

RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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METEOROLOGICAL STATION FOR BETTER ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE

Rural Development Network (RDN) and M6 signed a Memorandum of Understanding for installation of a meteorological station on location "Lepovo", in Negotino, owned by M6. With this agreement, M6 will allow the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project to use space at the winery free of charge, while M6 will have access to the information gathered by the meteorological station and will be able to use the data for its own needs and share them with local community producers to help in agricultural production improvement. "Sharing the data with grape grow-

ers from the region will contribute to strengthening the wine sector's capacities and we hope this will initiate further cooperation among them," said Robert Wuertz, USAID Mission Director in Macedonia. "It is important to emphasize that the weather information we collect will help farmers make decisions and improve their farming activities. This will improve their ability to adapt to the changing climate and thereby preserve or even improve their livelihoods".

"Climate change, very rapidly change the conditions in agriculture and other related areas and there-

fore we are happy to be involved in this project. Thus we complement our defined socially responsible position in helping the sector and assisting in its successful adapting to challenges of climate change in Macedonia, whose consequences are already emerging", said Svetozar Janevski from the investment group M6, after signing the Memorandum. He emphasized that this opens the door to even broader cooperation with the project, implemented by the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia. Installation of this meteorological station will help the project monitor weather conditions, which is necessary for determining and testing different climate change adaptation techniques in agriculture. By working with local farmers throughout the project's targeted regions, RDN will ensure that these techniques are further replicated, adjusted and scaled up in more communities.



PROJECT ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VINICA



Project on Energy efficiency in the Municipality of Vinica is implemented in the period from May 2012 until April 2013. Project activities are implemented by "Association of women farmers Agro-Vinka" from Vinica in partnership with Municipality of Vinica and kindergarten "Goce Delcev" from Vinica. The total amount of the project is \$ 49,530, of which half are provided by the Small Grants Programme (SGP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the other half is contribution of the Municipality of Vinica, kindergarten "Goce Delcev" Vinica and Association of women farmers Agro-Vinka from Vinica. General project objective is climate change mitigation by utilization of biodiesel and energy efficiency i.e.

reconstruction in both kindergartens "Goce Delcev" in Vinica by:

- replacement of exterior wooden windows and doors with five chamber PVC profile,
- intervention on attic opening (previously provided for ventilation)
- intervention on electric lighting in the two buildings (replacing ordinary filament lamps with fluorescent tubes and fluorescent compact lamps)

Specific objectives are: reduced emission of (CO₂), application of energy efficiency measures and techniques, better sound isolation, using energy efficient light bulbs, utilization of renewable energy source - biodiesel fuel and environment protection.

In accordance with the work plan, part of the planned activities is already implemented:

Strengthening capacity of "Agro-Vinka" association's members workshop entitled **"Companies' organization and structure"**

Conducting three practical trainings (workshops):

- Presentation on processing biodiesel from collected vegetable oil waste
- Methods and techniques for energy-efficient buildings in Vinica
- Presentation on climate change

A panel discussion was held in kindergarten Goce Delcev in Vinica on 28.12.2012 on theme: Fighting climate change through implementation energy efficiency in households.





Initial specific results are expected to be achieved one year after introduction of energy efficient isolation of the buildings. Electricity bills before and after buildings' isolation and spent fuel (petroleum, firewood, etc.) will be the most relevant comparative parameters. Detailed data on the effects of reducing energy costs in public buildings, as well as reducing carbon dioxide emissions from public buildings in the Municipality of Vinica will be received after one year. Project data and outcomes will be publicized and available to all interested parties.

• **Expected results:**

1. Around 15% of energy savings achieved by energy efficiency activities in the Municipality of Vinica



2. Reduced CO₂ emissions
3. Reduced finances for energy on local level
4. Raised environmental awareness among trained staff after utilization of energy efficiency techniques training for volunteers and staff working in institutions

You can get additional information about the project from project coordinator Olga Stoimenova, by phone **078/390-153, 071/263-628** or e-mail: **agrovinka@yahoo.co.uk** or **ostoimenova@mail.net.mk**

More information about the SGP can be found on **www.gefsgpmacedonia.org.mk** and **http://sgp.undp.org**



CELEBRATED THE INTERNATIONAL RURAL WOMEN'S DAY



Rural Women's Day" celebrated on October 15th worldwide, organized an event at Etno Selo complex in the municipality of Staro Nagoricane (Kumanovo), to jointly contribute to the greater integration of women in social and political life. Different types of traditional food were prepared by the large number of women coming from different rural areas in Macedonia, participating in the event. Ten of these women participated in the best prepared pepper recipe contest, organized within the event.

Farmers Federation in the Republic of Macedonia - FFRM, together with Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia - RDN and Center for promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and rural development – CeProSARD within the "International

This year's message for all rural women around the World was: "Find your place in mitigation and adaptation to climate change!"





THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, DECEMBER 3rd CELEBRATED

The civil society organization of people with disabilities "Humanost" from Kumanovo, marked December 3rd the International day of people with disabilities by organizing an event on Saturday, December 1st, in Kumanovo.

Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia supported and helped in organizing the event. The Network also presented the organization's objectives and activities in front of the people with disabilities from rural areas, who attended the event. More than 20 children with disabilities from the NGO "Poraka nasha" and the "Center

of children with disabilities" from Kumanovo, were drawing and creating jewelry from beads. The Rural Development Network prepared a small present for all the participants.

The program was enriched with folk songs performed by the women singer group within the Association of retired people with disabilities and Cultural Artistic Group from Kumanovo. At the end, the civil society organization of people with disabilities "Humanost" gave handmade acknowledgements to its partners as a gratitude for their support and cooperation.





"BALKAN RUG" FESTIVAL

"Balkan rug" festival was held in the period from September 28th till September 30th 2012, in v. Shishkovci, Municipality of Kjustendil, Republic of Bulgaria. The three-day event was enriched with cultural-art program with traditional songs and dances typical for Macedonia, Bulgaria and Serbia. The festival of Balkan rug,

folklore and crafts, gathered all traditional colors of Balkan people in one colorful rug, woven of mutual thoughts and interests and released from the carriage of the Balkan history. Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia together with its member organizations attended the event promoting the Macedonian culture and tradition.





SWEDISH RURAL PARLIAMENT



The twelfth Swedish Rural Parliament was held in the period from September 6th until September 9th 2012, in Ronneby, small town in the Swedish region Blekinge. The event gathered over 500 participants from Sweden, LAG members

and international guests – representatives of more than 20 European countries. After a previous invitation from the Swedish Rural Development Network, representatives of the Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia attended the event. The Parliament was officially opened by the Minister of Sweden Gender Equality, Mrs. Niamko Sabuni and the presidents of the Swedish Rural Development Network „All of Sweden shall Live“, Mrs. Inez Abrahamson and Mr. Kenet Nilshem.

At the gathering, the participants had an opportunity to share their ideas, thoughts and views and ask questions as well. They highlighted the importance of this event for the inclusion of social sector and rural development movement into state policies and rural development strategies. Particularly important was the participation of youth in debates about youth's role in rural areas' future as well as their contribution in organizing the event.





CZECH NATIONAL CONFERENCE "RURAL SPACE 2012"



This year's Czech National Conference was organized in the period from October 1st until October 3rd, in a small town just a few kilometers from the Czech-Austrian border.

The National Conference "Rural space 2012" was held at the time when one programming period is ending and the other is just being prepared, in an area where two different worlds meet, at a time when the differences between towns and rural areas are blurred to the extent that there are problems to

define what's rural. 280 representatives from the Local Action Groups in Czech Republic, Czech ministries, NGOs and business sector's representatives, discussed the problems of all 160 LAGs established on the basis of the LEADER approach and tried to find original way to sustainability.

Two representatives of the Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia, one representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, representative from one Macedonian consulting



company and Delchevo Municipality Mayor's counselor, attended the conference. During the conference they had a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture of Czech Republic and representatives from a couple of LAGs. Many experiences within the LEADER approach, its implementation in Czech Republic, as well as the work of the LAGs and their opportunities for a mutual and an international cooperation, were shared at the meeting. The meeting resulted in pre-arranging a future gathering, this time in the Republic of Macedonia; open opportunities for further cooperation and support offered by Czech representatives for the implementation of the LEADER approach at the national level in Macedonia.

