



Agricultural Policy Forum 2021

Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Commitments and Reality Check

*(Community Development Program as a complementary model to LEADER approach-
Rural Development Network of NM, Project (financed by USAID))
(Petar Gjorgievski – President of the Rural Development Network of North Macedonia ,)*

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Overall Goal

- Rural areas are more developed, as local actors are more engaged in identification and prioritization of the real community needs and rely on own resources to undertake socio-economic and environmental-friendly investments, with increased commitment from (local) public and private sector.

Objectives

- 1 – Local actors working together to lead local development
- 2 – Local actors mobilize resources to address development priorities that will benefit the community
- 3 – Develop replicable models that can be sustained and scaled up



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Implementing Partner

- Rural Development Network of North Macedonia in collaboration with LAG Plackovica, LAG Malesh-Pijanec, LAG Belasica-Ograzden, LAG Bojmija and LAG Aber-2015, SEG Consulting

Territorial coverage :

- 3 planning regions of the country (East, North-East and South-East), through 5 LAGs that include 18 municipalities: Bogdanci, Valandovo, Gevgelija, Dojran, Bosilovo, Vasilevo, Novo Selo, Strumica, Konche, Karbinci, Radovish, Shtip, Berovo, Delchevo, Pehchevo, Staro Nagorichane, Kumanovo and Lipkovo



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Key community actors

Municipalities, as part of LAGs, will be actively involved in co-creation, co-funding, co-implementation of local development initiatives

Private sector operators, often less involved in the local development issues. CDP will develop a tailor-made approach that will support private companies able to drive up local economic activities, by including others in value chain, increasing employment, and partnering governments and CSOs.

CSOs, local civic initiatives will be involved, local leaders, diverse groups, and individuals (represented in RDN and LAGs)

National authorities responsible for community development processes accountable for introducing modifications of regulations or providing additional support will be involved.



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- Response to the traditional, top-down policies, by using bottom-up approach to address problems and solutions faced by the rural areas
- This model, will spread through the partnering Local Action Groups (LAGs), as link between the local community's needs and the local, and central government efforts to boost equitable economic development in the rural regions.
- The project goal is to reinforce LAGs and other local leadership efforts in engaging local actors in the design and delivery of participatory solutions and resource allocation for the development of their rural areas.



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- Establish foundations of interests-shared model of all involved parties
- Special focus on engaging private sector, supporting mobilization of funds on local level, linking different sources of funding, and supporting capacity building
- CDP will lead process of continuous change, building upon local initiatives, promoting careful use of land and local resources, mobilizing knowledge and ambitions of local communities with a spirit of innovation.



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EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACT

- Increased capacities of local actors to reach out to and engage citizens and other relevant stakeholders, as well as to establish ties to local funding opportunities;
- Increased number of local partnerships among local actors;
- Increased engagement of local actors in the identification and prioritization of community issues and opportunities (i.e. pollution, public health, lack of job opportunities, out-migration, social service provision, local economic development, etc.); and
- Improved mobilization of local actors and resources to design and implement local solutions to address community issues or take advantage of development opportunities.
- Effective replication of sustainable locally led development models in other communities and regions



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Thank you

