

Newsletter

January – June 2018



LOCAL PARTNERS TAKING OVER THE S4RE'S APPROACH

Youth Center in Viti "Alternativa Rinore", has successfully concluded the opportunity group training cycle with youth groups providing them with the opportunity to gain technical, entrepreneurship and life skills aiming to engage unemployed youth in economic activity. 225 youth received training certificates during the ceremony organized by

the Youth Center, for successful training completion in occupations such as central heating, electrical installation, accounting, graphic design, hairdressing, tailoring etc. Monitoring data of the local partner show that over 20% of the trainees of 2017 have found a job or have been self-employed after training completion. The

partner is working with graduated trainees, intermediating with private sector and facilitating access to finance to have better results on percentage of employment/ self-employment. S4RE has provided technical assistance and coaching during the implementation of training programs which were co-financed by the municipality of Viti.

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STRENGTHENING LOCAL ACTION GROUPS (LAG)



LAGs in Kosovo are the acknowledged representation of community. These entities are the key to local development as they work towards generating and implementing a variety of local projects, as per their Local Development Strategies. Given the importance of the role LAGs have in the community, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) has put efforts in strengthening the capacities of the LAGs, using the LEADER¹ approach.

Twelve out of thirty-eight municipalities in Kosovo have been the beneficiary of this approach, every year, under the facilitation of the LAGs. Four municipalities where S4RE project is operating, where not able to become the LEADER beneficiary to-date due to the fact that they lack the strategic foundation the Local Development Strategy (LDS).

In order to fill in this gap, Rural Development Network of Republic of Kosovo (RDN) tasked to represent and coordinate the stakeholders in the rural areas is working with LAGs to ensure they have institutional and technical capacities to carry out their role in rural development, hence, the process of developing/updating the LDSs for municipalities of Dragas, Kamenica and Novobrdó has been initiated and is progressing.

During the first half of 2018, RDN jointly with LAGs organized a series of meetings, roundtables and workshops aiming to expand the LAG membership at local level and increase participation of private and public sector to better target the needs and priorities of the local community. Furthermore, under the leadership of the RDN, participatory workshops with LAG members in three municipalities have been held, establishing the working groups which worked on identifying priorities that should be included in the LDSs. The entire process has been facilitated through the technical expertise engaged by RDN.

Finalized LDSs will serve as the basis for LAGs in their way to accreditation, enabling them to provide support to their respective areas especially through implementation of small-scale project.

¹ http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/leader/leader/leader-tool-kit/the-leader-approach/en/the-leader-approach_en.html

The office is fully staffed with qualified staff members and they started to successfully take over the activities related to preparing project proposals, handling donor organizations and assist businesses in access to available grant schemes.



Establishment of Office for Investment and Business Support in Kamenica

■ A replication from municipality of Viti

During the last two years, S4RE supported functionalization of the Office for Investment and Business Support in the municipality of Viti. The office is very successful in handling project management duties and responsibilities on behalf of the municipality. At the beginning of 2018, S4RE facilitated an experience exchange between the municipality of Kamenica and Viti, in which exchange a presentation and thorough discussion about the establishment and achievements of the OIBS in Viti was conducted, resulting in the expressed desire to copy the OIBS structure in the municipality of Kamenica, seeing the leverage of having an office that would serve as the one-stop-shop for all project management activities as well as business support, leading to better channelization of the efforts to local economy development.

After few months of close collaborations, in May 2018, municipality of Kamenica has formalized the establishment of the Office for Investment and Business Support, under the facilitation of the S4RE project. The office is fully staffed with qualified staff members and they started to successfully take over



the activities related to preparing project proposals, handling donor organizations and assist businesses in access to available grant schemes.

The training provider platform

The platform for training providers is operational as of January 2018, aiming to create a local training marketplace where mutually beneficial exchange can occur, and mutually beneficial relationships can be built.

TrajneriYt.com offers a platform specifically designed to effectively meet training needs of youth, farmers and businesses locally and regionally, for the benefit of those searching for training services and training providers.

The platform is also designed to help training providers promote and market their services. By register-

ing on the platform, they can keep track of the training requirements. They can showcase their skills, knowledge and experience. It helps training providers build their career and reputation.

Ultimately, the platform helps local actors, those organizing and providing training programs for the local community, strategic partners of S4RE, to identify training providers as per training requirements.

TrajneriYt.com is designed with the sole purpose to – Help connect the Training Provider and the Training Seeker.

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