



Projekat finansira
Evropska unija



Newsletter

No. 4, March –June 2014

Project: **“Youth – Most Important Driving Engine of Our Region”**



Youth – driving force of change in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska (based in Bijeljina) and Centre for Equitable Regional Development (Belgrade) have started the implementation of the project “Youth – Most Important Driving Engine of Our Region”. The main purpose of this project is to strengthen institutional, human and civil mechanisms responsible for the improvement of youth position in B&H and Serbia. The project will be implemented from June 2013 – May 2014 in 16 municipalities located along the border of B&H and Serbia¹. The first component of the project implies the analysis of work of community-based

¹ Bijeljina, Gradačac, Orašje, Doboј Istok, Srebrenica, Foča, Goražde, Višegrad, Čajetina, Užice, Prijepolje, Nova Varoš, Indija, Ruma, Stara Pazova, Valjevo, Sremska Mitrovica

institutional mechanisms which deal with youth in the cross border region B&H - Serbia (Youth Commissions/Youth Offices), the analysis of their needs and creation of recommendations on how to improve the functioning of these bodies according to the real needs of young people from the regions involved. The task of the second component is to strengthen the capacities of 64 secondary school students from selected municipalities to actively engage in dealing with youth issues at the local level. The students from secondary schools in B&H will have the opportunity to participate in cross-border seminars together with their peers from Serbia. After the completion of these seminars young people will implement the local action plans together with the Youth Offices/Commissions which will be created based on previously identified problems in local communities.

The final activity within this project involves the organization of the cross-border youth conference where the participants from B&H and Serbia will be able to make suggestions on how to improve future mutual activities in the cross-border area of B&H and Serbia, promote good practices and create the needed preconditions for networking on

both sides of the border in order to engage in solving youth problems together.

The project has been implemented within the IPA Cross-border Programme Serbia - Bosnia and Herzegovina and is financially supported by the Delegations of the European Union to B&H and Serbia.

The seminar in Zlatibor for secondary school students from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska and Center for Equitable Regional Development – CenTriR, in the period from March 7-9, 2014, organized a seminar at Zlatibor for high school students from eight border municipalities and cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



The aim of the seminar in Zlatibor was to provide the group of 32



Projekat finansira
Evropska unija



Newsletter

high school students from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia with the chance to expand the knowledge and skills acquired during the first seminar organized in Srebrenica within the project "Youth - Most Important Driving Engine of our Region".

During the previous seminar in Srebrenica, high schools students from Goražde, Foča, Višegrad, Srebrenica, Prijepolje, Nova Varoš, Čajetina and Užice were taught about human rights, the rights of national minorities and mechanisms for their protection, the concepts of interculturalism and multiculturalism, stereotypes and prejudice, non-violent communication and peaceful conflict resolution.

During the seminar organized at Zlatibor the participants discussed youth policies, activism and volunteerism, in order to define the actual problems in their local communities and to encourage others to be active in civil society.

With the support of lecturers and a moderator a special attention was paid to the preparation of local action plans which the participants of the seminar will implement in their local communities in

2014. The action plans which were created according to the previously identified problems in the involved local communities will be realized in cooperation with Youth Offices/Commissions and local authorities from respective local communities.

Implementation of youth actions in local communities in BH

The secondary school students in the cross-border region of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, who participated in seminars organized to familiarize the participants on youth policies and activism, have implemented the local actions in their communities in order to address some of the identified problems that young people have been facing on a daily basis.

After their participation in the seminars, the secondary school students worked on the implementation of the local action plans which they created and designed during the seminars they attended earlier in Bijeljina, Ruma, Srebrenica and Zlatibor. Thus, young people from Bijeljina organized the local action called „Let's get to know each other!“.



The aim of this action was to reach out as many young people as possible with the provisions of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the special attention was given to the treatment of environmental issues within the Constitution. In addition, the secondary school students from Bijeljina who attended the workshops had an opportunity to learn more about the activities realized by youth organizations existing in the area of Bijeljina Municipality. They also obtained the information on youth policies and youth actions, which have been performed so far in this region.

The humanitarian concert of the ethno music group „Kimval“, which was named „Extend a hand of friendship“ was organized at the Center for Culture and Information in Foca. This concert was organized as the final event within the humanitarian action envisaged to help two socially endangered



Projekat finansira
Evropska unija



Newsletter

families from the Foca Municipality. During the one-hour concert, the ethno music group “Kimval”, together with the choir of the Faculty of Theology, performed a large number of different compositions from their repertoire. This humanitarian action was initiated by the secondary school students from Foca.



Students of the Secondary School Center “Ivo Andrić” from Visegrad implemented their local action called “No Thanks, I Prefer a Condom” aimed to increase the awareness of young people about sexual and reproductive health. During the local action, in total of 45 secondary and primary school students from Visegrad, aged 14 - 17, learned more about the most frequent problems facing adolescents, sexually transmitted diseases and their prevention, as well as the importance of use of contraceptives.



The local actions which were implemented in Bijeljina and Foca presented at the youth cross-border conference, which was organized June 19-20, 2014 in Uzice as the final event within the project “Youth – Most Important Driving Engine of our Region”.

Implementation of youth actions in local communities in Serbia

The secondary school students from the cross-border region Serbia-B&H, who participated in seminars on youth activism, in the last couple of months, have successfully implemented local actions in their municipalities. During the seminars, these young people have designed the local actions with the help of their mentors in order to solve the identified problems of youth in their local communities.

Afterwards, they have been autonomously working on implementation of these actions, some of which have shown to be successful and demonstrated that young people know to recognize significant problems and find solutions to cope with them. These actions have also shown that the high school students involved in the project are ready to contribute to improvement of position of young people in their local communities.

In Serbia, the successful actions were implemented in **Ruma, Stara Pazova, Sremska Mitrovica, Čajetina and Prijepolje**. Young people from Municipality of Ruma have conducted a local action titled **„You can only see well with your heart”**, through which they have organized thematic party and promoted youth activism and volunteerism and thus recruited new young volunteers.

The youngsters in Stara Pazova have launched the action „For healthier Municipality of Stara Pazova”, which considered organization of a conference aiming to raise awareness of young people about negative effects on environment which might be caused by construction of incinerator on the territory of their municipality.



Projekat finansira
Evropska unija



Newsletter



Lokalna akcija za zbiranje sredstava, Stara Pazova

High school students from Čajetina have organized two workshops about peer violence for 40 participants, while their colleagues from Municipality of Prijepolje have conducted a local action titled „Roots” within which they have organized two picnics for high school students in neighboring villages aiming to promote rural way of life, natural beauties of their region and rural tourism.



Lokalna akcija - Vrtoglavica, Stara Pazova

CenTriR project team has selected high school students from Čajetina and Stara Pazova to

present their local actions at the final conference, as the most successful local actions which were carried out in Serbia.

Realization of the youth cross-border conference in Uzice

The youth cross-border conference called “**Are you really listening to us?**” was held in the period from June 19-20, 2014 at the Hotel “Zlatiborska noc” in Uzice. At this conference which was performed as the final event within the project “Youth – Most Driving Engine of our Region” the participants were introduced with the results achieved during the realization of this project, as well as with the work of the most successful Youth offices/Commissions in the cross-border area of Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sremska Mitrovica, Prijepolje, Bijeljina).

Nenad Radmanovic, the coordinator of the Youth Office in Sremska Mitrovica said that the participation in “this project helped him to exchange experiences and ideas with other participants of the project. He also said that he will apply the knowledge gained within this project in the future community based activities.”

At this conference the secondary school students from Bijeljina, Stara Pazaova, Čajetina and Foca presented the results of the local actions which were realized during the project in order to address some of the identified problems that young people have been facing in their local communities on daily basis.



Račanska 31
76300 Bijeljina,
Bosnai Hercegovina
Tel: +387 55 419 274
Fax: +387 55 210 851
E-mail: helcomm@teol.net
www.helcommrs.org



Dimitrija Tucovića 30/5
11000 Beograd, Srbija
Tel: +381 11 3240143
+381 63 289 002
E-mail: office@centrir.org
www.centrir.org

This newsletter has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this newsletter are the sole responsibility of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska and Center for Equitable Regional Development - CenTriR and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.