

June 2023

NEWSLETTER 37



NETWORKING FOR COLLECTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Climate change has a significant impact on both urban and rural communities in the Republic of North Macedonia and beyond. In agriculture, there is a notable reduction in yields, increased need for additional irrigation or drainage, and a higher occurrence of atypical diseases in plants and animals. These changes result in heightened poverty, water scarcity, and a decline in the well-being and prosperity of the population of North Macedonia.

In support of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pursued in North Macedonia, the NGO CeProSARD joins the global call for networking all stakeholders to take action and eradicate poverty, protect the environment and climate, and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

With the aim of mitigating and adapting to climate change, CeProSARD incorporates practices in its project development that contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and the increased utilization of sustainable energy sources. The organization strives to include active measures in its projects to promote sustainable development through efficient use of natural resources such as water, soil, and air. It also aims to contribute to the protection of biodiversity, improve ecosystem services, and preserve natural habitats and protected areas.

We invite you to join us in promoting and practicing the production of energy from sustainable sources and improving energy efficiency.

The CeProSARD team

Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect - TIMOR



In the last quarter within the project "Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect - TIMOR" the project team focused specifically on establishing innovative services in the community, namely the implementation of occupational horticultural therapy for all resettled users.

In March, the engaged team consisting of an agricultural expert from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food in Skopje and an agronomist from the Special Institute Demir Kapija carried out the processing of the assigned portion of the land in the Dependance within Special Institute Demir Kapija. The land was planted with aromatic herbs - lavender and basil by several workers together with the users. All horticultural activities (planting, cultivation, irrigation, etc.) of the aromatic herbs in the field are carried out as well by the users resettled in the established residential units for supported living in the community with guidance from the professional staff in the housing facilities. Medicinal herbs - lavender, sage, and rosemary were also provided for the land owned by the Association of Persons with Cerebral Palsy and other Disabilities - Veles. In addition to engagement on the field, seasonal flowers were planted by the assistants and the users in all 10 homes opened within the project, contributing to the active rehabilitation of our users through horticultural-occupational activities after the completion of project activities.

During the month of April, we provided small sports equipment intended for rehabilitation activities all 10 opened small group homes. Additionally, medical aids, electric lifters, clothing, home equipment, and other supplies for the improvement of the functioning of the professional staff and better care for the relocated users were also delivered to all homes.

In the last week of April, the Final event of the project was held at the National and University Library "St. Clement of Ohrid" in Skopje. We presented the dedicated work of the past 40 months, emphasizing the significance of the deinstitutionalization process in the country. We highlighted the achieved project results, the current state of the established housing units for supported living in the community, and the additional development of social services. Moreover, we provided recommendations for future challenges.

The event featured honorary speakers, including Mr. Nafi Saracini, a representative from the European Delegation, Mrs. Drita Aslani, a representative from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, and Mr. Vladimir Lazovski from SOS Children's Village, who delivered a final address with conclusions from the process. Thanks to the achieved results, the project significantly improved the living conditions of people with disabilities by resettling them to housing units for living with support in the community. Additionally, we successfully enhanced the capacities of professionals offering social care through adequate training and the implementation of innovative community social services, such as occupational-horticultural therapy.

During the event, we showcased a documentary video produced within the project, which highlighted the positive changes made over the past three years.

We express our immense gratitude to the project partners, as well as all other individuals and stakeholders who provided support and made significant contributions to the successful realization of the project.

Project partners:

- Center for promo Center for promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and rural development – CeProSARD
- Association of special educators and rehabilitators of the Republic of North Macedonia – ASER;
- Special Institute Demir Kapija PI;
- Municipality of Demir Kapija;
- Loza Foundation, Sweden

The project is implemented under IPA II 2017 Action Programme of the EU Support for Education, Employment and Social Policy; Support for the De-institutionalisation Process in Social Sector.

**Support to Social Enterprises following the principle -
Leave No One Behind**



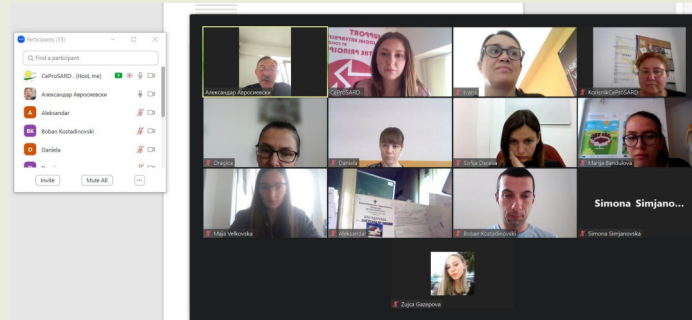
In the past quarter, the project team has been continuously working on strengthening the capacities of grantee organizations and implementing key project activities, supporting the employment of individuals from vulnerable groups, and networking all stakeholders in the process of building Social Entrepreneurship.

At the beginning of June 2023, the extension of the project "Support to Social Enterprises following the principle - Leave No One Behind" has been officially approved for an additional 4 months of project activity and results implementation. This extension is of crucial importance to ensure the complete realization of the project applications that have been re-granted within the framework of this project and financed by the European Union, as well as their full closure. Throughout the process of strengthening the capacities of the 6 grantee organizations, in addition to implementing training programs in the areas of Digital Marketing, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Environmental Protection, we have facilitated additional training in the areas of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Occupational Health and Safety. The aim is to provide an opportunity for those who were unable to participate in the aforementioned topics to join these additional training sessions.



The additional training in the areas of EE and RES and Environmental protection will be accessible to the broader public, and the schedule of the sessions will be regularly published on social media platforms and the website of CeProSARD. During the continuation of the project, efforts will be made to support the employment of at least 10 individuals from vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, women at risk, long-term unemployed individuals, and young people up to 29 years old.

One of the key attributes of building Social Entrepreneurship is creating a network of collaboration among all stakeholders supported by the project. Networking throughout the project is facilitated through working meetings with local government units, public institutions, the business sector, and the NGO sector. As a result of these meetings, 10 Memorandums of Cooperation were developed. All stakeholders and grantees involved in the network building for Social Entrepreneurship were invited to the First Networking and Collaboration Meeting, which took place in May 2023. During the first session of the event, experiences and progress in the field of social entrepreneurship in the country were shared. The grantees also presented their projects and provided updates on their implementation. The second part of the meeting focused on sharing experiences in creating sustainable job opportunities for the unemployed population within social enterprises, with examples from organizations that have employed individuals through the project.



Project "Green Heat" - Strengthening capacities and roles of local stakeholders in decision-making and implementation processes at local level.



During the period of April-May 2023, the project team of "Green Heat" from the Municipality of Radovich and CeProSARD organized two significant events aimed at enhancing the participation of local stakeholders in decision-making and monitoring the implementation of activities carried out by the municipality, as well as strengthening their capacities through the presentation of similar projects from EU member states.

On April 26, 2023, the first meeting of the Local Group of Affected Stakeholders (LGAS) was held, which introduced a new, modern municipal heating service based on renewable energy sources (RES) in five public buildings in the municipality. During the meeting, Mr. Aco Ristov, the Mayor of Radovich, highlighted the benefits of RES, the planned steps for centralized and digitized management of the new heating service, and the plans for a sustainable future of the Radovich municipality. Ms. Ivana Petkanovska, the project coordinator from CeProSARD, presented the activities conducted so far and planned within the project and urged the members of LGAS (local institutions, civil society, business community) to actively participate in the entire project implementation process and contribute to its success.

Furthermore, from May 25-27, a training on "Knowledge Transfer, Experience, and Good Practices" took place in Radovich. Representatives from the town of Belisce, an associated partner in the "Green Heat" project, presented their experiences related to managing the communal heating service using RES to the representatives of relevant local institutions. The presentations covered topics such as Belisce as an energy-independent town, the project for building an eco-heating plant in Belisce, the project for the reconstruction of public lighting in Belisce using the ESCO model, installation of solar power plants on buildings owned by the town, SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan), and more.



Trainings



Consulting services



Networking

Consulting services for local self-government

In June, the implementation of media workshops for the development of the Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAP) for the Municipality of Gjorce Petrov began in the premises of the municipality. During these workshops, the team of CeProSARD presented the results of the conducted public survey on the opinions of the citizens of Gjorce Petrov Municipality regarding environmental issues. The workshops aimed to engage stakeholders and gather input to inform the development of the LEAP for the municipality.



CeProSARD, together with the nominated members of the working groups, has defined the initial proposals for priority activities to improve the conditions related to water, air, waste, nature, and biodiversity within the territory of Gjorce Petrov Municipality. This activity is being carried out within the framework of the WWT-SWM project, "Pilot Interventions for Wastewater Treatment and Solid Waste Management in a Cross-Border Region," implemented between Gjorce Petrov Municipality and Novo Brdo Municipality in Kosovo. The project aims to address issues related to waste management and wastewater treatment in the cross-border region and promote sustainable environmental practices.

Collaboration with the business sector - CeProSARD continuously collaborates with the business sector.

For the needs of Silgen Resources International Ltd, we have started conducting a public survey to assess public opinion among citizens of the Probistip and Kratovo municipalities regarding the importance of involving the business sector, specifically Silgen Resources, in the local economy. Following the survey, an analysis will be conducted to develop a Communication Strategy, and training sessions will be initiated for employees by experts to ensure effective implementation of activities and quality information dissemination to the public about the work process.

Effective communication with citizens in all phases of project implementation is a crucial factor for the success of the project, which involves both the public and private sectors and has socio-economic and environmental impacts on the local community.

Improvement of knowledge and skills of the CeProSARD team

A part of the CeProSARD team visited on 05-06 of May attended two-day training in Ohrid organized by UNDP MK. The following topics were covered during the training:

- Overview of relevant EU policies related to sustainable local and regional development planning, aimed at achieving social, economic, and territorial cohesion, and green transition.
- Basic principles in local-level planning and the role of municipalities and regions.
- The importance of development planning at the local level and the link between planning, projects, and sources of funding for their implementation.
- Application of the Methodological Handbook for the preparation of Integrated Local Development Plans.

The team of CeProSARD also attended a three-day training at Hotel Montana Krusevo, participating in the training on environmental law and climate change. The training was organized within the framework of the "Together for Climate Action" project, organized by Eco Svest, Youth Association of Young Lawyers, CNVP, Sweden Sverige, and financially supported by Sweden.

Copyright © 2023 CeProSARD, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is: info@ceprosard.org.mk

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.