

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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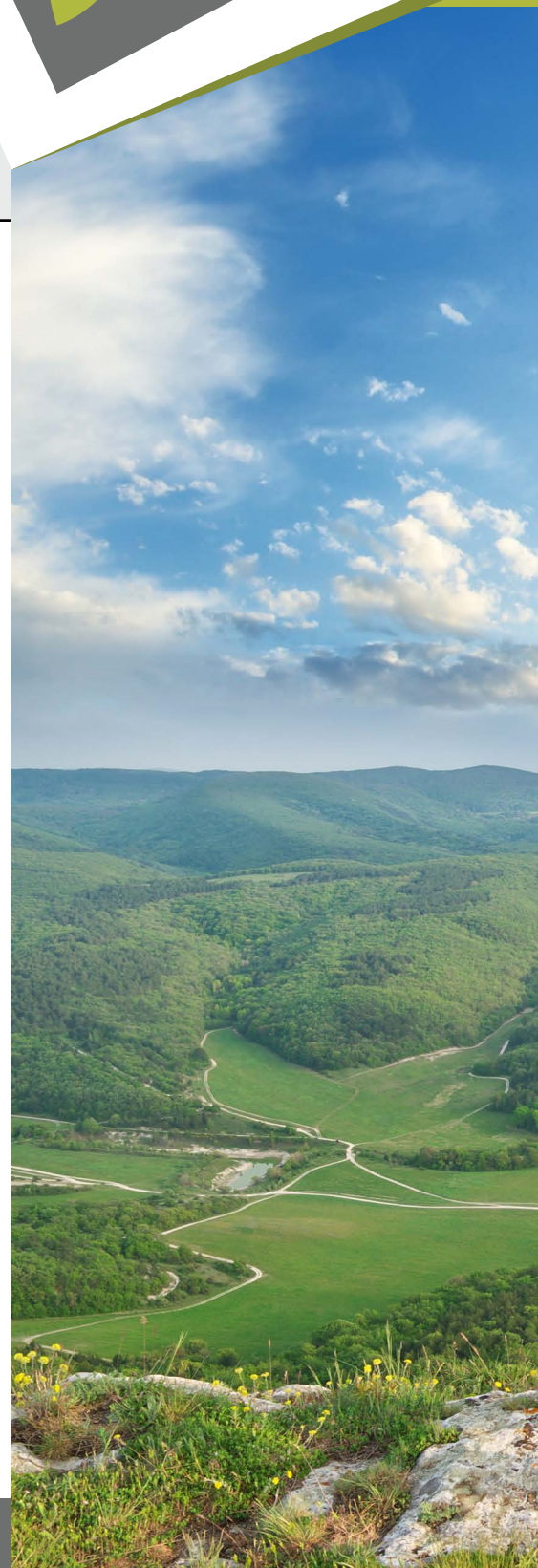
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# Activities of ETNO BEBA organization from Kumanovo



**D**uring last six months, Etno Beba organization from Kumanovo is an active participant in numerous events aimed towards affirmation and preserving of the culture and tradition in Macedonia.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2013 in Kumanovo, Etno Beba in cooperation with another member of the Rural Development Network, Kozjacija vo srceto, organized an event called "Country table and town feast". The goal of this event was to depict the life in the rural

and city environment, preserving the customs, cultural, traditional and other values of the Kumanovo region. At the same time there was a promotion of the healthy natural Kumanovo food prepared from about 16 women from the town and villages, and possibilities for development of alternative rural and eco tourism were presented.

With the support of the Rural Development Network and cooperation with the NGO "Humanost", Etno Beba organized a New Year party in Kumanovo for the incapacitated children.

Etno Beba attended many events among which:

- Balkan Fair "Craftspeople – preservers of the tradition" that was held in Skopje from 28 to 30 June 2013;
- Pehchevo PAVLOVDEN in town of Pehchevo from 10 to 13 July 2013 where they took part together with women's organization of Pehchevo;
- Ilinden days in Bitola and Krushevo, where they took active part in the events organized by women artisans from Bitola;
- "MALESHEVIJATA NA DLANKA" event traditionally organized by Municipality of Berovo on the day of Virgin Mary on Berovo town square where Etno Beba is a participant nine years in a row.
- European Days of Cultural Heritage, held from 24 to 30 September in Prishtina on the Mother Theresa square, organized by "Otvorena Porta" and Mrs. Bejtuzare Muharemi, where Etno Beba participates for the tenth time as an only representative from Macedonia;
- The day of the Rural Woman, organized on the 15-th of October 2013 in Negotino by Federation of Farmers of RM.

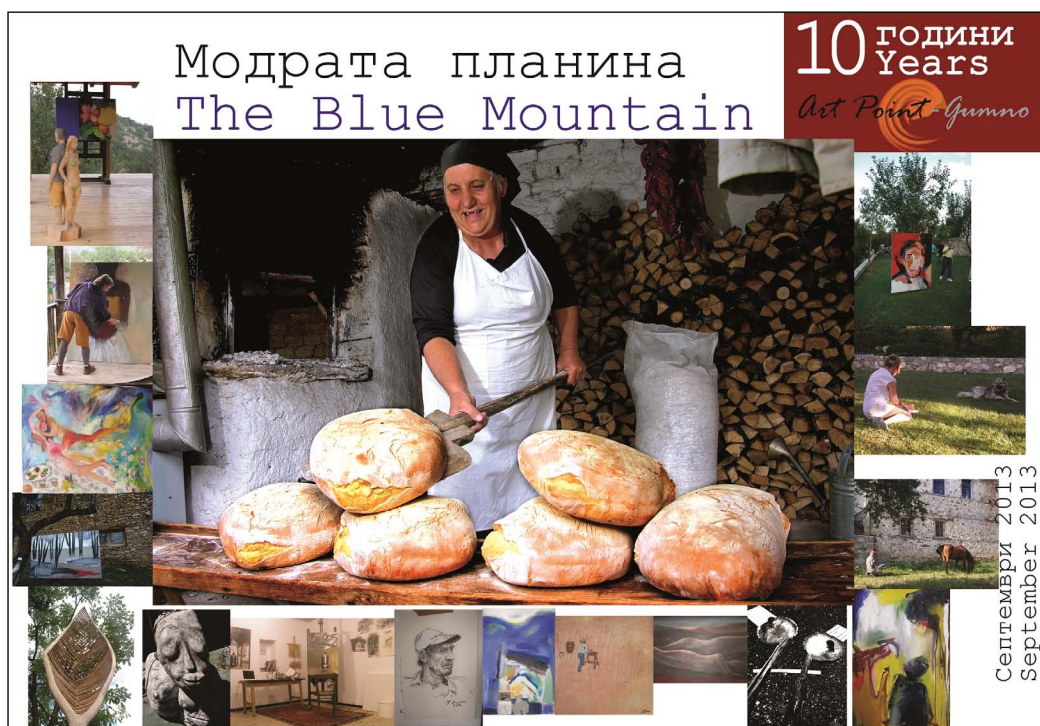






# OPEN STUDIO: “THE BLUE MOUNTAIN” IN ART POINT – GUMNO

***10 years of recruiting ambassadors of culture for Macedonia Starting in 2003, the international art center ART POINT – GUMNO hosted more than 40 established artists from all over the world which to this present day promote the center efforts – to act ambassadors of culture for Macedonia.***



**I**n the context of 10-th anniversary of the existence of the international art residence ART POINT – GUMNO, in September 2013 in the international center in the village of Sloeshtica an art workshop on the topic “The Blue Mountain” was organized.

There were 10 guests/artists on the workshop from Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, USA, Slovakia, Hungary and Czech Republic.

Prior to above mentioned workshop there was an exhibition "10 Years of ART

POINT – GUMNO” realized as a part of the event Bitola cultural summer 2013 – Bit Fest , in the gallery MAGAZA in Bitola in the period from 26-th of July to 1-st of August. Over 50 items from the regular collection of the art center were exhibited as a retrospective of the activi-

ties in the past ten years.

The workshop itself continued for about 15 days, precisely from 2-nd to 15-th of September. The participants had an opportunity to revisit their inspirations from Sloeshtica and Macedonia in general, but also to get to know each other and discuss new international and regional projects. Priority was given to projects that will have goal to promote cultural-artistic, historical and natural values of Macedonia and its rich spiritual wealth.

The accommodation of the artists was organized in private houses, with families from the village, which additionally enriched the project's socio economic aspect. The meals were prepared from the members of the center, and from time to time guests cooked special dishes from the countries they represented.





The art pieces created during this workshop were thematic ("Blue Mountain") and towards the end of the workshop, on the so called "Open studio" held on the 10-th of September, they were exhibited in the gallery and in the open space on the premises of the art center.

The workshop was realized in a high professional level and had a big publicity, with the help of the Ministry of culture of Republic of Macedonia and with special thanks to the finances from the private/own budget of the organizers and their unreserved volunteering work.







# The seventh CELEBRATION OF THE WEED in honor of the eternal life of the brothers Ljube and Vlado Cvetanovski

**СЛАВЕЊЕ НА ПИРЕЈОТ**



28 август 2013 год.  
Голема Богородица, с.Слоештица

**Програма:**

- 18:00 „Беседа за Петре М. Андреевски“ Јордан Плевнеш (локација: Селски гробишта)
- 18:15 „Детето во светот“ - Документарен филм, предпремиера. Сценарио: Вlado и Љубе Цветановски. Режија: Гоце Цветановски (Локација: ОУ Браќа Миладиновци)
- 19:30 „Секојдневни надмудрувања“ - промоција на првото печатено дело на Љубе Б. Митрејчевски. Промотор: Добре Тодоровски (локација: Средсело)
- 20:00 „Песни за Македонија“ промоција на стихозбирката на Дик Робертс. Промотор: Елизабета Баковска (локација: Средсело)
- 20:30 „Вечниот живот на Вlado Цветановски“ - поетско сценски ораториум посветен на ликот и делото на Вlado Цветановски (локација: Средсело - Мостот Бела Река)
- 20:45 „Омаж за Вlado Цветановски“ - визуелен омаж за работата на Вlado Цветановски во полето на театарот и филмот (локација: Мостот Бела Река)

Поддржано од: Г-дин Љупчо Блажевски, Градоначалник на Општина Демир Хисар

Art Point Gumno & ENOX

The international center for art and sustainable development ART POINT – GUMNO and production house ENOX, on the 28-th of August 2013 on the day of Virgin Mary in the village of Sloeshtica, organized for the seventh time the multimedia event “CELEBRATION OF THE WEED” a tribute to Petre M Andreevski, the writer with the deepest insight into the essence of Macedonian people. This year, because of the untimely death of one of the spiritual fathers of this

event – the director, professor and dramatist Vlado Cvetanovski and his brother Ljube Cvetanovski – prominent writer screen writer, itinerant and professor, the goal of the organizers was to symbolically celebrate their eternal life.

After the oration about Petre M. Andreevski held on this magnificent writer's resting place, spoken by Jordan Plevnesh, in the school of Sloestica there was a pre-premiere of the documentary “Children in the world” directed by Goce Cvetanovski. The movie was inspired

by the autobiographic text “The child in me” by Ljube Cvetanovski. The memories from the childhood in Sloestica and Demir Hisar of this great world traveler are illustrated with pictures of his travels.

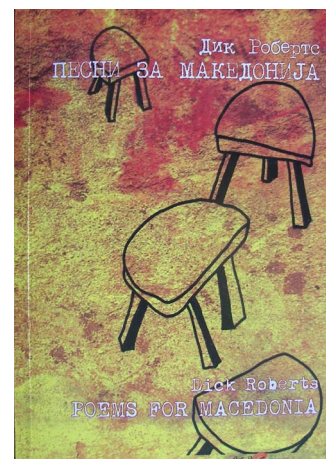
The eternal life of Vlado Cvetanovski is a poetic scenic oratorium in which actors performed roles from his original pieces, and on the bridge White River where Cvetanovski accumulated new inspirations every summer, there was a projection of a visual homage

about his work in the field of theatre and film.

As a part of the event there was a promotion of two books: the collection of national stories from Demirhisar region named “Everyday outwitting” by Ljube B. Mitrejevski (author's edition) and the collection of verses “Verses about Macedonia” from the American artist Dick Roberts who is a honorary citizen of the village (edition ARTPOINT – GUMNO, supported by the Ministry of culture of RM).

The event was supported by the Mayor of the Municipality of Demir Hisar, Mr. Ljupco Blazevski, ESRA – University of audiovisual arts and production house “Makedonska Krepost”.

By: Irena Andreevska





# Realized cooperation between center for sustainability and advanced education and DUNA VISION

**T**he center for sustainability and advanced education (<http://csae.mk>)

from Bitola, during November 2013, established cooperation with Duna Vision, an NGO that works on the field of ecology and sustainable development, for realization of future joint activities.

Part of these activities is the organization of First Balkan forum for sustainable development and the long term project Eco-Village.

The First Balkan Forum for Sustainable Development will be organized in cooperation with many local organizations such as National park "Pelister", National institute Museum Bitola and Balkanika from Skopje. It will be held in June 2014 and will be a chance for presenting many ideas, organizations and individuals in the field of sustainable development.

Eco-Village is a new concept that has been already realized by Duna Vision in other parts of Europe, while in the Western Balkan, Bitola was chosen as a location for Eco-Village. For this purpose Duna Vision established



a foundation and started to look for non developed country and a piece of land to get as a gift or to rent (several tenths of hectares) about ten kilometers from Bitola, from the local part-

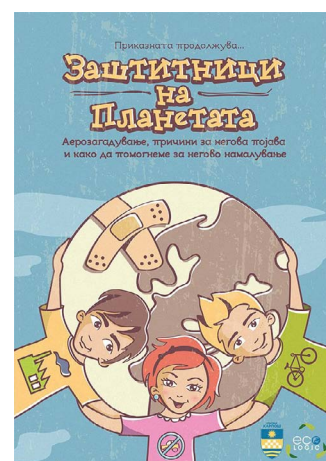
ner – Center for sustainability and advanced education. Eco-Village will enable the development of alternative sustainable technologies such as sustainable energy sources, organic agriculture,

permaculture and shall represent a place where students on post graduate and doctoral studies from EU will work on practical researches in the field of sustainable development.





# “Eko Logik” organization campaign: BIKE TO WORK



ized through our initiative: “Program for reducing the air pollution in Macedonia”, which also includes projects : “STOP for parking on pedestrian and bike lanes”; “Bike to work” and “Come to school in an ecological way”,

informed the organization. “Eko Logic” points out that increased pollution from over fifteen times, is above all limits for normal living and functioning and violates the law of having the right to clean air.



**E**ko Logik” organization that promotes protection of environment, organized an event with which it tried to draw the attention of the participants in traffic, in order to raise awareness of the citizens which as stated, are losing their health daily because of

the polluted air. Our activities at the moment, and also our work in general, concentrate on sustainable transport, information and education about it, suggestions and actions for implementing action for increasing bike usage, walking and using the public transportation, and are real-



# Activities of organization EKO LOGIK in the period from July to November 2013

**E**ko Logik is an NGO dedicated to preservation and protection of the environment, , promotion of the modern ecological practices, as well as monitoring and enhancement of the principle of sustainable development.

In the period from July to November 2013 the organization continued with activities from the "Program for reducing of the air pollution in Macedonia" (created in February 2013). This multi complex program consists of 15 subprojects that in various ways contribute to reduction of air pollution. From the above mentioned projects so far the realization has started

with: "Bike to work", campaign, "STOP for parking on pedestrian and bike lanes", "Eco Stories"- independent stories (researching journalism), "Be green and come to school in an ecological way" project for raising the awareness of the youngest (pupils in elementary schools).

Furthermore, they organized creative workshops in elementary schools in order to promote the concept of 3 R-s. re-use / reduce / recycle.

As a part of this project there were 30 workshops on which from various used items were created new ones – with different functions from their previous owners.



Also, there was a workshop with the teachers and managers in elementary schools in municipality of Karposh with a topic: air pollution and sustainable transportation.

STOP for the destruction of Vodno - joining the mass initiative for stopping the activities that irreversibly destroy the "lungs" of Skopje – Vodno Mountain.



СТОП за уништувањето на ВОДНО!







# Cooperation of the Institute for community development (ICD) with RDN of RM

[www.irz.org.mk](http://www.irz.org.mk)



In accordance with its strategic and program activities, The institute for community development (ICD) -Tetovo is a member of the Rural Development Network from 2011.

During 2012 and 2013, ICD in cooperation with other members of the organization and the central office of RDN, is working on enhancement of its capacities in order to be able to provide help and support in the community and stakeholders in the field of rural

development designated by the annual program.

The membership of ICD in RDN helps in its positioning as one of the active organizations recognized by their advocacy for rural development of the north - west region of Republic of Macedonia and by providing continuous support to those that need it to conduct their activities, no matter if it is about public organizations, non- formal organizations, units of local self government etc.

In the past two years ICD im-

plemented the school of ICD that provided an opportunity for young unemployed people from the rural areas

of the Tetovo region to participate and improve their knowledge and after that with the support of ICD to form social enterprises in rural areas which will address the challenges on a local level.

Special help for the employees in ICD is the possibility for direct communication with the central office of RDN and in this way we have quality information for the ongoing activities, events and transfer of knowledge, which is an immense help to ICD in the past period.

In the course of 2014, ICD expects to invest more of its resources in rural development of concrete projects that will be implemented in cooperation with the municipalities from the rural areas.





# “Solar electrical and thermal energy for reducing the CO2 emission from a kindergarten”

Kocani, 17.12.2013



In the period from January to December 2014 municipality of Kocani will realize the project “Solar and thermal energy for reducing the CO2 emission from a kindergarten”. The project repository is the association for supporting of economical development – Local action group – Kocani. The total amount of the project is 46.420 USD and it is financed by the Small grants group of the Global ecological fund with the amount of 22.670 USD and co financed by municipality of Kocani with 21.770 USD. The kindergarten “Pavlina Veljanova” – Kocani has a financial share of 1.980 USD.

The general goal of the project is to reduce the CO2 emissions by saving electricity and finances.

This shall be achieved with positioning hybrid solar panels in a clone 1 of the kindergarten, that will produce electrical power and heat the water. Clone 1 is chosen because the main kitchen is situated here and the food for all four clones of the kindergarten is produced here, and this means greater water consumption for cooking and dish washing. The warm water that at this moment is heated by electrical energy, is necessary for boiler heating in the mangers where



SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme



Општина Кочани



ЗПЕР-Локална акциона група-Кочани

the children are bathed. Part of the obtained electrical energy will be used for illuminating of the rooms.

Also as a part of the project there are planned activities for building and developing the awareness of the meaning of sustainable energy sources with the youngest children especially those of 5 or 6 years age from the big groups in the kindergarten through an “Educational class” for which special color books with topic sustainable energy sources will be prepared and also an art competition on the topic “Sun” will be organized; the best drawing will be suggested to become a logo of the kindergarten. It is expected 5 tons of CO2 reduction in one year and saving of 94.000 MKD per year. The amount that is saved will be reinvested for further ecological activities.

Through media coverage of the project, as well as the

educative material prepared in the course of project realization there will be an impact on the raising the public awareness with the citizens of municipality of Kocani and neighboring municipalities.

Additional information about the project can be obtained from the project coordinator Marija Georgieva mob:078/313-210 or email: lagkocani@gmail.com.

More information about GEF and PMG may be found on <http://gefsgpmacedonia.org.mk/> or <https://sgp.undp.org/>.







# Seminar on the topic “IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES”

The association for support of the sustainable development – Local Action Group Kocani, on the 18-th of November 2013 organized a seminar with topic “Improving the efficiency of the performance of public service companies”. The seminar was organized in cooperation with CMC Ekokon-Skopje, Vatalko-Skopje, Tehnoskop-Skopje, Megasoft-Bitola, Fortuna grup-Skopje, EKO PAK Hit-



Kocani and Akva seiv-Skopje. About 70 representatives from the managing structures of public service companies in Macedonia took part in the event. There were seven presentations of services and products offered by the sponsor companies. At the same time the

seminar was an excellent opportunity for exchanging working experiences among public service companies in many towns in RM and establishing of partnership and business relations between representatives of public service companies and sponsor companies.





# Promotion of KRUSHEVO CULTURE AND TRADITION



tablishing cooperation with national and international organizations, they promote the Krushevo culture.



**K**rushevo, the town situated in the heart of Macedonia, in which each house and every street speak of the brave historical and cultural past, is the town where women's organization "Cvet" was founded.



The active women of this organization put all of their love, knowledge and skills in their handcrafts, transferring their characters and mastery to the young generations. They actively work on preserving and affirmation of Krushevo culture and tradition, through creation of handcrafts and making the traditional dishes. They are regular participants on the events organized by their town, as well as on various fairs where by displaying their products and es-







# Opened exhibition “Karpino 2013” as a part of the 11- th International art colony



On 11 th of November, the day of the liberation anniversary of the town, in the building of NUCK “Trajko Prokopiev” as a part of the 11-th international art colony an exhibition called “Karpino 2013” was opened. The exhibition was dedicated to the late actor, art di-

rector, artist and member of the multimedia association “Karpino”, Dragisha Dimitrievski Shipe.

On the art colony there were people from all over Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Belgium.

Citizens of Kumanovo were able to see 38 exhibits created from 16 artists – painters,

sculptors and graphic artists which created them in the period from 7-th to 14-th of August at the restaurant “Gracija” in Kumanovo. With this, the 11-th international art colony was characterized as one of the most productive colonies so far.

The authors had an opportunity to intermingle, create and have fun signing special limited edition of wine bottles as a memento, releasing balloons of warm air in the

late evening hours, as a message.

On the opening of the art colony there was promotion of the bust Dragisha Dimitrievski Shipe. Multimedia Center Karpino organized visits for the participants of the monastery Karpino, Kokino observatory, the St. George monastery, Staro Nagoricane, church of St. Nikola in Kumanovo and other sights.





## Educative lecture about BREAST CANCER



**O**n the 11 of December 2013 in Zitose, municipality of Dolneni, in the ambulance of the village of Zitose, the association "Borka" in cooperation with the association of women in Zitose, organized educative lecture about breast cancer.

On the lecture the following people spoke:

- Mrs Biba Dodeva – President of Borka, with her lecture "Breast cancer is curable"
- Mrs Sabaheta Mersimi – Women's association of Zitose
- Dr. Elizabeta Babusku, specialist in radio diagnostics in Remedica Skopje with her lecture "Procedures in modern diagnostics of breast cancer".
- Mrs. Zaklina Jovanovska from Medicus Help Skopje with her lecture "Lymphedema"







## RDN ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

On November 22nd the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia held its third annual assembly, which gathered 44 representatives of the member – organizations. The annual assembly was opened by the President of the Rural Development Network (RDN), Mr. Petar Gjorgievski, who welcomed the present members. Right after his addressing Mrs. Vesela Lambevskia Domazetova, president of the Managing Board of RDN, presented the realized activities of the Rural Development Network during 2012/2013 period. The participants showed great interest in the presen-

tation of Mr. Vasko Hadzievski regarding to the “Impact of climate change in different infrastructures”. He explained the characteristics of different types of infrastructure, potential impact of the climate change upon it, as well as the possibilities for adaptation. Aleksandra Todorovska from RDN of the Republic of Macedonia addressed directly to the members, raising questions regarding current communication and sharing information with member-organizations. She wished official welcome for the three new member organizations that were accepted in RDN during 2013 and informed on the preparation of the



latest electronic bulletin. After each of the lecturers took their turn, a discussion was opened with concrete proposals for action on behalf of the members.

Petar Gjorgievski appealed to all organizations for greater initiative and proactive attitude on their side. Ideas should originate from members themselves and needs in the rural areas, and the Network is the implementing tool on a higher level, in accordance with bottom-up approach which is the basis of its work. After finishing of the annual assembly a networking activity for member - organizations was conducted in order to help them get better acquainted with each other and realize cooperation possibilities, through presentation of each association and activities on separate stands previously located for this purpose.





## RDN of RM Participated in European Affairs Committee

On October 29th 2013, the President of the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia, Petar Gjorgievski, participated in the Sixth round of 42nd session of the European Affairs Committee, dedicated to public debate on "Using funds from the instrument for pre-accession assistance-IPA" in the Republic of Macedonia.

Six witnesses testified in this session, including the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, Mr. Abdullaqim Ademi, Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Ljupco Dimovski and Mr. Zoran Konjanovski.

The questions of MPs, regarding the component V related to the rural development in the country, were answered by the Head of the Management body of the IPARD program, Mrs. Margarita Deleva, the President of the Rural Development

Network of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Petar Georgievski, and Mr. Andrija Sekulovski on behalf of the Federation of Farmers of Republic of Macedonia.

In their testimonies the guests informed about the experiences in the use of EU funds in Macedonia, reported on the modifications in direction of EU fund utilization improvement and facilitation/simplification of the procedures for obtaining funding through this instrument.

The MPs Antonio Milošoski, Hajrula Misini, Panche Orcev, Goran Sugarevski, Vladanka Avirovic, Lenche Nikolovska, Deshira Imeri, Panche Dameski, Savo Marachkov, Stanka Anastasovska and Hristina Runcheva asked additional questions on the reasons for the low level of funds utilization, the need for locating weaknesses for their greater utilization and well as concerning the possibilities of making IPARD funds more accessible to citizens. (source: [www.sobranie.mk](http://www.sobranie.mk))







# Rural Development Network Participation in the “PRESPA APPLE HARVEST” Manifestation

During the period from September 27th until September 29th, the Municipality of Resen organized the thirteenth “Prespa Apple Harvest” manifestation which is traditionally celebrating the apple and the beginning of apple harvest. The event included various activities in the area of agriculture, culture, tourism, art and sports. This major economic and cultural event is related to the celebration of Krstovden, the Orthodox Christian holiday

and it is also the traditional beginning of the apple harvest in Prespa.

Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia participated in this year's event of “Prespa Apple Harvest 2013” on September 28th, the day dedicated for tourism, by presenting its promotional materials. The active RDN members from this region were invited on RDN's stand to present the activities implemented within their organizations.







## Study Visit to Israel



**A**fter the initial implementation of climate change adaptation activities in demonstrative orchards, vineyards and vegetable farms within USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project, technical assistance to beneficiary farmers for proper application of the specific adaptive measures was continuously provided by project technical experts. They monitored early responses and preliminary effects from utilizing these practices. However, in order to be able to provide further successful implementation of these newly applied practices and po-

tentially observe new applicative climate change adaptive measures, there is a necessity of supplying beneficiary farmers and technical experts with firsthand experience on other successful cases.

For that purpose, the project decided to organize a study trip for beneficiary farmers, NEA advisors and the technical experts to expose them to international experience which will provide the opportunity to learn, exchange experiences and obtain details related to establishment and functioning of successful climate change adaptive practices. During the period from July

14th until July 19th, twelve participants had the opportunity to visit Israel which is considered as a country with advanced experience in applicative climate change practices. Project beneficiary farmers, NEA

advisors and technical experts were introduced to intensive vegetable and grape production, vegetable crops seed production, applied research in horticultural crops and different agricultural applied technologies.







## Study Visit to Italy



**U**SAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project activities are designed on the basis of positive experiences of international practices in adapting agricultural production to the climate change, adjusted

to our specific terrain and climatological circumstances. Yet, the fact remains that hands-on experience, and consequently from it acquired expertise, is still not sufficient. The same can be concluded about the public institutions governing is-

sues pertaining to the climate change realm, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy being one of them.

In order to build in-country capacity related to climate change practices, the project invested in an international study trip for project management, technical advisors for adaptive practices and relevant representative from MAFWE. The study visit was organized in Italy during the period from July 14th until July 20th. Meetings with Ministry of Agriculture policy makers on initiatives and policies in the domain of climate change in agriculture, climate change

specialists, and regional authorities in charge of implementation of regional policies on climate change in agriculture, as well as visits to a farm adopting measures to combat climate change were organized within the study trip.

The participants had the opportunity to observe European experience in provision of adequate adaptive climate change responses in agriculture in addition to policy making and development of strategic documents on climate change, concrete actions/measures for climate change adaptations undertaken by the relevant Ministry etc.





# Climate Change Caravan helps rural communities adapt



what this means better than anyone. You are experiencing this changing climate first hand," said USAID Mission Director James Stein. "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."

To reduce the negative effects of climate change on the agriculture sector in rural Macedonia, the ACCA project works with small farmers and their communities to develop and disseminate affordable climate change adaptation technologies and practices, conducts comprehensive public awareness and outreach



On September 26th in Sveti Nikole, the Climate Change Caravan, organized by the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture (ACCA) project, concluded its autumn campaign with the last of four stops around the country. By bringing climate change experts to rural areas, the Caravan educates small farmers and their communities about the anticipated effects of climate change. Through open question-and-answer sessions, the experts address farmers' concerns, share strategies for adapting to climate change effects, and emphasize the importance of proactive, community-wide responses. Minister of Agriculture Ljupco Dimovski, USAID Mis-

sion Director James Stein, and USAID ACCA project Chief of Party Petar Gjorgievski, made remarks. "Macedonia has recently suffered from a hotter and drier climate, and has been more prone to heat waves, droughts, floods, and hail. As farmers, you understand

campaigns, and helps build the capacity of small farming operations. Besides Sveti Nikole, the Caravan visited three more locations during September: Valandovo on September 18th, Resen on September 21st and Krivogashtani on September 25th.







# Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia on Study Tour to USA



**U**SAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project's Deputy Chief of Party, Vesela Lambevskva Domazetova, together with a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Lidiya Chadikovska, participated in the International Visitor Leadership Project entitled

"Climate Change Resiliency" which was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and administrated by World Learning.

Within the program held in the period from December 1st until December 11th, a variety of appointments with individuals and representatives of U.S. organizations, were realized, aiming

to introduce the representatives of NGOs, the national government and municipal officials from Macedonia, to new technologies and innovative approaches to climate change in areas such as agriculture, forestry, water management and energy efficiency.

The Department of State has outlined the following

specific objectives for the project: explore cooperation between federal, state and local levels of government and their roles in climate change; examine public-private partnerships that address climate change; analyze new technologies and strategies on the subject of climate change and the environment.



# Commencing activities for promotion of the LEADER approach in the South - East planning region of Republic of Macedonia

As part of the USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project, Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia scheduled realization of activities for promotion of the LEADER approach in municipalities in the south - east planning region in which the impact of climate change has a negative effect on the overall living of rural households. With affirmation of the EU LEADER approach in the rural areas, RDN aims towards developing of the capacities of all stakeholders in rural areas which will improve their knowledge and capability for participative planning in making important decisions for the community. RDN will support creation of an entity, Local Action Group in a shape of public private partnership that will include partners



from the public, private and NGO sector, representing the interests of various stakeholders from 4 municipalities in this region (Strumica, Vasilevo, Bosilovo and

Novo Selo). The goal of the group will be to represent the interests of the various stakeholders which exist and work in the rural areas of the municipalities. The aim of the group will be to develop strategic document for rural development which will support and unite local initiatives and actions.

For the realization of such activities that will significantly contribute to improvement of sustainable practices in rural areas of Macedonia, on December

13th 2013, the RDN signed a memorandum for cooperation with the Center for Development of the South - East Planning Region. On the same day a workshop was held and all ten municipalities of the region were invited in order to get acquainted with the LEADER approach as a method for promoting and implementing local development in rural areas, its significance as future IPARD measure as well as to present the planned activities.







# SHARING THE RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE USAID ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE PROJECT

On December 13th in Rosoman and on December 20th in Gevgelija, the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia organized two workshops in order to share experiences and results from adaptive agricultural practices, implemented and tested in the period from the beginning of the implementation of USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture project, April 2012 to present day. The farmers from Rosoman and Gevgelija surroundings,

who attended the workshops, had the opportunity to learn about different techniques and measures for adaptation to climate change which were demonstrated and tested in viticulture, fruit and vegetable production. Besides the results and achievements from the implemented adaptive measures, experts presented a one year monitoring of the erosive processes as well as the benefits from implementation of adaptive measures for water conservation in agricultural production. At the end of the workshops



there were open discussions where farmers could share the problems occurring during agricultural production and obtain useful advices from the experts on how to

deal with the effects from climate change and what adaptive measures to introduce in order to protect the yield in viticulture, fruit and vegetable production.





# Joining of the RDN in the USAID organizational performance improvement program (OPIP)



a three day creative workshop named as "Holignosis" (integral organizational diagnosis), held from 4-th to 6-th December in Bitola, where participants were representatives of the organizations-members of the RDN. During December there were four organized meetings with focus groups

that consisted of all members of RDN respectively divided into 4 regions, which additionally helped in the defining of the situation in the Network as well as the possibilities and conditions for further improvement of the work and long lasting sustainability.

The Rural Development Network of Macedonia was elected as one of the five organizations that will receive the support of the USAID program for improving of the work of the organizations in the next two years. For this purpose, on the 18-th of November 2013 on the premises of the American Embassy the RDN and the above mentioned USAID program signed a memorandum of understanding.

For these activities in OPIP to increase the capacity of RDN and have the desired effect for the organization, RDN will be indirectly and actively included in the course of all programmed period, from implementing and assessment of the situation in the organization to creating and implementing

organizational interventions.

For implementation of the Organizational Performance Improvement Program, USAID hired the consulting enterprise DETRA Center. This consulting company has its own consulting methodology based on the most modern participative approaches in the world, but is adjusted to our specific features and participative approach of USAID for enforcement of human and organizational capacities.

Similar to many other consulting enterprises, DETRA Center methodology commences the activities for improving the organization capacities and performance, with an appropriate diagnosis of the situation in the organization. This opening activity of diagnostic routine was conducted on







# Family Farming Conference in Brussels



**A**t the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly, 2014 was designated the International Year of Family Farming. Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization, it has the objective of raising the profile of family farming by focusing world attention on its role in alleviating hunger and poverty, providing food security and improving livelihoods, while protecting the environment and biodiversity.

As a result of this context of the UN's declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming, and along with the contributions from the online Consultation made during 02.08.2013 and 11.10.2013 an Europe-

an conference titled "Family Farming: A dialogue towards more sustainable and resilient farming in Europe and the world", organized by the EU Commission, took place on the 29th of November 2013 in Brussels.

The Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia, as proactive agent of the rural communities, had its representative, Marija Trpevska, attending the Conference. The conference drew great attention. More than 400 participants, some of the most knowledgeable and prominent persons in the agriculture policy in Europe, gathered to discuss the important role of family farming, the key challenges and priorities for the future, as well as address the best

means of supporting family farms.

Some of the key speakers at Conference were Ms Loretta Dormal Marino, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development – European Commission, Mr. Dacian Cioloș, European Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Carlo Petrini, President, International Slow Food Movement, whose presentation was widely accompanied with great ovation by the present audience. Beside the domestic hosts, at the Conference were also invited eminent guest speakers from outside Europe who also had their contribution at the outcomes.

Also, at the Conference three

parallel workshops were held on the topics of:

- Workshop 1: Best practice in family farming
- Workshop 3: Organisation models to strengthen family farms
- Workshop 2: Access to new technology and research

The Conference ended with High Level Panel discussion where most of the significant input came by exchanging views on Family Farming from all participants.

In addition, the conference outcome will contribute to the FAO European Regional Conference (ERC) scheduled for 1-4 April 2014 in Bucharest, Romania, and to events related to family farming that will be organised in the course of 2014.





# Participation of RDN of RM at the 28-th Assembly of the Standing Working Group for Rural Development of South East Europe



**R**epresentative of the Rural Development Network of Republic of Macedonia participated on the 28-th convention of the Assembly of the Standing Working Group for rural development of South East Europe,

held in Gmunden Austria from 4-th to 8-th of December.

In the course of the program there were field trips during which the participants had an opportunity to gather experiences from good practices realized in

the Ministries of agriculture of South East Europe, the action plan of the Balkan Rural Development Network and the rural development program of Austria were presented and discussions for cooperation of the Standing Working Group with many international organizations were opened.

The members of the Balkan Rural Development Network, among which representatives of the rural development networks of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, used this opportunity to organize a meeting on which they discussed the future Network activities.

Gmunden surroundings. On this convention the conclusions from the seventh annual working conference of







# PREPARE Booklet Published



**T**he book “Community Spirit Wins” – How civil society sustains rural Europe, is a confirmation for the past years of activities of the European organization of civil networks – PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe, since its formation in 2000. This book, consisting of numerous statements from

individuals involved in rural development, both from the public and the civil sector in Europe, which was promoted by Dačjan Čološ, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, is a significant evidence for the interest citizens and civil organizations have shown for contributing towards the development processes in rural areas.

PREPARE – Partnership for rural Europe has made great efforts in the past 13 years in order to stimulate strengthening of the civil society in EU member countries and pre-accession countries from Central, Easter and South-Eastern Europe, encouraging rural people to take active partnership participation in the socio-economic development of the

European Union. The Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia has been a full member of PREPARE since 2012, and has participated with its own statement in this book and has presented its views on development of democracy, governance, partnership and development of the human capital in rural areas.



# Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia Participated in the First European Rural Parliament

**T**he first European Rural Parliament, ERP, was organized in Brussels on November 13th 2013. It was held in support and partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee in its premises in Brussels and was a strategic gathering in the very center of European political power. More than 150 representatives from 70 rural organizations among which a representative of RDN of RM attended the event in order to place issues of rural communities on the agenda of the EU and to make an impact on the policies shaping their lives.

European Rural Parliament is a concept, an idea, an event, a vision of rural associations and local communities. It is a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences among national rural movements and networks. The goal of the ERP is to provide a common voice for and to strengthen the rural movement in Europe. It will create a common statement that affects European rural policy, improve the dialogue



between policy makers and the local level, exchange experiences of successful local development and find a form of ERP that will live on and be continued across Europe.

The rural movements taking part in the initiative realized

that they have numerous issues and interests in common such as the quality of schools in rural areas, the access to health care and other basic services, as well as the possibility to influence EU policies.

The European Rural Par-

liament created a fantastic mix of thinking from high and low levels, connected to practice. The process will continue after the event as tasks and decisions will be auctioned out to working groups, who will then report back on the progress.