

# **SKILLS FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT (S4RE)**



## **Report for Beekeeping Opportunity Groups of 2015 in Kamenica municipality**

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## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) project implemented by the Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Kosovo (HSIC-K) has the goal to reduce poverty in rural areas of Kosovo through increased employment and income opportunities.

The S4RE project within their first intervention strategy is developing capacities of young employed men and women through skills and training programs, linked to private sector opportunities. In this context, interest of the young population including both men and women in municipality of Dragash, Kamenica, Novo Brdo and Shterpce has increased. That is the reason that the S4RE project has decided to undertake an assessment of trainings of young population with objective to collect data from the participants which have finished the training for beekeeping in 2015, regarding their situation after the training and to see does the trainers provide needed guidance and necessary support for the groups to succeed in beekeeping.

For the assessment, interview was completed with trainees from eighteen opportunity groups for beekeeping which finished the training in 2015, in Kamenica municipality.

The main findings were:

- Trainees of all opportunity groups for beekeeping of 2015 in Kamenica municipality, after the training has received two bees from S4RE project.
- All of interviewed opportunity groups have started being engaged to beekeeping activities;
- 11% of all interviewed beekeeping opportunity groups in Kamenica municipality were Serbian population, the remaining 89% of the groups were Albanian population;
- The economic situation of all trainees of eighteen opportunity groups is not yet improved, since groups still are not making any earnings from beekeeping and it is the first year yet;
- There is one opportunity group from Karaqeve, Kamenica, which this year beside they received 2 bees from S4RE project, they bought additional 10 bees. The all remained beekeeping groups are planning next year to extend the number of bees' society;
- Two trainers Bajram Bajrami and Radovan Mihajlovic are all the time helping and supporting the groups in order to succeed in beekeeping;
- All interviewed opportunity groups, are very satisfied with quality of the bees they received;
- The 83% of 2013 opportunity groups would like to have additional trainings;

## **3. BACKGROUND**

The Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) project's aim is to reduce poverty in rural areas of Kosovo through increased employment and income opportunities. This will be achieved by addressing both the supply and demand sides of the labour market – stimulating local economic development (demand) and improving the skills of the local population (supply). The project is active in the Sharri Mountains area (Municipalities of Dragash and

Shtërpce), as well as in the area of Novo Brdo and Kamenica focusing on youth, women and minorities.

S4RE targets a community-wide approach to tackling the difficult problem of unemployment. The project is implemented through local learning facilitator and training providers who identify beneficiaries and provide skills development; as well as engaging with private sector.

The project uses 3 main intervention strategies:

1. Developing the capacities of young unemployed men and women through skills and training programs, linked to private sector opportunities.
2. Working with existing businesses to increase employment and income through skills and business development.
3. Linking self-employed suppliers of raw material (agricultural and others) to national and regional buyers.

## **4. INTRODUCTION**

The reason why this assignment was done was to find out what is the situation of opportunity groups for beekeeping of 2015 in Kamenica municipality after the training, in which stage they are, do the trainers provide them needed support in order to succeed in beekeeping, and do they need any further support from the project.

Today's generations of young people are the largest in the history. Kosovo has the youngest population in the Europe. In the Republic of Kosovo, the average young people (aged from 15-24), represent the highest percentage of population. They represent a huge potential resource, in this developing country. Yet, rural areas are not benefiting fully from this resource. In fact, many rural communities are ageing precisely because, in the absence of incentives to remain, young women and men are leaving rural areas to seek opportunities elsewhere, mostly in developed cities of Kosovo; such as capital city, Pristina.

During the past years, young people in Kosovo have been underestimated and neglected by communities, government and international organizations. Globally, young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. The unemployment rate (ages 15-24), represents 30.2% of total population which is unemployed, which is yet a very high percentage of unemployment. Compared to old peers, young rural people face particular constraints in gaining access to land, credit and new technologies. They also need wider educational opportunities and access to relevant vocational training programs. Young rural people in the Republic of Kosovo are the group who need and deserve special attention, support and follow up. With their energy, their passion and their talents, they can solve many of the serious problems this country in developing is facing today. But first they should receive tools they need.

In this context, the youth population in rural areas of Kosovo, in municipality of Dragash, Kamenica, Novo Brdo and Shtërpce is population with potential. Unfortunately, youth in these rural areas are facing with various challenges in education and gaining skills, which have major influence on their employment. Those young people have lack of education, and need trainings related to specific areas which can contribute towards increase in their revenues to support their families, employment and economic growth of Kosovo.

The S4RE project will stimulate Opportunity Groups as effective way to develop locally demanded technical, entrepreneurial & life skills for young people leading to improved employment and income.

## **5. OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the assignment is to monitor the situation of opportunity groups in 2015 for beekeeping in Kamenica municipality who have participated in training provided by S4RE project, in order to see if the trainers provide needed guidance and necessary support for the groups to succeed in beekeeping.

## **6. METHODOLOGY**

The assessment was completed using interview which monitoring expert with help of two field facilitators held with opportunity groups of 2015 for beekeeping in municipality of Kamenica. Questions used in this interview were prepared in close collaboration with project staff, and it includes 13 questions which are related to beekeeping situation of opportunity groups after the trainings. Data collected have been further analyzed and processed from a monitoring expert who is engaged from the Project (Annex 1).

Interviews were completed with eighteen opportunity groups of 2015 for beekeeping, in Kamenica municipality.

## 7. SURVEY RESULTS

In the table 1.1 below are presented the number of opportunity groups and trainees which Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) project facilitated to opportunity groups for beekeeping in 2015, in Kamenica municipalities: there were in total 18 opportunity groups, for beekeeping which finished the trainings successfully, including 146 trainees from all trained opportunity groups for beekeeping in 2015 in Kamenica municipality.

Municipality	Learning Groups	
	Number of groups	Trainees
Kamenica	18	146

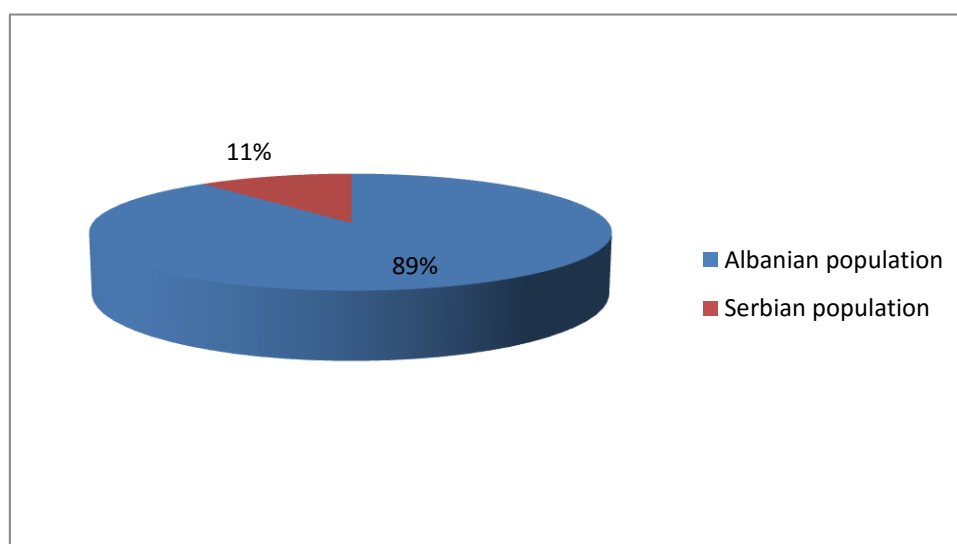
**Table 1.1 - List of Opportunity Groups for beekeeping of 2015 in Kamenica municipality**

### Beekeeping (18 groups)

#### Training information

In total there were eighteen opportunity groups for beekeeping in municipality of Kamenica, where sixteen of them were trained by Bajram Bajrami (16 groups) who in the same time was the supplier of the bees which were given to trainees of eighteen opportunity groups for beekeeping and two groups were trained by Radovan Mihajlovic.

In below graph 1.1, is presented the nationality of trainees from eighteen opportunity groups for beekeeping. The 11% of all trained beekeeping opportunity groups of 2015 were Serbian population (two groups). The remained 89% of beekeeping opportunity groups are Albanian population (sixteen groups).



**Graph 1.1 – Nationality of beekeeping opportunity groups of 2015 in Kamenica**

The beekeeping trainings which were facilitated by Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) project in 2015 for opportunity groups (youth population) in municipality of Kamenica, have left very positive influence and results on trainees.

Results of data collected from the interview with opportunity groups for beekeeping of 2015 in Kamenica municipality, show that all of interviewed opportunity groups really liked and are satisfied with the trainings provided by S4RE project. The beekeeping trainings were very

good planned and realized, interactive, including both theoretical and practical part, which participants mostly liked which was in best interest for them to learn how it works in practice.

The facilitated trainings have helped participants of opportunity groups for beekeeping of 2015 from Kamenica municipality; to extend their knowledge in the beekeeping area, from the basic to advance knowledge, since all trainees' are beginners in beekeeping and had very little or no knowledge in this area.

### **Income generation and employment**

After the training, trainees from sixteen opportunity groups (Albanian population) were granted with two bees from S4RE project and two groups (Serbian population) with one bee, in order to have something to start work with beekeeping.

So by receiving bees, they became economically engaged to beekeeping activities (Annex 2).

Since, groups have received bees this year; the economic situation of all trainees of eighteen opportunity groups is not yet improved. The main reasons for this, is that the eighteen opportunity groups are still not making earnings from beekeeping. Since, it is still the first year; the earnings should be made from second year, then process of collecting honey starts. All trainees from eighteen opportunity groups are planning that next year firstly to extend the number of bees' society, so year after quantity of honey can be higher which will result in higher earnings.

Furthermore, there is one opportunity group from Karaqeve, Kamenica , which this year beside they received 2 bees from S4RE project, they bought additional 10 bees, in order to immediately extend the bees society and have higher earnings next season, and that bees be stronger in order to easily overwinter (Annex 3).

### **Trainers and mentoring criteria**

The two trainers for beekeeping, Bajram Bajrami who lectured sixteen opportunity groups and Radovan Mihajlovic who lectured two opportunity groups in Kamenica municipality, were very professional in their work during the training. Trainers tried to show trainees everything they need to know in beekeeping, also the main focus was on practical part, where all practical work regarding beekeeping was clearly showed and explained to all trainees. Once the all trainees received bees, every time they needed help or advice, they called and addressed to the trainers Bajram and Radovan, which lectured them, which after that provided needed guidance and necessary support to the groups they trained in Kamenica municipality in order to succeed in beekeeping. The trainees helped them to solve all difficulties successfully. Some trainees from sixteen opportunity groups, which were trained by Bajram Bajrami, faced with some small difficulties and trainer came and provided help every time they called him, in order to help them. Those trainees do not have difficulties anymore, but trainer Bajram regularly calls them in order to make sure that everything is going well. Also trainees from two opportunity groups which were trained by Radovan Mihajlovic, every time together with the trainees are going to visit their bees, there he is following situation of each trainee, in order to succeed in beekeeping.

Now, all eighteen opportunity groups are still in contact with their trainers Bajram and Radovan, which based on their words, are in their disposition any time they need them, and are all the time following the situation of the groups. The two trainers have fulfilled and are

still fulfilling their mentoring criteria (based on the needs and problems of opportunity groups) which he has signed in the contract with the S4RE project.

### **Bees' quality**

All interviewed trainees, are very satisfied with quality of the bees they received. The quality is very good, and they think the bees are strong enough in order to overwinter. As mentioned above, all trainees are planning from next year to extend the number of bees' society. Two opportunity groups were not satisfied bee boxes, because they were not completed, and those two groups needed to buy some boxes parts extra.

They think that for the money they invested, they needed to receive the bee boxes with full needed inside equipment.

### **Additional trainings**

The graph 1.2 below shows that 83% of trainees of eighteen opportunity groups for beekeeping in Kamenica municipality expressed the need to be additionally trained. The areas in which they would like to be further trained includes, multiplication of bees and society, nuts development in order to make more nuts, protecting bees against diseases and honey production.

The remaining 17% of trainees, said that for now they do not have need to be additionally trained, since trainers are in their disposal every time they need help.



**Graph 1.2 - Need for additional trainings for beekeeping opportunity groups of 2015 in Kamenica municipality**



## **Challenges & Follow up**

Trainees of all opportunity groups did not face with some major challenges. Some smaller challenges were experience in beekeeping, since nearly all trainees are beginners and for the first time are working with bees. For every problem or challenge the groups had, their trainers Bajram and Radovan were always there in order to help them in every step they take in beekeeping and to solve any difficulty or problem.

The S4RE project can further help for those beekeeping opportunity groups, by providing financial support to the groups in the form of bees' expansion and necessary equipment, which they will need in the future.

## **7 MAIN FINDINGS**

The main findings of this assignment are:

- Trainees of all opportunity groups for beekeeping of 2015 in Kamenica municipality, after the training has received two bees from S4RE project.
- All of interviewed opportunity groups have started being engaged to beekeeping activities;
- 11% of all interviewed beekeeping opportunity groups in Kamenica municipality were Serbian population, the remained 89% of the groups were Albanian population.
- The economic situation of all trainees of eighteen opportunity groups is not yet improved, since groups still are not making any earnings from beekeeping and it is the first year yet;
- There is one opportunity group from Karaqeve, Kamenica, which this year beside they received 2 bees from S4RE project, they bought additional 10 bees. The all remained beekeeping groups are planning next year to extend the number of bees' society.
- Two trainers Bajram Bajrami and Radovan Mihajlovic are all the time helping and supporting the groups in order to succeed in beekeeping.
- All interviewed opportunity groups, are very satisfied with quality of the bees they received.
- The 83% of 2013 opportunity groups would like to have additional trainings.

## **8 RECOMANDATION**

The business development and monitoring expert recommends to the S4RE project as following:

- Further monitor the situation of beekeeping opportunity groups in Kamenica municipality, with purpose of improvement;
- Provide additional trainings for beekeeping opportunity groups who are highly interested in being additionally trained with purpose of advancement;
- Provide financial support to trainees of beekeeping opportunity groups of 2015, in the form of equipment and bees' expansion.
- Working with the same groups next year, in order to form beekeeping association.
- Provide support in business orientation.

## **9 ANNEX 1 – Questionnaire for opportunity groups of 2015 for beekeeping**

1. Did you like the training?
2. Has this training helped you to extend your knowledge in the field you were trained?
3. Has this training helped you to improve your economic situation?
4. Have you been engaged in some economic activities after training?
5. If yes, what were those activities/ If no, why not?
6. Approximately, what are your monthly earnings from those activities?
7. What are the challenges which you are facing the most?
8. How did you like the trainer?
9. Do you find your trainer available and approachable every time you need help?
10. What was the quality of bees?
11. Would you like to have some additional training?
12. If yes, in what areas?
13. What are your recommendations/any additional comments for S4RE project?

## 10 ANNEX 2 – Some of the trainees from opportunity groups for beekeeping in Kamenica municipality















































## 11 ANNEX 3 - Opportunity group from Karaqeve, Kamenica

