

NEWSLETTER

European Partnership for local Green Agendas Volume 1, Issue 1

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What is European Partnership for Local Green Agendas?

The European Partnership for Local Green Agendas project is a joint initiative of Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) from Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and the Netherlands, aiming to establish a CSO network, which will grow into a recognized leader in promotion of public participation in environmental issues in the participating municipalities. The network members will cooperate with local government and play a leading role in the promotion of sound environmental practices in the Western Balkans.

The project structured around the Green Agenda (GA), a process designed by Milieukontakt International and tested in several countries in the Balkans. The participating municipalities have already gone through this process,

their local councils having passed the GA documents and identified the priorities for their communities. This project will take the Green Agenda Process one step further and by helping the communities implement one of their priorities, will strengthen the capacities needed for sound sustainable conduct by local decision makers. The project is funded by the IPA 2008 Programme – Civil Society Facility: Support to Partnership Actions "Environment, Energy Efficiency, and Health and Safety at Work". The implementing organizations are **Milieukontakt International** from the Netherlands, **EDEN** (Environmental Center for Development, Education, and Networking) from Albania, **Ozon** from Montenegro and **Kocka** from Macedonia. The project will run until December 2011.



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This project is funded by European Union

Albania

Dajçi Municipality

Dajçi is located in Shkodra County, between Buna river, Velipoja Commune and Berdice Commune. Buna river is one of the most important natural resources in the area. Its estuary is located through the villages of the commune and it is a very special ecosystem, hosting native species of fauna and flora. People of Dajçi have a lot of traditions linked with the River. In Shiqiriqi forest there is an old church, built

in Romanic-Gothic style, which dates back from the 13th century (about 1290). This church is stated as "Cultural Monument".

Dajçi has 8579 inhabitants and it includes 11 villages. 85% of Dajçi surface is agriculture land which favors the development of agriculture and livestock. Livelihoods of the people are mainly: grain and vegetables, foraging, milk products, cultivation of decorative plants, fruit growing etc. Important documents: Re-

gional Development Plan of Shkodra County, Local Development Plan and Green Agenda. " - Green Agenda Program is much more than it seems. It is a process of detailed analyses and partnership between civil society and local authorities. It leads to transparency. At the end of this project we hope this partnership will have capacities to work the best for our Municipality " - Mr. Arben Gjuraj, head of Dajçi Municipality.

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Preza Municipality

Preza is located between Tirana, Durrës and Rinas Airport. It has a castle - therefore possessing tourist attraction potential. It has a great wealth in natural resources, with a great diversity regarding its flora and fauna. It has orchards where olive trees grow

besides vines and the farmers maintain the traditions of their cultivation. Preza has an autochthon population, 6 700 inhabitants, and it includes 7 villages altogether.

To the west of Preza village itself there is very attractive countryside: in its valleys lie two reservoirs, and its serene beauty and tranquility is an ideal location for outdoor activities: canoeing, swimming, diving, fishing, walking and climbing.



Main economic activities: agriculture, orchards [olive and vines], cattle and sheep raising and empirical tourism at the fortress.

Preza is part of Green Agenda Programme since 2007. Working groups in Preza are very active. They have implemented successfully some miniprojects and have strongly cooperated with the local authorities for the implementation of the Action Plan designed by themselves. We expect to continue this kind of process because Preza community is very touched by the positive changes in Preza. " - says Mr. Ahmet Halili, head of Preza Municipality.

Macedonia

Vevçani Municipality

The Municipality of Vevçani is located in the South-Western part of Macedonia, on the foot of Mount Jablanica, just 15 kilometers away from Lake Ohrid. Most of its 35 km² of mountainous areas are at altitude between 800 and 950 meters. Population is around 2.400, living in the 550 household houses and 300 villas in Vevçani. Vevçani had been a separate municipality until 1952, when it had joined administrations with the village of Velesta and later had become part of the Struga municipality. It regained its independent municipal status in 1996.



There are many natural beauties and sites in Vevçani, with the water being a special feature, found in abundance throughout its territory. The municipality is rich in flora and fauna, and cultural heritage with many churches and picturesque architecture, brought in by the many craftsmen earning their bread all over the world. However,

Vevçani is most famous for its Carnival which is 1.400 years old, as old as the village itself. "I expect that this project results in fruitful cooperation with the civil society sector in Vevçani and serves as a positive example of cooperation between local authorities and CSO's. We hope that by the end of this project our public administration in cooperation with the CSO's will be able to apply for and implement programs and projects that would bring benefits to the entire municipality" - says Pero Ilijoski Mayor of Vevçani.

Delcevo Municipality

The Delcevo Municipality is located at the far North-Eastern part of Macedonia, in the Pijanec valley on the foot of Mount Golak, 10 kilometers away from the Bulgarian border. The high-raised Pijanec valley is at 576-650 meters elevation, it is 15 km long and 4-5 km wide. Around 28.000 hectares or 50% of the municipal territory is under forests rich in medicinal herbs, forest fruits and plants. Many animal species, including endangered ones, also reside in the forests. The climate in the municipal-

ity is a moderate continental. The Municipality occupies a territory of 423 km², distributed between the city of Delcevo and its 21 surrounding villages. Total population is 17.500, with 66% residing in the municipal capital. There are 5.500 households living in around 7.100 homes. Mayor Goran Malesevski explains that three years ago Delcevo started the Green Agenda Process, supported by Mileukontakt International and the Delcevo Regional Advocacy Center, which involved the civil sector and all stakeholders. "We can now really see results in the involvement of citizens and identification of local problems and priorities. I would recommend to all municipalities to get engaged in processes that directly involve citizens who effectively participate in decision making. That is exactly what the Green Agenda process offers" - says Mayor Malesevski.



Montenegro

Mojkovac Municipality

Mojkovac municipality, an oasis of natural beauty, is located on the west bank of the most beautiful river in Europe -Tara, between mountains Bjelasica and Sinjajevina and two National Parks *Biogradska gora* and *Durmitor*. In this small area you can find unique landscapes of forests and meadows, mountain peaks with glittering mountain brooks. Villages are cultivated, full of gardens and orchards, and the surrounding mountains are a great challenge for nature lovers.

The historical and cultural heritage includes the archaeological sites of mediaeval Brskovo, religious monuments, modern facilities, traditional rural houses and settlements high in the mountains, etc.

The almost millennium-long existence of this area, which is a gift of nature, has left traces of spiritual and material culture. Each step you take will make you feel welcome as the inhabitants here are hospitable, friendly and spontaneously cordial which is the influence of both the traditional heritage and modern achievements. Mojkovac mu-

nicipality has a population of 10,066 citizens " - Green Agenda enabled citizens' voice to be heard and listen for the first time. Local authorities, citizens and NGOs actively and with enthusiasm worked on development of this valuable strategic document which will hopefully be implemented in the future." - Mr. Stevan Grdinic, vice president of Mojkovac Municipality



More for organizations: **Milieukontakt International**: www.milieukontakt.net; **EDEN center**: www.eden-al.org; **KOCKA**: www.kocka.org.mk; **OZON**: <http://W: http://ozonniksic.wordpress.com>

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