

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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### EDITOR

Rural Development Network of  
Republic of Macedonia  
[www.ruralnet.mk](http://www.ruralnet.mk)  
email: [info@ruralnet.mk](mailto:info@ruralnet.mk)

"Orce Nikolov"

188-1/8 1000 Skopje  
R. Macedonia  
T: +389 (2) 3075 506  
F: +389 (2) 3075 503



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## RAISING AWARENESS OF THE CHALLENGES AND EFFECTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE

Climate changes which manifest through long dry periods, reduced rains and constantly increasing temperatures on monthly and annual basis, have particularly harmful impact in agriculture.

During June 2012, the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia within the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project organized 4 workshops for raising public awareness of the challenges and the effects from climate change. The workshops were organized in 4 locations pertaining within the project activity area in particular in Negotino on June 12th, Kumanovo on June 15th, Bogdanci on June 19th and Strumica on June 21st. The events gathered farmers from the regions, representatives from the Local Government and advisors from the National Extension Agency (NEA).



The Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project is focused on the Mediterranean zone, including the Vardar region with parts of Strumica and Gevgelija, as this is the Macedonian region most affected by climate change. The project started to work with family farms that market most of their output as well as semi-subsistence farmers. The first project component includes testing of adaptive agricultural techniques aiming to find solutions for the negative impacts of climate changes. All the learned practices can be further applied by the farmers. Also, the tested techniques in the first component will be developed in advisory packages which will be distributed to the target groups through series of workshops and other media. ●







## INSTALLING UV PROTECTION

Installation of UV protection nets as one of the main climate change adaptive technologies that are tested and demonstrated on vegetables, orchards and vineyards within the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project, has a role of protecting the crops from sunburn and hail. During June, UV protection nets were installed on two demonstration trials:

In vegetables, UV protection nets were installed on plastic tunnels with tomatoes in v.Pcinja, near Kumanovo.



While in orchards, the UV protection nets were installed on pear orchard in v. Mlado Nagorichane, Kumanovo.



The USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture, implemented by the Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia, is going to test and monitor many techniques to find out what works best under certain conditions so that lessons learned can be replicated in more communities throughout the targeted regions, thereby helping to minimize some of the expected adverse climate change impacts on crops. ●





## JOURNALISTS WORKSHOP

The two-day workshop for journalists organized on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Popova Kula winery, Demir Kapija by the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia, has passed in a pleasant atmosphere.

Journalists, participating in the workshop, were introduced with the objectives and activities of the Rural Development Network which is an implementer of the Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project financed by the American Agency for International Development – USAID.



The participants followed with great interest the presentations by Petar Gjorgievski, President of RDN of RM and Vesela Lambevsk

Domazetova, President of RDN's Management Board. They were familiarized with expert's forecasts about the climate change effects on the agricultural crops, in the next hundred years. Also the current and planned activities within the Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project were presented to the participants.

The presentation of the adaptive practices which will be tested on the vegetables, orchards and vineyards as part of the first project's component particularly attracted participants' attention. Journalists showed interest about the project's activities related to establishment of demonstration trials already installed in 8 different locations in the Mediterranean zone being a project targeted location.

„Farmers from Kumanovo, Negotino, Bogdanci and Strumica region will get practical training on how to implement the well known techniques for climate change adaptation in agriculture, such as installing UV protection nets, pruning techniques, cover crops and measures for erosive fields protection. The Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project is financed by USAID and in the next three years it will be implemented by the Rural Development Network. The measures will be implemented in an orchard with pears in Mlado Nagorichane, in plastic tunnel with tomatoes in Pchinja, in an orchard with peaches, apricots and plums in Vinichani, in vineyards in Negotino and Bogdanci and in a pepper field in Strumica” - wrote for Dnevnik, Sonja Hristovska.

During the workshop many information were exchanged from the previous field work experiences and discussions with farmers on climate change issues they are facing with. The meeting represents a beginning of a further mutual cooperation for raising public awareness of the challenges and the effects from climate change and the need for adaptation in Macedonian agricultural sector. ●





## Conference:

### “THE ROLE OF CIVIL SECTOR IN WEST BALKAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT”

06.06.2012 Nikshic, Montenegro

Representatives of Ministry for sustainable development and tourism and the Ministry for agriculture and rural development of Montenegro, as well as representatives from the Standing Working Group and other international organizations, participated in the conference “The role of civil sector in West Balkan rural development”, where the Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia was also invited. The event gathered representatives from rural development networks of West Balkan countries as well, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Albania.

The establishment of Rural Development Network of Montenegro was officially promoted at the conference.

The Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia had an opportunity to present its work and to share positive practices from the simulation based on the LEADER methodology. During panel discussions, the participants shared many useful information and experiences and discussed on various issues arising from their work.

From the many positive comments by colleagues from the other coun-

tries, the general impression was that the Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia so far is a leader in initiatives and changes in rural development area in the region. ●







## ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP FOR ROMA WOMEN



The Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia in June 13th and 14th in Pehchevo organized a two-day entrepreneurship workshop for Roma women from this region. The workshop which aimed to build the entrepreneurship capacities of the Roma women in Pehchevo region, gathered 30 Roma women from the rural areas nearby Pehchevo.

The workshop was organized within the local measure "Building entrepreneurship capacities of Roma and raising the opportunities for self-employment".

This local priority measure is implemented by Pehchevo municipality as a part of the "Support for implementation of Roma's strategy" project, which general objective is to strengthen the institutional capacities of the coordinating structures for implementation of the National Strategy for Roma and the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, in order to contribute towards improving the situation of Roma in the country. ●







## “CHERRY FESTIVAL” IN KJUSTENDIL – BULGARIA

### Women's economic empowerment in rural areas

In June 2012 Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia supported its members, (women organizations from the Eastern part of Macedonia) to participate at the “Cherry Festival” in Kjustendil – Bulgaria. The member organizations deal with production of traditional crafts typical from this part of the country. The aim of the visit was to establish contacts, exchange experiences and seek opportunities for mutual cooperation with similar organizations in the neighboring region in Bulgaria. Besides promotion of cherry as a main fruit at the festival another focus was a competitive exhibition, which involves community centers, NGOs, schools and kindergartens from Kjustendil region. Also the members of RDN that participated at the “Cherry Festival” were able to sell many of their products. ●







## ETHNO FAIR – Pehchevski Pavlovden - 2012

The traditional event “Pehchevski Pavlovden” was held again this year in Pehchevo during the week from July 9th till July 15th.

The town pulsed with the rhythm of trumpets and ethno music throughout the whole week. Year after year the event enriches the program and attracts more guests and tourists. With so many people dressed in traditional folk costumes, walking down the streets and the square in Pehchevo, the town left an impression of going a hundred years back in time.

During the day many folk and ethno groups from Macedonia and its neighbor countries had their performance and during the night was the Festival of Brass Orchestra. By tradition, the Ethno Fair was organized, where gastronomic specialties and handcrafts from Maleshevo region were presented. On the Sunday program was the traditional “Spikijada”. On Friday the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia used this opportunity for its own promotion. ●







## PROMOTION OF "KRUSHEVO'S COOKBOOK"

A promotional event for "Krushevo's Cookbook" was organized within the manifestation "Ethno-town Krushevo", on July 26th at 08:00 PM at the House of culture "Naum Naumovski-Borche" in Krushevo. Members of the women organization "Cvet" successfully gathered in one place, all the traditional recipes, typical for this town. They prepared "Krushevo's Cookbook" with support from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia through the program CIVICA Mobilitas –implemented by CIRa and financially supported by SDC. This endeavour of the women from this organization is one of many with aim to preserve and promote cultural heritage and tradition of Krushevo. The visitors of the event, among them a number of domestic and foreign tourists, were amazed by the delicious recipes prepared by the diligent women, members of the organization "Cvet". The attendants from Krushevo added a special, warm tone to the event, shining in bright mood, dressed in traditional garments which were characteristic for this town a hundred years ago. Three traditional dances were skillfully performed by several young women from Krushevo, previously trained by members of "Cvet". The Mayor of Krushevo closed the event by expressing his great pleasure and joy for such initiatives which are promoting and preserving the town's tradition and wished the organization a further success. ●







## **SIGNING MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH RED CROSS**

**T**he Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia and the Red Cross of Republic of Macedonia have signed a Memorandum of cooperation on August 16th.

The two organizations agreed to provide mutual cooperation, coordination actions for the implementation of programs in several areas, internal support and cooperation with other institutions and organizations and also they engaged to implement certain joint initiatives.

As one of the specific objectives of the cooperation is adaptation to climate change in rural areas, where the Memorandum outlines the main directions for joint collaboration between the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project, implemented by the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia and the Climate Response Network, established within

the EU regional IPA project "South East European Forum for adaptation to climate change", in Macedonia implemented by the Red Cross.

By the agreed cooperation in this area, the two organizations are expected to jointly promote knowledge about the effects of climate change in the area of agricultural production; exchange information about activities, practice and research; present opportunities for finding applicable solutions in dealing the main problems in agriculture caused by climate change; as well as raise public awareness of the effects of climate change in the agricultural sector and their impact on farmers' health.

The President of the Rural Development Network of RM, Mr. Petar Gjorgievski and the General Secretary of the Red Cross of Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Sait Saiti, closed the event expressing their hope for long-term, successful cooperation in achieving common goals. ●





## CELEBRATING THE WEED MANIFESTATION

The sixth edition of the multimedia manifestation **CELEBRATING THE WEED** held on August 27th and 28th in v. Sloeshtica, again this year attracted many visitors with its unique content.

The event was organized by **ART POINT – GUMNO**, which is a member organization of Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia and the organization **ENOH**. Besides the traditional speech at the grave of Petre M. Andreevski held by the writer and publicist Cvetan Vrazhivirski, the visitors were also offered a rich program of premieres.

A presentation of the ethnological – anthropological study “Sin and punishment” in Macedonian tradition by Jelena Cvetanovska, an exhibition of paintings from this year’s art workshop of **ART POINT – GUMNO** and a collection of traditional medicines used by the inhabitants of Demir Hisar villages, was given at the event. The program was enriched by a presentation of autobiographical childhood memories “The child in me” by Ljube Cvetanovski and a presentation of the documentary “Pearl from the sky” by Goce Dimovski.

At the event, the documentary “Tutunarkata” by the author Garvanlieva who won a prize for a best documentary in Geraamy 2010, was also promoted.



The whole event was spiced with the appearance of guests from Vevchani who paraded through the village with masks.

The project is supported by the Ministry of culture of Republic of Macedonia and the mayors of the Municipalities of Demir Hisar, Bitola and Vevchani. ●