



Newsletter N°5
December 2020

Let's Do Things Better Together!!!



Through the fifth newsletter of the IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Program Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020, we will present how we adapted to the conditions of the pandemic and achieved significant results.

The project and “Skilled Women’s Workforce for a Better Future” was presented at the European Week of Regions and Cities as well as at the Seventh National Conference on Cross-Border Cooperation in the section “How we cope in a pandemic - projects speak for themselves”.

Also, the preparation of IPA III Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro for financial perspective 2021-2027 is in progress. In the previous months, a Joint Task Force (JTF) for programming discussed on and adopted the 1st draft of the Programme document. Your participation in this process is of great importance. Well-observed and well-described needs lead to better defined activities for the achievement of goals.

www.cbcsrb-mne.org

www.facebook.com/PrekogranicniProgramSRBMNE

www.cbc-srb-mne.euzatebe.rs/en/



This Programme is funded by the European Union



Successful presentation of the project “Skilled female workforce for a better future”

At the final conferences within the project “Skilled Women’s Workforce for a Better Future” held in Novi Pazar and Bijelo Polje on 7th September 2020, certificates were awarded to 20 women from Novi Pazar and 20 women from Bijelo Polje, trained for in-home caregivers and the achieved results are presented. The Project introduced new service – assistance to adults and elderly in home, that is in line with the Strategy for Social Welfare System for the Elderly 2018-2022 in Montenegro and with Strategy of social protection in Republic of Serbia 2019-2025.

Dijana Knezevic, on behalf of the Home for Elderly Bijelo Polje, familiarized the participants with the goals of the project and presented the results. “We have established and promoted co-operation between partners from Serbia and Montenegro, prepared 80 unemployed women for the labor market, and trained 40 of them for the job of home care giver and successfully completed the work practice,” she stated, adding that after the completion of work practice, project partners employed 3 home care givers who would continue to visit in project involved households.



A member of the City Council of Novi Pazar, Fevzija Murić, reminds that in 12 months, during project life, the Center for Social Work and its partners have achieved extraordinary results. „The cross-border cooperation project financed by the Delegation of the European Union is very useful because of the connection between Serbia and Montenegro, at the level of cooperation of individual local communities. This time it is about a project that is extremely important for the citizens themselves. As the project was mostly realized during the pandemic, the help of home care givers to elderly and infirm citizens in the field was even more valuable. Due to the period of isolation of the old and infirm home care givers were for some time their only link with the outside world, someone who supplied them with food and took maximum care of them, Murić pointed out.



The project “Skilled Women’s Workforce for a Better Future”, implemented within the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020, was presented at the European Week of Regions and Cities, held from the 5th to the 22nd of October, as an example of good practice within the Cooperation Project as a driving force for women’s empowerment. The project was presented within the topic of Cohesion and Cooperation and due to the COVID-19 pandemic and health and safety measures the session was in digital format.



Also, the project was presented at the 7th National Conference on Cross-border Cooperation, organized by the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia on December 11, 2020 in the form of a virtual conference.

The overall objective of the project is contribution to increasing the employability of unemployed women and their access to labour market. The project is implemented by the Home for the Elderly Bijelo Polje in cooperation with the Center for Social Work Novi Pazar, the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of Montenegro. The total value of the project was 168,835 euros, of which the European Union provided 143.509 euros, while the rest was the contribution of the project partners.



Operational PORALIST platform

Adapting to the new circumstances and to the pandemic conditions, in the frame of the PORALIST project, several activities contributing to the valorization of the medicinal plants' wealth in the cross-border region of Prijepolje and Bijelo Polje were implemented in the previous period.

The most important events were trainings for the local population, that were attended by representatives of successful companies from Serbia and Montenegro dealing with trade and processing of medicinal plants. Key problems in the supply chain were identified, and concrete proposals and models for cooperation with these companies and organized purchase were offered to the people collecting medicinal plants. A special section for medicinal plants has been formed within the NGO Multimedia from Bijelo Polje, while the PORALIST Association was established in Prijepolje, gathering people interested in cooperation with companies dealing with medicinal plants.

Representatives of the tourism sector attended trainings and through interactive work, participated in identification of new tourism products - tourist routes that valorize the natural resources of the cross-border area. For the territory of Prijepolje, proposals for 3 one-day excursions have been developed, combining cultural and historical heritage and natural resources, offering tourists visit to famous sites and to rural households, manufacturing local products based on medicinal plants. Two tourist tours have



been developed on the Montenegrin territory, of which one is a joint 2-day tour promoting the tourist contents of the municipalities of Bijelo Polje and Prijepolje. In order to promote new contents, in cooperation with tourist organizations, promotional actions are planned at fairs and other events. Setting up demo points in Prijepolje and Bijelo Polje will also contribute to the visibility of new tourist tours.

During June and July, experts of the Institute Dr Josif Pančić continued fieldwork in Prijepolje and after the opening of borders in late August, they spent a week in the mountainous areas around Bijelo Polje, collecting information on the types and distribution of medicinal plants in Montenegro. Completion of the fieldwork was a precondition for the PORALIST web platform to become operational and visible to the wider public. In addition to maps with marked locations and detailed description of medicinal plants species, PORALIST platform contains information on tourism potentials of both local governments, tourism service providers in rural and urban areas, biking and hiking trails. This important source is used by great number of tourists who decide to spend their holidays in nature, away from the crowd of urban centers.

In cooperation with key representatives of the public, private and civil sectors, the Action Plan for the Protection and Preservation of Biodiversity of the municipalities of Prijepolje and Bijelo Polje was completed, by which the two neighboring local governments defined joint actions for long-term, responsible use and valorization of natural resources. During gathering restrictions in August, NGO Multimedial organized online workshop elaborating development of the rural economy through the evaluation of natural resources and the potential of the area. Expert for creative industries of the Montenegrin Ministry of Culture introduced participants with possibilities for use of natural resources in the function of economic development, networking with other sectors and valorization through old crafts.



Composting training organised for the residents of Sjenica

In organisation of the Public Utility “Vrela” on 15.06.2020. training was held for citizens. Interactive training was on composting and its advantages. The aim of the education was to raise awareness of the exploitation of bio-waste, which includes yard green waste, household organic waste, as well as organic waste from agriculture, which usually ends up as communal waste or at landfills which through aerobic composting process can be used as compost - organic fertilizer. Participants were gradually presented with how to start collecting waste alone in their yards in phases with a note of what type of waste may be composed and disassuaded, and what is it from perishable debris that they should not possibly move on to the already collected remains.



Citizens had the opportunity, after training theoretical part, in cooperation with the lecturer, to implement acquired knowledge practically, during the training. “Agricultural producers and other households would benefit greatly from composting their waste, because they would benefit from it multiple times” – stated Zarif Mahmutovic, on behalf of the Utility “Vrela” and added that this is one of the modern ways of waste management, long ago accepted in the countries of Europe.

As part of a media campaign in order to inform citizens about the project but also with the tendency to manage waste in a modern way, the project’s implementers have also produced a promotional TV video available on the YouTube channel, which you can see the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC-IDi5m7mA>

The training was held within the project “Bringing in Sustainable Waste Management-Bins” which Utility “Vrela” implements in cooperation with the Municipality of Gusinje, within the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020.



Usining of renewable sources

Within the project “Reducing the impact of local communities in the cross-border region of Serbia and Montenegro on climate challenges - WE CAN” in the previous period continued cooperation with schools in Serbia, elementary school “Đura Jakšić” in Kraljevo, elementary school “Raska” in Raska and High agricultural-chemical school “Dr Đorđe Radic” in Kraljevo, as well as with primary schools in Montenegro “Salko Aljkovic” in Pljevlja and “Radomir Mitrovic” in Berane.

In the period June-November 2020, the cooperation was focused on the implementation of trainings on the topic of climate change and renewable sources and use of green cabinets by students in the educational process. In spite of difficult conditions for implementation due to the COVID-19, an info campaign was conducted in these schools by distributing info leaflets on the topic of climate change and project activities.



During the training, elementary school students had the opportunity to be familiarised with the negative impact of greenhouse gas emissions and the negative effects that occur due to the creation of the greenhouse effect in the atmosphere of our planet. The lecturers then presented the possibilities of local communities and residents to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through personal behaviour, and were introduced to measures that may be implemented almost every day and in any place: improving energy efficiency, rational energy consumption, circular economy that encourages zero level waste production through quality product design and recycling of all useful items after the end of use by the owner and using of renewable sources.

Also in four schools, where green cabinets were equipped within the project, educational activities were conducted. In the elementary school “Raška” in Raška, a competent teacher together with a group of students implemented training on the use of renewable sources and on that occasion the students used electricity obtained from solar collectors installed on the school roof for lighting in the green cabinet.

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, activities have begun on the installation of a 50kW solar power plant in the JEP “Toplana” Kraljevo, which will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 39 tons per year.

More information about the project on the website www.ida.org.rs.



Joint activities to to reduce disaster risks

The third press conference organised within the project “Let’s be Prepared” was organised in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 8 October 2020. The aim of the press conference was to present the new vehicle for the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro and the equipment for the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro. The value of the van is 22,562 euros, while the value of the equipment for the numerical weather forecast and numerical early announcement and warning is 19,350 euros. Vehicle and equipment will contribute to improving the protection of people and goods through risk reduction. Due to the pandemic, the event was organised respecting the measures in force.

Also, delivery of five portable water tanks and of five thermal imaging cameras for the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia - Sector for Emergency Management was realised in this period. This equipment will be used by the Fire and rescue units of the target municipalities for their daily duties and emergency actions. The value of the water tanks and thermal imaging cameras procured is € 7,395.

During the first year of project implementation, the project partners from both countries, together with the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro developed the Cross-border Agreement on Cooperation on disaster risk reduction.



The Agreement on Cooperation in DRR in the Cross-border Area is based on the bilateral Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on cooperation in protection from natural and other disasters. The purpose of the Agreement is to contribute to the improved cooperation of relevant institutions and services from the cross-border area between Montenegro and Serbia (municipalities of Berane, Bijelo Polje, Nikšić, Šavnik, Žabljak, Pljevlja and Petnjica in Montenegro and the municipalities of Novi Pazar, Sjenica, Tutin and Raška in Serbia), in order to improve protection and preparedness for a growing number of natural and man-made disasters. The Agreement defines and improves connections from the stakeholders from the two countries in order to ensure better protection of people, environment and natural resources and property through joint activities related to disaster risk reduction.

The Agreement was signed by the authorised representatives of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro – Directorate for Emergency Management and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia - Sector for Emergency Management in November 2020. During this period, two publications – brochures were developed within the project on the following topics: Flood protection and rescue and Fire protection and rescue. Both brochures contain relevant information and advices on the risks from floods and fires, prevention and control of these two hazards, mitigation measures, activities which should be undertaken in case they occur, etc.



Newsletter N°5
December 2020

Let's Do Things Better Together!!!



www.evropa.gov.rs

www.mei.gov.rs

www.eu.me

www.kei.gov.me

www.cbcsrb-mne.org

www.facebook.com/PrekogranicniProgramSRBMNE

www.cbc-srb-mne.euzatebe.rs/en/



This Programme is funded by the European Union

The contents of this Newsletter are the sole responsibility of structures in charge of implementation of the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020 and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.