

NEWSLETTER

European Partnership for Local Green Agendas



Study visit to the region of Northern Brabant, the Netherlands

9 people went on a study visit on regional development and branding from 15th to 19th of September 2010.

What we have done to date :

- **Network Building event**

The network building event took place from 22 to 24 October, 2010 in Struga, Macedonia. It was a chance to discuss possible network roles and responsibilities, structure, division of tasks and functionality. Milieukontakt and Kocka, jointly organized the event and it went in parallel with the Regional Closing Gathering of the Green agenda project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **Experience sharing portal**

At the moment the experience sharing web portal is being tested. The project management team developed the materials and agreed on the concept and now the portal is online and available but still being tested to eliminate any possible bugs. There were some server, data backup and publishing problems, but most of them were solved during the testing. The web portal is now up and running as a subpage of www.kocka.mk with a direct link.

- **Training of trainers (on Green Agenda implementation/ monitoring/ evaluation)**

The topic of the Training of Trainers was Monitoring and Evaluation Techniques .It took place for 2 days from 27 to 28 April, 2010 in Struga, Macedonia for a total of 9 participants – 6 trainers from the regional training team, and 3 representatives of the project management team.

- **Training of Trainers on Monitoring and Evaluation**

6 trainers (2 from Macedonia, 2 from Albania, 2 from Montenegro) were trained on Monitoring and Evaluation Techniques that they can use in the implementation of this project.

3 representatives of the Project management team were trained on Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Regional Trainings (for preparation of a regional method)**

⇒ Albania, June 2010, on Mediation,

⇒ Macedonia , October 2010, on Networking Tools and Networks.

⇒ The third training will take place this month in Montenegro.



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Dear friends,

Year one of the IPA project “European Partnership for Local Green Agendas” that is being implemented in Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and The Netherlands is behind us. I may happily say it was a successful one. There were a few smaller challenges which we successfully overcame and many more activities that went exactly as planned.

In the third issue of our newsletter, first in 2011, we would like to share with you some of the milestones we passed in the course of the first year. I hope this year will be equally good and there will be many more stories to share in the future issues of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Igor Slavkoski,
Regional Project Coordinator



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- **Implementation of the capacity building program in Macedonia**

In August 2010 there was a needs assessment meeting with municipality administration representatives, CSO members and citizens who participated in the previous GA project. At the meeting the results of the baseline survey were presented, and lists of needed trainings were compiled. It turned out that both Vevcani and Delveco wanted to have very similar training programs, so they were merged and the trainings will be carried out in parallel. This concept fit well in a project that the Macedonian Ministry of environment awarded to [KOCKA](#), which was about sharing the previous GA project experience with municipalities that want to start their own Green Agendas. Some of these events were funded from the Ministry's project and were used as cofounding for the IPA project. Two workshops were organized to date:

"Green agenda as a public participation in decision-making tool" on 7-8 October in Skopje with 21 participants, and "Practical Project Cycle Management" focusing on development of practical and specific project applications for the Call for Applications announced by the GEF Small Grants Program. It took place in Veles on 11-13 November, 2010 with 23 participants.

- **Implementation of the capacity building program in Montenegro**

Within a broader research, supported by the Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment Protection and using questionnaires, Aleksandar Perovic on behalf of the NGO "Ozon" made a needs assessment in Montenegro in June 2010. Since the research covered civil society organizations from Mojkovac as well, it served to identify their training needs and priorities too. The results of the research were presented to the CSOs and to the Mojkovac local authorities at the meetings on 27 and 28 August. The local authorities and civil society organizations identified the following training topics:

Fundraising (particularly: Project proposal writing for foreign donors and EU funds);
Public advocacy;
Public Relations & Marketing;

- **Implementation of the capacity building program in Albania**

The initial field survey in Albania served to make an assessment report for the situation in the Albanian communities. Using this report as a starting point, the trainers and the Albanian project team developed a training work plan for the municipalities. The plan was presented and discussed with all GA trainers at the EDEN trainer's coordination meeting in order to get feedback from everyone. Each of the proposed broad training topics was then divided into specific ones, tailored to the specific needs of each of the municipalities. The heavy floods in northern Albania, where one of the targeted municipalities Dajci is, put the start of the capacity building program in question. The start of the capacity building program was therefore moved for 2011, after floods settle down and municipality priorities shift away from this emergency.

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Milieukontakt International is an organization of committed professionals with a huge network of individuals, organizations and institutions working for a better environment, through: building capacities, involving citizens and solving environmental problems.

Milieukontakt International provides training, coaching, support and advice for organization working for sustainability, seeking to stimulate and support the involvement and empowerment of citizens and develop processes of participative strategy development and decision making, and connecting these activities to solutions for environmental problems.

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EDEN (Environmental Center for Development, Education, and Training) is a trainers' organization whose vision is development of sustainable and healthy environment through capacity building, promoting a participatory approach, offering expertise and services to civil society and governmental structures, and lobbying at national level. EDEN manages a group of eight trainers, well trained in a wide range of participatory training techniques.

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KOCKA is a network of independent trainers, aiming at providing training and consultancy services for CSOs and local government units, especially in the field of environment protection. The network consists of a group of trainers that have become widely recognized by the civil society sector for combining their skills and training methods and using specific participatory facilitation techniques, developed through various ToT courses.

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OZON is an citizens' association established with the aim to raise awareness, educate, initiate, carry out, and assist in activities focused on environment protection and enhancement. Ozon's vision is that Montenegro is sustainably developed as a democratic, ecological society with citizens who relate to nature and care for their place on the planet.