

# Newsletter

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

*Development is possible only if it is based on partnership of local, regional and national actors, and in order to establish partnership, for a start, all parties have to be ready to listen to each other.*

## Sustainable Rural Development in the French Alps – an example to others

*Slobodan Ocokoljic and Dr Vesela Ćurković, PhD, InTER*

InTER's researchers, Slobodan Ocokoljić and Vesela Ćurković, PhD, had an honour to participate in the gathering of European experts in rural development. The event took place between August 18 and 21 in the French Alps, in Savoie district of the region Rhones-Alpes in the rural municipality of Beaufort, which belongs to Albertville prefecture, and it was organised by organisations Forum Sinergies i Savoie Vivant, which have been working in sustainable development for decades.

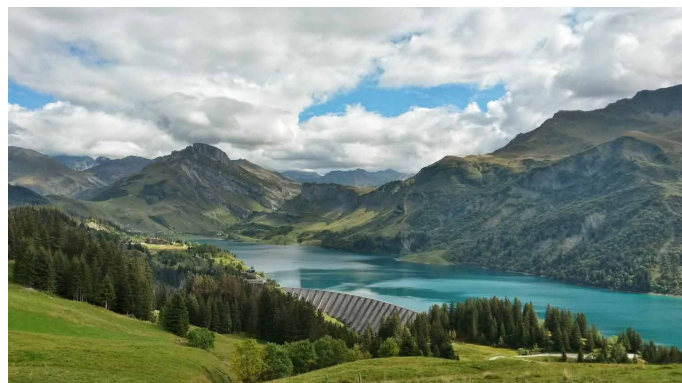
Just like every time in a region which is a good practice example in the field of sustainable territorial development, participants were curious to discover why the organisers chose this place. It turned out that the mountain region Beaufortain, otherwise known as the region with 4 municipalities, 4744 people, 4 hydraulic dams, 4 ski lifts and 4000 cows is the right place for anybody who wants to see directly how to work on rural development of their territory. As a nice introduction for all the praise that will follow about the organisation of this rural region is the information that this mountainous rural territory attracts 80,000 registered tourists every year, and this is how.

Right after the arrival, an introduction of participants and hosts was organised.

Who are the participants? 60 people from all over Europe dealing with rural development, including consultants and academics, researchers and municipal staff, and people who,

after many years of career in the office decided to “get their hands dirty” and start their own farms. Representatives came from Ukraine to Spain, and from Sweden to Macedonia, and the majority was from the Balkans. Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo had around 15 representatives altogether. This revealed the intention of organisers to pay special attention to the Balkan Peninsula as a part of Europe which still has a higher average of rural population than the rest of Europe.

Who are the hosts? Two non-profit organisations that have been working for more than 30 years on providing different types of support to rural territories, including trainings and education of local population, as well as lobbying with decision makers on the national level for the development of the necessary infrastructure. As time passed, this support changed the instruments and focuses and evolved together



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with the territory. The current focus is on acquiring the necessary quality certificates, placement of local products and organisation of events on territorial dialogue where citizens and interested parties can discuss together with decision makers about the best ways for the solutions of problems.

Seminar was organised in an excellent manner. Dynamic field visits were organised in three groups, visiting three different places significant for local development, and complemented with good discussions, and evening hours were dedicated to cultural and culinary presentations of all participants.

The main message from the discussions quickly focused on a few key points:

- Make a good study/analysis of local resources in order to use them in a proper way;
- Join human activities with the natural environment;
- Negotiate with all interested parties in order to reach joint solutions, and thus increase the feeling of inclusion among the population;
- Find a niche with which you can compete, and once you reach limits in a certain direction start with the diversification of the offer;
- Finally – if you don't do anything to start and change things, you will not stagnate, but go backwards.



This all sounds nice, but how to put it into practice is one of those questions that is asked after good advices. A few most impressive examples are presented here.

Water from local lakes is used to produce artificial snow, energy is produced from renewable sources, which means that CO2 emission is 20g by visitor, which at the peak season guarantees breathing of the cleanest possible air to every visitor. Also, 30 out of 54 artificial snow machines work only thanks to a difference in altitude, and they do not need energy. Of course, all this required strategic investments from the Municipality and the state in construction of ski lifts, pipes was water transport from the lakes to snow machines, partnership with the French power supply company for the use of lake water, maximum engagement from local people as seasonal labour, agreement among all citizens about the development plan for the village in this territory and the model for construction of

houses (all houses need to have a similar exterior which fits the traditional local architecture). Equally important, considering the vicinity of Mont Blanc and prestigious resorts like St. Moritz, they made a strategic decision for the region to focus on social tourism. In other words, tourism that will be affordable to less wealthy families, and resorts are developed in such a way, to be functional and affordable, but with a certain "level". It was impressive to hear that the gentleman who welcomed participants in the local municipality building, who is at the same time a member of the municipal assembly, a farmer with around 40 cows and a seasonal worker on the ski lift, when asked why he does not increase the number of cows he owns responded: "because I am satisfied with what I have". I do not know about you, but it has been a while since we last heard such an attitude. We also saw the presentation about the functioning of the mixed company that manages ski lifts with the municipality as the majority owner (the municipality owns the mentioned infrastructure), but managed by experts. The ownership structure of the company also includes banks, individual stakeholders, local organisations and cooperatives, etc. It employs 75 people, of which 66 from Beaufort, 14 with full-time employment, and 61 in the season.

It should not be particularly underlined that the tourism offer and agricultural products of the local population are well connected and it is possible to visit the local cow and sheep farms and see how they are bred (not to say nurtured), it is possible to visit a local cheese cooperative which is also a manufacturing facility, a museum of Beaufort cheese and point of sale, and in local supermarkets a significant quantity of locally produced vegetables and fruits is sold, as well as meat from local butcheries. Also, the local population has a special permit for controlled use of pastures for cattle grazing, pastures that are located in protected areas of national parks. Quality of milk produced from cows grazing on those pastures is used to make the branded cheese with geographical indication. This quality is certainly followed by a price of around 15 Euro per kilogram.

For all those products there are national and European certificates that guarantee quality, and the necessary veterinary controls that cost a lot. But how do people from Beaufort respond to those challenges? They respond with self-organisation. Cheese and wool products are sold through the shop that was opened in a nearby town. Farmers who sell their products their divided in shifts and each of them works one shift. Products are also present in shops of rural products in Paris, Lion and other larger cities through an existing chain of specialised shops in France. When there are problems with the lease of land to grow wheat, people make an oral agreement about the terms of use. The awareness of people that they belong to the local community, and that everything an individual does has a significant impact on the community in on such a high level that oral agreements works much better than official contracts. This is another confirmation that local development is truly not only about investment of a large amount of money in infrastructure, but that a cohesive element is actually the men-

tality and entrepreneurial spirit of the local population. All this is of course followed by good inter-municipal cooperation. For example, if one municipality cannot on its own support the construction of a structure (e.g. a pool or sports field), several municipalities (in this case 4) share the costs and make a pool and tennis courts which make the life of their citizens richer, as well as the tourist offer of the region. Two advisory bodies were also established, for architecture and environment, which advise municipalities when they have to make decisions, and which include local experts in these fields.

Our hosts were certainly sincere enough to tell us that not all households are organised so well as those that we visited. Also, they told us about their biggest problems. One is certainly support to young farmers to obtain house and land because real estate prices are too high for young people, how to further develop and expand the town, and keep the existing harmony with nature, how to establish even better links between municipalities in joint activities since each municipality maintains its rights on special tourism organisations. From Serbian perspective, we would say that is sweet trouble. However, local people understood that it does not pay off to leave a significant number of houses as cold homes, as they call them here, i.e. those that are only used for tourist visits during the winter. For that reason that established a subsidy fund for young farmers who want to buy houses in order to live in this region.

In the end, we can mention the most important messages from this event, those that will remain the leitmotifs for our future activities. Development of a territory requires time, and therefore we should start as soon as possible, right now! Nobody can help us if we do not organise ourselves first and recognise what is the foundation on which we want to develop the community. Development is possible only if it is based on partnership of lo-

cal, regional and national actors, and in order to establish partnership, for a start, all parties have to be ready to listen to each other. For rural development it is especially important to be in harmony with natural environment, which is why a good strategic plan should be made about the comparative advantages that should be invested into and unique local characteristics that should be insisted on, until they become the momentum for development and a clearly recognise brand. Also, trainings and promotion of the best examples should be used to create a cohesive element out of the mountainous environment and difficult living conditions in villages, that will lead to the creation of trust, exchange of experiences and cooperatives. ■



*Slobodan Ocokoljić and Vesela Ćurković, PhD are researchers of the Institute for Territorial Economic Development - InTER.*

# Challenges in the EU accession process in the field of environmental protection

## “CHAPTER 27” on the local level in Serbia

### EXPLANATORY SCREENING MEETING WITH SERBIA 15 - 19 September 2014

Author: Snežana Lakić, Member of the Working Group of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities for CH 27 Municipality of Žitište

Policy of the European Union aims at promoting sustainable development and environmental protection for today's and future generations. It is based on preventive action, the principle “polluter pays”, fight against ecological damage on the source, joint responsibility and integration of environmental protection in other policies of the European Union. Legislation contains more the 200 important legal documents that include horizontal legislation, quality of water and air, waste management, protection of nature, control of industrial pollution and risk management, chemicals and genetically modified organisms (GMO), noise, forestry and climate changes.

Respect of legal heritage requires significant investments.

Strong and well equipped administration on the national and local level is an imperative for enforcement and implementation of legislation in the field of environmental protection.



The EU Acquis regulating environment imposes the obligation to implement a large number of reforms, to establish adequate administrative structures and make significant financial investments in order to reach the EU standards in this field. It is necessary to identify legislation in this field, to assess the current situation, define shortcomings, in order to better plan and prioritise the necessary measures and activities.

European Union formulated a long-term strategy for environmental protection policy for economic, social and ecological sustainable development, their goal is to have sustainable improvement of prosperity and living standard for today's and future generations.

On 25 June 2013, the Council recommended, and on 28 June 2013 the European Council accepted the recommendation and made a decision to open accession negotiations with Serbia.

Based on those decisions, European Commission started with the development of:

- Negotiating Framework for negotiations with Serbia, and at the same time
- The procedure for analytical review of legislation, i.e. screening.

Negotiating Framework is a document of the Council, containing principles, topics for negotiations, procedures for negotiations, and it is a platform of the EU for accession negotiations with Serbia.

In the first stage of the screening process, called explanatory, European Commission presents the EU Acquis divided in negotiation chapters (explanatory screening). In the next stage, bilateral screening, the candidate country presents its own estimation of the level of harmonisation of the national legislation with the EU Acquis presented by the European Commission at the explanatory screening, and it gives indicative plans for further harmonisation, to the full membership (bilateral screening).”

The Serbian delegation was headed by the Head of the Negotiating Group, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection – mr Stana Božović, together with the Head of the Negotiating Team Dr Tanja Mišćević. The delegation consisted of colleagues from the relevant sectors who report for their fields (directives) and representatives of the Ministry who directly work on harmonisation with the EU Acquis in the field of environmental protection, as well as representatives of the Serbian European Integration Office.

SKGO/Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Serbian union of towns and municipalities, started with presentation of the basic elements in the negotiation process and the importance of the role of local self-governments in that process in towns and municipalities in Serbia, together with the topic of utilisation of EU funds and regulations. As a result of activities in advocacy and preparation of the mentioned documents, SKGO is involved in several negotiating groups, including the Chapter 27 (environment). It is planned to prepare the analyses in the following period in several fields immanent to negotiating chapters of interest for local self-governments, to establish mechanisms for participation and functioning of SKGO in negotiations, as well as to include SKGO in other negotiating groups. It is also planned to improve cooperation with the national authorities and institutions, bodies and organisations on the EU level, important for local self-governments. Within the working group formed by SKGO as a partner organisation (formal appointment of representatives in the work of NG 27, regular participation in the work of NG 27) as well as several working meetings with participation of local self-governments and cooperation with the relevant Ministry, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, possibilities for direct questions to be asked through our representatives, in a direct contact and live transmission, the participation of local self-governments became a direct participation.



On 15 September, an explanatory screening was started in Brussels for Chapter 27, during which the following was considered: areas of horizontal legislation, quality of air, noise protection, waste management, nature protection, chemicals, industrial pollution control and risk management, and climate changes.

This explanatory screening made it possible to obtain additional information and guidelines that will not only help to make a more adequate preparation for negotiations, but primarily to improve the process of harmonisation with the EU Acquis in this field.

Chapter 27 is one of the most difficult, most complex, most demanding, most expensive chapters in the EU accession process, and it is not only a problem in Serbia, it was a problem in all countries that joined the EU, and it is a problem in our case because a third of all laws and responsibilities that we have is contained in that chapter. After this first explanatory screening we will receive the estimations for where is the position of Serbia in the field of environmental protection and which are the obligations, where did we harmonise with the EU Acquis, etc.

Complete harmonisation of Serbia with the European Union in the field of environmental protection, one of the most demanding fields in the negotiations for EU membership, is expected until 2030, and the costs for that are estimated at 10.6 billion Eur. In that document that was adopted in 2011, an assumption is given that the first year of Serbian membership in the EU will be 2019.

Table 14. Total administrative costs for the period 2011-2030

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	million EUR
WATER	146
WASTE	171
INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION AND NOISE	93
NATURE PROTECTION	10
AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGES	93
CHEMICALS AND GMO	23
HORIZONTAL	-
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATION</b>	<b>536</b>

At the Explanatory Screening, it was said that it is necessary to invest significant additional efforts in order to achieve additional harmonisation with the EU policies in the fields like water, waste management, air quality and nature protection. Enforcement of the existing regulations should be improved. It was underlined that it is necessary to improve inspections and enforcement of laws, as well as public participation in decision making.

Some of the fields where progress will be needed include monitoring of water quality, definition of responsibilities in order to enable investments in reduced pollution, removal of bad landfills, establishment of the system for waste separation and recycling so that the landfills become the last choice for waste.

It is emphasized that in terms of climate changes, Serbia still does not have a comprehensive policy and strategy. Sectoral approach – follows the structure of *acquis* (Chapter 27):

- Sector for horizontal legislation
- Sector for air protection
- Sector for waste management
- Sector for water quality
- Sector for nature protection
- Sector for industrial pollution control
- Sector for chemicals management
- Sector for noise protection
- Sector for climate changes
- Sector for civil protection
- Forestry sector
- GMO sector

Direct participation of local self-governments in the process of preparing the national position is reflected in the following:

Strategic development goals of local self-governments are defined based on the needs and real possibilities of all actors in the local community in accordance with the regional and national strategic goals and necessarily in line with strategic goals on the EU level. Certain sectors require a direct involvement of the representatives of local self-government in the preparation of information (e.g. air quality, Directive on Air Quality – agglomerations Belgrade, Bor, Novi Sad, Pancevo).

More focused working groups – formal involvement of representatives of local self-governments, in accordance with the requirements for the implementation of legislation.

It is of great importance for local self-governments to understand the significance of accession negotiations and that, having in mind their capacity, they are involved in the negotiation process in the most efficient and effective way. For local self-governments it is important that at this moment they understand all advantages/disadvantages of not being involved in the negotiation process.

Indirect participation of local self-governments in the process of preparation of the national position is provided through the existing reporting systems:

Reporting about the situation regarding environment (Agency for Environmental Protection), statistical data – based on the data from local self-governments (e.g. percentage of coverage of population with the collection of communal waste). Delegated and transferred responsibilities (e.g. stage of implementation of EIA Directive).

Zašto sve ovo? I koji su ciljevi politike zaštite životne sredine EU?

The goal of EU policy is to achieve a high level of protection by realising the following priorities: preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of environment; protection of people's health; responsible and rational use of natural resources and promotion of the measures on the international level that contribute to the solution of regional or global environmental problems, and especially fight against climate changes.

The logo for Impact Hub Belgrade features the words "IMPACT HUB" in a white, hand-drawn, sketchy font on a dark red rectangular background. To the right of this background, the word "Belgrade" is written in a large, grey, textured font, and below it, the website address "belgrade.impacthub.net" is written in a smaller, clean, grey font.

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## WHERE CHANGE GOES TO WORK

Impact Hub is opening in Belgrade! As a part of the global network [www.impacthub.net](http://www.impacthub.net), founded in London in 2005, Impact Hub gathers a community of more than 9,000 entrepreneurs in 70+ cities around the world. In the space of 550m2 in a Big Hall of the former Palace of Cooperatives in Makedonska Street, Impact Hub is the new centre of the community of business ideas and social entrepreneurship, laboratory of knowledge, incubator of ideas, innovation and inspiration. Positive social changes are connected and encouraged in Impact Hub Belgrade!

## NOVI NAČIN POSLOVANJA

Inspirational environment and flexible workspace are preconditions for modern business in the 21st century, which affects the success of small enterprises and higher employability, especially among young people. More than just a joint workspace (co-working), Impact Hub offers an ecosystem of resources and practice where support programmes for entrepreneurship development are created and implemented. In 2012, more than 400 new start-ups were established in Impact Hub around the world, and this number increased to as much as 750 in the last year. Impact Hub Belgrade is the right place for: start-up businesses, consultants, designers, entrepreneurs, philanthropists and investors, creators of change... all those sharing the same goal – IMPACT.

## LET'S TALK BUSINESS

*There are four sets of services in Impact Hub Belgrade – based on different needs of individuals and teams. From the basic package for Connectors to the unlimited access for those who do not have limits in entrepreneurship, Impact Hub Belgrade makes it possible for you to realize the business idea and connect with the rest of the world. Visit Impact Hub in Belgrade because it offers:*

- *Inspirational working environment*
- *A place for business meetings, education, presentation*
- *Programmes for successful entrepreneurship*
- *Flexible approach in the use of a work desk or an office*
- *Hosting for the members of the Impact Hub community*
- *Global platform HubNET with more than 9,000 members*

## WHY

Impact Hub is an environment different from usual spaces. In downtown Belgrade you get an opportunity for successful business and access to common resources of the largest world network of business ideas and impact entrepreneurship. Innovation and entrepreneurship are necessary in overcoming challenges we face in every day's society and economy. Impact Hub is an inspirational place for individuals and teams where the community of entrepreneurs, creative people of different professions and experiences want to make their business successful, in a joint environment, as responsible and successful businesses with a broader significance

- *Become a part of one of the largest networks of the community of impact entrepreneurship*
- *Get connected with different professions, share your knowledge and practice*
- *Participate in the creation of positive changes in the society*
- *Turn your impact idea into a real change...*

e-VISIT IMPACT HUB @ <http://belgrade.impacthub.net>

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## 2nd International Youth Summer Camp "Rezala 2014"



Within the project "OUTDOOR In - Zubin Potok Tourism Development", funded by the European Union, The 2nd International Youth Summer Camp "Rezala 2014" was organised between 25 July and 1 August in the village Rezala in the beautiful Gazivode Lake. The camp gathers more than 30 young people from almost every part of the ex-Yugoslavia. During the summer camp, actions were organised in the arrangement of the environment and cleaning of the lake. The participants also had an opportunity to participate in the hiking tour to Berima on the Mokra Gora mountain. ■

## Fishing competition

On Saturday, 9 August, Outdoor In project and the Fish Protection Service Zubin Potok organised the 2nd regional fishing competition (float fishing). The competition gathered sports fishermen from Raška, Kosovska Mitrovica, Zvečan and Zubin Potok, who, in ideal weather conditions, achieved results behind the organisers' and participants' expectations. ■



## Extreme sports trainings



During August, Outdoor In and Life Saving Club "Wolf" from Foča organised extreme sports trainings. Trainings for free/sports climbing, rafting, paragliding, diving, kayaking and first aid were successfully finished by more than 40 participants. ■

## Installation of the artificial rock and an outdoor gym

Within the project Outdoor In, an artificial wall was installed in the Sports Hall in Zubin Potok where tourism service providers and rescue services will be trained. At the same time, a free climbing club is been established. In front of the Sports Hall an outdoor gym was also built thanks to the funds from Outdoor In. ■



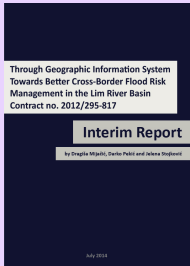
## Adventure race



On Saturday, 11 October, Outdoor In and Sports Club Alti organised an adventure race: Gazivode Lake - Mokra Gora. The race gathered around 100 competitors and amateurs who passed the trail of 25km and an altitude difference of more than 1000m. Competitors included the members of mountaineering clubs: PD Berim - Zubin Potok, PD Kopaonik - Leposavić, PD Zmaj - Zvečan, PEK Gora - Kragujevac, PSD Ćira - Lajkovac, PD Žeželj - Kragujevac, PD Kopaonik - Beograd, as well as representatives of the Embassy of Finland, GLZ, SwissContact, ECMI and other international organisations active in Kosovo. ■



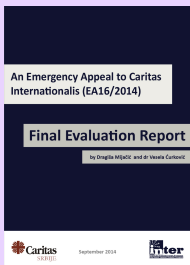
## Evaluation of the project: "Through Geographic Information System towards Better Cross-Border Flood Risk Management in the Lim River Basin"



In cooperation with CEED consulting Ltd from Podgorica, InTER is implementing evaluation of the project "Through Geographic Information System towards Better Cross-Border Flood Risk Management in the Lim River Basin" jointly implemented by the Water Management Company of Montenegro and and Srbijavode, and funded from the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Serbia - Montenegro. In July, a mid-term evaluation was prepared, and the fubal evaluation was planned for after the finalisation of the project, in October 2014.

Evaluation was implemented by Dragiša Mijačić as the Team Leader, and researchers of CEED Consulting Ltd Darko Pekić and Jelena Stojković.

## Evaluation of the project An Emergency Appeal to Caritas Internationalis



Caritas Serbia hired InTER do implement the evaluation of the project An Emergency Appeal to Caritas Internationalis (16/2014) implemented by Caritas Serbia and Caritas Archdiocese of Belgrade. The projecty lasted between 16 May and July 31, 2014. Evaluation was implemented by Dragiša Mijačić and Vesela Ćurković, PhD.



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