

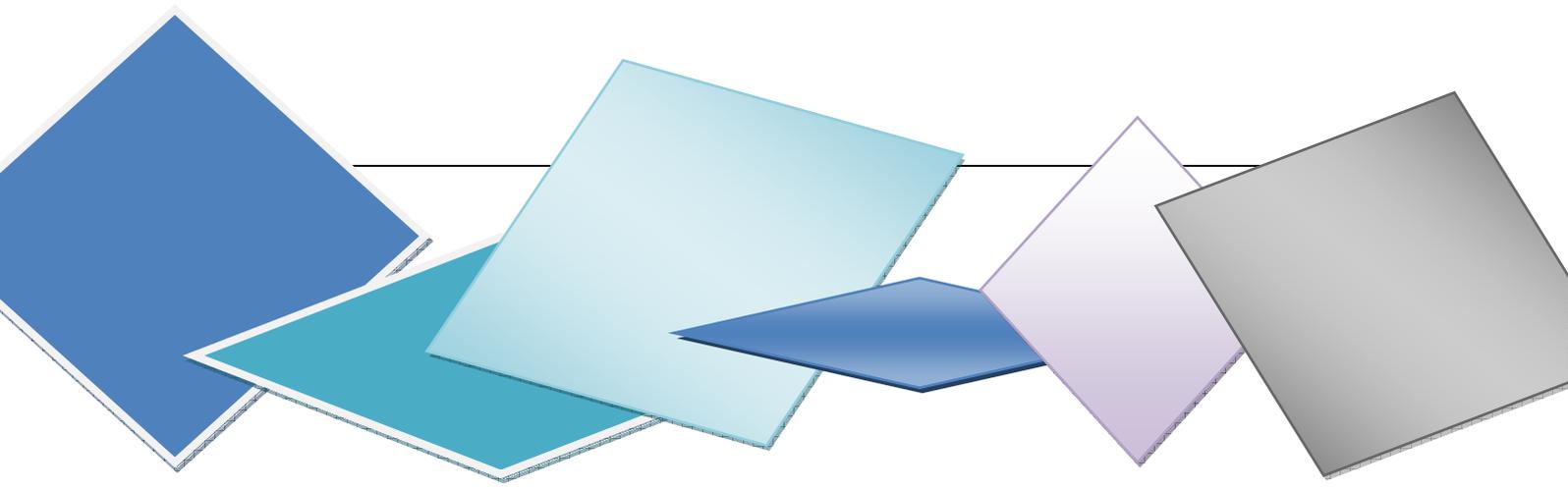


DECENTRALISED COOPERATION PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE
REGION OF LOWER-NORMANDY AND REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

NOVEMBER 2010

Last update March 2011



CONTENT

CONTENT	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
PREFACE	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
INTRODUCTION	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
COMPONENT 0: ACTIVITY COORDINATION	6
Project leader	6
COMPONENT 1: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY.....	9
Objectives.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Project leaders	9
Project partners.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Activities.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
COMPONENT 2: YOUTH, EDUCATION, LOCAL AND EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP	13
Objectives.....	13
Project leaders	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Project partners.....	13
Activities.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
COMPONENT 3: INVENTORY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE	16
Objectives.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Project leaders	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Project partners.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Activities.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
COMPONENT 4: LOCAL AND REGIONAL CULTURAL POLICIES	18
Objectives.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Project leaders	18
Project partners.....	18
Activities.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
COMPONENT 5: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.....	20

Objectives.....	20
Project leaders	20
Project partners.....	20
Activities.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
COMPONENT 6: AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT	23
Objectives.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Project leaders	23
Project partners.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
Activities.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
TOWN TWINNING.....	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.

PREFACE

Decentralised cooperation programme between the Region Lower-Normandy (France) and Republic of Macedonia started in 2006. It is a unique type of project where one French region is cooperating with entire country, Republic of Macedonia. In the heart of the project is the local government, also having as institutional partners the Regional Council of Lower-Normandy and Macedonian Ministry for Local self-government. This institutional cooperation is composed of Action programme implemented by French and Macedonian partners. The initial programme was designed for three years (2007-2010), but it continued for another three (2011-2013). Financially supported by the French Ministry of Foreign and European affairs, this project is coordinated by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA).

The objective of this project is to implement activities from the area of local governance through more fields of cooperation such as new information technologies, youth, inventory of cultural heritage, as well as cultural politics and agriculture development. The objective for this type of cooperation is to contribute in the sustainable development of the Region Lower-Normandy and Republic of Macedonia through creation of platform for enduring exchange that will help the opening of these two territories and their population towards the world.

INTRODUCTION

The fourth year of our programme for decentralised cooperation between the Region Lower-Normandy and Republic of Macedonia has begun. The success of the first three years (2007-2010) enabled the continuance of the project in the next three years (2010-2013). Three years after the beginning of the project we can confirm the progress regarding the complete implementation of activities, gathering better knowledge about the two territories by the cooperation participants, and development of the cooperation among local governance units in Macedonia and Lower Normandy.

We begin this fourth year satisfied with the good results from the first three-year cycle, and in the same time we are encouraged by the new challenges. The innovation for this fourth year of the project is the introduction of a new component “Inventory of cultural heritage”, as well as the joining of new partners in all areas of the cooperation. The activities previewed for this year will introduce new perspectives. It is necessary to include other regional and European actors in the programme in order to ensure better opening towards the world, better transparency and better approach into European integration. The joining of municipalities from Macedonia and Lower Normandy wishing to be part of the decentralised cooperation programme opens perspectives for European integration for Macedonia as well as the efforts to unite the cooperation initiatives of the French local governances with the Balkans.

Nevertheless, the main objective of the project remains the strengthening of the capacities for local governance of the local self-governments in Lower Normandy and in Macedonia. The local officials of the two territories will be actively integrated in the activities. An important challenge is the support of local development in Macedonia. The objective is to encourage the development of the regions in Macedonia and their involvement in the programme.

This document will show the activities for the fourth year of the project, since October 2010 until September 2011. Here we have included the description of activities, project leaders as well as cooperation partners. In this document you will find joined list of information about the participants in the project as well as the time frame of activities enforcement.

COMPONENT 0: ACTIVITY COORDINATION

Project leader

- Regional Council of Lower Normandy
- Macedonian Ministry for local self-government

Project coordinator

- Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

I. Project monitoring and coordination

1. Steering Committee

- a. Intermediate Steering Committee

Date: April/May 2011

Place: LN/MK

- b. Bilateral Steering Committee

Date: September 2011

Place: MK

2. Official visits

Date: 3 – 9 July 2011

Place: MK

During the week of French Film Festival in Ohrid, an official visit will be organized led by the Vice President of the Regional Council of Lower Normandy. The objective of this visit is tourism development.

3. Working meetings

- a. Nadège Lécluse visits Macedonia

Date: 19-23 December 2011 **????? Ova e greshka treba da e 2010**

Place: MK

During the visit Nadège Lécluse had a meeting in the Ministry of local self-government and also met the partners of the project.

- b. Working meeting in Lower Normandy

Date: January 2011

Place: LN

Biljana Zasova and Ivana Dimitrovska visited Lower Normandy Region. During their visit several working meetings were organized in the Regional Council of Lower Normandy as well as meetings with the partners.

c. Working meeting in Lower Normandy

Date: 28 March 2011

Place: LN

A meeting is scheduled with Mr Alexandre Follo, Director for European and International Affairs, as well as working meeting in the Regional Council of Lower Normandy.

II. Institutional support

1. Support of the regional development in Macedonia

Creation of Action Plan is previewed in cooperation with the Ministry of self-government, after a completed analysis of needs and opportunities.

2. Support of the Euro-integration process

The process of Euro-integration is included in all activities of each component.

III. Supporting measures of the decentralised cooperation programme

(To be stated)

1. Network creation, managing the network and evaluation of experiences

The programme previews:

- One-day bilateral seminar concerning the annual Steering committee in September in presence of all partners
- Two training seminaries (duration half a day, one in Macedonia and one in France after the Intermediate Steering Committee). The training will be followed by ALDA which can invite experts from France or Macedonia.

2. Activity for promotion of intercultural study of socio-cultural practices in France and in the Balkans

This activity proposes intercultural study as a support of the decision making process in all components of the programme.

- Establishing three-year plan for intercultural study training regarding training programmes proposed by the European Commission and Council of Europe in this area.
- Participation of experts and trainers for the Education and Youth programmes of the Council of Europe
- Establishing evaluation level of the participants and the training influence on their abilities for common managing of the programme components.

3. Training for the necessity of Aquis communautaire adoption by the programme participants and concerned area

This activity proposes inclusion of this political and technical component for all programme levels and for cooperation via:

- Establishing a permanent information through internal communication tools of the programme, ongoing informing process in this area
- Creating agendas for training and raising awareness for all partners, including the actors in the integration process: Secretary-General for Enlargement, European Union Delegation in Skopje, the European Parliament, Republic of Macedonia and Lower Normandy Offices in Brussels.
- Evaluating the participants and the activity influence on their capacities to understand and implement the adoption of Acquis communautaire.

COMPONENT 1: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Objectives

- Exchange of experience among animators from different digital clubs in Macedonia and Lower Normandy;
- Raising awareness of the public present in the digital clubs;
- Raising awareness of the new technologies contribution in local governance and strengthening of the civil democratic practices due to the digital technology.

Project leaders

- Metamorphosis (MK)
- Regional Council of Lower Normandy – Digital development office (LN)

Project partners

- Polytechnicum – Lower Normandy
- Macedonian Civil Servants Agency
- Digital clubs and media centers
- Wikipedia - Macedonia
- Municipalities interested in decentralised cooperation
- Macedonian Ministry of Information Society

Activities

1.1. Expanding partnerships among digital clubs in Lower Normandy and Macedonia

1.1.1. Promoting the Lower Normandy/Macedonia cooperation in digital clubs of both territories

1.1.1.1. Informative seminar in digital clubs

Date: 10 December 2010

Place: LN

Representatives of Metamorphosis participated in this event.

(See activity 1.4 – e-learning)

1.1.1.2. Working group of digital clubs

Date: January 2011

Place: LN

Forming a working group composed by animators from the digital clubs and creation of Action plan in order to present Macedonia to the Lower Normandy population.

1.1.1.3. Activities for promoting Macedonia

Date: March, June and September 2011

Place: LN

To be determined from the working group and the Action plan.

1.1.1.4. Digital clubs seminaire

Date: June 2011

Place: LN

(See activity: 1.2.1. Seminaire "Mediums, e-citizenship and human rights")

1.1.2. Valuating territories - wiki-territorial

1.1.2.1. Forming a working group of digital clubs for wiki-territorial

Date: January - June 2011

Place: MK

1.1.2.2. Workshop for writing the "wiki-territorial" during the Internet Day

Date: March 2011

Place: LN

1.1.2.3. Digital clubs seminare – Return of wiki-territorial

Date: June 2011

Place: LN

(See activity: 1.2.1. Seminaire "Mediums, e-citizenship and human rights")

1.1.3. Valuating territories wiki-territorial in Macedonia

1.1.3.1. Forming a working group in digital clubs for wiki-territorial

Date: January - June 2011

Place: MK

The activity is composed from formation of working group which will animate the creation of wiki-territoriaux on regional level (8 wiki-territoriaux in Macedonia). This activity will be implemented in cooperation with wiki Macedonia. After the selection of so called "activators"

formed, inter alia, by the animators of digital clubs, the wiki-territoriaux will be created by experts. Metamorphosis will be responsible for the promotion of this tool.

1.1.3.2. WIKI training for animators

Date: 2011

Place: MK

1.1.3.3. Promotion of wiki-territorial

Date: 2011

Place: MK

1.1.3.4. Round table for promotion of participation tools

Date: 2011

Place: MK

1.2. Civil expression using digital technologies and social networks

1.2.1. Seminaire "Mediums, e-citizenship and human rights"

Date: 7 and 8 June 2011

Place: Caen, LN

The seminaire in cooperation with the Institute for Human Rights and Peace for the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for strengthening of democratic practices, will be organized in Lower Normandy in **June 2010 da ne e sluchajno 2011**. The objective of the seminare is to animate France/Balkans related to informing citizens via media, with the help of ICT. The seminaire will provide exchange of experience, expertize and start joined projects in the network aiming to answer the possible problems.

1.3. Strenghtening of capacities for the project participants

1.3.1. Creation of tool similar to wiki on Internet in order to create animators' profiles from each territory

Date: January 2011

Place: LN

1.3.2. Presentation and reconstruction of the accomplished work and presentation of the report

Date: September 2011

Place: LN

1.3.3. Research work for the animators

Date: January - June 2011

Place: MK

1.4. Development of e-learning

1.4.1. Visit of Macedonian participants in Lower Normandy

Date: 8 – 10 December 2010

Place: LN

In 8, 9 and 10 December 2010, Macedonian delegation visited Caen, Lower Normandy. During their visit several meetings were held:

- Visite of Mortagne, meeting the civil servants trained in e-learning, the training organization, animators from the digital clubs and municipalities who sent their municipal officials to be trained in e-learning;
- Meeting with the National center for territorial public services (CNFPT);
- Meeting with an organization for e-learning development in Caen.

The objective of this visit was to meet all the actors from Lower Normandy in the department of e-learning and to exchange the Macedonian experience in implementing digital technologies in local self-governements. The delegation also attended a seminaire in Saint-Lô, where they presented activities regarding digital technologies and local governance

1.4.2. Research of Macedonian reality regarding e-learning and development of Action plan

Date: January - March 2011

Place: MK

COMPONENT 2: YOUTH, EDUCATION, LOCAL AND EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

Objectives

General objectives

- Improvement of the youth inclusion encouraging local citizenship on local and European level;
- Participants cohesion from the civil organizations and institutions for local democracy in Lower Normandy and in Macedonia;
- Contribution in development and implementation of the public policies by the youth;

Specific objectives

- Promoting the personal, professional and social withdrawal of the youth through the acquisition of autonomy, taking responsibility, citizen participation;
- Creating necessary conditions for the young people to discover their potential;
- Encouraging awareness and promoting a true dialog between the young people it self, between the young people and the local, national and European institutions;
- Supporting the mobility of the youth, pointing to the need for designing necessary tools and the need to work with the participants;
- Offering the necessary funds for establishing mutual approach important for helping the local authorities in creating permanent and participatory youth policies.

Project leaders

- Coalition of Youth organisations – SEGA (MK)
- House of Europe in Caen – Долна Нормандија (LN)

Project partners

- French embassy in Macedonia (department for language cooperation)
- Agency of Youth and Sports of Macedonia
- Macedonian Ministry of Local Self-Government
- Regional Directorate for Youth and Sports from Lower Normandy
- Rector of the Caen Academy
- Association Mémoire pour la vie (Memory for life)
- League of Education in Lower Normandy

Activities

2.1. Support for the young people entering the workforce

2.2.1. Study visit / Workshop Студиска посета/Работилница „Innovative approaches to youth information“

Date: 3-7 April 2011

Place: LN

Three-day workshop planned in April in Lower Normandy. It concerns the development of conditions, in Macedonia and in Lower Normandy, for all the young people to work together in discovering the possibilities for education and training and employment. The workshop is targeted to local governments and responsible bodies for the youth policies, youth workers, young people participating in local governance (about 12 participants, 6 from Macedonia and 6 from Lower Normandy). This demonstrates the need for raising awareness and true dialogue between the young people and between the young people and institutions on local, national and European level. It is expected to enrich the thinking ability and skills of individuals.

2.2.2. Video conference for the Europe Day / European Year of Volunteering

Date: May 2011

Place: LN+MK

At the European Union Day and the European Year of Volunteering, a video conference will be held in Lower Normandy and in Macedonia. It is very important to compound the term of volunteering of youth in the cities. The meeting is targeted to local governance and organizations, youth workers, young people (about 34 participants, 17 from MK and 17 from LN). The volunteering as a mirror for the active citizenship and participatory democracy can reach european dimension, and the European programmes financing the mobility of the youth need to be explained more thouruly.

2.2. Local governance, youth policies and Europe

2.2.1. First birthday of INFO SEGA

Date: 1 June 2011

Place: MK

Visible result from the first three years of cooperation was the opening of the Youth Information and Counselling Centre in Macedonia – INFO SEGA. The target group are the local governments responsible for the youth policies, youth workers, highschool students, students and young working people (around 23 participants, 18 from MK, 4 from LN and 1 from EU).

Through the question for easy information access and the role of the young people in defining their needs, the activity of SEGA and House of Europe, together with the responsible people for education and employment is focused on European citizenship and mobility, orienting training and accompanying the young people.

2.2.2. Conference: Youth Policies on territorial level

Date: August 2011

Place: MK

Because of the process of europeanisation and decentralisation, the number of participants included in the youth policies is constantly increasing. The local units, especially the municipalities, becoming the main participants in the development of local policies should provide the convergence of the youth policies and resolution for different problems in certain territory.

2.3. Local democracy and active citizenship

(Monitoring, European vounteener, youth echange in Europe)

2.3.1. European vounteener

Date: March 2010 - March 2011

Place: Prilep, MK

Since March 2010 the organisation SEGA has a vounteener from Lower Normandy. The vounteener is working on the support of the decentralised cooperation in developing active citizenship projects emphasising the diversity of the population and intercultural dialogue. The vounteener will stay until March 2011.

2.3.2. Youth exchange: "Promoting the intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding"

Date: 22-27 August 2011

Place: Ohrid, MK

Aiming to promote the youth exchange and intercultural dialogue, The House of Europe will be partner on the project for "Promoting the intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding", organized by the Youth Council of Prilep. Three representatives from House of Europe will participate in implementation of the project starting from 22 until 27 August in Ohrid.

COMOPONENT 3: INVENTORY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Objectives

General objectives

- Strengthening of the local governments capacities in the area of urbanisation and cultural heritage;
- Encouraging dialogue between the authorities and municipal workers for specified problems regarding implementation of the cultural heritage policies;
- Networking local governmental units, in order not to isolate them in their approach and to work complementing each other;
- Defining the methodology for operating the process of inventoring the cultural heritage among all participants in order to create a tool to protect and manage the cultural heritage.

Specific objectives

- Mobilization of local units from Lower Normandy and Macedonia in a project for inventory of cultural heritage;
- Getting acquainted with the different types of tools for cultural heritage that exist in France and in Macedonia;
- Exchanging methods and skills between the municipal officials for operational inventory;
- Experiencing the joined method for operational inventory of cultural heritage.

Project leaders

- ANVPAH & VSSP (The National Association of Towns and Regions of Art and History and towns with protected areas...) from France
- Association of historical and artistic cities with architectural heritage of the Republic of Macedonia (MK)

Project partners

- City of Skopje
- Municipality Bitola
- Municipality Veles

Activities

3.1. Working group, mission in Macedonia

Date: 22 – 26 February 2011

Place: Veles, MK

Skopje and Bitola implemented a method for inventory of cultural heritage in partnership with ANVPAH & VSSP. This method can be developed also in other Macedonian cities, especially the ones with that already cooperate in partnership with cities from Lower Normandy. In Macedonia, the Association of historical and artistic cities with architectural heritage is trying to create an own network and to identify two pilot cities where it could implement the operative inventory of cultural heritage. At the meeting different partners will try to learn more about the possibility for this type of inventory. The municipality officials and the experts will work together on development of various tools for protection and valuation of cultural heritage available in both countries and for implementing the operative inventory in the local policies. At Documented researches will be created in order to make historical and architectural panorama of the city.

3.2. Monitoring the first instalment of the inventory of cultural heritage in Macedonia

Date: second trimester 2011

Place : MK

The operational inventory will be operated by larger disciplinary group. This operation should be monitored by group of experts. This group, consisted and trained during the previous activities will have to offer technical advices to the operating group. An analysis will be made for the implemented method in order to make various corrections if needed. The documentary researches, about the city evolution, started in the first activity, will be finished.

3.3. Conference about the French tools for protection and valuation of the cultural heritage

Date: second trimester 2011

Place: LN

One day study visit will take place in Lower Normandy. It will unite the local governments from Lower Normandy and Macedonia. There will be a presentation of one city from the protected sector or from the Zone for protection of architectural, urban and paysage cultural heritage (ZPPAUP), studying its implementation, interest and challenges. This study visit will be followed by conference with presentation of the cultural heritage activities previously implemented in Macedonia.

COMPONENT 4: LOCAL AND REGIONAL CULTURAL POLICIES

Objectives

General objectives

- Establishing professional skills of the participants from local cultural scene which will contribute in the future sustainable and cultural development;
- Providing constant cooperation between certain local units from Macedonia and from the Lower Normandy Region;
- Encouring the participation of the local nongovernmental department, as important actor in the cultural department in one country, its spreading and experience in managing projects, and handling project and cultural programs.

Specific objectives

- Implementation of strategic document for development of the regional culture in one Macedonian region;
- Creating permanent partnerships between the governmental and citizens' institutions which will contribute to sustainable conditions and better environment for culture development.

Project leaders

- Center for new cultural initiatives – Lokomotiva (MK)
- CRÉCET – Regional center for culture, ethnology and technology (LN)

Project partners

- Office for regional development of the Pelagonija Region
- French Embassy in Macedonia
- Municipalities from Pelagonija Region
- Associations and cultural institutions from the Pelagonija Region

Activities

4.1. Workshop and training on cultural local policies

Date: 4-7 April 2011

Place: MK

Three-day workshop presenting “study-case” will be organized in one city from the Region Pelagonija. During the workshop it is previewed for the participants to create an analysis on the field. The analysis will show the needs, weaknesses and possibilities in the cultural domain of the Pelagonija’s municipalities who will plan a strategy for cultural development using specific method.

4.2. Workshop and training for strategic planning and internationalization of cultural institutions in Lower Normandy

Date: 1-15 June 2011

Place: LN

In cooperation with the partners from Lower Normandy, it is necessary to establish if the workshops will be targeted to the cultural institutions in Lower Normandy in general, or the institutions will be defined depending on the working department.

The workshops are themed by: presenting the functioning modes of the selected institutions, the volume of cooperation with similar institutions in France, the process of implementing in the Pelagonija Region.

4.3. Research, preparation and monitoring of the process for developing cultural strategy in the Pelagonija Region

Date: February -May 2011

Place: MK

The staff of Lokomotiva will attend three-day working visit in the Pelagonija Region in 2011, in order to discuss and plan the first activity including the duties and responsibilities for implementation of the activity. This enforcement will be divided between Lokomotiva and the center for development of the planning Pelagonija Region.

In May 2011 Lokomotiva will implement another three-day working visit in Pelagonija. They will have a meeting with the previously formed working group, in order to monitor and evaluate the working process of the group, as well as the used mechanisms.

COMPONENT 5: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Objectives

General Objectives

- Support the sustainable development and valuating of the cultural heritage in the Republic of Macedonia and in Lower Normandy;
- Raising awareness of the local governments, members of the tourism department (current and future) for the need of sustainable local development;
- Raising awareness of the population from the both territories regarding alternative tourism and valuating the cultural heritage;
- Encouraging knowledge and exchange of experiences in the department of sustainable tourism and valuating of cultural heritage.

Specific objectives

- Creating and animating a network of municipalities and territories, as well as tourism representatives in Lower Normandy and Macedonia;
- Creating participative approach which will provide the population of both countries to join the activities traditionally reserved to professionals: inventory, reconstruction, etc.;
- Development and improvement of organization specialized in valuating cultural heritage: tool for lobbying which will encourage the policies to act.

Project leaders

- Savoir-faire et découverte (LN)
- Center for institutional cooperation development – CIRa (MK)

Project partners

- The department for inventory of cultural heritage in the regional council in Lower Normandy
- Macedonian Tourist Association
- Municipalities from Macedonia and Lower Normandy
- Community of local government units – ZELS (MK)
- Regional center for ethnological and ethnic cultures - CRECET (LN)
- Architectural Engineering Faculty Skopje
- Faculty of History from Caen

Activities

5.1. The use of natural and technical traditional materials in renovation of traditional buildings

5.1.1. Practical training in Lower Normandy

Date: 2 – 9 July 2011

Place: LN

5 Participants from Macedonia and 5 participants from Lower Normandy will attend this practical training in July in Lower Normandy. The objective of this visit is to raise the awareness of both territories about the importance of keeping and reconstructing the traditional construction and making techniques in order to encourage young people to invest professionally in this department.

5.2. Promotion of sustainable tourism and cultural heritage

5.2.1. Promotion of sustainable tourism and cultural heritage in Macedonia

Date: October 2010 – September 2011

Place: MK

The idea is to encourage the creation of specific project through connecting the two territories with professional tourism workers, point out the advantages of the territories in order to stimulate the interest of the people involved in sustainable tourism and to identify the partners from Mavrovo, Novaci and Berovo. At these territories there are already identified products.

5.2.2. Promotion of sustainable tourism and cultural heritage in Macedonia – for the Lower Normandy population

Date: October 2010 – September 2011

Place: LN

All films and photos gathered during the last 3 years will be valorized through the partnership with the University of Caen, CRECET and through creating and animating internet page where implemented activities will be displayed, as well as the territories that participated.

5.3. Improvement of skills and involvement of Macedonian actors

5.3.1. Public event in Mavrovo

Date: 23 November 2010

Place: MK

The event took place on 23 November 2010 in the municipality Mavrovo – Rostuse, with presentation of implemented activities in the previous year.

5.3.2. Round table “Cultural and natural heritage: raising awareness and activating citizenship”

Date: 24 November 2010

Place: Skopje

The round table “Cultural and natural heritage: raising awareness and activating citizenship” on 24 November 2010 was a result of the implemented activities from the last two years in Mavrovo-Rostuse, Novaci and Berovo. The results, methodology and experiences from this project were presented at the round table through various videos and photos.

5.3.3. Creation of an organization specialized in valuating the cultural heritage (first phase)

The activity included cration of organization specialized in valuating the cultural and natural heritage. This structure will be composed of proffessionalists and citizens and will not replace the exsisting organization, but an indispensable addition.

COMPONENT 6: AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

General objectives

- Strengthening of farmers organisations' capacities for sustainable economic development;
- Overcoming many difficulties that farmers encounter relating to sustainability of the agriculture production.

Specific objectives

- Strengthening of organizations and their functioning (strategic vision, organization of services, human and financial assets);
- Strengthening of farmers' network on the Balkans for sustainable agriculture development, facilitating the exchanges of experience and thoughts for mutual challenges.

Project leaders

- Afdi Lower Normandy (LN)
- Federation of Farmers from Republic of Macedonia (FFRM)

Project partners

- IADK, Initiative for agricultural development in Kosovo (Kosovo)
- Association of individual farmers from Serbia
- Association of farmers from Bosnia and Hercegovina (Bosnia and Hercegovina)
- Association of dairy farmers from Albania

Activities

6.1. Accompanying the farmers organization to improve profitability and agricultural production, as well as structuring the agro-food affiliates

6.1.1. Accompanying the farmers organization

6.1.1.1. Training of pilot groups

Date: November 2010, February and May 2011

Place: MK

Identification of 3 pilot dairy farmers (representatives of one third of all dairy farmers, in municipalities of Bitola, Gostivar, Tetovo). The training of the farmers and the pilot groups for the farmers' organizations will be performed by a technician from FFRM, previously trained for accompanying the pilot groups. He will monitor the following issues:

- How to buy together in order to lower the expenses? Technical equipment for agricultural production and veterenian products.
- How to sell the products better? Checkpoint for collective collect of yield, improvement of quality.

60 Days of planned training and monitoring or approximately 20 days per pilot group including preparation.

6.1.1.2. Visit of French dairy farmers in Macedonia

Date: 16-26 February 2011

Place: MK

The training was implemented in Macedonia in the presence of two representatives from AFDI. In the presence of two French breeders, few meetings were held with dairy farmers and breeders.

6.1.1.3. Study visit / training

Date: 3 – 13 April 2011

Place: FR

Important part of the training for the Macedonian farmers is their visit in France. This stay was designed for the representatives of the pilot groups, together with representatives from FFRM, responsible for accompanying and monitoring the work of pilot groups. During this period, the representative of FFRM will attend a planned training.

6.1.1.4. Visit of French farmers in Kosovo

Date: September 2011

Place: Kosovo

In relation to several projects implemented by IADK, including the creation of Balkans farmers' network, equipping checkpoints for collective collect of yield, access to agricultural materials... there is a planned mission in Kosovo of three French farmers. At the meeting they will discuss the issues of organizing, such as: functioning, development of network of organisations, presenting and defending the interests of the agriculturers, access to market (checkpoints for collecting the yield, processing and sales), collective use of materials.

6.1.1.5. Expanding the cooperation

Date: October 2010 - September 2011

Place: MK

There are several planned meetings with the local governments from the municipalities which are already included in the decentralised cooperation programme between Lower Normandy and Macedonia, in order to connect the existing cooperations and the action plan.

6.1.2. Reinforcing the capacities of the dairy farmers for longterm profitability of the dairy production

6.1.2.1. Training of the pilot groups

Date: February, May and June 2011

Place: MK

Depending on the demands from the Macedonian pilot groups, the training will be organised as follows:

- Nutritions of dairy cows: reducing costs of feeding the dairy cows, improvement of fodder,
- Maintenance of milk
- “Charter on good farm practices“, European standards for good livestock

All the prepositions can be adapted and modified together with the pilot groups. The trainings will be held by experts and professors from Macedonia, selected by FFRM. Also there is a planned training in duration of 15 days, or approximately 5 days per group. In order to establish valuation of this experience one technician from FFRM will evaluate and monitor different training sessions.

6.1.2.2. Exchange in Kosovo

Date: April 2011

Place: Kosovo

Together with IADK in Kosovo, several working meetings will be organized in order to exchange experiences or other form of exchange (technicians will be available on spot). Three representatives of the pilot groups will have a visit in Kosovo, together with technician from FFRM. During this visit the participants will discuss the milk production, nutritional production, feeding of dairy cows, quality and hygiene of milk.

6.1.2.3. Visit of French dairy farmers in Macedonia

Date: June 2011

Place: MK

Three French dairy farmers will visit Macedonia on a mission in June 2011. During this visit they will discuss the issue of milk production and training programs for each pilot group.

6.1.2.4. Breeders visit – producers in France

Date: October 2010

Place: LN

Two women dairy farmers, representatives of 2 pilot groups, accompanied by the technician from IADK (Kosovo) will visit France and discuss the production of dairy products. One representative from FFRM will join the cattle breeders in their visit in France.

6.1.2.2. Study visit of French dairy farmers in Kosovo

Date: May 2011

Place: Kosovo

**6.2. Reinforcement of the farmers' organization network in the Balkans
for sustainable agricultural development**

6.2.1. Organizing annual conference

Date: 25 February 2011

Place: MK

Three years ago the initiative for developing a network of Balkans farmers' organizations was established. This network includes farmers' organizations from Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro. The annual conference was held in February 2011. The members of the network joined together to discuss mutually developed themes, concerning the challenges, conditions and implementation of the process of entrance into the European Union. The official theme of the conference was "Cooperative joining – the basis for increasing the profitability of farms".

TOWN TWINNING

- **Caen/Ohrid**
- **Livarot/Berovo**

The cooperation between Livarot and Berovo is based on agricultural and sustainable tourism themes.

➤ **Cherbourg/Veles**

These two towns will cooperate in the culture domaine, especially theatre.

- **Hermanville/Vevcani**

Hermanville and Vevcani will cooperate on themes regarding sustainable tourism, youth and new technologies.

➤ *Mission in Vevcani*

Date: 13-18 January 2011

Place: Vevcani

In the period of 5 days the delegation from Hermanville officialy visited Vevcani. During their working visit both towns determined their cooperation themes and signed three-year Convention for cooperation.

- **Ifs/Debar**

Ifs and Debar are working on youth, sustainable tourism and cultural themes.

➤ *Mission in Debar*

Date: 15-17 December 2010

Place: Debar

The delegation from Ifs visited Debar and attended the opening of the new municipality building. During their visit both towns discussed the possibilities for continuous implementing of already accomplished activities. The two municipalities will continue to cooperate in the youth, culture and sustainable tourism departments.