



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
Macedonia

# **Training for the encouragement of local initiatives in the application of sustainable solutions for the improvement of rural and natural areas**

**October 26-27, 2017**

*Venue: Hotel „Lake View“, Oteshevo*



### **SCOPE OF THE TRAINING:**

The scope of the training is to accentuate the meaning and the need of capacity building to the local communities in order to undertake initiatives for the improvement of the insufficiently developed rural and natural areas, by gaining knowledge regarding the process of:

- ✓ resolution of issues that the local community faces and surpassing the unfavorable circumstances that influence the health and the well-being of the residents or
- ✓ realization of actions that contribute to the improvement of the status of the local community,

thus contributing for the improvement in social, environmental and economic terms.

Through good practice examples in the region and wider, the participants will get acquainted more closely with the business possibilities for the local communities through investments in nature preservation and sustainable use of natural resources; activities for the monitoring of nature will be presented as well, through which they can become an active participant in the identification of natural beauty and imperfections in their immediate surroundings, thus contributing to the definition of the status in the nature that they want to maintain or improve.

The final goal in the realization of this training is to create a Platform for technical support of insufficiently developed rural and natural areas, that will aim to assist in the efforts for the provision of a basis for opportunities for prosperity on a local level in social, environmental and economic terms, which will then contribute to the prevention of intellectual and work force outfall.

## Draft Agenda

### DAY 1 - 26 October 2017 год. (Thursday)

09.30 – 10.00	Registration of participants and work material distribution (with a coffee break)
10.00 – 10.10	Welcoming the participants (Short introduction of the scope of the Training)  <b>Milena Manova Ilikj,</b> <i>Project Manager, REC Macedonia</i>
10.10 – 10.50	<p><b>Session 1:</b> Initiatives of local communities for the improvement of the insufficiently developed rural and natural areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status – are local initiatives for the improvement of the community encouraged and realized here and to what extent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characteristics of the successful vs. the less successful initiatives.</li> <li>LEADER approach – sustainable and integrated process of development of the rural communities in terms of economy, environment and culture</li> </ul> </li> <li>Local action group (LAG) in Macedonia – improvement from the foundation to now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the LAG – initiation and realization</li> <li>Good practice examples – projects realized</li> <li>Cooperation status</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>Milena Manova Ilikj,</b> <i>Project Manager, REC Macedonia</i></p> <p><b>Jovica Volkanovski,</b> <i>LAG – Resen</i></p>
10.50 – 11.15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.15 – 12.15	<p><b>Exercise:</b> Work in groups (participants are divided in groups / by local communities) – from initiative to realization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition of the <b>issue</b> that the local community faces or <b>action</b> for the improvement of the status of the local community</li> <li>Definition of the <b>steps</b> for the resolution of the issue / for the realization of the action for improvement of the status.</li> </ol> <p><i>(Each WG work on a <b>realistic case from its immediate surroundings</b>, recognizing the issue or action whose resolution or realization will contribute to</i></p>

	<p><i>the improvement of the social, environmental and economic status of the community:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Responsibility for its realization (local self-governance / state authority / ... )</i></li> <li>• <i>Previous realization attempts – reasons for failure (lessons learned)</i></li> <li>• <i>Forum – initiation body for its realization</i></li> <li>• <i>Necessary financial assistance and human capital</i></li> <li>• <i>Responsibility for its maintenance</i></li> <li>• <i>Contributions for the local residents</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>All participants</b></p>
12.15 – 13.00	Presentation of the results of the work groups
13.00 – 14.30	<b>Lunch</b>
14.30 – 14.50	<p><b>Session 2: Initiating a proactive approach for the inclusion of the local community in the activities of interest for the community:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation of the BioBlitz event (the challenge to be a "citizen scientist") – participation of at least 50 representatives of the local community: students, volunteer, local entrepreneurs, civil society organization and etc. included in the mapping of the hotbeds of biological diversity and significant locations in the area of cultural heritage of Belchishko blato. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Representation of the tool <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org/">https://www.inaturalist.org/</a> with unlimited possibilities</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Gjoko Zoroski</b> NGO „Grashnica“</p>
14.50 – 15.30	<p><b>Session 2 (continues):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Presentation of the mobile application for raising awareness for the significance of the biological diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility for <b>knowledge and experience exchange</b> in the area of nature conservation and natural ecosystems management;</li> <li>• Encouraging representation with the NGO sector for the stimulation of political interest with the carriers of decisions and the wider public towards <b>investments for nature conservation</b>;</li> <li>• NGO's network for mutual <b>activities for nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources</b> – opportunities for the local population (good practice examples)</li> </ul> <p><i>(Project: Open regional fund for South East Europe – Biological diversity)</i></p> </li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Samir Memedov</b> Project Manager, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</p>
15.30 – 15.45	<b>Coffee break</b>
15.45 – 17.00	<b>Exercise:</b> Work in groups (participants are divided in several WG – with at least 3-4 participants) – in order to identify:

	<p>1. The business opportunities through activities for nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extracting ideas from the good practice examples throughout the world, by integrating activities that contribute for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Natural resources preservation,</li> <li>✓ Sustainable production and</li> <li>✓ Life improvement of rural communities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(Each WG has to propose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities from which the local community benefits in financial and environmental terms)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>All participants</b></p>
17.00 – 17.30	Presentation of results from work groups and conclusions from the first day

## DAY 2 - 27 October 2017 (Friday)

9.30 – 10.15	<p><b>Session 3: Available financial programs for the encouragement of business opportunities in the insufficiently developed rural and natural areas</b></p> <p>1. Review of all the available financial programs in the area of <b>sustainable rural development</b> – sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture production, traditional local production of commodities, artisan and other types of products, sustainable gathering and distribution of forest and non-forest products, ...</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Vlatko Trpeski</b> <i>Nature Sector Head, Moepp</i></p>
10.15 – 11.30	<p><b>Exercise:</b> Work in groups (participants are divided in WG-s of 4-5 participants in a group) – for the review of the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conditions/requirements during the application of different financial programs</li> <li>2. Necessary data and information, as a response to the requirements of the Call</li> <li>3. Budget creation for the realization of the activity</li> </ol> <p>(In the frames of different available financial programs in the area of interest).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>All participants</b></p>
11.30 – 12.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
12.00 – 13.30	Preparation of proposal project in the frames of some of the offered financial programs (for some of the previously identified ideas).
12.45 – 14.00	<p><b>Session 4: Platform for technical support of the insufficiently developed rural and natural areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of the main benefits from the national legislation in the area of sustainable development, as the basis for definition of the opportunities for the rural and natural areas, towards:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Creating possibilities for the formation of local cooperations</li> <li>✓ Availability of rural infrastructure and methods and techniques for the application of a better agricultural practice</li> <li>✓ Approach to acceptable energy services – including renewable and alternative energy sources</li> <li>✓ ...</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Vlatko Trpeski</b> <i>Nature Sector Head, Moepp</i></p>
14.00 – 14.30	<p><b>Session 4:</b> (continues)</p> <p>Signing of the Platform on behalf of the present Local communities, represented by their nominated representatives (to be confirmed)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>All participants</b></p>
14.30 – 15.00	Conclusions and future steps
15.00 – 16.00	<b>Lunch and leaving</b>

### LOGISTICS INFORMATION

Location and time of the event: The training will be realized in H. „Lake View“ – Oteshevo **in the period of October, 26-27, 2017.**

The day of arrival is chosen by the participants i.e. they can decide if they will arrive on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 (Wednesday) evening, or on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October (Thursday) morning, the latest before the beginning of the first session (10.00 hrs.).

All accommodation and meal costs, during the day and the drinks during the coffee breaks are covered in the frames of the project.

For all participants that will travel at least 50 km to the event location, travel costs will be reimbursed. The cost will be justified only if the vehicle is used by at least 2-3 travelers.

Closing of the training: The forecasted time of closing of the Training is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 (Friday) at 16.00 hrs., with the final conclusions from the meeting.