

SKILLS FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT (S4RE)



Report for Opportunity Groups of 2014

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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, regarding their economic situation after the training with main focus of increasing employment and income.

For the assessment, interview was completed with participants from fifty six opportunity groups which finished the training in 2014, from which twenty four of them were from Kamenica, nine from Novo Brdo, nine from Shterpce and fourteen from Dragash municipality.

The main findings were:

- 89% of interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Kamenica, Novo Brdo, Shterpce and Dragash are engaged in different economic activities;
- 51% of interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in four municipalities which are economically active are engaged in activities in agriculture sector, which include raspberry, strawberry and blueberry cultivation.
- After the training, 55% of opportunity groups of 2014 have faced with improvement in their economic situation;
- 37% of the opportunity groups which have been engaged in different economic activities have started small startup businesses, which were made possible from knowledge they have gained in the trainings. The remained 63% of opportunity groups are working privately;
- Approximately monthly earnings that which opportunity groups are gaining from their economic activities are from 30€ to 300€ of profit; Some opportunity groups which are engaged in activities in agriculture and NTFP sector, monthly earnings during seasonal time are from 300€ up to 1000€.
- 93% of interviewed opportunity groups have planned to open their own business after the training, in order to implement in practice the knowledge they gained during the training.
- 86% of 2014 opportunity groups would like to have additional trainings.

3. BACKGROUND

The aim of the Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) project is to reduce the 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 Shtepce), 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 of 2014 in four municipalities after the training, in which stage they are, did training facilitated by S4RE project brought positive changes to their economic situation, 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 same evidence applies for Kosovo as well, where the unemployment rate (ages 15-24), represents 30.2% of total population which is unemployed, which yet is very huge percentage. 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 Shterpce 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 find out what was the impact of S4RE project intervention on opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Dragash, Kamenica, Novo Brdo and Shterpce who have participated in training provided by S4RE, in order to analyze their economic situation after the training with main focus of increasing employment and income.

6. METHODOLOGY

The assessment was completed using interview which monitoring expert with help of field facilitators held with opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Dragash, Kamenica, Novo Brdo and Shterpce. Questions used in this interview were prepared in close collaboration with project staff, and it includes 13 questions which are related to situation changes 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 2).

Interviews were completed with fifty six opportunity groups of 2014, from which twenty four of them were from Kamenica, nine from Novo Brdo, nine from Shterpce and fourteen from Dragash municipality.

7. SURVEY RESULTS

In the table 1.1 below are presented the number of learning groups and trainees which Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) project facilitated to opportunity groups in 2014, in four municipalities:

In Kamenica municipality, in total were 24 opportunity groups, different professions which finished the trainings successfully, including 206 trainees from all trained opportunity groups.

In Novo Brdo municipality, 9 opportunity groups attended and finished the trainings, which includes 83 trainees (youth population).

On the other side, in Shterpce municipality 9 opportunity groups of youth population attended and finished trainings in different areas facilitated by S4RE project, including in total 78 trainees in this municipality.

In Dragash municipality, in total were 14 opportunity groups, who finished trainings in different profession areas, including in total 209 trainees from all trained opportunity groups of 2014 in this municipality.

Municipality	Learning Groups	
	Number of groups	Trainees
Kamenica	24	206
Novo Brdo	9	83
Shterpce	9	78
Dragash	14	209

Table 1.1 - List of Opportunity Groups for 2014

In all four municipalities, in total in 2014 were 56 opportunity groups which finished trainings in different business areas, and including 576 trainees in total which were trained.

The trainings which were facilitated by Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) project in 2014 for different opportunity groups (youth population) in municipality of Kamenica, Novo Brdo, Shterpce and Dragash, have left very positive influence and results on participants.

Results of data collected from the interview with opportunity groups of 2014 in those four municipalities show that all of interviewed opportunity groups really liked the trainings provided by S4RE project. The 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 from 2014 from all four municipalities; to extend their knowledge in the fields they were trained, from the basic to advance knowledge, and for some participants to become economically active.

7.1 Kamenica Municipality – Results of Opportunity Groups of 2014

In the table 1.2 below are presented the opportunity groups of 2014 in Kamenica municipality. In this municipality, in total were 24 opportunity groups which finished the trainings in 2014, including 206 trainees from all groups. The profession which all opportunity groups were trained includes both agro business and non-agro business profession. 14 opportunity groups (115 trainees), have finished the trainings in agro business areas, which includes beekeeping, NTFP collection and identification, strawberry and blueberry cultivation. On the other side, 10 opportunity groups have finished the trainings in non-agro business areas, which in total include 91 trainees and the trainings, were for tailoring, hairdressing, pruning, nail technician, waiters, chick cultivation, jewellery, video design and carpentry.

Occupation	Learning Groups	
	Number of groups	Trainees
Agro business		
Beekeeping	3	40
NTFP identification and collection	1	11
Strawberry cultivation	4	19
Blueberry cultivation	6	45
Non Agro Business		
Tailoring	2	25
Hairdressing	1	7
Pruning	1	7
Nail Technician	1	5
Waiters	1	15
Chick cultivation	1	9
Jewellery	1	12
Video-design	1	6
Carpentry	1	5

Table 1.2 - List of Opportunity Groups for 2014 in Kamenica municipality

Tailoring (1st group)

This opportunity group consisted of 12 participants and was lectured by trainer Ibadete Sermahaj.

Income generation and employment

After the training, participants of this opportunity group decided to continue with tailoring. They were employed by the trainer, which has its tailoring store business “Er-rosi”, and they became economically active, by which their economic situation is improved. From that time, this group is working in this boutique. Since participants of this opportunity group are economically active, this group is still in improvement stage, making progresses on daily

bases. When it comes to the incomes, this groups is earning around 200-250€ on a monthly basis, which can increase in the summer period, then boutique has more orders for weddings, engagements and similar events which happen during this period. Opportunity group for now is making the evidence how much they receive each month, in order to know what the total of annually earnings is.

Challenges & Follow up

For all the challenges which they faced in the beginning, they received support by their trainer/employer, and they did not have many difficulties. For now this opportunity group has showed no interest in being additionally trained, since they learned enough important things in the training, which they need for their current job. For now this group does not need any further support from S4RE project.

Tailoring (2nd group)

This opportunity group consisted of 13 participants and was lectured by the trainer Ibadete Sermahaj.

Income generation and employment

After the training, participants of this opportunity group did not found the job. They focused on other side, by starting being engaged in tailoring activities of working privately, based on customers' orders which they receive for events such as prom nights, weddings' and engagements. This means they are working from their homes. The major activities which economically active participants of this opportunity group have are in the period from May to end of July-August. The income which they receive during this period is approximately around 100€ monthly. For now they are not taking evidence about the income they receive from their activities, because as above mentioned the calculated income is approximate.

Challenges & Follow up

After the training the group planned to open tailoring store, but because of lack of financial support they could not start. This group is still at the beginning stage, which also can be seen they the need and interest in being additionally trained, in area of advanced tailoring. Together with this additionally training which the need, they also need further help from the S4RE project, which is financial support for opening tailoring store.

Hairdressing group

This opportunity group consisted of 7 participants and was lectured by the trainer Bedrie Gashi.

Income generation and employment

After the training, this opportunity group has not been engaged in any economic activity. One of the two main reasons for this, is because they need more training in hairdressing since based on their words, this is area which cannot be learned from only one training. The second reason is that some of the participants which are female gender, have other plans such are travelling outside Kosovo and getting married and they do not have time for activities in the area they were trained.

Challenges & Follow up

They would like that S4RE project provides them with the financial support for opening hairdressing salon. By that they also have a need in being additionally trained for hairdressing, more advanced trainings and for business managing if it happens that they open hairdressing salon. This opportunity group is in non-developing stage.

Pruning group

This opportunity group consisted of 7 participants and was lectured by the trainer Imer Dermaku.

Income generation and employment

After the training, the group started working privately on pruning trees. The major activities which this group has are done during the late spring, summer and beginning of autumn period, which makes their job seasonal. Being engaged in those pruning activities has improved their economic situation. The income which they receive during this seasonal period in total, is approximately from 300-400€, where they are not keeping very clear evidence.

Challenges & Follow up

Based on their words, they need more advanced trainings in pruning, since this group is still at the beginning stage. After the training, they had the idea to open their own business, but for now it was not realized. So, the S4RE project could help them by providing them further support for pruning, by helping them opening a business, which will be of higher importance for this opportunity group.

Beekeeping 1st opportunity group

This opportunity group consisted of 14 participants and was lectured by the trainer Sami Mujaj.

Income generation and employment

After the training, this opportunity group for beekeeping has been engaged in activities which are related to bees' development. They have received 10 bees from the S4RE project. For the moment, their economic situation is still not improved since they don't receive yet any income and earnings from this activity. Since they do not receive any earnings, they do not keep evidence. The process of collecting honey starts from August and September. The sale of honey depends on orders which they will receive.

Challenges & Follow up

This group is still in developing stage. The knowledge about the bees which they received from the training helped them to start this business. They also need additionally trainings in areas of omat (production) and how to increase the capacity of beekeeping. They need further support from the S4RE project, which is financial support in order to increase the number of bees to 40.

Beekeeping 2nd opportunity group

This opportunity group consists of 10 participants and was lectured by trained Radovan Mihajlovic, and is from place Strezovce in Kamenica municipality.

Income generation and employment

After the training, each participant of this opportunity group received one bee from S4RE project, which in total makes 10 bees for whole group. They started being engaged in activities which are related to bees' development. For now, economic situation of this opportunity group is little improved, since this group started making profit. The whole group, from 10 bees, has produced 90kg of honey. They are selling this honey for price of 8€ (market honey price) per kilo, which makes their total annual profits of 720€. The group is working together, so all profits they are dividing between themselves. Also, the group is keeping clear evidence about their earnings, since they are also keeping evidence about quantity of produced honey for selling.

Challenges & Follow up

This group is still in developing stage, since they are also planning to increase the number of bees. The group is planning to buy more bees in spring. At the beginning, the group faced with some challenges such as the beginning steps in beekeeping and that bees were in a very bad condition (low bees species), and it took to the group more time in order to solve this issue, but with help of their trainer they solved it successfully. This opportunity group expressed a need to be additionally trained in areas such as production of nuts, milk of nuts and propolis. The S4RE project can further support this group, by providing them with more bees per each participant (one or two bees), in order to increase their bees society, increase production and gain higher profits. Also, the S4RE project can provide them with trainings they required, in order to extend existing knowledge about beekeeping, which they already have, which will also be of crucial importance for future possible business expansion.

Beekeeping 3rd opportunity group

This opportunity group consists of 16 participants and was lectured by trainer Radovan Mihajlovic, from Berivojce.

Income generation and employment

After the training, each participant of this opportunity group received one bee from S4RE project, which for the whole groups in total makes 16 bees. So, the group started being engaged in activities which is bees' development. The whole group, from 16 bees has produces 150kg of honey. 1kg of honey goes for price of 8€ per kilo, which makes their total annually profits of 1200€. The participants of this opportunity group are also working together and sharing all profits between them. The group is keeping evidence about quantity of honey which is produced and how much earning they make out of it.

Challenges & Follow up

This opportunity group is still in developing phase, makes plans for increasing number of bees in spring, and by that increase overall business production and profits. In the beginning has faced with the challenges such is poor specie of bees which they received from the project. Participants also spend a lot of time together with their trainer to solve this issue, which in the end they succeed. This opportunity group also expressed a need to be additionally trained, in areas of production of propolis, nuts and milk of nuts, which will be important in order to be competitive in market in the future. The further support which this opportunity group will need from S4RE project, is providing them with more bees (two or three more bees), so the group can increase their bees' society, expanding business by increasing honey production and gaining higher earnings.

Nail Technician group

This opportunity group consisted from 5 participants and was lectured by trainer Etnike Krivaqa.

Income generation & Follow up

After the training, majority of participants of this opportunity group started to be engaged in economic activities which are related to making nails. They got employed to beauty shops, where they are working part time depends on their university obligations. By becoming economically active, their economic situation got improved. Approximately, their monthly earnings are around 50-100€, which sometimes can increase depending on how much orders they have. They are not keeping evidence about the earnings they receive monthly and annually.

Challenges & Follow up

At the beginning they faced with challenges, such as adaptation to work. The further support which this opportunity groups would need from S4RE project is offering additional trainings for designs of nails, new techniques which are used, which depends from the market itself. This opportunity groups is still in developing stage.

Waiters group

This opportunity group consisted of 15 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Azem Ismajli.

Income generation & employment

After the training was finished, some participants of this opportunity groups got employed at the restaurants and cafe pubs as waiters, which helped them to improve their economic situation compared to the situation before the training. Their monthly income is 150€, during all year, which at the same time is average salary of waiters in the Republic of Kosovo. They are keeping evidence on how much they receive each month, which includes also the tips which they receive from customers.

Challenges & Follow up

This opportunity group had an idea to open a business restaurant after the training, but the main problem were finances, because it is an expansive idea realization. They would like to be additionally trained in areas of cookery, which they will need in the future if they continue

to work in this area. Furthermore, S4RE project can further help them, by providing and supporting this additional training they need. This group is still in the developing phase.

Chick Cultivation group

This opportunity group consisted of 9 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Ismet Osmani.

Income generation & employment

This opportunity group after the training decided to put into practice their original idea about opening a chicken farm, which they succeed to do. All participants of this group decided to be included in this business, which is chicken pharm. For one month, they are cultivating around 4,000 chicks, selling them for 50-60cents, which makes their monthly earnings around 2,000€. Similar is for every month during the year. This income is always divided into 9 parts since they are 9 participants involved, where each participant monthly receives around 222€. This group is clearly keeping evidence about their monthly and annually income, since they are a registered business.

Challenges & Follow up

At the beginning they faced with the challenges such as: small number of people to take care about the chicks and business itself. Now, they do not have a need to be additionally trained. This opportunity group now does not need any support or help by the S4RE project. This opportunity group is still in the developing stage.

NTFP Identification and Collection group

This opportunity group consisted of 11 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Enver Sherifi.

Income generation and employment

This opportunity group after the training had an idea to open the business for identifying and collecting medicinal and aromatic plants. They did a small market research by identifying over 70% of medicinal and aromatic plants in territory of Kamenica and registered the business. One of the leaders of the groups had other plans; he went to Tirana for his master studies. Other participants of this opportunity group were not so much interested in starting already registered business and everything was left that way. So, their economic situation was not improved, they have not been engaged in economic activities in area they were trained, and by that they did not receive any earnings and incomes. This group still thinks that this business could be successful in the future.

Challenges & Follow up

If the group decided to start this business, they would need additional trainings which are related to packing of plants. If this opportunity groups decides for this step, S4RE project should provide them further support by enabling and giving them the necessary trainings. For the moment, this group is in non-development stage.

Jewellery group

This opportunity group consisted of 12 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Nevena Nivic.

Income generation and employment

The activities to which this opportunity group has been engaged after the training are, they started working on their own by making jewellery based on orders. By starting this activity, their economic situation has been improved comparing to the economic situation they faced before the training. The monthly earning for each participant of this group is from 30€ up to 70€. Annually looking, their earnings approximately are around 360€-760€, but the group is not keeping any evidence of this.

Challenges & Follow up

In the group, the idea existed to open their business for jewellery making after the trainings, but they did not have financial support. Also the group has a need for some additional training, which is related to advanced forms of making jewellery. The S4RE project can provide further support for this group, by providing them additional trainings they really need because this group is still at the beginning phase.

Video-design group

This opportunity group consisted of 6 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Petrit Kallaba.

Income generation and employment

After the training, two out of six participants of this opportunity group have been employed and by that they became economically active. The trainer which lectured them and at the same time was the owner of "Kallaba Production", based on their good performance during the training has employed them, which also helped to improve their economic situation. The period in which they are working is from June to September, since that is the main period when the weddings, engagements, prom nights and similar events are taking place, and that is aim of this business. The monthly income which this opportunity group receives is from 180€ to 200€, which makes their seasonal earnings during the year (from June to September), from 720€-800€. The opportunity group is not taking clear evidence of those earnings, but the business in which they are employed is keeping notes. The group is in the developing phase.

Challenges & Follow up

This opportunity group did not face with some major challenges. Furthermore, the S4RE project can help this group by providing them with trainings such as the usage of new programs for designs and montages. This group would recommend to S4RE project to provide more practical parts in the next trainings in specific studios with modern and new equipment, and informing participants with new equipment's in video-design area.

Carpentry group

This opportunity group consisted of 5 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Isa Hoda.

Income generation and employment

The trainer which lectured this opportunity group, was very satisfied with performance of participants, so he decided to employ two out of 5 participants, which are currently working for business "DPZ Modeli", producing doors and other furniture. Their monthly income is from 250€-300€, which also depends on their work. Having this monthly salary, their annually earnings are approximately around 3,000€-3,600€, but the opportunity group is not keeping any evidence of it, expect the owner of the business.

Challenges & Follow up

One of the challenges they faced, is adaptation to work and understanding of work itself, which was in short period solved. The group had an idea to open a business for carpentry, but only with help of some investors. Furthermore, the S4RE project can support and help this group, by providing them with additional trainings they need, which are in area of coloring and kitchen products making.

Strawberry cultivation groups (3 groups)

Those three opportunity groups consisted of 19 participants and were lectured by the trainer, Imer Dermaku.

Income generation and employment

Once those three opportunity groups for strawberry cultivation have finished the training, they received strawberry plants by S4RE project. So, they started dealing with activities which is strawberry cultivation. All three groups have planted strawberries. As it is well known in agriculture, strawberries need to pass 2-3 years in order they show the results and sale of strawberries can begin. For now, improvement in economic situation of those opportunity groups has not been achieved, since they are expecting results and first earnings from next year. For this year they have not received any earnings, expect one group of them. This group has already entered the market with small quantity of strawberries and the already made the first sales. For this two-three months, seasonal period of strawberries they have already made 500€ in total, which are excellent results in the first year, and which immediately improved their economic situation. They also are keeping evidence on how much they have earned during this period. In the next and upcoming years, more positive results are expected, and all three groups are very optimistic regarding strawberry sales in the market. The opportunity group which already starts selling strawberries is in the developing phase, and two others are in beginning phase.

Challenges and follow up

At the beginning they faced and are facing with the small challenges which agriculture brings. Then it comes to additional trainings, the opportunity group which started selling strawberries would like to be trained in marketing, since they will need it in upcoming years in order to promote themselves better. Two other opportunity groups did not show a huge interest in being additionally trained; except one of them which would like to also start dealing with beekeeping. The way which S4RE project can provide support to those three opportunity groups is by helping them to make further expansion in fruit growing.

Blueberry Cultivation groups (6 groups)

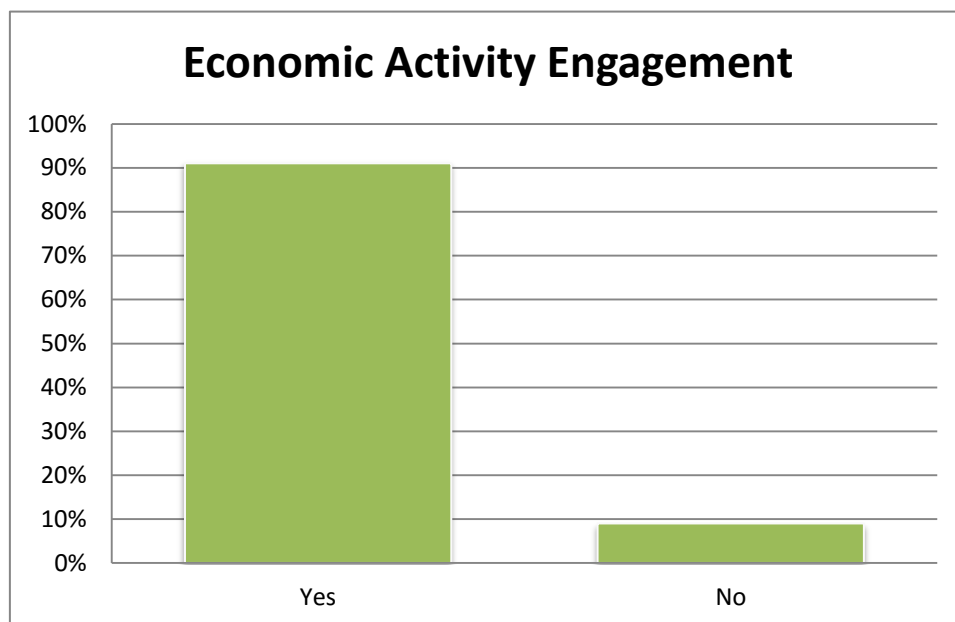
Those six opportunity groups consisted of 45 participants and were lectured by the trainer, Imer Dermaku.

Income generation and employment

After the training, those six opportunity groups for blueberry cultivation have received blueberry plants by S4RE project. So they started being engaged in activities by planting blueberry plants. Since, it need to pass 2-3 years in order blueberries to grow, all those six groups are in same economic situation. For now they do not receive any monthly or annually earnings from blueberry cultivation. The first results and earnings are expected from next year.

Challenges & Follow up

Some challenges half of the groups faced at the beginning, is the time until they installed irrigation system. Also, those opportunity groups are very optimistic regarding the success of blueberry cultivation business in the future. Four out of six groups have expressed a need to be additionally trained, which includes areas of marketing training which they will need once they begin with sales process, more advanced trainings for blueberries and other needed trainings in agriculture. The S4RE project can further support those opportunity groups, by helping them to expand surface of blueberry seedlings, since those groups are still in beginning and growing stage.



Graph 1.1 – Economic Activity Engagement of Opportunity Groups of 2014 in Kamenica

The main findings for opportunity groups of 2014 in Kamenica municipality are:

- 91% of all interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Kamenica have been engaged in economic activities which are related to trainings they held. Remaining 9% of opportunity groups are not engaged in any economic activity.
- 58% of opportunity groups, after the training has achieved the improvement in the economic situation.
- 87% of interviewed opportunity groups in Kamenica municipality have planned to open their own business after the training.
- 75% of all interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in Kamenica municipality need to be additionally trained.
- More than 30% of interviewed trainees were female gender and remaining 70% were male gender.
- 20.8% of all interviewed opportunity groups were minority, Serbian population.

7.2 Novo Brdo Municipality – Results of Opportunity Groups of 2014

In the table 1.3 below are presented the opportunity groups of 2014 in Novo Brdo municipality. In this municipality, in total were 9 opportunity groups which finished the trainings in 2014, including 83 trainees from all groups. The profession which all opportunity groups were trained includes both agro business and non-agro business profession. 6 opportunity groups – 62 trainees, have finished the trainings in agro business areas, which include strawberry and raspberry cultivation. On the other side, remaining 3 opportunity groups have finished the trainings in non-agro business areas, which in total includes 21 trainees, the subject area of training was: IT, hairdressing and upholstery.

Occupation	Learning Groups	
	Number of groups	Trainees
Agro business		
Strawberry cultivation	1	9
Raspberry Cultivation	5	53
Non Agro business		
IT	1	9
Upholstery	1	5
Hairdressing	1	7

Table 1.3 - List of Opportunity Groups for 2014 in Novo Brdo municipality

IT group

This opportunity group consisted of 9 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Milos Markovic.

Income generation and employment

After the training, this opportunity group had an idea to open their IT services; they planned and opened the business. Since Novo Brdo is a small municipality, the business of this opportunity group is not making huge earnings and incomes. Approximately their monthly earnings are from 100€ up to 150€, which makes their earning during the year from 1,200€-1,800€. The opportunity group is keeping evidence about their monthly and annually earnings.

Challenges & Follow up

The main challenges this opportunity group faced, is beginning of the business, until they started developing it. This opportunity group is in developing stage. They further need more training, such as business specialization. The S4RE project can provide further support for this opportunity group, by providing financial help for further development.

Strawberry Cultivation group

This opportunity group consisted of 9 participants and was lectured by the, trainer Lumnije Rexhepi.

Income generation and employment

This opportunity group, once they finished the training they received strawberry seedlings from S4RE project. So they started being engaged in activities, by planting strawberries seedlings, and starting this business. For strawberries, in order to successfully grow and start the sales process, it needs to pass 2 to 3 years. These opportunity groups were successful in their first year, since the strawberries have grown and the group started selling them. During seasonal period of strawberries, the opportunity group made in total around 1,000€ of profit in the first year, which is very good. The group is still not taking clear evidence of earnings they made during first seasonal year.

Challenges & Follow up

From the beginning, they received the help from the older people in this municipality who have experience with strawberries, so they did not faced with some challenges. This opportunity group has a need to be additionally trained in one field, and that is how to open and work in closed system (sera) with strawberries. This means that group is thinking to grow, protect and take care about strawberries also in the winter season, where this system will have everything what is needed in order that strawberries grow safe. The S4RE project can provide support for this group, by providing financial help and contribution for starting and opening this closed system (sera), which for now will have higher importance in development process of strawberry business in the future. This group is at the developing stage, making plans for the future to make even bigger progresses and developments.

Upholstery group

This opportunity group consisted of 5 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Novica Cvetkovic.

Income generation and employment

After the training, participants of this opportunity group have been employed by the trainer, Novica Cvetkovic. The trainer has a business for upholstery for a long period (28 years) "Krs Commerce", and very good performance of this opportunity groups was not unnoticed by the trainer. So, by starting working their economic situation was improved. The monthly earnings which participants of this opportunity group receive are from 100€ to 300€, varying from the orders. Basing on this, their earnings during all year goes from 1,200€ to 3,600€. For the moment, the owner/trainer is keeping evidence of earnings of this opportunity groups.

Challenges & Follow up

The group itself is in developing stage, and till now they didn't face with any challenges. The opportunity group has a need for additional trainings in area of upholstery, which includes: advanced trainings for sewing, tailoring and upholstery. The S4RE project can further help

this opportunity group, by providing necessary trainings which will be of importance for their progress and development in the future.

Hairdressing group

This opportunity group consisted from 7 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Ajshe Avdyli.

Income generation and employment

The only opportunity group in Novo Brdo municipality which is not economically active is this opportunity group for hairdressing. After the training, participants of this opportunity group were not engaged in any economic activity. The main reason why this group has not undertaken some actions to implement knowledge which they gained in training in practice is because municipality of Novo Brdo is rural place and for now there is no developed market for hairdressing salon. This group seemed so uninterested and unmotivated in order to improve their economic situation. Since they are not engaged in any activity, they do not receive any earnings.

Challenges & Follow up

The only challenge for this group is that they are not economically active after the training. The only help which for now S4RE project can provide to this opportunity group is financial help for opening hairdressing centre. This group is in non-development stage.

Raspberry Cultivation groups (5 groups)

Those five opportunity groups consisting of 53 participants and four opportunity groups were lectured by the trainer, Lumnije Rexhepi and one group by Faruk Beqa.

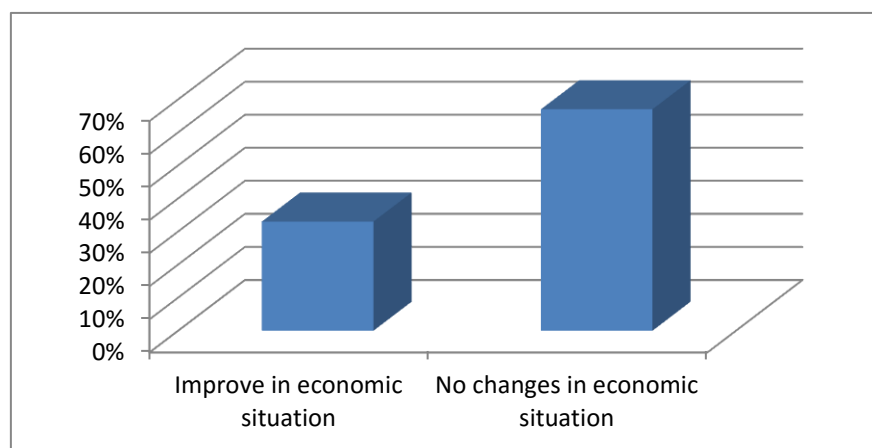
Income generation and employment

After the training, those five opportunity groups for raspberry cultivation have received raspberry seedlings by S4RE project. So they started being engaged in activities by planting raspberry plants. Since, it needs to pass 2 years in order to get raspberries to grow, all those five opportunity groups are in the same economic situation. For now they do not receive any monthly or annually earnings from raspberry cultivation, therefore, their economic situation after and before the training are similar. The first results and earnings are expected from next year.

Challenges & Follow up

Some of the challenges that three out of five opportunity groups for raspberry cultivation faced at the beginning, is that the land for cultivation was not taken care of, inappropriate place and hard work and organization which this business requires. Also, those opportunity groups are very optimistic regarding success of raspberry cultivation business in the future, since the land in Novo Brdo municipality is very fertile for raspberry. All five opportunity groups have expressed their need to be additionally trained, about the protection of raspberries which includes storage and protection of the fruits, awareness about various diseases of raspberries and spraying (preparation against parasites). In this field, S4RE project can provide a lot of support for those opportunity groups of raspberry cultivation. The project should provide necessary trainings, which those opportunity groups required

because they will need them in the future. The project should provide also financial support for necessary equipment's which those opportunity groups need such as poles, wires, processing cultivators, and tiller and irrigation systems. Then those opportunity groups start sales of raspberries, for the beginning they would like that project helps them by connecting them with collection centres for raspberries, since they are still at the beginning stage and further developments will happen in the near future.



Graph 1.2 – Economic situation of opportunity groups of 2014 after the training in Novo Brdo municipality

The main findings for opportunity groups of 2014 in Novo Brdo municipality are:

- The 89% of all interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Novo Brdo have been engaged in economic activities which are related to the trainings they attended.
- The 33.3% of opportunity groups, after the training their economic situation has been improved.
- All interviewed opportunity groups in Novo Brdo municipality have planned to open their own business after the training.
- All interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in Novo Brdo municipality have a need to be additionally trained.
- Around 31% of interviewed trainees were female gender and remaining 69% were male gender.
- 22.2% of all interviewed opportunity groups were minority, Serbian population.

7.3 Shtpce Municipality – Results of Opportunity Groups of 2014

In the table 1.4 below are presented the opportunity groups of 2014 in Shtpce municipality. In this municipality, in total were 9 opportunity groups which finished the trainings in 2014, including 78 trainees from all groups. The profession which all opportunity groups in Shtpce were trained includes both agro business and non-agro business profession. 8 opportunity groups – 73 trainees, have finished the trainings in agro business areas, which includes beekeeping and raspberry cultivation. On the other side, one remained opportunity group has finished the training in non-agro business areas in pig cultivation, which in total include 5 trainees and the trainings.

Occupation	Learning Groups	
	Number of groups	Trainees
Agro business		
Beekeeping	2	19
Raspberry Cultivation	6	54
Non Agro business		
Pig cultivation	1	5

Table 1.4 - List of Opportunity Groups for 2014 in Shtpce municipality

Pig Cultivation group

This opportunity group consisted of 5 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Igor Jocinac.

Income generation and employment

After the training, this opportunity group came with the idea to open a business for pig cultivation. So, in order to bring their idea into practice and open a business, they wrote request to the S4RE project, which was after accepted by the project, but for them grants by the S4RE project were not enough, so they also took a bank loan. This opportunity group started business, and for now they are cultivating pigs, making them ready for fertilization in order to grow little pigs and make them ready for sale. This group saw huge potential in this idea and business, since no one in the Shtpce municipality has this business, there is no competition and the interests of the market can be easily attracted. For now, opportunity group has not any earnings or incomes, until pigs are ready for fertility.

Challenges & Follow up

The major challenges which this group is facing are finance for food, since it is very expensive. This opportunity group has a need for further trainings for cultivation of small pigs and artificial insemination. The project S4RE can help this opportunity group by providing them with the financial support for further business extension, since this group is still in developing phase, and many other things need to be managed.

Beekeeping groups (2 groups)

Those two opportunity groups consisted of 19 participants, one group was lectured by the trainer Jovica Slavic and the other group by, Zivce Sarkocecic.

Income generation and employment

After the training, those two opportunity groups for beekeeping have been engaged in activities which are related to bees' development (beekeeping). From the S4RE project, they have received 1 beehives. For now, their economic situation is still not improved since they do not receive yet any income and earnings from this activity. Since they do not receive any earnings, they do not keep any evidence. The process of collecting honey should start this year, and they are expecting that from honey production they seasonal earnings will be higher every year.

Challenges & Follow up

Both those two opportunity groups are beginners, at the beginning phase, so they faced with some challenges which with the help of the trainer they successfully passed, but there are still a lot of things in beekeeping to be learned. By this, those two opportunity groups have showed interest and need to be additionally trained. Those trainings include areas of honey production and how to extend production. The S4RE project can provide further support for those two opportunity groups, by giving them 5 to 10 beehives, so that those two groups can create a society and extend their business for the future.

Raspberry Cultivation groups (6 groups)

Those six opportunity groups consisted of 54 participants in total. Three opportunity groups were lectured by the trainer, Svetlana Nikilcecic – Ilic, two groups were lectured by, Snezana Mrdjinac and one group by, Muamet Duka.

Income generation and employment

Six opportunity groups for raspberry cultivation, after the training, have received raspberry seedlings by S4RE project. So they started being engaged in activities by planting raspberry seedlings. Since, it usually needs to pass minimum 2 years in order to get raspberries to grow, all those six opportunity groups are in same economic situation. For now they do not receive any monthly or annually earnings from raspberry cultivation, and by that their economic situation after the trainings is the similar than it was before training, no changes for all six opportunity groups. Still all six opportunity groups are very optimistic regarding success in this business in the future, since municipality of Shtpce is well known municipality in Republic of Kosovo for raspberry cultivation. The first results and earnings are expected from next and upcoming years.

Challenges & Follow up

Two out of six from those opportunity groups, have a problems with raspberry growing. Until now, the raspberries are not showing some promising results, and for now those two opportunity groups which are facing with those problems are thinking that seedlings which they receive are not good or they are older, and because of that they need more time to grow. Still they need an expert for raspberry cultivation which will help them regarding this

issue. Three opportunity groups did not face any challenge. On the other side, other three opportunity groups have faced with some big challenges such as, financial difficulties because they needed to buy more raspberry seedlings, basic acquisition for work with raspberries and physical work on the land itself. All six opportunity groups have expressed a need for additional trainings, which are: spraying of raspberries, maintenance and collection of raspberries, protection from pesticides, usage of chemicals and fertilizers. For those six opportunity groups, S4RE project can provide a further support. All opportunity groups have a need for basic equipment (wires, poles, irrigation systems, cistern, which should S4RE project provide to them.

The main findings for opportunity groups of 2014 in Shtpce municipality are:

- The 100% of all interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Shtpce have been engaged in economic activities which are related to trainings they held.
- The 11.1% of opportunity groups, after the training have improved their economic situation.
- The 100% of all interviewed opportunity groups in Shtpce municipality have planned to open their own business after the training.
- The 100% of all interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in Shtpce municipality have a need to be additionally trained.
- Around 8.9% of interviewed trainees were female gender and remaining 91.1% were male gender.
- 88.9% of all interviewed opportunity groups were minority, Serbian population.

7.4 Dragash Municipality – Result of Opportunity Groups of 2014

In the table 1.5 below, are presented the opportunity groups of 2014 in Dragash municipality. In this municipality, 14 opportunity groups finished the trainings in 2014, in total including 209 trainees from all groups. The profession which all opportunity groups in this municipality were trained includes both agro business and non-agro business profession. 122 trainees – 8 opportunity groups, have finished the trainings in agro business areas, which include beekeeping, raspberry and strawberry cultivation, and NTFP identification and collection. On the other side, 6 remaining opportunity groups have finished the trainings in non-agro business areas, thermo isolation, central heating, video design, patisserie, kebab shop and hairdressing, which in total include 87 trainees.

Occupation	Learning Groups	
	Number of groups	Trainees
Agro business		
Beekeeping	4	57
NTFP	1	15
Raspberry Cultivation	2	20
Strawberry cultivation	2	30
Non Agro business		
Thermo-isolation	1	7
Central Heating	1	15
Video-design	1	12
Patisserie	1	13
Kebab-shop	1	5
Hairdressing	1	35

Table 1.5 - List of Opportunity Groups for 2014 in Dragash municipality

Thermo isolation group

This opportunity group consisted of 7 participants, Gorani population and was lectured by the trainer, Dzamal Rexhepi.

Income generation and employment

After the training, the group had an idea to open a business, which is related to thermo isolation. They requested from the project an amount of 5,000€, they expected that S4RE project with provide the needed financial support, but the project because of the budget limitations could only donate 700€, which for the group was small, and they gave up on that idea, since they already are living in difficult economic situation. Majority participants (five) of this group left the Republic of Kosovo, because of unemployment issues. From whole group only 2 participants remained. So they decided to start thermo isolation business. They have opened a business, still unregistered for now because of high annually cost for the tax, and this is only seasonal business. The business which was established from those participants

is seasonal. They are working from May to September. Approximately, their monthly earning during this seasonal period is around 500€, which makes total seasonal earning of 2,500€. The group is keeping evidence about their earnings, since they need to pay their cost in order to see what their profits are for certain period.

Challenges & Follow up

The main difficulties this groups is facing, is the lack of scaffolding, which is an essential tool for isolation work. For now, the group is renting scaffolding, which is quite expensive. Since, already the group is working for one year, they are in developing stage. They further need to register the business, expand their business services in other areas in Dragash municipality and employ more employees.

The S4RE project could further support this group, by providing those financial help for buying scaffolding, which will be of crucial importance for the group and further business development and registration. The S4RE project, as soon as possible should provide certificates to this opportunity group, since they have finished the training more than one year, and they did not receive any certificate.

Beekeeping groups (3 groups)

Those three opportunity group consisted of 57 participants and two groups were lectured by the trainer, Fadil Kukleci and one group by Mifail Mahmuti.

Income generation and employment

After the training, those three opportunity group for beekeeping has been engaged in activities which are related to bees' development. From the S4RE project, they have received bees. For now, their economic situation is still not improved since they don't receive yet any income and earnings from this activity. Since they do not receive any earnings, they do not keep evidence. The situation of those three opportunity groups is very different.

First opportunity group, for now is doing well. They have 13 bees and they are working and waiting to collect honey from bees and start with the selling process. They are waiting for honey from one bee. Before the training, they had idea to start business with beekeeping, so they did; just they are waiting for first results and first sales. This opportunity group is at the beginning phase, they are still learning important things about beekeeping.

Challenges & Follow up

This group has a need for additional training; which is various sicknesses of bees. The S4RE project can further support this opportunity group, by providing them with more bees, which can help them to collect more honey from bees and by that increase their sales.

Second opportunity group of beekeeping is in a bad situation. Because of the strong winter last year and non-professional protection from this group, unfortunately all the bees have died. For now this opportunity group is not economically active and in a bad economic situation.

Challenges & Follow up

The S4RE project can further help this opportunity group, by providing them with new society of bees, so they again can start with beekeeping business, which they already started. This group was at the beginning stage, but for now they are in non-development stage, waiting for support. They also have a need to be additionally trained, which mostly includes various sicknesses of bees, so opportunity group can be better prepared for new bees if they decide to continue this business in the future.

Third opportunity group of beekeeping is not in a good situation. Because of nonprofessional protection of bees, from 20 bees which this group had only 8 of them have left, rest of the bees died. The opportunity group has decided that with 8 bees to move on, and for now they are not receiving any earnings. From September they are waiting to start collecting honey and selling it. This opportunity group is still at the beginning phase.

Challenges & Follow up

Because of their current situation, they faced with the challenges such as difficult beginning until they have learned beekeeping job. This opportunity group also has a need to be additionally trained in feeding bees and sicknesses of bees. For this opportunity group, S4RE project can further help this opportunity group, by providing them with more bees' societies, in order to help them with development of beekeeping business.

Central Heating group

This opportunity group consisted of 15 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Lulzim Krrabaj.

Income generation and employment

After the training, this opportunity group decided to work in the field they have been trained, central heating. Eight out of fifteen participants have been employed; six of them are working full time and 2 part time jobs, and businesses which are installing central heating. The monthly earning of this group is 250€. Looking at the annually earnings, during all year they earned around 3,000€, and the opportunity group is keeping evidence of it, and also the businesses which have employed this opportunity group.

Challenges & Follow up

At the beginning, the group faced with some challenges such as installing, until the understood the main processes of this work. Since majority participants of this opportunity group were not beginners, it was easier for them to progress. This opportunity group is in developing stage. This opportunity group for now does not need any further support from S4RE project.

Video design

This opportunity group consisted of 7 participants, Gorani population and was lectured by trainer Ymridin Qollopeku (D.P.Z Ajna). All of the participants have found training very interesting and helpful, mostly the practical part, which included work with machines for printing design.

Income generation and employment

One participant of this opportunity groups, since he was graduated in IT, he found the job in “Meka”, where his major position is maintenance of systems for this firm. This participant also has its private business, making and maintaining web designs. Other two participants also have decided to continue working in the field of design. They are working with picture designs. Other remained participants of this group are also employed privately, not in the design field but in other business fields which they find suitable for their economic situation and profession, because also majority of them are studying. When it comes to the income, approximately monthly earnings of this opportunity group, is around 250€-300€. Looking on annually earnings, it is around 3,000€ up to 3,600€, of course based on the type of job. The participants of this opportunity group are clearly keeping an evidence of their monthly and annually earnings, since some of them are receiving regular monthly salary.

Challenges & Follow up

At the beginning, the group faced with one challenge and it was related to the trainer which lectured them. There was a period until the trainer fit with the group to give them accurate answers to their various questions in different fields of design, but trainer handled everything successfully, in the best interest of the group. Other major problem was that after the training the group has separated, each participant has its own plans for career and studies, so they gave up faster on idea about opening design studio. This opportunity group expressed a need to be additionally trained in the field of web design, since this is the field which will be further developed in the future. The group had one remark on S4RE project, since they have not received certificates yet although they have finished training for print design. The participants are disappointed, because it has passed more than one year since the training has been finished, and the certificate will be of higher importance for them if they are applying for the job in IT field. For the moment, the S4RE project can provide further support for this group, by giving them their certificates as soon as possible.

NTFP group

This opportunity group consisted of 15 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Mahir Dauti.

Income generation and employment

This opportunity group, once they finished the training they decided to work with activities in the field they were trained. They started working with fruit collection. Being engaged in those activities, their economic situation has been improved, in comparison to situation before the training. The earning which this opportunity group receive from above mentioned activity during all year is 1,000€. This amount of money is earned from July to September, because this is a seasonal business, and group is keeping evidence how much are their earnings during seasonal period.

Challenges & Follow up

The group did not face with challenges or difficulties; the opportunity group has expressed a need to be additionally trained, which includes area of medicinal plants. This opportunity group is in developing stage. For the moment, it does not need any further support from S4RE project.

Patisserie group

This opportunity group consisted of 13 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Orhan Tosuni.

Income generation and employment

After the training, the group sent a project proposal to S4RE project for opening confectionery shop, but their request was not good enough so they were rejected. For the moment, they are not economically active, and their economic situation has not changed at all after the training. They are not receiving any monthly or annually earnings. This group still is planning to apply for other grants, hoping that their new project proposal will be accepted and they can start a business. Based on their statement, they will be able to be competitive.

Challenges & Follow up

This opportunity group is still in non-development stage. The S4RE project can further help this group, by providing them with the financial support for opening confectionery shop and providing trainings for business management.

Kebab shop

This opportunity group consisted of 5 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Sevdilj Mehmeti (D.P.H Lezet).

Income generation and employment

After the training, all participants of this opportunity group were employed privately; they are working in kebab shops, which have improved significantly their economic situation. All participants are working in different places, different shops. The participants of this opportunity groups, are receiving regular salary during all year. Approximately their monthly earnings are from 200€-250€. Annually earning for each participant is around 2,400 up to 3,000€.

Challenges & Follow up

At the beginning, the group didn't face with any difficulty and challenge. In the training, they have learned very much important things which helped them to find a job; they learned how to make kebabs, how to serve and welcome customers, and all other important hospitality things. The reason why they did not open a business is because they needed more adequate knowledge for business establishment and business management, because three months training are not enough. Therefore, they expressed a need to be additionally trained in area of business management.

The S4RE project, as soon as possible should provide certificates to this opportunity group, since they have finished the training more than one year ago, and they did not receive any certificate. The group is very disappointed by the project because of this issue.

Hairdressing group

This opportunity group consisted of 35 participants and was lectured by the trainer, Alltane Tershnjaku.

Income generation and employment

This group opened their hairdressing salon. They wrote a project request to the S4RE project, which was accepted by the project side, and helped them by providing them with necessary equipment for hairdressing business. Having their own business, this opportunity group is economic active and their economic situation has improved compared with the one before the training. The earnings which this group receive from June to September are from 300€ to 500€, since in this period there are weddings, engagements, prom nights and similar events. The earnings in other months of the year from October to May are around 150€-200€ per month. The group is keeping evidence about their monthly and annually earnings, since they have a registered business.

Challenges & Follow up

This opportunity group is in developing stage, and they did not face with some challenges or difficulties. The group would like to have additional training in shading hair. For now, this opportunity group does not need any further support from S4RE project.

Raspberry Cultivation groups (2 groups)

Those two opportunity groups consisted of 20 participants and were lectured by Mahir Dauti.

Income generation and employment

Two opportunity groups for raspberry cultivation, after the training, have received raspberry seedlings by S4RE project. So they started being engaged in activities by planting raspberry seedlings. Since, for raspberries to grow it needs to pass minimum 2 years, those two opportunity groups are in the same economic situation. For now they do not receive any monthly or annually earnings from raspberry cultivation, and there are no changes in their economic situation. This is just a temporary situation, because from next year both opportunity groups are expecting to enter the market and start raspberry sale, since based on their words this is very secure business, it has secure market and future sales and success is guaranteed. At the beginning, both of groups faced with the challenges, such as the need for tiller and irrigation systems.

Challenges & Follow up

One of those two opportunity groups faced with very serious challenge. The supplier which brought raspberry seedlings, instead of bringing Miker variety of raspberry, he brought Polga, which made even bigger problems for this opportunity group, since this variety of raspberry failed and they needed to give it all away, which is great damage. Still, this opportunity group has continued to work hard with remained Miker variety of raspberry, for which now are taken great care.

On the other side, both of the groups have a need to be additionally trained in various sicknesses of raspberries, for which they think they will face in the future. The S4RE project can further help those two opportunity groups, by providing them with tillers which they needs, and other necessary systems for irrigation, since both of the groups are in beginning stage. For the opportunity group which had a problem with Polga type of raspberry, S4RE can support them by providing help, to replace Polga type of raspberry for Miker, for which this opportunity group requested at the beginning.

Strawberry Cultivation groups (2 groups)

Those two opportunity groups consisted of 30 participants and were lectured by Fehim Sali.

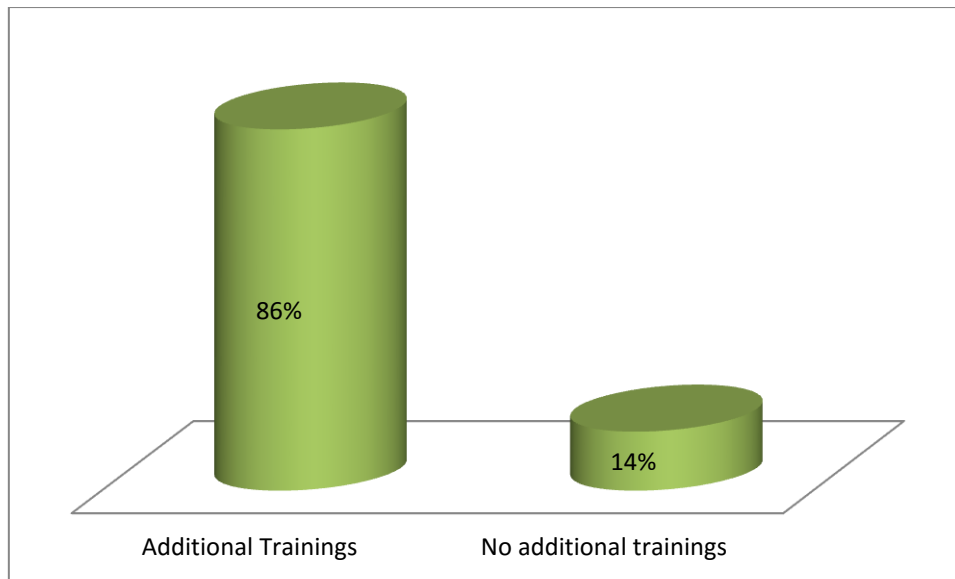
Income generation and employment

Once the training has been finished, those two opportunity groups for strawberry have been engaged in activities which are related to cultivation of strawberries. From the S4RE project, they have received strawberry seedlings. Presently, their economic situation is still not improved since they do not receive yet any income and earnings from this activity, because it needs to pass 2 to 3 years in order to get strawberries to grow and start with the sales process. The situation of those two opportunity groups is very different.

Challenges & Follow up

First opportunity group, for now is doing well. It has planted strawberry seedlings and is waiting for first earnings from next year. There were no major challenges which this opportunity group had. It is still at the beginning stage. This opportunity group has expressed a need and interest to be additionally trained, in the field which included methods of strawberry protection. For the moment, they do not need further support from S4RE project, they are very grateful to the project for providing them such opportunity to start this business.

Second Opportunity group is in very bad situation. The main problem why this group failed was strawberry seedlings. The seedlings which they received from strawberry supplier were minimum 4 to 5 year old, various types, and there were around 300 seedlings which were planted. That was the problem, because they could not provide expected results. The seedlings were planted in 4 acres of land. Only 10% of planted seedlings succeeded, but that was quantity which could be sold, opportunity group just used which quantity for family needs. This opportunity group planned to extend their business and continue further, but because of those seedlings they gave up. This opportunity group is not interested in having additional trainings or receiving support from S4RE project, because they are feeling betrayed because of seedlings, they have put so many efforts but at the end nothing was worth. They think that is was S4RE project obligation to check from which supplier they bought strawberry seedlings. This opportunity group is in non-development stage. It has just one recommendation from S4RE project, and that it to pay close attention on seedlings in the future, and to whom they give those seedlings and from which supplier they buy.



Graph 1.4 – Need for additional trainings for opportunity groups of 2014 in Dragash municipality

The main findings for opportunity groups of 2014 in Dragash municipality are:

- The 93% of all interviewed opportunity groups in municipality of Dragash have been engaged in economic activities which are related to trainings they attended.
- The 64% of opportunity groups, after the training has improved their economic situation.
- The 93% of all interviewed opportunity groups in Dragash municipality have planned to open their own business after the training.
- The 86% of all interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in Dragash municipality have a need to be additionally trained.
- Around 22% of interviewed trainees were female gender and remaining 78% were male gender.
- 35% of all interviewed opportunity groups were minority, Gorani population.

8. MAIN FINDINGS

The main findings of this assignment are:

- 89% of interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Kamenica, Novo Brdo, Shterpce and Dragash have been engaged in different economic activities after the training;
- 51% of interviewed opportunity groups of 2014 in four municipalities which are economically active are engaged in activities in agriculture sector, which include raspberry, strawberry and blueberry cultivation.
- After the training, the 55% of opportunity groups of 2014 have faced with improvement in their economic situation; Opportunity groups which have been engaged in activities in agriculture sector, need to wait results in second and third year since raspberry, strawberry and blueberry cultivation takes little bit longer time to provide first results.
- 37% of the opportunity groups which have been engaged in different economic activities have started a small startup business, which was made possible from knowledge they have gained during the trainings. The remaining 63% of opportunity groups are working privately;
- Approximately monthly earnings that opportunity groups are gaining from their economic activities are from 30€ to 300€ of profit; Some opportunity groups which are engaged in activities in agriculture and NTFP sector, monthly earnings during seasonal time are from 300€ up to 1000€. Opportunity groups which are making earnings are keeping evidence of their profits, production and costs which they make.
- 93% of interviewed opportunity groups have planned to open their own business after the training, in order to implement into the practice the knowledge they have gained during the training.
- 86% of 2014 opportunity groups would like to have additional trainings.

9. RECOMANDATION

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

- S4RE project, as soon as possible should provide opportunity groups of 2014 with certificates that they have finished trainings.
- S4RE Project should monitor situation and work closely with the opportunity groups of 2014 in municipality of Kamenica, Novo Brdo, Shterpce and Dragash, which have established small start up business.
- S4RE should be very careful on selecting suppliers for raspberry or strawberry seedlings, since majority of opportunity groups of 2014 had a problems with seedlings which were given to them;
- S4RE should pay close attention on planting material and to which opportunity groups seedlings are given;
- Once the trainings are over, for those opportunity groups 2014 which the project wants to give grants, the project should not delay the implementation process.
- Field facilitators should twice per month monitor the situation of all opportunity groups of 2014 who are economically active and those opportunity groups which received grants.
- Provide financial support for expansion to participants of opportunity groups of 2014, who started cultivating raspberries and strawberries investing in necessary equipment. Also helping them to establish a contact with collecting points and centres for raspberries and strawberries. In order to make further improvements recognition, training for marketing should be provided for those opportunity groups.
- S4RE should follow up beneficiaries of 2014 (mostly in agricultural sector), and consider about giving new grants with purpose of better improvements and expansion;
- Support the trainings in agriculture sector, because it is a field with high employment potential and incomes for the rural families in Kosovo.

10. ANNEX 1 – List of interviewed opportunity groups for 2014

Municipality	Profession	Learning Groups	
		Number	Participants
Kamenica 2014	Tailoring	2	25
	Hairdressing	1	7
	Pruning	1	7
	Beekeeping	3	40
	Nail Technician	1	5
	Waiters	1	15
	Chick cultivation	1	9
	NTFP identification and collection	1	11
	Jewellery	1	12
	Video-design	1	6
	Carpentry	1	5
	Strawberry cultivation	4	19
	Blueberry cultivation	6	45
Novo Brdo	IT	1	9
	Strawberry cultivation	1	9
	Raspberry Cultivation	5	53
	Upholstery	1	5
	Hairdressing	1	7
Shtpce	Patisserie	1	8
	Beekeeping	2	19
	Pig cultivation	1	5
	Raspberry Cultivation	6	54
Dragash	Thermo-isolation	1	7

	4	57
Beekeeping		
Central Heating	1	15
Video-design	1	12
NTFP	1	15
Patisserie	1	13
Kebab-shop	1	5
Hairdressing	1	35
Raspberry Cultivation	2	20
Strawberry cultivation	2	30

NOTE 1: The interview with opportunity group for patisserie in municipality of Shtrpce was not done, since this group failed, they finished the training, but there was a problem when it came to the project implementation. This group had a request but they failed to agree with S4RE project regarding finance.

NOTE 2: The interview with opportunity group for beekeeping in Dragash municipality (Gorani population) was not done, because once this group finished the training, the S4RE project and the group could not agree regarding finances of bees.

11. ANNEX 2 - Questionnaire for opportunity groups

1. Which training have you attended?
2. Did you like the training?
3. Has this training helped you to extend your knowledge in the field you were trained?
4. Has this training helped you to improve your economic situation?
5. Have you been engaged in some economic activities after training?
6. If yes, what were those activities/ If no, why not?
7. Approximately, what are your monthly earnings from those activities?
8. What are the challenges which you are facing the most?
9. Have you planned to open your own start up business after the training?
10. If yes, how attending this training could help you achieve that?
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?