

Newsletter 36



March 2023

Fifteen years since the establishment of CeProSARD

In February 2023, we celebrated the 15th anniversary of ZG CeProSARD.

We look back with pride on our long-standing team and dedicated work focused on achieving sustainable development goals and environmental protection.

Today, we fondly remember the beginnings when, in 2008, pioneering and with tremendous enthusiasm, we implemented pilot projects for energy efficiency and the utilization of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass on farms throughout the country.

The recognizable dedication of our team enabled us to establish long-term partnerships with institutions in various spheres of society related to our field of action. This continuous collaboration has expanded our scope of work, perspectives, and opportunities, while also fostering a sense of responsibility towards others and ourselves for constant improvement.

After 15 years, we proudly summarize the achievements of our work:

- Recognized as a partner by institutions in seeking innovative and modern models and solutions for public services that promote a healthy environment, based solely on clean energy, a partner who contributes to the energy transition in the country through its actions.
- We have continuously developed working for a cleaner environment, promoting clean energy for clean air and climate action, dealing with consequences such as flood risks; the protection of biodiversity and the monitoring of large wild animals in protected areas;



- As promoters of continuous improvement and team education, we take pride in our achievements in the field of our operations, including institutions, civil society, the business community, and especially vulnerable individuals, youth, children, and those living in rural and remote areas. We are particularly proud of our verified adult education program, through which over 100 assistants for supported living of individuals with special needs have been trained.
- We are an organization that promotes the inclusion of the most vulnerable citizens, both through activities to advance social entrepreneurship and through direct support for individuals with disabilities placed in institutions to find a warm home in newly reconstructed and appropriately equipped residences.
- With the aim of advancing sustainable community development where "no one is left behind," we are strongly committed to collaboration. We have networked with numerous organizations in our country and region, providing expert support for various forms of association, such as public-private partnerships, cooperatives, and Local Action Groups (LAGs).

We express our gratitude to all those who continuously follow, support, and work with us in developing the civil society sector as a pillar of democracy and a key player in overcoming the challenges of modern society. Your ongoing dedication and collaboration are instrumental in our collective efforts to create positive change and foster a more inclusive and equitable society. Together, we strive to build a better future for all.

We warmly greet you and invite you to read our latest issue of our newsletter.

Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect - TIMOR” - Opening of the 10th housing unit for supported living and activities for establishment of sustainability of the project

Within the project "Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect - TIMOR", during the past quarter we continuously worked on the successful and timely execution of the project activities.

Towards the end of December 2022, we received the official approval of the request for no-cost extension of the duration of the project for an additional 4 calendar months, i.e. in the period from January to May 2023.

During this period, we also opened our 10th housing unit for supported living in the municipality of Gradsko, whose social service provider is the Association of Persons with Cerebral Palsy and Other Disabilities – APCPOD Veles. Consequently, during the three-year duration of the project, we opened 10 housing units for supported living in the community - five (5) housing units in the Municipality of Demir Kapija, two housing units in the Municipality of Veles, two housing units in the Municipality of Gradsko and one (1) housing unit in the Municipality of Negotino. In these 10 small housing units, a total of 50, which we resettled from the Demir Kapija Special Institution have their own warm home.

During January and February 2023, we held numerous working meetings to successfully implement the remaining project activities. During this period, we concluded an agreement with the selected consultants for the preparation of the publication – Monograph.

For the realization of horticultural activities for people with disabilities resettled in the 10 housing units for supported living, we began our cooperation with Professor Zoran Dimov, an agricultural expert from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food, Skopje, who is involved in preparation and adaptation of part of the land in the Department of Special Institution Demir Kapija for the implementation of horticultural activities. One additional consultant has also been hired – person for special support, which will be directly involved in the horticultural activities of people with disabilities on the land and in the housing units for supported living in the Municipality of Demir Kapija.

During the time, we procured materials for occupational therapy, aromatic plants (lavender, basil, rosemary, sage, etc.), soil fertilizers and garden equipment for horticultural activities on the lands in DKSI, Veles and in the courtyards of the small group homes. Through the cultivation and planting of medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as the procurement of seedlings and garden equipment, as part of the horticultural activities we aim to establish occupational therapy for each user of the service-supported living. In such manner, we are developing the possibility of continuous long-term activation of the users in the active rehabilitation process through the possibility of further developing projects and providing new sources of income intended for the housing units.

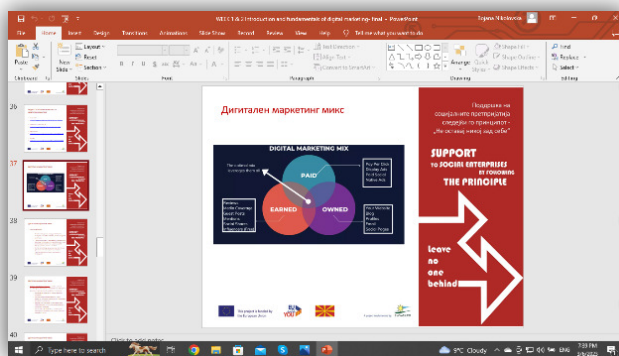


On March 16, 2023, we held our 10th, as well as last, Consortium meeting of the project, together with the project partners. The meeting discussed completed, ongoing and future project activities, as well as ways for further cooperation among the project partners and after the completion of the TIMOR project.

Project: Support to Social Enterprises by following the principle “Leave no one behind”

The project contributes to favorable working conditions for social enterprises, through support for improving the operational capacities of 6 social enterprises, and at the same time supports new employment of at least 9 people from vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, women at risk and long-term unemployed).

As part of the project activities to improve the operational capacities of the supported social enterprises, tailor-made trainings are carried out for their members and employees, which they believe will help them improve their services and activities.



In order to define the needs of the regrant organizations, the project implementation team conducted a survey among them, and from the answers received, decided that customized trainings will be carried out in three areas for two organizations each:

- Digital marketing,
- Energy efficiency and sustainable energy sources, and
- Environmental Protection.

We provided the necessary lecturers for the selected topics, who started the trainings by getting to know each organization separately and defining their specific needs, for which they developed a program according to which they carry out the trainings.

For the component to support the employment of people from vulnerable groups, the project team made efforts to find suitable companies and organizations that are interested in helping these people. With the financial assistance provided by the project, nine people are employed in several companies and associations in different fields of activity, starting from software companies, civil associations to persons for assistance in supported living.

The target group and end users of the project are social enterprises/civic organizations engaged in this area, socially vulnerable persons (persons with special needs, women at risk, long-term unemployed youth...) and their families, local businesses, municipalities and national government institutions

The project is financed by the European Union

Intensive preparations for establishment of the new heating system at the five public buildings in Radovich – project Green Heat

The past three months were marked with intensive activities to improve the energy efficiency of the municipal buildings in Radovich targeted with the "Green Heat" project.

The EE measures were implemented on two buildings where the new energy efficient heating system based on renewable energy sources will be installed, which needed improved energy performances.



Most of the users of the facilities that are beneficiaries of the interventions of the "Green Heat" project are children and young people from this municipality. An energy efficient facade was placed at the building "Cvetovi" which is part of the kindergarten "Aco Karamanov". The reconstruction of the sports hall at the secondary school "Kosta Susinov", included new energy efficient flooring.

The "Green Heat" project is piloting a new ecological heating service for the public buildings. Due to its innovative aspects, it is of particular importance not only for the municipality but also for the country and the region. For the past three months, the project was presented at several events of national and international character, including the thematic debate "The energy crisis in Europe - what Macedonian municipalities can and should do" within the framework of the 20th Joint Consultative Committee CoR - Macedonia, held in Skopje in November last year (<https://radovis.gov.mk/odrijana-tematska-debata-energetska/>) and the "Diplomatic Economic Caravan" which took place in March 2023 in Radovich and was attended by diplomats and economic representatives from 17 countries.

(<https://radovis.gov.mk/проект-зелена-топлина-презентиран/?fbclid=IwAR26V1-U6EXcDW575-IrgNlI8lp5sn6qzxi9qJeUxt-92Y7DVT2KvrtCk>)



The project is cofunded by the European Union

Improving the knowledge and skills of the ZG CeProSARD team

CA CeProSARD is continuously working on strengthening the capacities of the team. In the period from January to March 2023, our representatives attended the following trainings and information sessions:

Two-day training on the topic of personal data protection in frames of the project "Technical and integrated protection of personal data – building inclusive digital ecosystem", supported by the European Union, which took place in Skopje from 01.02-02.02.2023.

Webinar aimed at building the capacities of citizens on the basics of cyber security, maintaining cyber hygiene, as well as good practices for the security of citizens online, on digital devices and data on the internet. This one webinar was held on February 15, 2023.

The meeting for consultation of Civil Organizations on the tax treatment of CSOs organized on February 28, 2023 year at Hotel Panoramika Skopje, implemented by a consortium led by CPM for the European Union Project "Technical support for improving the enabling environment for civil society organizations in the Northern Republic Macedonia".

Online workshop on 07.03.2023, on the ZOOM platform, within the framework of the EU project: "Technical and integrated protection of personal data – building an inclusive digital ecosystem", organized by Connect and Metamorphosis, and with aimed at building the capacities of key stakeholders and raising awareness of the importance of these topics.

Consultations on the Draft Report on the Implementation of the Government's Strategy for Cooperation with and Development of Civil society 2022-2024 for the year 2022 organized by the Civic Resource Center and the Department for Cooperation with non-governmental organizations at the General Secretariat of the Government in the period from March 14 to 16 this year in Skopje, Gostivar and Shtip.

Participation in a two-day training "Together for climate action" for the needs of the project "Civil organizations in action for climate change" which was conducted by the Macedonian Association of Young Lawyers/Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Eko-vest and CNVP Foundation, and supported by the Embassy of Sweden in Skopje, to strengthen environmental civil society organizations.



Cooperation with the business sector, civil society and local units' self-government...

The CeProSARD team, in addition to cooperation with civil society organizations, also advocates for a successful and long-term cooperation with the business sector, local self-government units as well as other stakeholders who advocate for creation of social responsibility and maintenance of development. The CeProSARD team established communication and signed an agreement for cooperation and consulting services with Silgan Resources International LLC from Kratovo, with which a successful company was established cooperation to strengthen the capacities for internal and external communication of the organizational team, through trainings and development of a Communication Strategy. These activities are planned to be completed by the end of this calendar year.



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