

Newsletter

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PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Youth Action Councils (LYAC) and Local Action Groups (LAGs) are main local actors identified by S4RE to address skills related constraints of youth, rural households and businesses using S4RE's approach and methodology. S4RE in joint with municipal authorities and their relevant departments, in five targeted municipalities, have agreed through Memorandum of Understandings to support LYAC and LAG in strengthening their technical and managerial capabilities.

Skills for Rural Employment

(S4RE) started with implementation of second phase as of January 2015. In the second phase S4RE will shift from direct intervention approach to a more facilitative approach, meaning stronger partnership with local actors, public and private sector, so they can take over the methodology and approach. Multi-partnerships and multi-stakeholder participation is essential, S4RE recognizes the value of synergy of efforts and contributions, and the need to have a broad coalition of partners to both create and sustain meaningful skills development impact. Therefore, the first quarter was about establishing meaningful partnerships with local and central government institutions and agencies, private sector and NGOs.



SUCCESSFUL PROJECT LAUNCH IN TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES

Following signature of MoU's with local authorities in targeted municipalities the project held successful launching ceremonies in each municipality with the participation of Mayors, municipal department officials and other actors representing public institutions and private sector. The events were an exciting occasion to:

- Building awareness and understanding of the S4RE project
- Encouraging local actors to get involved in the project

- Encouraging the local actors to be enthusiastic about the changes the project is planning to bring
- The importance and necessity of project partnership with local actors to achieve the change

Further, the Mayors, municipal departments and representatives of private sector have expressed their readiness to be jointly committed to achieve results in addressing skills-related challenges that each municipality face.



EXPANDING OUTREACH TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN THE SHARR MOUNTAINS AND SOUTHEAST OF KOSOVO

In the second phase the project is seeking to expand gradually the outreach to further eight municipalities of Sharr Mountains and SouthEast of Kosovo. In this regard, S4RE has entered into a mutual agreement with municipality of Viti responding to the proactive engagement of this municipality to bring in the innovative models and solutions of S4RE related to skills development.

Further, Viti municipality has a distinctive LAG that will serve as a business model for the LAGs in other targeted municipalities to operate and function properly. Collaboration with all municipal departments, local youth actors, investment office, private sector will follow after a successful workshop held in Viti on March 17th, 2016.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The collaboration with the central government is crucial where each partner brings its specific contribution and capacities. To ensure wide engagement and support in capacitating Local Youth Action Council (LYAC) and Local Action Group (LAG) to address skills-related constraints of youth, rural households and businesses, S4RE project held meetings with Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport (MYCS), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) and is planning

to meet Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW).

The MCYS is willing to join forces with S4RE to empower Local Youth Action Councils in targeted municipalities to advocate for youth through their Department of Youth (DY).

Whereas MAFRD will ensure access and cooperation of S4RE with LAGs, and will contribute with their expertise to capacitate LAGs through their Department for Rural Development Policy.

Partnership with Central Youth Action Council and Network for Rural Development Kosovo

Central Youth Action Council (CCYAK) is a voluntary organization of youth organizations operating in Kosovo, representing the interests of youth organizations at the central government institutions and mechanisms of international youth. 34 Local Youth Action Councils (LYACs) are members of CCYAK. The project has entered into partnership with CCYAK to co-facilitate the capacity building process of LYACs in targeted municipalities and replicate the successful models in other municipalities. The capacity building plan includes training on fundraising, management, partnership creation, market assessment, presentation skills etc.

Network for Rural Development Kosovo (NRDK)

is an NGO serving as umbrella for 30 Local Action Groups (LAGs) created with initiative of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development. The role of NRDK is to offer services for LAGs to make them capable to implement their local development strategy. In addition NRDK serves as platform for discussion of ideas and proposals, providing technical assistance and sharing of experiences between LAGs. S4RE has signed MoU with NRDK to jointly contribute in having fully operational LAGs in targeted municipalities.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER:

- Workshop with youth local actors to improve access of rural youth to employment related information and skills through learning group methodology
- Facilitate meeting of local actors to re-establish LAG in Kamenica
- Facilitate meeting of local actors to re-establish LAG in Strpce

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