

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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## 1 MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY OF PEHCEVO



The Municipality of Pehcevo is one of the four selected municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia where climate change strategy will be prepared within USAID Municipal Climate Change Strategies Project, implemented by Milieukontakt Macedonia. On local level, this process was initiated by the partnership between the Center for medicinal herbs and forest fruits "Ambrosia" and the Municipality of Pehcevo. The strategy development

will actively involve all stakeholders at local level. "Green agenda" methodology, developed by Milieukontakt International will be used in the climate change strategy preparation. So far, it is implemented in more than 40 municipalities from Eastern and Central Europe on topics related to environment and cultural heritage protection. "Green Agenda" methodology is a participatory and democratic method for development and implementation of local strategies

and plans for sustainable development with active involvement of different local community sectors where the process is carried out.

Compared to other processes that have similar goals this process is unique and special from three aspects: 1. The process begins with identifying local values instead of problems; 2. Process participation is not limited to certain experts and stakeholders, but it is a comprehensive process, open to all; 3. The process itself is a result.

The first public meeting for climate change local strategy development was held on June 13th 2013 in the Municipality of Pehcevo where interested people were introduced to project goals and expectations. Four working groups were formed at the meeting in order to work on a set of values (forests, water resources, agriculture and rural development and energy efficiency) on the basis of which the strategy will be prepared.





## CeProSARD EVENTS

### Official Opening of the Training Center for RES and EE by CeProSARD



An official opening event of the Training Center for conducting trainings on renewable energy sources utilization and improving energy efficiency was organized by CeProSARD within the Agro-Energy project activities. The project manager, Ms.

Gabriela Micevska opened the event. The Ambassador of Sweden in Macedonia and the Director of the Energy Agency of the Republic of Macedonia also gave their



speech. The Training Center was built on the principles of energy efficiency and has installed demonstrational equipment for renewable energy utilization such as photovoltaic panels, windmills for electricity production, and other additional equipment.



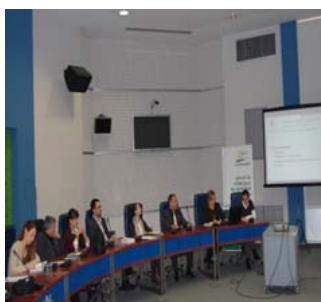
### Promotion of a "Study on Agricultural Land Utilization for Growing Energy Crops and the Effects on Food Security and Biodiversity Protection in RM"

On February 14th at Arka Hotel, a promotional event of a study on agricultural land utilization for growing energy crops and the effects on food security and biodiversity protection in Macedonia, was organized by CeProSARD in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). This event gathered representatives of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Committee on Transportation, Communications and Environment, and the Economics Committee, as well as governmental and non-governmental sector representatives. Apart from promotion of this publication, a presentation on energy crops cultivation in Macedonia was held by Dr. Josif Mitrikeski and Dr. Susana Kratovalieva who presented the growing energy crops impact on biodiversity.





### **Workshop on “Using Wool and Textile Waste”**



**O**n March 6th, at the Congress center of Skopje Fair, a workshop on “Technology for utilization of wool and textile waste as a natural isolating material” was organized by the Energy Agency of the Republic of Macedonia and CeProSARD. After the opening speech of Mr. Lazar Gechevski, the CeProSARD operation areas with special emphasis on environment were presented by Ms. Ljupka Gligorova while the brochure “Technology for utilization of wool and tex-



tile waste” issued by CeProSARD was presented by Ms. Svetlana Petrovska. This workshop was closed after active discussion with the participants, where many suggestions, ideas and question were, noted.

### **Closing Event of the Project Component “Strengthening Public-Private Dialogue through Effective Representation of Value Chains for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and Processed Vegetables”**



**O**n April 30th 2013, Tuesday, at 10:00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy a closing event of the project component “Strengthening public - private dialogue through effective representation of value chains for fresh fruit and vegetables and processed vegetables” was organized. The project was implemented by CeProSARD in partnership with MAFWE and representatives of producers and processors of fruits and vegetables as part of the AgBiz program funded by USAID.



## MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN MOVEMENT FOR MOLIKA REGION – DOM AND PUBLIC INSTITUTION NATIONAL PARK “PELISTER”



In May 2013, a Memorandum of cooperation between the environmental civil society organization Movement for Molika Region - DOM and the Public Institution National Park “Pelister” from Bitola, was signed.

For the purpose of mutual objectives realization, both parties agreed to take following actions:

1. Regular and constant exchange of relevant data and information in the field of environmental protection and sharing information for initiating certain actions of mutual interest and the interest of the local population;
2. Preparation and publication of scientific papers and findings upon request and needs of the other Memorandum signing party;
3. Encourage initiatives, activities, public discussions, round tables, lectures, exhibitions and public events to raise the awareness among local people about the importance of conservation and protection of natural resources and sustainable development of the National Park Pelister;
4. Research and development activities in the field of conservation and protection of land with natural vegetation, forests, river ecosystems and related activities;
5. Conduct joint environmental activities in the territory of the National Park Pelister;
6. Environmental education activities to raise public awareness especially with children and youth related to all the above issues;
7. Joint approach and cooperation with citizens and organizations on local and international level, to protect and improve the environment, nature and rural development.



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## LOBBYING AND PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROCESS OF PUBLIC POLICY MAKING IN THE REGION OF PELAGONIA - BUILDING DIALOGUE



Three two-day trainings for civil society from 9 municipalities in Pelagonia region were organized within the project "Lobbying and participation of civil society organizations in the process of public policy making in the region of Pelagonia - Building Dialogue". The project is funded by the European Union under the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, and is implemented by the PREDA Foundation in partnership with the Macedonian Scientific Society from Bitola.

The training aimed to familiarize participants with the concept of lobbying, the model for effective civil society organizations participation in decision-making, developing

strategies with examples of successful lobbying at local level, lobbying techniques, assessing the civil society organizations effectiveness according to EU standardized method, management lobbying, applying negotiation skills in the process of lobbying, lobbying and public relations of civil society organizations in the Pelagonia region, building dialogue between Municipalities' councilors and civil society organizations, etc.

CSOs believe that the experience gained would serve in the communities where they operate. "I learned a lot about advocacy and the ways in which we can lobby in our communities," said Aida Papic from Union of Women in Zitose, Dolneni.

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## FAIR VISITS ORGANIZED BY ASSOCIATION FOR NATURE PROTECTION FROM POLLUTION - PURE WATER HEALTHY FOOD

During the period from October 2012 until May 2013, the Association for Nature Protection from pollution "Pure water healthy food" from Debar organized visits of fairs in Bursa, Istanbul, Plovdiv and Novi Sad, for its members including farmers, dairy farmers and beekeepers. The members expressed

their satisfaction from these visits' organization, stressing the usefulness of the information obtained from these fairs, the equipment and materials obtained that will assist them in improving their agricultural activities and quality of production. Meanwhile, the Association has expanded the membership in Struga and Tetovo.





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## CLIMATE CHANGE CARAVAN "FLOOD, DRAUGHT, COLD, IT'S TIME TO SAVE MY YIELD"



Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia as implementer of USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project aims to develop and disseminate agricultural practices for adaptation to climate change and to raise the awareness of agricultural producers and general public about the effects of climate change in agriculture. There is very limited awareness about the challenges associated with the current and forthcoming climate change within the agricultural sector in Macedonia which results with inadequate public action. In best cases stakeholders have a vague understanding of the terms e.g. global warming, climate change, but not enough knowledge and experience how to cope with the prob-

lems aroused from this phenomena and how to adapt to the new situation.

Therefore the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project identified a need for a broad public awareness campaign which would inform and alert all stakeholders on the devastating effects of climate change. It should focus particularly on rural areas as population there, majority being in the agribusiness sector, is most directly affected by them.

In this direction, during May, the project started a campaign conceptualized around Climate Change Caravan with the slogan "FLOOD, DRAUGHT, COLD, IT'S TIME TO SAVE MY YIELD", aiming to reach directly to farmers, women and children from rural areas to raise their awareness about

the forthcoming climate change challenges and the necessity of joint - community level - responses. The Caravan will be organized twice this year, in spring and autumn. Six locations within rural areas were visited during May and June: v. Novo Selo - Strumica, v. Negorci - Gevgelija, Bogdanci, v. Rosoman, v. Timjanik - Negotino, v. Pcinja - Kumanovo. On May 9th, the Climate Change Caravan, organized by the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture (ACCA) project, started on its journey across Macedonia. With the event in Novo Selo village, which gathered a large number of residents in Strumica region, the Caravan started its journey through rural areas in Macedonia. Children from "Kliment Ohridski" school, among which there were children with disabilities, attracted attention with their interesting performance, sending alerting messages about the







urgency of undertaking actions for adaptation to climate change. The attendants had the opportunity for an interactive discussion with project experts about specific problems they are facing with during daily agricultural activities. They got some useful advices and recommendation from project experts.

Besides the target groups such as

civil society organizations, women and children from rural areas, the caravan will also gather representatives from USAID, Local Self-Government, National Extension Agency and the Working Units of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.

The spring Caravan's journey ended on June 5th with the event in vil-

lage of Pcinja, near Kumanovo. "The climate of Macedonia is becoming hotter and drier, and therefore more prone to extreme weather such as heat waves, droughts, floods, and hail. As farmers, you understand what this means better than anyone. You are experiencing this changing climate first hand," said U.S. Ambassador Paul D. Wohlers, who attended this event. "We want to reduce the negative effects of climate change on agriculture by developing and sharing affordable climate change adaptation techniques that are tailored to the needs of small farmers." USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project ongoing and planned activities were also presented with goal to convey the main achievements and outputs of the project itself and to deliver to the broader audience a simplified explanation on what is in fact climate change phenomenon, what are the possible impacts, how to mitigate and adapt in order to diminish its negative influence.







## 7 STUDY ON LIVESTOCK ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN MACEDONIA



**P**reparation of a "Study on livestock adaptation to climate change in Macedonia" was initiated by USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project. The overall aim of this study is to assess what action(s) are needed for producers and other actors of the value chain to adapt to climate change in the country. A visit by Dr. Mo Salman, Veterinary Epidemiology professor at Colorado State University, and Joyce Turk, Senior Livestock Advisor of USAID headquarters in Washington, D.C., was organized by the Rural Development Network (RDN) in conjunction with the USAID Macedonia Mission. The team members (Salman and Turk) conducted this mission from March 25 –March 29, 2013. The main purpose of this trip was to become more acquainted with the current livestock production in Macedonia and its perspective in light of the climate change challenge through 2025, and

specifically to gather information relevant to animal production systems, performance and practices, and metrological changes for the last 15 years.

During the visit, several components of the existing livestock sector in the country were observed which are mainly focused on parts that contribute to supplying the markets with animal products (meat, eggs, liquid milk, and cheeses) with limited observations of the animal products that are consumed by the rural families. Nevertheless, the trip was sufficient to derive a general impression about the livestock sectors in the country. The team members had the opportunity to discuss relevant issues and topics with producers, specialized academicians, government officers, and extension specialists. Various sets of data related to livestock population, production, and geographical distribution were explored. Available livestock population and metrological data were then analyzed with the aim to determine gaps in the existing data and information prior to producing a set of recommendations for assessing and adapting the livestock system to climate changes in the country. Stakeholders in the livestock production system should be part of addressing this important issue and identifying solutions. Thus, the engagement of the entire stakeholders in addressing the issue is an imperative step in this process.

Aiming to this, on May 28th 2013, in "Kontinental" hotel, in Skopje, the rural Development Network has organized a one day workshop that incorporated stakeholders' participatory analyses with the current situation and future direction.





## IPARD FORUM

**R**ural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy organized Forum on "New modifications in IPARD Program – better opportunities for European funds' utilization" within the campaign for promotion of the new IPARD Program's modifications. The aim of the forum was introduction of potential IPARD fund beneficiaries with IPARD Program's modifications, as an opportunity for better and more effective European fund utilization

related to rural development in Macedonia.

At the forum, IPARD Managing Authority representatives presented new IPARD program's modifications, program's aims, measures, application requirements and other useful information in this context.

The forum gathered around 60 representatives from RDN member organizations and people from rural areas interested about the program.



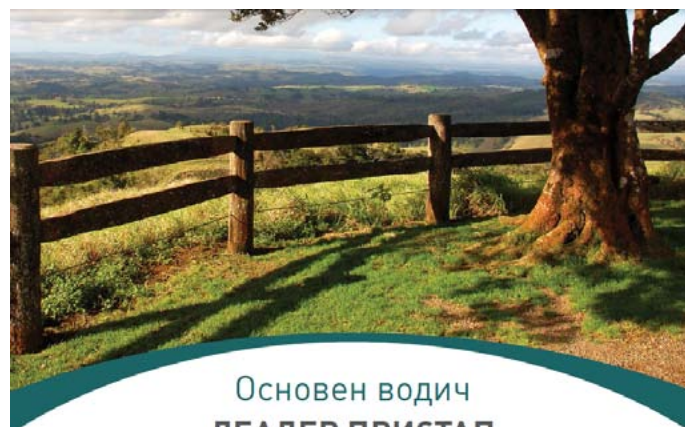




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## GUIDE ON LEADER APPROACH

**G**uide on LEADER approach produced and printed. Based on years of gained knowledge and hands-on experience in simulating the EU LEADER approach in 16 municipalities in Macedonia within the SIDA funded MAASP project and additional 5 municipalities through CIRa (CIVICA Mobilas program financed by Swiss donor SDC), RDN as a spin off organization continued to further promote LEADER approach principles. In line with this endeavor, during the reporting quarter, RDN worked on developing a brochure presenting the essence of LEADER principles. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, recognizing RDNs role in advancing such mechanism for rural development gave full endorsement to the activity by placing its logo on the document. This brochure will be distributed to diverse stakeholders with rural development agenda such as NEA representatives, local self-government and Local Economic Development offices in rural municipalities, ZELS (Association of the units of local self-government of Republic of Macedonia), Centers for Regional Development (CRDs), NGO sector, FFRM, farmers' associations, etc, and will serve as a reference



МРЕЖА ЗА РУРАЛЕН РАЗВОЈ НА РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗА ЗЕМЈОДЕЛСТВО, ШУМАРСТВО И ВОДОСТОПАНСТВО

document for proper LEADER principles introduction. This guide is expected to contribute in building capacities of relevant stakeholders (predominantly NGO sector) on the subject matter.

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## PREPARED RULEBOOKS FOR LEADER APPROACH



**R**ulebooks on LEADER announced in Official Gazette. RDN, as member of the Working group for LEADER approach programming within IPARD Program 2007-2013, participated in the preparation of two rulebooks on LEADER approach. The "Rulebook defining provisions for registration in LAG evidence book, registration procedure, needed documentation and system of record keeping" and "Rulebook on contents and methodology for development of local rural development strategies and means of their approval" were published in Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia number 40/13 on March 14, 2013 and can be officially enforced.



## LEADER EVENT - BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE FUTURE

On the 17-18 April 2013 the LEADER community gathered in Brussels for the third annual ENRD LEADER event. The event theme was 'Building Bridges for the Future' and the aim was to support the process of successful programming of CLLD (known as LEADER within EAFRD) at a national and local level. The event provided a unique platform for real-time exchange between all stakeholders involved in shaping and/or participating in the future of LEADER.

Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia representative participated in the event together with European representatives from Local Action Groups, Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, National Rural Networks, the ENRD Contact Point, the European Commission and other European organizations.

The participants had the opportunity to receive information and insight into practices that could instruct their process of consultation and programming at national, regional and local level for LEADER. They had also access to experiences and lessons learned, case studies and examples of processes, tools that can further be tailored to specific environments. This was a great opportunity to meet other rural development practitioners, European policy-makers and ENRD Contact Point representatives.







## "ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BALKAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK", 19 – 21 MAY 2013, ANDREVLJE, NOVI SAD, REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



The meeting for the establishment of the Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN) was held on the 20th of May 2013 in Andrevlje, Serbia during the International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad.

Representatives of existing Rural Development Networks (RDN) and initiatives in the Balkan region including Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia, discussed the draft Statute of the Balkan Rural

Development Network as main topic which was previously communicated amongst existing Rural Networks from the Balkan region.

The meeting was opened and moderated by Mr. Boban Ilic, SWG Secretary General.

After discussing issues such as: Justification of the need for the establishment of Balkan Rural Development Network and Presentation and discussion on the draft Statute for the Balkan Rural Development Net-

work, the participants signed a Declaration on networking, expressed their readiness to work together on improvement and strengthening the cooperation of the rural development networks in the Balkans and establishment of a platform for regular exchange of information, experience and knowledge, as well as joint initiation and implementation of multi-lateral project "Balkan Rural Development Network".

Conclusion: With the mandate given by the signatories i.e. Presidents of the founding NRDNs from Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, in the upcoming period (in the year and a half – until December 2014) SWG RRD and the SWG Secretariat based in Skopje, Macedonia will represent BRDN and will serve as an administrative and organizational hub of the Balkan Rural Development Network. In this period the logistical support will be provided by the SWG. After 2014, existing networks should take over the Presidency of the Balkan Rural Network.





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## PREPARE ORGANIZING GROUP MEETING

This year's PREPARE's Organizing Group meeting was held in Riga, Latvia on February 6th and 7th. A representative from Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia participated at the gathering together with representatives of PREPARE member organizations from 12 different countries. Current and future activities of PREPARE were discussed at the two-days meeting. The PREPARE Action plan for 2012 until 2014 was presented, as well as the PREPARE Book which was already prepared and is expected to be printed in May 2013 latest. Participants gave a brief introduction of the situation within rural development areas in their countries. They discussed the problems that their countries face with and shared ideas on possible solutions for specific situations. There were many initiatives about future cooperation between the PREPARE organizations in addition to expanding the cooperation with other networks and organizations.

