



**ЦЕНТАР ЗА РАЗВОЈ НА ТРЕТИОТ-СЕВЕРОИСТОЧЕН
ПЛАНСКИ РЕГИОН - КУМАНОВО**

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There is an ongoing Project financed by EU (EACEA), Europe for citizens' programme, "Benefits of the enlargement of the European Union for regional development". Center for development Litia –Slovenia is the Lead Partner of the Project whereas Center for development of NorthEast planning region –Kumanovo is their Partner. The duration of the Project is from 01.01.2011 – 31.12.2011.

The foreseen and planned activities of the Project are as follows:

-The activities will take place in Osrednjaslovenska region, municipalities of Domžale, Mengeš, Kamnik, Litija, Šmartno pri Litiji, Dol pri Ljubljani, Lukovica. The activities will also take place in the North-Eastern Planning region in Macedonia that encompasses municipalities of Kumanovo, Staro Nagoričane, Rankovce, Lipkovo, Kriva Palanka and Kratovo.

-In the project, project applicant has foreseen to present the advantages of joining European Union. The advantages will be presented to partners from the candidate country FYROM. The general idea of the project is to present the benefits that membership can bring like free market of goods, capital and people. Other benefits are connected with the values of the programmes of EU presented through the pursuit of values of sustainable development, solidarity and tolerance.

-Values of cultural dialogue are also important for European identity that takes into consideration national and cultural diversity.

-With project we seek to raise awareness among local population and local self-governance in Slovenia and in the Republic of Macedonia. Applicant wants to demonstrate the benefits of membership in the European community through presentation of good practice of collaborating in project co-funded by European Union, the applicant will organise two visits for the partner from Macedonia, where he will demonstrate. Applicant in addition to encouraging cultural dialogue, tolerance and solidarity, wants to present to Macedonian partner options of joining different initiatives and European projects, the possibility of cooperation in the fields of entrepreneurship and creation of new working places. The significance of European Union does not only lie in economic integration but also in importance of European common history and roots and values inherent to the integration. As candidate country for membership in European Union, will first of all have to adopt aquis communautaire, and then comply also with other criteria inherent for membership in EU, like respect for human rights, stability of democracy economic criteria. The applicant went through the process recently and would like to share the experience of collaborating in European initiatives. Especially in the field of projects co-funded from European funds. Focus will be on Europe for citizens programme.

-The objective of the project is to establish relations between the local self-governance institutions in the area Development Centre Litija is covering through the development partnership of the Central Slovenia and their counterparts in Republic of Macedonia. As regional and local development agencies in their activities reach wide

specter of different stakeholders, and this approach is intermediary between local population and institutions like municipalities through this bottom- up approach also local population can be properly addressed and included. Local population will be addressed through opening of European information office-that in the beginning will be established through opening hours at the seat of both partners of the project, as also through presentations organized for local population. With these activities and securing visibility we will try to reach also wide specter of citizens, especially

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targeting local population in FYROM. With the meetings with local population we will try to make the programme accessible to all.

-The partners will be involved directly through organizing activities, 2 visits to Slovenia, 1 visit to FRYOM. The team from Slovenia will collaborate by preparation of workshops in Macedonia, as well as by preparation of materials for the information point at the Centre for Development of the Northeastern Planning Region.

-In the project the representatives of municipalities will be involved, in delegation visiting Slovenia as well as in delegation visiting FRYOM. Through the presentation of good practices involving workshops and visits in Slovenia, the project partners hope to achieve raise of the interest for future collaboration projects, between the two areas and the raise of interest of local self-governance institutions of participating in town-twinning projects and in other European initiatives.

-This project could be the first step to develop cooperation and partnership between smaller towns in the area the partners are covering. In the project good practices of collaboration in European initiatives will be presented. The project partners not only wish to raise awareness about European Union initiatives among the employed in local self-governance institutions but also among local population. The raising of awareness will be done through workshops and through information points established at the seat of partners in the project. The project foresees that through this first step of connecting different stakeholders in order to establish consortium for international projects. The municipalities and towns from the area of Macedonia and Slovenia could establish town-twinning partnerships through this project.

-The dissemination of the project will take place through the website, and through press conference following first event of the project, visit of the guests from Macedonia, the dissemination will be done also through information points foreseen in the project. The aim of information points is to provide crucial information on the European Union, with the focus on European programmes and calls of proposals. Besides the website that will be established in the framework of our website, the website will provide information on the project and on the programmes and calls for proposals. The information will be published in Macedonian and Slovenian and linked to the pages of the development agencies, partners in the project and to municipalities' websites. At the same time both partners will be publishing articles in local press to ensure the visibility of the project as well as to animate the local population through information office prepared for the local population.

-Publications will be in form of brochure and leaflets. There will be 3000 brochures published in Slovenian and 3000 in Macedonian. The leaflets will be published in both languages in 4000 copies. The brochures will be distributed at the

info-points at Development Centre Litija and Centre for Development of Northeastern planning region and during the events to participants of the workshops. The brochure will provide some information on programmes, initiatives arising from EU funds for municipalities in the region and information on the project. The leaflets will provide short description of the project and its objectives and information on municipalities in the area of Central Slovenia and Macedonian Northeastern region.

-Applicant will introduce a subpage on the website that will be constantly updated with the information on the project, additionally on the press conference we will introduce a forum, where local population could be invited to leave their opinion regarding the topic of European citizenship as well as initiatives concerning EU on the forum.

Study visit in Slovenia Number of people: 24
1 day arrival
2 day press conference and presentation of good practices of Leader programme

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3 day presentation of pilot areas in the project Listen to the Voice of Villages

4 day workshops with representatives of the municipalities in two groups

5 day departure of participants from Republic of Macedonia, presentations of results for the local population

With study visit applicant would like to reach representatives of municipalities from Macedonia, the result will be established relations/collaboration by municipalities from Slovenia and Macedonia. At the same time the representatives from municipalities and Centre for development of Northeastern planning region will gain additional knowledge about European fund and other programmes, Citizens for Europe. With the presentation on 5th day the applicant will ensure the involvement of citizens.

Study visit in Slovenia Number of people: 24

1 day arrival

2 day presentation of good practices of LEADER programme - small scale projects

3 day presentation of good practices CO2 NeutralAlp

4 day meetings with the municipalities in order to establish future partnerships for town twinning and other initiatives

5 day departure

Through presentations of good practice we thrive to achieve increased interest in establishing relations between municipalities from Slovenia and Macedonia. One town twinning cooperation established between a municipality from Slovenia and municipality from Macedonia. 1 Memorandum of cooperation signed between the stakeholders from Slovenia and Macedonia, municipalities.

Study visit in Macedonia Number of people: 30

1 day arrival - informative meetings with a wider group of local self-governance representatives (approx. 20)

2 press conference, workshop with representatives of municipalities

3 day workshops with other stakeholders, NGO's

4 day workshop with local population

5 day departure

In Macedonia concrete problems in local and regional development will be addressed, and it will be presented how these issues could be addressed through European initiatives. Therefore a draft of a project proposal could be prepared on planned workshop. With involvement on other stakeholders and NGO's, the idea of collaboration and partnership in European project will be presented to most of the relevant stakeholders in the region.

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