

Newsletter N°9, February 2023

Common Ideas for Better Future!



Dear readers,

Currently, 10 projects are being implemented within this Program (7 within the 2nd Call and 3 within the 3rd Call for proposals), in the areas of the improvement of sustainable environmental planning and the promotion of biodiversity, improving the employability of the workforce and increasing employment opportunities, improving the management system for emergency interventions, fostering social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups as well as increasing the contribution of tourism to the socio-economic development of the cross-border area.

The results we have achieved in the previous year guarantee achievement of the set goals in the future and successful implementation of the Programme!



Six municipalities in Serbia and BiH on the road to zero waste

Zero Waste Management project completed preparation for the introduction of the new waste management system in six municipalities and started mapping and clearing illegal dump sites.



Fly dumping is a common appearance in forests, riverbanks and around settlements in Serbia and BiH. According to the estimates there were more than thousand illegal dump sites in BiH in May 2022. In Serbia, Waste Management Program 2022-2031 has registered over 3.500 illegal dump sites. The local public companies cleared the 6 sites in the following areas as a part of the project activities:

- Slatina, Municipality Center Sarajevo,
- Dragogradi, Municipality of Ilijaš,
- Malo Čajno, City of Visoko
- Regional road Bajina Bašta – Užice
- Debrč, Municipality of Vladimirci
- Municipality of Krupanj.



Public companies in six municipalities also purchased necessary equipment, mainly dumpsters of different size and material. Furthermore, sets of trash bins and composters, more than thousand in each country, were purchased and distributed in the local communities.

The project organized educational workshops in local communities with the goal to teach the citizens basic rules of the selective waste disposal and composting.

Representatives of local governments and public companies had an opportunity to visit Public Company *Strength Maribor* in Slovenia. They were introduced to the various projects implemented in Maribor and to the legislation that supports the *Greenest Country in the EU* in its efforts for the selective waste collection.



Enhance project offers business advancements in wood, good and metal industries!

During November 2022 more than 50 participants at workshops in Goražde and Zlatibor worked on the development of cross-border products and services.

“Our goal is to support development of cross-border products and services by increasing capacities and creating preconditions for future cooperation, innovation and commercialization in the area” said Project Manager Almin Mališević.



In December, more than 60 enterprises from metal and wood industries from Serbia and BiH attended B2B meetings with the aim to establish and/or expand their business networks.



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"We participated in many project activities, both in BiH and in Serbia, where we met a lot of people and established certain types of cooperation. This project is very important for us since it introduced us to the possibilities of cooperation between companies from Serbia and BiH. We hope that we will be the ones to start cross-border cooperation" said participants of the B2B meeting from Serbia.

A Guide for B2B meetings and business networking is available online on the following link: [click here](#)

The Guide offers information on the importance of B2B meetings, how to prepare for the events, and which are to most relevant events for networking as per industry. New B2B tools are also presented such as: online platform for partner search and information on available support on local, national, regional, and international level for the participation in fairs, exhibits, B2B events, and other networking events.



Web Page www.enhance-msp.com created within the project offers data base of SMSs, news from the wood, food and metal industries and free advice for companies.

"This is just a beginning. It is our intention that the Web Page contains all the information regarding future calls for proposals, free guides, handbooks, and brochures developed within the Enhance project. The content will be available to the SMS from metal, food, and wood industries permanently, after the end of the project" said Project Manager Almin Mališević.

Improved Public Services in Waste Management

Project Upgrading of the Waste Management Public Service Capacities in Cross-border Region finished in September 2022.

Focus of the project was on capacity building of project partners via expert seminars and exchange of information during round table sessions and workshops. Cooperation with the citizens and NGOs is improved. Inspections for the environmental protection are equipped with the new vehicles and computers and inspectors attended expert seminars and practical trainings with the new equipment. Partners signed Memorandum on Cooperation aiming at continuation of exchange of experiences and improving capacities after the end of the project.



A stationary laboratory for the control of solid waste was established in Banja Luka. This is the first laboratory of this kind in this part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A mobile laboratory for the detection of pollutants in the water was purchased to be used in Serbia. During the project teams from two countries conducted analysis and exchanged experiences and results.

At the end of the project a closing conference was organized in Novi Sad with more than 50 participants.

During the conference Project Manager, Mr. Nemanja Erceg pointed importance of the project and its positive influence on the work of inspectors in the region and reiterated that the cooperation among partner would be continued in the future.



One of the project participants, Slobodan Simić from the Nature Conservation Movement Sremska Mitrovica managing Special Nature Reserve Zasavica, pointed out the importance of the mobile app for the citizens to report illegal dump sites. This App improves and speeds up communication between the citizens and NGOs and eco inspectors. Overall, project activities attributed significantly to the improvement of the public services in the areas of waste management in the cross-border region.



Bridging Project Facilitated Employment in Tourism Sector

Two educational centers were equipped, in Sarajevo and Užice. Number of partners that will be using the facilities have been increased providing for the sustainability of the Centers. Project partners keep receiving requests for continuation of the education of workforce in tourism and gastronomy. New and improved plans and educational programs for cooks, waiters/sommeliers, receptionists, animators, and chambermaids created within the project were so far utilized for the education of waiters/sommeliers and cooks/pastry chefs.

Jobs in tourism industry were promoted in Užice schools with the goal to present potential career paths to the students and their parents.



Seminars for mentors and managers in tourism took place in November 2022. The main topics covered were: role of mentors in creation of good tourist offer and support to unemployed, strategic planning in tourism, successful teams and leaders.

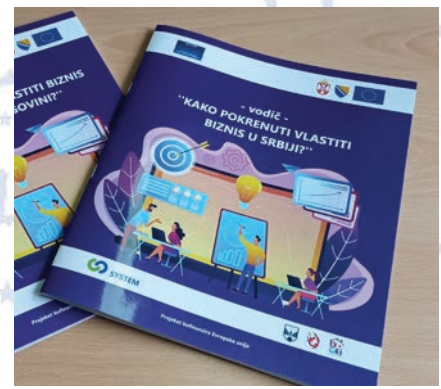
The Project helped unemployed in acquiring new skills while at the same time providing Sarajevo Cantonal Chamber of Commerce certificate valid in the country and abroad. Before the end of the project between 70 and 80% of newly educated were employed by the hotels and restaurants in the Sarajevo Canton.

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Youth employment opportunities increased through the project SYSTEM

The “Entrepreneurial Academy” was successfully completed in the previous project period. More than 90 participants from Sarajevo Canton, Sremska Mitrovica and Loznica participated in the online education from 30th September to 23rd December 2022. The aim was to encourage young people to start their own business.

The program included the transfer of theoretical and practical knowledge and experience through the six modules: business model development, financial management, business plan development, sales and marketing, human resource management and communication skills.



The 30 best participants were selected after completion of the education. They were provided with mentoring support as well as other types of education (academy, best practices and study trip).

“The Academy provides a good balance of professional and soft knowledge. The best practices of entrepreneurship can be recognized by exchanging experience with participants and lecturers”, emphasized Azra Prašović, project manager from the Municipality of Novo Sarajevo.

Suzana Jovanović from Serbia has positive impressions and new knowledge after the education. She emphasized that the Academy provided a lot of useful information for the business idea *“Virtual Mentor for Public Performance”*.

“I can praise the organization and teamwork within the entrepreneurial academy. In addition I noticed the professional attitude, expertise and maximum commitment of the lecturers. I increased my knowledge of setting up, developing and implementing business ideas. Also, I gained knowledge on how to improve my work”, said Jovanović.

In November and December 2022, the education *“How to develop an innovative product/service”* was organized for all participants who participated in the Entrepreneurship Academy. The education included a lecture on the topic of innovation, as well as the presentation of experiences and examples of good practices.

The guide *“How to start your own business”* was published in order to provide additional support and encourage all those who want to start their own business. The guide deals with problems in business for all beginners, such as legislation for business registration and its operation, legal forms of business registration, procedures, costs of business registration, etc. The guide will help users to properly understand the system that affects small businesses and how to better position their business on the market.



Improving the work position and increasing the chance for employment of people from vulnerable groups through specific knowledge and skills

Non-formal education has an increasing role due to its flexibility and ability to adapt to the needs of the individual, aligned with the needs of society and the labor market. However, such education is not available to everyone. For that reason the project “Improve employability of people from vulnerable groups through provision of new knowledge and skills” was created. Project team has an extensive experience, and due to the nature of the activities they deal with daily, they have a database of people who need this type of empowerment, as well as the way to establish communication with them.



120 persons with disabilities and 240 unemployed persons will be trained to provide social services through eighteen different trainings (nine in Serbia and nine in BiH). Eight trainings will be included in professional practice programs, namely trainings for the provision of home care services, personal assistants or personal companions, trainings related to project planning, management in social care and social entrepreneurship, and social agriculture (urban cultivation of medicinal plants, edible flowers, and micro-herbs). The areas with a need for qualified labor and a deficit of adequately trained workers, have been estimated so that the participants have a greater chance of employment. The aforementioned trainings cover the needs of both, lower-educated and highly-educated people. All trainings have passed the accreditation process with the competent bodies, and the certificates have national validity.

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Caritas Šabac in Serbia and ProREHA and SEC in BiH have extensive experience in all the mentioned areas to provide the participants with the opportunity to apply all the acquired knowledge in practice.

The human resources and technical capacities of the protection and rescue services have been strengthened within the project COPRIS

Previous experiences in critical situations have shown the importance of strengthening protection and rescue services. One of the project activities was equipping of the protection and rescue services: Civil Protection, firefighters, Red Cross teams and rescuers. The resources necessary for the work of mobile teams, such as specialized machines, a specialized field vehicle for the Civil Protection of Tuzla have been provided. In addition, the Tuzla Red Cross purchased two automatic external defibrillators, resuscitation dolls and medical training material.

The equipment was used at the cross-border exercise that took place in September 2022 in Tuzla. More than 140 members of the protection and rescue services demonstrated a coordinated effort in saving lives. The participants showed strength, synchronization and readiness to respond to various crisis situations.



“How to improve the operation and increase the readiness of the protection and rescue system in emergency situations in Tuzla” was the topic of the round table at the end of 2022 in Tuzla. The aim of the event was to exchange experiences and practices, and to raise awareness of citizens and businesses regarding decrease disaster risk. According to the best European practices in disaster risk management, the participants discussed readiness and response to natural and man-made disasters.



One of the activities of the project COPRIS is the implementation of basic and advanced first aid training for members of the protection and rescue services in Tuzla. The implementation of first aid training began in December 2022, and completion is expected by the 31st March, 2023. This is the first training of this type in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the completion of the activity, Tuzla will have well-trained members of the protection and rescue services and strengthened capacities for providing first aid to injured persons in case of major accidents.



For the first time, Civil Protection Mechanism (CMI) and Operational Management (OPM) of the European Union Training Courses were organized at the local level. Representatives of the multidisciplinary mobile protection and rescue team, managers and civil servants of the city administration, as well as representatives of the protection and rescue services participated at trainings. This training has a crucial role in the effective performance of protection and rescue. The focus of this training is using the United Nations guidelines for Disaster Risk Reduction and the implementation of the Sendai framework, as well as using the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. As full membership country, Bosnia and Herzegovina started using this mechanism in September 2022.



1000 tons of bulky waste were collected through newly established system in Užice and Tuzla

The project BWL is based on the results of various activities related to the establishment of a system of separate collection of municipal waste at the point of origin. Certain activities were aimed at separating recyclable waste at the source, thereby reducing the part that is deposited. Recyclable waste represents up to 40% of the total amount of municipal waste.

Implementation of the project involved several methodological approaches. Infrastructural equipping of two utility companies is one of the most significant activities. 40 containers for collecting and transporting this type of waste were purchased. Special machines for working with bulky waste were also procured (2 crushers for grinding and 2 grabs). Pilot recycling yards were established at landfill locations in two cities. The concept means the removal of bulky waste by citizens at the times and at the locations foreseen for it. Placement, retention and emptying of containers for bulky waste (volumes 3, 5 and 7 m³) were carried out in accordance with respect for local specificities of the terrain, including population density and availability of public space. The project covered all local communities, regardless of whether they are urban or rural parts of the territory of the two cities.



The training of field coordinators, employees of utility companies, as well as employees of city administrations was also carried out, so that the newly established systems could be adequately applied. As part of these activities, a study trip to Osijek and Vinkovci in Croatia (as examples of good practices) was realized for 40 participants from the two cities and 17 educational meetings were organized for over 400 participants.



The project BWL conducted extensive informational and promotional campaigns. Since it is crucial for the success of the newly established systems that the wider community adequately recognizes, adopts and continuously applies acquired knowledge, 48 public meetings with over 900 participants and 2 media campaigns (lasting 12 months) were organized.



Summarizing the statistics of collected quantities, during 10 months of implementing the newly established systems in two cities, it can be concluded that approximately 1,000 tons of bulky waste was collected which was shredded and further processed. These amounts certainly do not represent all the bulky waste, which is generated in the two cities on an annual basis, but they are an indicator that it is possible to manage it more successfully.



All the participants in the waste management process in the two cities have a big task - to incorporate the experiences and recommendations of the project BWL activities into official public policies. Only then it can be considered that the problem of bulky waste management in Užice and Tuzla is resolved.

Effective response in emergency interventions

The rescuers of the mountain services were enabled to improve their capacities in the realistic settings and controlled conditions through the project "Improved Emergency Preparedness & Coordinated Response in Cross-Border Area of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (CBC-IePCR)".

In the second half of 2022, several different trainings were held, and valuable rescue equipment was also purchased.



"In order to increase the technical capacities of the Mountaineering Association Tara for responding to emergency situations and events, the purchase of technical and protective equipment was successfully realized. The delivered equipment meets the highest safety standards, which enables long-term exploitation and use" said Milisav Mijatović, a member of MA Tara.

The mountain rescue summer course was held on the Igman and Tara mountains, and 47 future mountain rescuers successfully passed the course. The rescue exercise from torrential water and flooding was held on the river Drina in October 2022. 25 rescuers participated in three days of training.



In the local self-governments six sessions were held with the aim to educate the population on emergency situations. Also, six consultative inter-sectoral meetings were held and protocols and memorandum for cooperation were drafted.

The electronic database of rescuers was established for the cross border region, as well as a joint electronic library with manuals of rescue techniques. Also, the electronic form for entering information about accidents was created. This system will provide faster processing and analysis of data in the future.

Newsletter N°9, February 2023

About Us

IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014-2020 is implemented under the framework of the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).



The Programme is implemented jointly by both countries. Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia and Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina are in charge of the overall coordination of the Programme as the Operating Structures. Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia, Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU) is responsible for all contract as the Contracting Authority (CA). Programme is assisted by Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS).

The overall budget of the Programme for the period 2014-2020 is 14 million EUR while Beneficiaries co-financing is expected to be 2.223.529,41 EUR.

So far, since its establishment in 2007 the Programme has funded 67 projects, providing 21 million EUR of EU funds across the Programme area.

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