy

Project title: **Taxi Bus, part of the creation of integrated rural transport network**

The project "Taxi bus" developed as a part of the action "Creation of integrated rural transport network" is concentrated on meeting the needs for fast transport of the local inhabitants. "Taxibus" is a pilot-project founded only in a part of the region included in the LEADER program in areas that belong to the highest points above sea level which are at the same time the remotest ones. Brallo di Pregola, Menconico, Varzi and Santa Margherita Staffora.

The most important needs of the inhabitants are: social (shopping, religious and cultural events, postal and financial services), sport (especially for young population) and health (hospital, pharmacy, doctor). Having in mind that 48,5% of the population lives in remote areas and that most of the services are located in main town centers sometimes outside the LEADER

area, transport is the first and essential necessity.

GAL Alto Oltrepo, Comunita Montana Oltrepo Pavese and Pavia province, organized many work groups in order to find answer to local inhabitants' needs as well as providing more easier and simplified access to public services for them (banks, post offices, hospitals, pharmacies market places etc.)

The project consisted of:

- Creating innovative and efficiently organized model that overmatch the classic public transport.
- Organizing the transport paths in order to obtain better access to places of priority, especially to schools, market places, hospitals, religious sites, social cultural and sport centers; services were organized according to the place of destination, based on a direct



- appointment system;
- Realization of feasibility studies in order to define ways, users and needs;
- Trial period of the service
- Organizing an appointment center;
- Establishing communication plan for service promotion;
- Promotion of the service.



Realization and project results

Comunita Montana Oltepo Pavese is responsible for realization of this pilot-project. During the trial period there were two actions which were managed differently; transport by-call-action (Taxibus) performed by a transport enterprise, while 'Thematic transport' -action is managed by Comunita Montana Oltrepo Pavese.

Transport by call activities – Taxibus include:

- defining of a pilot rural integrated transport network;
- promoting and information on the service itself in a direct concrete campaign;
- providing the service;
- cooperation with the local authorities and Comunita Montana Oltrepo Pavese for realization of the project as well as planning future activities.



Thematic transport activities are connected with:

- promotion of the services that may become available,
- overlook of the inhabitants' needs,
- assessment of the given proposals,
- selection of best transport proposals with thematic organization of users (market place, post office, sport, culture etc..)
- allocation of the services;
- revision and follow up of the services.

LEADER+ regional program in Catalonia – Spain

Project Title: ***Garden center for integrating handicap persons***



Organization for help and protection of handicapped person (ACPAM) helped and supported handicap and their families as well. It is a non-profit organization of professionals, supported by members of eminent families in the region. It is the only institution in the LAG territory that performs actions that meet the needs of handicaps. Its goal is creation, administering and management with

all kinds of activities that can be of help to persons with physical, mental, or sensor handicap, directed towards improving their quality of life and facilitate their integration in society and its structure as active local citizens.

Today this foundation has child development center, medical help facility, two houses and a number of shelters that meet handicap needs as well as professional therapeutic advices and concrete programs for recreation activities.

As a part of this organization a special Employment center was established in order to offer the handicaps that cannot be integrated in ordinary enterprises, opportunity for paid job which is in accordance with their abilities.



The project consisted of:

Providing garden services that help social integration of handicaps.

The organization worked under contract with local authorities, companies and individuals. Its successful activities brought diversification in the range of services offered, so now there are services such as: maintenance of public town areas, river banks work in the woods etc. For gardening service purposes a special facility for storage, maintenance and protection of different new equipment was built, together with training compartments and headquarters



for planning and managing operations. There is also a visitors and potential clients admittance room.

With this program ten local handicaps and also three instructors and monitors were employed. This is one of the main goals of the LAG – employment for every inhabitant.

Gardening project organized by the foundation, offers continuous employment of handicaps which is a benefit for preservation of the environment and the quality of peoples' lives.

Project realization and results

The key to the success of this



project was the taking part of Ripol Municipality authorities as well as the Province of Catalonia. They provided the land for building of the new capacity, which was necessary to meet clients' needs and training the handicaps, all this in accordance with the standards for quality and safety. The Province of Catalonia and two

other foundations provided finances for building of the facility and all the necessary modern gardening tools and other equipment. This enabled ten handicap persons to find jobs in the project but also three more working as monitors –trainers and management. The way this project is going, there will be new positions for employment of more handicaps and unemployed people that will be integrated in the society very soon.



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