



Newsletter N°3

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In this third edition of the newsletter, we are talking about the most prominent activities in the previous period- successfully launched the Second Call for Proposals, information events for supporting to potential applicants and we will present you some interesting facts as well as the results achieved on the projects financed under the First call.



Second Call for Proposals

Autumn 2019 was an especially meaningful for our Programme. In September we announced a second call for submission of project proposals with a series activities in order to promote the second Call for Proposals. More than three million euros is allocated for cross-border projects in Serbia and Montenegro, which will contribute to strengthening the social and cultural inclusion of vulnerable groups, as well as improving the capacity for utilization of tourism potential of both countries.

For organization of the Kick-off conference and first information session this time we chose Podgorica. More than 80 representatives from different institutions attended the opening event. The conference was opened by introduction remarks of Ms. Ivana Glišević Djurovic, National IPA Coordinator, European Integration Office of Montenegro: *"This call is a continuation of a successful cross-border cooperation between Montenegro and Serbia started in 2008. Under the period from 2008 to 2018, within four public calls for proposals, 43 projects were contracted, with a total value of 9, 6 million euros. Projects have been implemented in the fields of culture, tourism, health care, economic cooperation, social inclusion, employment, environmental protection and prevention of risks. In the first call for projects 29 involved partner institutions from both countries, such as municipalities, public institutions and non-governmental organizations, carried out activities in 21 municipalities in Montenegro and Serbia. That gives us great pleasure because it contributes to strengthening existing and establishing of new relationships between organizations and people from two countries"* said Glišević Djurović.

Hoping to encourage potential applicants to submit more quality projects we organized additional three informational sessions and Partner Search Forum. Events in Priboj, Sejenice and Bijelo Polje were attended by more than 150 interested representatives of different institutions.

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Interesting stories within the 1st CfPs contracted projects

PORALIST

Medicinal and aromatic plants have been used as herbal remedies in Serbia and Montenegro for centuries and are widely present in pharmaceutical, cosmetic, chemical and food processing industries. Sustainable production of medicinal and other aromatic plants implies obtaining a seed and genetic raw materials through collection of non-cultivated plants for production of plants (cultivation, plantation production). 43% of total medicinal plants in Europe grows in Serbia and 26% in Montenegro.

One of the main instruments and a mechanism for reaching the project goals and inducing new initiatives in targeted fields is a modern and integrated information system which shall evolve from this cross-border collaboration in a form of multipurpose web platform for environmental protection in municipalities of Prijepolje and Bijelo Polje. The platform will be accessible by all interested individuals and relevant institutions in both countries active in the sector of medicinal plants, biodiversity and environmental protection in general.

In addition to the field assessment of the current state in the targeted region, surveying herbs population and establishment of medicinal plants' functional observatory, other project activities are directed to local population dealing with medicinal plants and capacity building necessary for accountable use of available natural resources and integration of their potentials in other sectors, primarily tourism.



In the previous period, trainings educating local actors on importance, protection, sustainable collection techniques, packing and storage of medicinal plants, with special focus on container cultivation and composting, were organized in Prijepolje and Bijelo Polje.

„I am eager to be a part of this project, since I see it as a chance to continue handmade production of soaps based on medicinal plants. Thanks to support not only in networking with suppliers of raw material and potential buyers, but in gaining knowledge and introducing with the best practice examples in small business development. Dah svežine Jabuka is small family production of 100% natural soaps enriched with medicinal plants' components, used for medicinal and cosmetic purposes. The greatest challenge for its growth is improvement of distribution. I hope that participation in this project and activities related to design of appropriate package and cooperation with partners, will help me to expand business and secure my employment“ says Slavojka Reljić, owner of the small soap production in the Jabuka village.



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Interesting stories within the 1st CfPs contracted projects

CRAFTSMAN

In terms of creation of more sustainable systemic support to craftsmen, cross-border cooperation is highly important, for exchange of experience, broadening the market and creation of new market. It is also important for the institutions to strengthen capacities for cross-border cooperation and learning from different management experiences.

The problem of lack of jobs opportunities and migration of youth towards Western Europe among other issues burdens local communities both in Rožaje (Montenegro) and Sjenica (Serbia). Those two municipalities established cooperation and won the project under the name “Craftsman”. Traditionally crafts and artisans has been well known in both municipalities before industrialisation and was neglected during last decade of



crisis that include war in the area of former Yugoslavia. The economic situation in Rožaje and Sjenica is characterised by extreme underdevelopment, deep recession in industrial and agricultural production, and high unemployment rate especially among youth, who lack in job opportunities, what often causes migration towards capitals or towards

European Union.

With financial support, worth 164.446 euros, the Municipality of Rožaje and Municipality Sjenica increased employability and employment opportunities of craftsmen and created business friendly environment for existing and new craftsmen entrepreneurs.

Through tailor made set of activities the



project so far supported 60 direct beneficiaries through trainings and mentoring services, strengthened capacities of the local communities for development of craftsmanship, strengthened capacities of the vocational high schools for craftsmanship education curricula improvement and provided significant contribution for creation of sustainable support for craftsmen in Rožaje and Sjenica.

“The CRAFTSMAN project is a great opportunity for the development of business ideas, in terms of networking with professionals from various fields (economy, entrepreneurship, business, psychology,

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media...) and in obtaining the needed input and guidance (step-by-step with the provided mentors) for the development and implementation of the idea into a sustainable and profitable business. The project based activities offer tools for overcoming the obstacles set by personal doubts and insecurities as well as tools for additional knowledge that is crucial in clarification and realisation of the business idea. More precisely, this project and the professionals connected with it are partners on each single business idea with a great commitment to see that idea transformed into a business” said Semir Dedeić, craftsman from Rožaje.



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WE CAN

The project “Reducing the impact of local communities of the cross-border region Serbia-Montenegro to climate changes – WE CAN” main goal is to build technical capacities of local communities and effectively improve their knowledge by using local renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficiency, as measures to reduce climate change.

One of the key target groups are young people who attend primary and secondary schools in the border regions of Serbia-Montenegro and the project envisages a series of activities that should contribute to improving the educational process and knowledge of them about renewable energy resources and reducing climate change.

One of the selected partner schools is an agricultural-chemical school „Dr Djordje Radic“ from Kraljevo. As part of the “pilot projects” in the field of renewable energy and the creation of preconditions for better education of high school students in this area, the school got photovoltaic system for solar electric energy producing with power of 480W, for one of school Cabinet, which is also equipped, with support of the project, with computers, a projector, screen for projector and two magnetic boards, with the aim to practically familiarise the students with use of solar energy to generate electricity.



Aleksandra Jovankin Aleksić, the pedagogue, gave the statement

on importance of school’s involvement in the project: *“The project” We can*

“enables the practical usage of learning about renewable energy. Solar panels will provide students the opportunity to learn about the usage of solar energy through the technology needed in the classroom is supplied with electricity. Modernization of teaching through the use of information technologies keep pace with the time, teaching is up to date, more dynamic, more adapted to the interests of young people. The project “We can”, in addition to direct benefits for teachers and students, who applies and use of modern technologies and renewable energy, contributes to the development of the school and the local community. By participation in the cross-border cooperation calls for proposals, as well as through international projects implemented by the school, our school becomes modern and competitive in the education and labor market, especially through the use of modern work methods. Cooperation with partner schools and organizations through this project extends our network of associates, and makes us more prepared for future networking on local, national and international level”.



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Interesting stories within the 1st CfPs contracted projects

Rehabilitation of illegal dumps on the river Lim and raising awareness about its harmfulness

Through the project “Rehabilitation of illegal dumps on the river Lim and raising awareness about its harmfulness” twelve illegal dumps have been cleaned in area of Bijelo Polje and Priboj municipalities.

Activities of the project are aimed at protecting the environment by cleaning illegal dumps, establishing a system of monitoring and raising awareness of people about proper disposal of waste.

“Utility company “Usluga”, Priboj has cleaned more than 6 illegal landfills envisaged by the project. We cleaned up the dump at the location near Sports Hall, near bus station Panja glava, the benches of the river Lim, which are quite long - from the new bridge to the old FAP Bridge, Banjski čamac and two sites near settlement Luka. As part of World Water Day, and later we cleaned the Coast of Lim River, in cooperation with the Rafting Club “Eco Lim” and the Office for Youth. During this action we collected more than 50 bags of solid waste. On some sites, unfortunately, unscrupulous individuals started disposing smaller amounts of garbage, but also the soil and construction waste” says the director of the Utility Company “Usluga” Željko Ječmenica.

In order to prevent re-creation of illegal dumps, at the cleaned sites it is envisaged placement of garbage containers. The plan is to be set up video surveillance system at most endangered sites, which would reduce the possibility for citizens to dispose waste in places not envisaged for that purpose.

“Within the project we received 30 containers of 1.1 cubic meters, which will be placed on cleaned sites and other places. The greening of cleaned sites is envisaged – by project we were supported with procurement of 60 birch seedlings and 30 seedlings of pine and fir” said Ječmenica.

Slobodanka Prebiračević, procurement and reporting officer, Municipality of Bijelo Polje, stated: “We improved our

capacities to implement EU cross-border projects through the project, and through the purchase of specialized laboratory equipment and training on its usage and by receiving certificates for operating with equipment, soon we will test the quality of the river and pot water in the municipalities of Priboj and Bijelo Polje, which is in addition to the cleaned landfills, the most important output of this cross-border project”.



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Interesting stories within the 1st CfPs contracted projects

BinS

The project “Bringing in sustainable waste management- Bins” jointly implemented by the Municipality Gusinje, as a lead partner, and the Public Utility Company “Vrela” from Sjenica provides a contribution to environmental protection in the border regions by strengthening the system of solid waste management. The concrete benefits for the two municipalities, as well as their utility companies, are reflected in the procurement of specialised trucks for the collection of solid waste and 60 containers which will greatly contribute to improving the state of public utilities.

“The benefits of this project are really of great importance. Created better conditions for the quality of life of our citizens in terms of depositing waste on the one hand, and on the other the project enabled our utility to better performance in carrying out our daily activities.



When it comes to changes that this project created, these are related to the manners of our Company performance, as well as making the assumption that in the future work delays possibilities are at the lowest possibility. One of the most important changes is that the realization of this project provides greater security and confidence to our citizens when it comes to carrying out our activities. The benefit of cross-border cooperation is of great importance. The importance of such projects is an indication that the institution or public service from different countries can jointly implement such an important project. Also, the exchange of experiences are very important. The fact is that the project contributed to increased the level of environmental protection. There is a wide range of possibilities to contribute to improving the quality of life of citizens. We believe that we should continue with the implementation of similar projects of cross-border cooperation related to municipal waste and protecting the environment” said the director of Ltd. Utility services Gusinje Demir Bajrović.

After completion of the project it is expected to hve increased interest of citizens for separate waste disposal, as well as improving the system for collecting waste in the municipalities of Sjenica and Gusinje.

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This Programme is funded by European Union

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Contents of the presentation are the sole responsibility of structures
in charge of implementation of the Cross-border Programme Serbia-
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