



Dear colleagues and friends,

On **July 2**, cooperatives all around the world will celebrate the **100th International Day of Cooperatives** (#CoopsDay). CeProSARD has a long-standing tradition of supporting cooperatives and cooperatives initiatives in Macedonia. On the eve of this significant day, we refer to the activities and support by CeProSARD for cooperatives and their strengthening that date back to 2012, with the organization of a meeting at which agricultural cooperatives laid the foundations of the Macedonian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives (MAZZ). The organisation of this meeting resulted in many possibilities for the cooperatives to act together and deal more easily with current problems. This was followed by cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management with support in education for managers of agricultural cooperatives, and for the first time in our country, under the guidelines of the International Alliance of Cooperatives (ICA), we made a translation of the "Decade Plan of Cooperatives" for the period 2011-2020. The goal of this plan was to promote cooperatives and the cooperative way of doing business and by 2020 cooperatives would become recognized leaders in the economic, social sphere and promoters of environmental sustainability.

This milestone, which is celebrated on July 2 this year, is a particularly significant anniversary of the International Day of Cooperatives, because it gives us the opportunity to see what cooperatives have done in both better and less favorable social circumstances, and to be even more convinced that this model based on values based on mutual cooperation, continues to attract more and more attention and support at the global level.

Today our team continues to support the cooperative not only in the field of agriculture, but also in others and especially strengthens the activities for the promotion of energy cooperatives. A decade after the UN's International Year of Cooperatives, we continue to build on the idea that showcased the unique contribution of cooperatives to making the world a better place, this year's #CoopsDay slogan - "Cooperatives Build a Better World."

Read more about the activities of our organisation in the last three months in this E-Newsletter.

Project "Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect – TIMOR"

In the period April-June, we continuously conducted field visits in order to monitor the reconstruction and adaptation of the 7th, 8th and 9th housing units that are in preparation, but we also followed the process of adaptation of the users in the already opened 4 housing units in Demir Kapija, Negotino and Veles.

We are honored to share that in this period, after final equipping, procurement of necessary equipment and adaptation of the housing units according to the needs of the users of DKSI, **we opened two more housing units for living with support in the community** in Demir Kapija in which 10 more people with disabilities were resettled from the Special Institution Demir Kapija. In the final phase of preparation is one more small group home, located in the municipality of Gradsko where service provider is the Association of Persons with Cerebral Palsy and Other Disabilities - Veles.

The preparation of the last 20 users from the Special Institution Demir Kapija for the process of deinstitutionalization by the Macedonian Montessori Association is ongoing, as well as the preparation of personal plans for them.

During May, we continued the activity - "Providing innovative social services in the community" for the implementation of which at our request, we received a donation of seeds and flowering plants from numerous garden centers. They were taken to the housing units in Demir Kapija as a **start of the horticultural therapy**. Within this activity, two consultants are engaged - agricultural expert and occupational therapist who aim to develop a Guide for building skills for the implementation of horticultural therapy services, as well as organizing an one-day training for people who will provide rehabilitation services through horticultural therapy upon completion of the activity.

On 30.05.2022 in the premises of the Special Institution Demir Kapija we held the 7th Consortium meeting of the TIMOR project. At the meeting were presented the already implemented activities in the last 6 months, with emphasis on faster and more effective opening of new housing units for supported living, cooperation with the Special Institution Demir Kapija in preparing the last 20 users for the deinstitutionalization process, as well as selection of staff engaged in small group homes.

The preparation of the **publication - Monograph "Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect"** is underway and for its successful preparation one of the hired consultants, PhD Natasha Stanojkovska Trajkovska together with the project manager of the TIMOR project, paid a field visit to the users in the Special Institution Demir Kapija and the users in the already opened housing units in Demir Kapija, Negotino and Veles. The monograph as a publication is prepared in order to contribute to the successful implementation of the deinstitutionalization process and to share a positive experience for the successful resettlement of persons with disabilities in the community. During the visit, working meetings were held with representatives of the social service provider SI Demir Kapija (SIDK) and the Association of Persons with Cerebral Palsy and Other Disabilities Veles from Veles (APCPOD) from Veles.



The project is funded by EU IPA II 2017, EU Action Program to support education, employment and social policy support in the process of deinstitutionalization in the social sector.

The project is funded by the European Union. The project duration is 36 months and it is implemented by CA CeProSARD in consortium with:

- Association of special educators and rehabilitators of the Republic of North Macedonia – ASER;
- Special Institute Demir Kapija PI;
- Municipality of Demir Kapija;
- Foundation Loza, Sweden

Project "Support to social enterprises by following the principle - Leave no one behind"

In the second quarter of the project, the project team has already started specific activities of the project for successful implementation of the set tasks.

As planned, meetings were held with representatives of several institutions and organizations at which memorandums of cooperation were signed for networking and mutual support between social enterprises, business sector, local government, national institutions and citizens' associations in their premises.

The Project team also held a working meeting with the Project team of "Project for support of social enterprises" and representatives of several institutions and experts in order to develop cooperation and synergy with institutions and projects, as well as to review activities, to coordinate projects to avoid duplication of activities and support social entrepreneurship to be sustainable.

At the Center for Support of Social Enterprises was held the event - Round table on "Challenges and opportunities for development of the social economy in the Republic of North Macedonia" as part of project activities aimed at supporting social enterprises and finding solutions to meet their needs, increase their operational capacity, sustainability, access to markets and green economy, while supporting the increase of employment of vulnerable groups of people, which will contribute to their social and professional reintegration.

During this period, the Project Team had activities for preparation and publication of an Open Call for grants to support the development of new and existing social enterprises, which aims to support entities that operate in an entrepreneurial way, create innovative and unconventional solutions to current societal challenges, create value for society and for all stakeholders.



Project "Green Heat" in partnership with the Municipality of Radovich

The Green Heat project team consisted of members from CeProSARD and employees in the municipal administration in Radovich, in cooperation with experts from the company Global inzenering Bitola (specialists in mechanical, civil, electrical, architectural and traffic engineering) are intensively working on the adaptation of the technical solution for the new heating system that will be set up in five public buildings in the Municipality.



The project will enable new, energy efficient, renewable energy sources fed heating system for one kindergarten, primary and secondary school, for the sports hall and municipal building. The solution will be consumer oriented and will bring significant environmental, economic and social benefits for citizens.

Given the increasing global climate and energy challenges, this project will contribute to the achievement of the national and global efforts to reduce carbon emissions; will represent example that encourages further replication of the model and will strengthen the position of the Municipality of Radovich as a promoter of a healthy and clean environment for the population.

The project is funded by the IPA "EU for Municipalities" programme which aims at piloting innovative solutions to local problems in the municipalities to strengthen their capacity to cope with their competencies while copying and adapting best practice solutions from local authorities in EU Member States, and to improve the involvement of local stakeholders in problem solving.

Start of implementation of a new project - "Building skills for implementation of social services for supported living in the community"

Development - CeProSARD started implementing the project "**Building skills for implementation of social services for supported living in the community**", funded by the City of Skopje.

The project aims to educate at least 20 assistants for supported living for people with disabilities in the community on the territory of the City of Skopje through the implementation of a Social Program that includes theoretical and practical part. Both men and women, especially the long-term unemployed, women at risk and young people, will have an equal opportunity to apply. Through the implementation of the activities, we will also raise public awareness of the importance of equal use of human resources through equal opportunities for inclusion of women and men and the opportunity for their employment in housing units for supported living for people with disabilities by improving their knowledge and skills, stated in the strategy for gender equality of the City of Skopje.

In order to successfully implement these trainings, the project team held a working meeting with representatives of the Macedonian Montessori Association who have extensive experience in educating assistants for supported living for people with disabilities and signed contracts for their engagement as trainers in the training area. As part of the realized activities are working meetings aimed at establishing the Steering Committee of the project whose role is of advisory character in order to successfully form two groups of participants.

The project is funded by the City of Skopje.
Implementation Period May 2022 - October 2022

Strengthening of the team knowledge and capacities

- On June 2 and 3, the project assistant and project coordinator of the project Together for more opportunities and support - TIMOR; were part of two-day trainings as part of the National Platform for Women's Entrepreneurship aimed at strengthening the capacities of representatives from civil society organizations for advocacy and policies. The modules were intended to contribute to the analysis of public documents necessary in the process of representation and creation of public policies, development of a concrete concept and action plan for conducting a research process based on facts and in the direction of representation and creation of policies in the function of supporting women's entrepreneurship, as well as choosing appropriate tools and methods for conducting evidence-based research, as well as organizing events and online activism. The TIMOR project team strengthened the capacities within the framework of strengthening the organizational management within the organization, developing an action plan for networking and creating policies in function of supporting women's entrepreneurship, as well as choosing appropriate tools and methods for effectively organizing events and daily activities for the needs of the organization and beyond.
- The project assistant of the project "Support to Social Enterprises by following the principle – Leave no one behind" was part of the jury of the Entrepreneurial Skills competition organized by Junior Achievement Macedonia in June 2022, which competes young people from high schools across the country who developed projects focused on climate change and the importance of green business, directing them into innovative solutions and business ideas.

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info@ceprosard.org.mk

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