



Newsletter N°9

March 2023

Let's Do Things Better Together



CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME
SERBIA-MONTENEGRO
2014-2020



Republic of Serbia



Montenegro



This Programme is funded by
the European Union

Dear readers,

After the first half of 2022, which was undoubtedly a challenge for the Serbia-Montenegro cross-border cooperation Programme, we entered a very dynamic second part of the year.

Mr. Martin Klaucke, Head of Operations Section at the European Union Delegation to Republic of Serbia and Ms. Alexandra Pesch, Programme Officer, visited city of Novi Pazar on 24th November and participated at the cross-border event – Elevator Pitch. The event was organized within the project “One-stop-shop service for social inclusion and youth employability” implementing by the Centre for Youth Work, Novi Sad, Youth Office Novi Pazar, Forum Youth and Non-Formal Education (Forum MNE), Podgorica and Civic Youth Initiative Rožaje.

www.cbcsrb-mne.org

www.facebook.com/PrekogranicniProgramSRBMNE

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

“A very important project for young people at a time when it is difficult to find a long-term job. Cross-border cooperation is an extremely important segment of this project and one of the five most important pillars on which the European Union bases its support policy. Often, all important projects are directed towards capitals and big cities, which is not the case this time”, said Mr. Klaucke.



Representatives of DEU took advantage of the opportunity and toured the exhibition set up in the same center, which was created through the activities of the “Hoo Project: Creation of Owl and Other Wildlife Experiences”.



In the continuation of the visit, representatives of the DEU visited the Health Center Novi Pazar, which is implementing project “IMPORTANT – Improvement of Reproductive Health in Serbia and Montenegro” together with partners Foundation for the Development of the Northern Montenegro and Regional Development Agency of Sandžak. During the visit to Novi Pazar, Mr. Martin Klaucke, said that the EU contributed to the modernization of health institutions and raising the awareness of citizens in rural areas about the importance of preventive examinations. The Novi Pazar Health Center recently procured a 4-wheel drive vehicle as part of the “IMPORTANT” project in order to organize preventive examinations of vulnerable groups, and the director of this institution. Dr. Ervin Ćorović, announced the purchase of two modern ultrasound machines and several sets of gynecological equipment.



The visit also included a tour of the Department for Emergency Situations, Novi Pazar, where equipment and vehicles procured through the “Let’s be prepared” project, which was realized as part of the 1st Call for proposals of the cross-border cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020, were presented. Mr. Darko Belić, Head of the Department for Emergency Situations of the Novi Pazar emphasized the great importance of this equipment in the daily operations of the firefighters.



At the Eighth National Conference, held on December 14th, 2022 in Belgrade, the “We can” project was showcased as a successful example of the territorial cooperation program. The project was carried out by the Ibar Development Association in Kraljevo, Grijanje in Pljevlja, the Public Energy Company in Kraljevo, and the Center for Environmental Initiatives from Berane, and aimed at reducing the impact of climate challenges on local communities in the Serbia-Montenegro cross-border region.





At the very end of the year within the Third Call for Proposals of the Cross Border Cooperation Programme Serbia–Montenegro 2014-2020, four projects have been contract until now. The projects aim to improve waste management and waste water treatment and increase employability and employment opportunities. It is predicted that additional projects will be signed and funded through the Third Call for Proposals of the Cross Border Cooperation Programme Serbia–Montenegro 2014-2020 in the course of 2023.



Implementation workshop for the awarded grant beneficiaries within the 3rd Call for Proposals for the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia–Montenegro 2014-2020 was held on February 3, 2023, in the premises of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia. With regard to provide support to grant beneficiaries in implemetation of the project, the workshop was organized by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia, Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU), with the assistance of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme.

Newletter N°9
March 2023

Let's Do Things Better Together

www.cbcsrb-mne.org
facebook.com/PrekogranicniProgramSRBMNE



Hoo-Hoo trails

To make biodiversity a reason for tourist visits, to provide support to the local population and to make tourism a generator of the development of the cross-border area between Serbia and Montenegro, are the main objectives of the activities that were implemented within the Hoo Project: Creation of Owl and Other Wildlife Experiences. The project in Montenegro is implemented by the Center for Protection and Research of Birds (CZIP) from Podgorica, the NGO North Land from Berane, and by the Regional Tourism Organization Sandžak from Novi Pazar and the Association of Citizens “Jadovnik” from Prijepolje in Serbia.



The training on the topic of medicinal plants, the fourth in a series within the training of guides for the wildlife of the cross-border area, was organized in the municipality of Pljevlja, 4-6. July 2022. The aim of the training was that tourist operators and tourists interested in visiting this area could count on the services of guides who know the area's biodiversity well.

During the study trip, organized 17-20 in October 2022, the workers in the tourism industry of the cross-border area found themselves in the role of host and guest. Visiting each other, they were familiarised tourist offer on both sides of the border. In addition to visiting natural attractions, they learned more about local cultural heritage and enjoyed gastronomic specialties. The exchange of knowledge and experiences opened the door to further cooperation and improvement of the tourist offer of this area.



This was followed by the Journalists familiarisation trip. During four days, 1-4. November, following the itineraries developed within the project, journalists from both sides of the border visited natural attractions and learned more about the biodiversity of the cross-border area, and visited tourism operators whose offer together with natural and cultural heritage forms the backbone of those itineraries. This trip was organized so that the journalists' impressions would inspire tourists to visit this area, so photos, texts and articles about their experience reached a wide audience.



Eight photo exhibitions of the biodiversity of the project area were organized in the period October-December 2022, although initially the project planned to organize only four such events. This made it possible for the residents of almost all municipalities of the project area to have the opportunity to view the photographs of the flora and fauna of the area. As a traveling visual echo of the value of biodiversity, these photos were exhibited at the Rožaje Cultural Center, 18-25. of October, at the Petnjica Culture Center, 1-10 December, and in the Cultural Center in Novi Pazar, 24-30. November 2022. The exhibitions attracted the attention of numerous dignitaries at the ceremonial openings of these events. The opening of the exhibition in Novi Pazar was attended by representatives of the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia - Mr. Martin Klaucke, Head of operations of Sector II, and Ms. Aleksandra Pesch, Programme officer, as well as representatives of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Serbia-Montenegro cross-border cooperation programme. Exhibitions and their ceremonial openings were also visited by the local population, making the unity of their way of life with nature even stronger. They also encouraged local schools to include organized tours of the exhibition in student activities. Thus, more than 100 pupils and young people from the municipality of Petnjica visited the exhibition.



Ahead of all partner organizations is the period of further implementation of the project, and Bojana Sekulić, project manager at the CRPB, already points out: “There is a strong synergy that this project generates on various aspects - knowledge, skills and actions. The Hu-hu project: Creation of Owl and other Wildlife Experiences makes us even more committed to preserving biodiversity, but it also opens up new connections with the local community and ways of our contribution to its development. Also, by exchanging knowledge and experiences, we strengthen our own expertise in the field of biodiversity, as well as the capacities of implementing projects and developing partnership relations for some future initiatives”.



Common actions for better care

Within the project "Common actions for better care" a five-day camp was held in Serbia, on the Golija mountain, in the period from July 22-26, 2022. The camp was held for adult users 27+ accompanied by parents from the Assistance Association for People with Developmental Disabilities "Tahir Taša Delić" from Novi Pazar, which is a licensed service provider and from the PI Day Center "Tisa" from Bijelo Polje. In total 50 people participated in the camp, 20 beneficiaries and 20 parents accompanying the beneficiaries, and 10 professional workers from the mentioned institutions.



Vocational activities, workshops for decoupage, embroidery, making mosaics were organized with the users and their parents. The exchange of experiences between the two institutions was of great importance for further work and cooperation.

"This camp is beautiful and very useful for children. The children are fulfilled, happy and cooperate well. Every change and little thing is significant for them." – Edina Sinanović, parent, camp participant.

Through the project, equipment for the application of Neurofeedback and Biofeedback treatments was procured for two institutions. These treatments have been incorporated into the daily work of the institution and serve to improve attention and concentration, as well as correct behavior in children with developmental disorders, especially those with autism.

As part of the project, ovens for candle production and training for their production, as well as decoupage workshops and the procurement of materials for both candle production and decoupage workshops, were procured and have become a daily part of the institution's work.





A van was also purchased for field visits of the Assistance Association for People with Developmental Disabilities "Tahir Taša Delić" from Novi Pazar to beneficiaries who are unable to use the daily care services. Twenty-five users were visited daily for seven months.



IMPORTANT

A FIAT 500L vehicle worth 1,626,000 dinars was purchased within the cross-border project “IMPORTANT – Improvement of Reproductive Health in Montenegro and Serbia”. The vehicle was purchased with the aim of organizing preventive examinations of vulnerable groups of the population including women from rural areas and women with disabilities, i.e. a campaign to raise the level of citizens’ awareness of the need for preventive examinations. At least 250 preventive examinations of the breast and cervix are planned in Serbia. In the continuation of the project, the procurement of mobile ultrasound is planned, which, together with the purchased vehicle, would form a base in the provision of preventive examinations in rural areas, as well as other medical equipment.



In the period November 79, 2022, the NGO FORS Montenegro organized a training for doctors in Kolašin on the topic Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cervical, vaginal and vulva cancer, which was attended by 20 doctors from Serbia and Montenegro.

In the previous period, lectures on the topic of protection of reproductive health were held in Nikšić and lectures on the topic of Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and cervical cancer in ambulance of Trnava and Deževa in Novi Pazar and Crkvine in the municipality of Tutin. The lectures are followed by the Campaign of preventive examinations for women from urban and rural areas.



As a part of preventive campaign against breast cancer a publication was prepared.

The project is implemented in partnership by the NGO FORS Montenegro – Foundation for the Development of Northern Montenegro in cooperation with the Health Center Novi Pazar.



The goal of this important project is to improve the quality and availability of services in the field of reproductive health and the level of awareness of the population about the importance of healthy lifestyles and prevention in preserving reproductive health.





Training for hospitality workers

A seven-day training for 25 hospitality workers (12 cooks and 13 waiters) was held in Priboj from 24-30.10.2022 as part of the “Mysterious ways of faith from Lim to Zeta” project organized by the Tourism Organization Priboj, which consisted of two days of theoretical and five days of practical classes. The aim of this training was to train hospitality workers from Priboj and Nikšić to receive religious tourists after the opening of the Info-center in Pribojska Banja and the Pilgrimage Center in Nikšić.



Given that religious tourists are specific in terms of their requirements and interests and that in this cross-border area there are two major religions (Orthodoxy and Islam), in this training, hospitality workers were familiarised with all the specifics of both religions related to nutrition, the way and time of food consumption, as well as of beverages, especially during fasting. The participants of the training were introduced to and learned the ways of preparing food and drinks, recipes and dishes for both religions. They were also familiar with all the specific dishes, provisions and norms for the preparation of dishes for both religions. During the training, recipes were made for preparing food. The participants were trained for the preparation and manner of serving food and drinks to religious tourists.



Training participants took a theoretical and practical exam, and successful participants got certificates of passing the exam.

Kosta Dojić, project manager for the Diocese of Budimlja-Nikšić, said: “It was a very useful training where we learned a lot of new skills in catering that we will use in the work of the Pilgrimage Center in Nikšić. During the reception of workers in our Pilgrimage Center in Nikšić, priority will be given to the participants of this training.”

The project aims to contribute to improving the capacity to exploit the tourist potential of the cross-border area Montenegro – Serbia by creating a cross-border product within religious tourism by creating new tourism infrastructure, promoting the cross-border area as a tourist destination, networking and transferring knowledge and skills.



One-stop-shop model for youth employability successfully piloted in the cross-border region

The path to achieving greater chances for employment of young people from this cross-border region Serbia (Novi Pazar, Tutin Sjenica) and Montenegro (Bijelo Polje, Rozaje, Berane) began in 2021 January for participants in the “One-stop-shop” training program. It is an innovative service that operates on an “all in one place” system with the aim of increasing employability, especially of vulnerable groups of young people from the so-called NEET population, ie young people who are unemployed and not in the process of education. It includes a soft skills course, an entrepreneurship course, and a digital marketing course.

At the very beginning, the motivation and expectations of the participants were different, but they were mostly focused on the desire to improve their communication skills, to be empowered to work on their own development, but also to take advantage of the possibility of acquiring special knowledge in the field of digital marketing that will help them through (self)employment.



After completing the first phase of the training program, the participants worked through 3 months of direct mentoring support on the concrete development of business ideas. On November 24th, young people from the cross-border region of Serbia and Montenegro presented their business ideas in Novi Pazar during the regional event “Elevator pitch”, which gathered around 70 young people, representatives of the business sector, as well as representatives of institutions.



After the introductory speeches and the screening of a short film, a total of 20 young people's business ideas were presented. At the end of the presentations, the jury, consisted of successful entrepreneurs, selected the 6 best (3 from Serbia, and 3 from Montenegro) who received additional mentoring support in the detailed preparation of business plans, starting a business, seeking finance, etc.



“This program greatly contributed improvement of my skills, as well as formal and informal communication. Also, I gained new knowledge in the field of digital marketing, which is the main factor in promoting business in the 21st century. We understood the value of teamwork and the saying that two heads are smarter than one. We made new friendships with our friends from Montenegro and thus made contacts for life. After the course, I quickly found a job, immediately adapted to the team, and successfully apply everything I learned in the course. I feel ready to grow professionally and constantly upgrade my knowledge and skills in the future”, stated Tarik Kurtagić from Novi Pazar.



In addition to the key segment of the presentation of business ideas, during this event, a panel “Successful entrepreneurial stories” was organized, in which the following took part: Uroš Bulatović, president of the Union of Young Entrepreneurs from Montenegro, then Miloš Vasić and Nino Kačar, successful entrepreneurs from of Serbia.



The project “One-stop-shop model for social inclusion and employability of young people” is a two-year program implemented by the Forum Youth and Non-Formal Education - Forum MNE, in partnership with the Center for Youth Work (Serbia), Novi Pazar Youth Office and Rozaje Civic Youth Initiative (Montenegro), in 6 municipalities the cross-border region of in Serbia and Montenegro.



1st Telecare Social Protection Service for elderly people in Montenegro and Serbia

This project improved the quality of social care for the elderly through an innovative social service that includes an integrated provision of daily 24-hour online telemetry, i.e. monitoring of the vital life parameters of users of this virtual service, popularly called Telecare. Monitoring is performed through a IT application that connects the smart watch on the user's wrist with the IT application in the Telecare center in the Home for Elderly in Bijelo Polje and the Telecare center in the Center for Social Work Novi Pazar.

Telecare centers are staffed by trained professionals, a general practitioner, a sociologist and a psychologist, as well as a home help provider, who visually provide users with health, psychological and social-educational services every day via a tablet with a software program adapted to the elderly population. These services include health examinations of the user, mandatory face-to-face visual and voice communication in order to determine the health and psychological state of the user.

The staff of Telecare centers perform field visits based on an assessment or an SOS call by the user, as well as regular monthly visits in which, in addition to a detailed medical examination and discussion with a sociologist and psychologist, they provide assistance at home. The system is networked, so service providers from two neighboring countries have not only expanded their professional knowledge and competences, but also improved the skills necessary to provide this new type of social service to the elderly. In this way, they can exchange experiences and improve the quality of work of both services with the aim of better quality of life, dignified care and social inclusion of the target group of the project.



During the eleven months of establishment of the Telecare service, 550 online telecare services were provided by the staff of Telecare centers in Bijelo Polje and Novi Pazar, as well as 275 home visits in Bijelo Polje and Novi Pazar. The cross-border Telecare service provides services for 15 users in Bijelo Polje and 15 users in Novi Pazar.





“I am very satisfied with this service. I learned to handle a tablet and wear a smart watch, I became disciplined and I am less lonely. I look forward to the visits of the telecare team that takes care of us. I am a little sad to know that this type of service through the project is ending soon because I have become very connected with the telecare workers with whom I have daily communication. My children live abroad, so I consider them as my relatives, I would like this to be a permanent service, I don't have go to the doctor anymore, because I have a doctor and staff in my house every day and I don't feel lonely when I know that I can call them at any moment and to come to me” - Vasvija Alilović, user, pensioner from Bijelo Polje.



“From the beginning of the implementation of the project, we worked on building a collaborative relationship between service providers and end users. My goal was for the final users to take an active position in which they will develop their potential, and not to remain in the position of a passive participant in the implementation of the project. It is almost impossible to describe their attitude towards us in words, but it is definitely something that should be experienced, because such situations refine us and make us even better. I am happy that through this project I have the pleasure of meeting these wonderful people, to feel how much humanity and warmth there is in them, how they look forward to every contact with the team members through their satisfaction and gratitude”, psychologist Maida Novalić Novi Pazar.



The final conference of the project “1st Telecare Social Protection Service for elderly people in Montenegro and Serbia” jointly implemented by the Home for the Elderly Bijelo Polje, the Center for Social Work Novi Pazar, with the support of the municipality of Bijelo Polje, and financed by the European Union within the Cross-Border Cooperation Program Serbia – Montenegro 2014-2020, was held in Bijelo Polje on February 27, 2023.



Newletter N°9
March 2023

Let's Do Things Better Together



CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME
SERBIA-MONTENEGRO
2014-2020



Republic of Serbia



Montenegro



This Programme is funded by
the European Union

www.evropa.gov.rs

www.mei.gov.rs

www.eu.me

www.gov.me/mep

www.cbcsrb-mne.org

www.facebook.com/PrekogranicniProgramSRBMNE

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

JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

Zore Tomašević street no 5
31300 Prijepolje
Republic of Serbia
+381 33 711 705
jts@cbcsrb-mne.org

Živko KOLAŠINAC

Head of Joint Technical Secretariat
zivko.kolasinac@mei.gov.rs

Miljana MATOVIĆ

Project Officer and Communication Specialist
miljana.matovic@mei.gov.rs

Darko ČUKURANOVIĆ

Programme Associate
darko.cukuranovic@mei.gov.rs

Milan ŽEŽELJ

Financial Specialist
milan.zezelj@mei.gov.rs

ANTENNA OFFICE

Šukrije Međedovića street no1
84000 Bijelo Polje
Montenegro

Emil KOČAN

Project Officer
emil.kocan@cbcsrb-mne.org

Mithat BAHOVIĆ

Programme Associate
mithat.bahovic@mep.gov.me

This Newsletter was produced with the financial support of 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.