Zagreb, 3rd June 2014

**Status Report for the Project “Programme Development of the European Centre for Cross-Sector Partnership – IMPACT”**

Project management was changed on August 1st, when Ivana Laginja and UNDP team in Zadar took over from Marija Pejčinović Burić. Bases for further work was the activity plan previously prepared, but needed necessary adjustments which were all discussed and agreed with the partner, Cvjetana Plavša Matić from the National Foundation.

In the framework of the Project in the period from August 1st, 2013 to June 5th, 2014 following activities have been conducted:

**First part of the Workshop “LAGs as carriers of rural development” – November 7-8, 2013**

This two day workshop was organized for LAG managers and/or LAG members from all parts of Croatia with the goal to increase their knowledge and skills related to implementation of the local development strategy and financial management in the framework of Measure 202 of IPARD, institutional building of LAGs and roles of different government institutions in their work. Trainers of the workshop were Jadranka Pelikan, local consultant from Zadar – one of the leaders in introduction of LEADER approach in Croatia, Renata Šeperić, local consultant from Zagreb with extended experience in preparation of local development strategies, Bojana Markotić Krstinić from the LEADER Network Croatia, Lidija Pavić Rogošić, representative of association ODRAZ – Sustainable Community Development, Ivan Ciprijan Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture, and Ana Gadže, Senior Adviser at the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development.

There were 46 participants at the workshop, primarily from LAGs from Lika-Senj, Šibenik-Knin, Zadar and Split-Dalmatian County. The workshop was evaluated with highest, most positive impressions and the participants have expressed a desire for additional workshops on this subject.

**Second part of the workshop was conducted on the 10th and 11th of December 2013,** with the goal to develop Croatian LAGs' understanding of their role in local development and potential of local development in improving quality of life in rural communities. During the first part the LAG representatives received a huge amount of practical information about the way in which LEADER and Measure 202 of IPARD works in Croatia. Second part of the workshop was different in style and it was focused on the role of LAGs in local development, importance of local development and how each Croatian LAG can become its own pole/hub of good practice. Key trainer of the workshop was Ian Baker, British trainer with extensive experience in LEADER implementation in different EU member states. Workshop was conducted in English with consecutive translation provided by UNDP team.

Workshop was attended by 45 participants from LAGs in Lika-Senj, Šibenik-Knin, Zadar and Split-Dalmatian County. LAG stakeholders that participated on this workshop emphasized the need for this kind of platforms where they can exchange their know-how, especially since this is the first time they found themselves in this kind of role of local leaders.

These two workshops provided a good opportunity for the exchange of experience and ideas among LAGs, but they were also a platform for the development of a new project idea related to the provision of pre-financing (provision of financial means for implementation of activities) for LAG activities by National Foundation.

Namely, in early autumn it became clear that LAGs have a problem with cash flow and without provision of pre-financing they will be unable to start any activities that will lead into their inactivity and loss of funding through 202 Measure. Both workshops were well used for the development of an idea on how National Foundation can provide financial bridging for LAGs through its current programs which were eventually successfully implemented.

**There was also a one day workshop on April 15th, 2014 with a focus on key EU funds** – rural, regional and social fund, conducted in Zadar for Lika-Senj and four Dalmatian Counties. Workshop was attended by 58 participants, and most of the participants came from Zadar County. At the workshop, Croatian and Slovenian trainers gave brief overview on the pre-accession period and implementation of projects related to rural, regional and social issues while Slovenian trainers shared experience from new EU member states. Evaluations showed that participants found newly obtained knowledge on best practices in Slovenia and Bulgaria, as well as worst case scenarios, especially useful. A great interest was shown for the usage of the European Social Fund, hence two workshops focusing only on this topic will be organized.

Until the end of the project two more workshops are foreseen – one on the 12th of June in Zadar (for Lika-Senj and Dalmatia) and another one on June 17th in Duga Resa for Karlovac and Sisak-Moslavina County. The topic of the workshop will be implementation of European Social Fund in the accession period as well as possibilities and good examples in the new EU member states.

**Indicative financial report for the Project :**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   | **BUDGET** | **SPENT** | **PLANNED** | **BALANCE****anticipated** |
| Budget item | **USD** | **USD** | **USD** | **USD** |
| **1.** | **Management & investment costs** | **24.846,84** | 14.364,43 | **10.482,41** | **0,00** |
| 1.1. | Project Manager  | **7.000,00** | 6.999,99 | **0,01** | **0,00** |
| 1.2. | Financial assistant | **1.037,70** | 0,00 | **1.037,70** | **0,00** |
| 1.3. | Contractual services/companies - rent | **14.540,56** | 7.312,09 | **7.228,47** | **0,00** |
| 1.4. | Audio Visual and Print Product Costs | **546,00** | 52,35 | **493,65** | **0,00** |
| 1.5. | Miscellaneous costs - Billing | **997,60** | 0,00 | **997,60** | **0,00** |
| 1.6. | GMS (5%) | **724,98** | 0,00 | **724,98** | **0,00** |
| **2.** | **Communication and publication** | **210,00** | 0,00 | **210,00** | **0,00** |
| 2.1. | Communication costs (web, marketing and publications) | **200,00** | 0,00 | **200,00** | **0,00** |
| 2.2. | GMS (5%) | **10,00** | 0,00 | **10,00** | **0,00** |
| **3.** | **Training programme** | **20.528,99** | 7.929,29 | **5.646,03** | **6.953,67** |
| 3.1. | Local consultants - Projects | **14.470,09** | 1.500,00 | **4.668,47** | **8.301,62** |
| 3.2. | Travel | **0,00** | 709,24 | **0,00** | **-709,24** |
| 3.3. | Contractual services/companies - Business plan | **5.081,33** | 5.720,05 | **0,00** | **-638,72** |
| 3.4. | GMS (5%)  | **977,57** | 0,00 | **977,57** | **0,00** |
| **SUB-TOTAL (1+2+3)** | **45.585,83** | **22.293,72** | **16.338,44** | **6.953,67** |

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