

# E-NEWSLETTER 40

March 2024



CeProSARD

## CeProSARD follows the three pillars of sustainability: people, planet, and profit

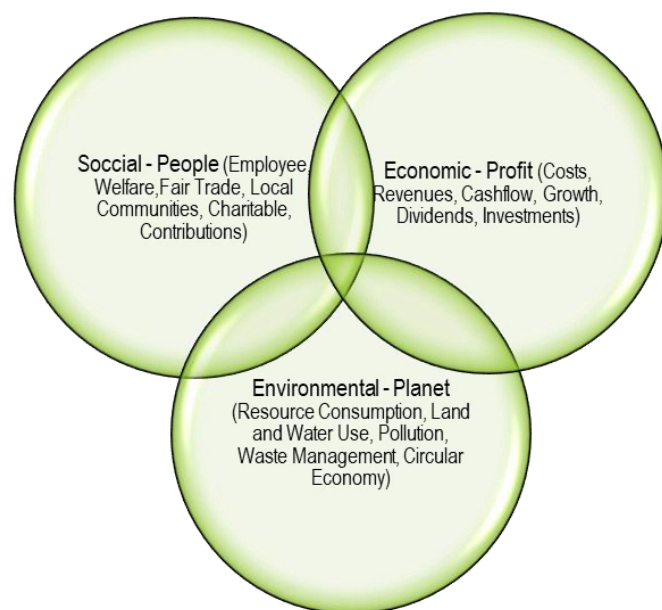
Following the three pillars of sustainability, the CeProSARD team in the first months of this year 2024 built partnerships and cooperation in the local community.

CeProSARD worked to raise the knowledge of all stakeholders in the community to minimize their negative impact on the environment by reducing waste and emissions, using resources efficiently and adopting green technologies.

The ultimate goal of introducing sustainability in all segments is to operate in a way that protects the future sustainability of the business and the communities it serves, while respecting and caring for the planet.

By balancing economic success with social progress and environmental care, together we can achieve truly sustainable growth.

### Join us!



*Three pillars of sustainability (People – Profit – Planet) - PPP*

## Project Green Heat - introduction of efficient customer-oriented (small grid district) heating service based on renewable energy sources

On February 8, 2024, after a series of analyzes and research, the partners of the Green Heat project - CeProSARD and the Municipality of Radovich, signed an Annex to the Contract for the implementation of this project with the European Delegation, with which the parties agreed to advance the originally planned concept of a heating system that will be introduced in the five designated public buildings in **Radovich**.

The project establishes a model of **sustainable practices for heating** in a certain urban area, which is characterized by widespread use of energy-efficient air-to-water heat pumps that are powered by electricity from RES; reduction of the carbon emissions and the energy consumption; and fostering a sustainable energy culture throughout the community. The intervention covers the kindergarten "Atso Karamanov" (facility "Cvetovi"), the municipal primary school "Krstev Petkov Misirkov", the secondary municipal school "Kosta Susinov", the municipal administrative building and the sports hall "May 25".

The activities of the project, in addition to the installation of heat pumps, also include **development of a new business model which encompasses establishment of a dedicated energy management company** "ELRAD Energy-Radowish" that will be responsible for monitoring the use of energy, development and improvement of the new business model, as well as promotion of the adopted innovative heating model through active engagement and mobilization of local communities, stakeholders and residents. This will facilitate knowledge sharing, joint initiatives and public awareness campaigns and encourage widespread adoption of energy efficient practices, foster a sustainable energy culture within the community and create a lasting positive impact on local environmental sustainability. You can read more information for the project [here](#).

The duration of the project is 40 months. The implementation started on January 15, 2022.

The project is co-financed by the European Union.

## Project Green Energy - Fostering social entrepreneurship by establishing pilot energy cooperatives in the cross-border region

In the first three months of the year, the project team actively worked on the preparation of a strategic document - **Analysis with recommendations to the municipalities in establishment of RES-based energy cooperatives and their role in development of social entrepreneurship** together with the engaged organisation Zelena Energetska Zadruga from the Republic of Croatia. After holding the Round table for mapping of actors, their expertise, capacities and exchange of experience and identification of cooperation interest for establishment of energy cooperatives, in the municipality of Medvedja, the process continued with the collection and analysis of strategic documents from the sectors in both countries and preparation of a survey questionnaire and mapping of appropriate bodies and experts for its distribution.

In parallel, work was done on the preparation of **Municipal plans for investments in renewable energies and measures for improvement of energy efficiency for municipalities of Butel and Medvedja**, and the implementation of **energy inspections of targeted public buildings in municipalities of Butel and Medvedja**

Project partners are Municipality of Medvedja, Republic of Serbia, CeProSARD and Municipality of Butel, Republic of North Macedonia.

The project has a duration of 16 months, starting on June 16, 2023. The project is co-financed by the European Union.

## Project Energy efficient construction and renovation in the Western Balkans

In the first three months of the year, the project team has been actively working on a series of information sessions aimed at discussing the establishment of **Green Building Councils** across the countries of the Western Balkans, starting with Kosovo, followed by the Republic of S. Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. These sessions mark a significant step towards sustainable development in our region. The Green Building Council is an organization that promotes sustainability in the construction industry. These Councils work to influence policy, educate professionals and implement green building standards that lead to more environmentally friendly, resource efficient structures.

Establishing these councils is more than just an environmental commitment; it's a crucial movement towards healthier and more sustainable living spaces. Through education and advocacy, Green Building Councils help to reduce ecological footprints, foster economic growth, and create healthier environments for future generations.

RECONOMY is a regional inclusive and green economic development program of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in partnership with CeProSARD and others in the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkan regions.

More information about the project is available at the following [link](#).

The project has a duration of 41 months, from 01.08.2023 – 31.12.2026.

## Cooperation with civil society organizations

On January 22, 2024, we followed the "**Habitat Map of North Macedonia**" with its representative. The map will be part of the basis for future planning processes in the country, starting in the area of spatial planning, the planning of the protection of nature and natural values of our country, as well as in the area of identification of NATURA 2000 areas, as part of the overall system for environmental protection planning.

The map was produced within the framework of a project financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, implemented by Maneko Solutions DOOEL Skopje and a national team of experts, in cooperation with the *Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning*.



On February 15, 2024, in the premises of Hotel Marriott in Skopje, our representative attended an event within the project "**Consumers lead the response to the development of the EU's energy ambition - CLEAR-X**" organized by the Organization of Consumers of Macedonia – OPM. The event was divided into two parts. In the first part, the achievements and results of the project were presented, and a panel discussion on several topics was organized in the second part of the meeting.

A representative from the Ministry of Economy - Sector for Energy, Marija Shishkovska, presented on the advancement of legislation in the field of energy and energy efficiency and appropriate subsidies and facilitations when investing in energy efficiency. Climate change and investment in renewable energy sources (RES), advantages and obstacles, defined by Civil Organizations - thematic area presented by Elena Nikolovska - ECO AWARENESS and Sanja Popovska Vasilevska - OPM, while for energy poverty, detected problems from on the part of the Civil Organizations, which was presented by Biljana Dukovska - Macedonian Platform for Poverty, and Aleksandar Avrosievski from CeProSARD.



On February 15, 2024, in the premises of Public Room, our representative attended the presentation of the **Analysis of e-services offered by the municipalities in the country**, as a result of the research conducted by the "Metamorphosis" Foundation, which was conducted for the third time (2014 , 2021, 2023), and shows the progress in digitalization of Macedonian municipalities.

The analysis was presented by Prof. Dr. Zoran Janevski from the Economic Institute. E - The services currently offered by the municipalities are still at a low level. The main goal of the analysis is transparency and accountability, communication and obtaining approvals, permits and other e-services to be easily accessible to citizens, but protected according to the law.

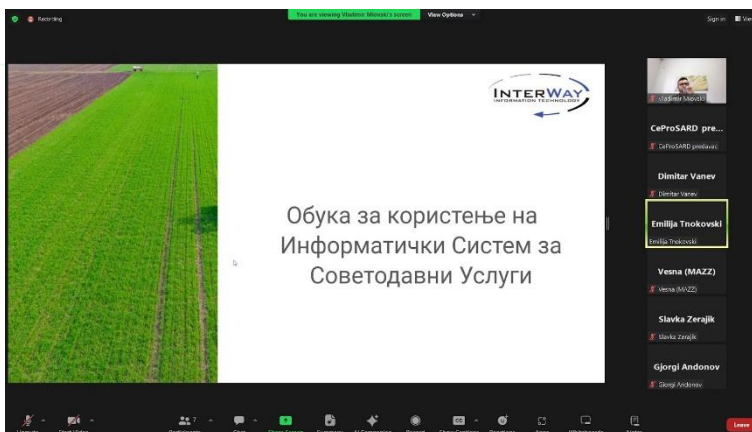


### Improvement of the knowledge of CeProSARD team

On 11.01.2024, we followed the digital presentation for farmers and other users of advisory services for using the *"Information System for Management and Monitoring of the Advisory System for Agriculture and Rural Development"*.

The information system is a **digital tool with the aim of enabling easy access for farmers to obtain advisory services and reviewing relevant registers, events and news in the field of their activities.**

The newly created Information System was developed within the framework of a project for the Modernization of Advisory Services for operators in the field of agriculture in North Macedonia, financed by the EU.



### Cooperation with local self-government units

On March 21, 2024, CeProSARD signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation** with the aim of networking with the Municipality of Karposh and civil associations "Center for Environmental Resources - REC", Center for Sustainable Development ALKA and ZG "Initiative for Economic Development of Roma REDI - Skopje" for a **joint action for the preservation of the environment.**

The event was held at the Primary School "Dimo Hadji Dimov", within the project "Together in Action for Selection, Reuse, Recycling and Composting" organized by the Municipality of Karposh and the members of the Association "Environmental Resources Center - REC".

ZG CeProSARD always supports projects and activities related to ecology in the field of waste management and advocates for increasing public awareness of environmental protection.

