



REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of
Local Self Government



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC





PROJECT „SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT“

Brief description of the project and implemented grant schemes for investment and innovative projects

Regional economic development is the main goal of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia. It is a prerequisite for strengthening the social and economic development of the regions. Increasing transparency in the allocation of budget funds in the eight planning regions of the country and reducing disparities in and among planning regions are among the goals that will be achieved through the project “Sustainable and Inclusive Balanced Regional Development”. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Local Self-Government and the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of economic affairs and coordination of economic affairs, and with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. In the total funds for the project, the Ministry of Local Self-Government participates with CHF 1,269,440, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of economic affairs and coordination of economic affairs with CHF 474,664 and the Swiss Agency for for Development and Cooperation (SDC) with 3.320.000 CHF.

The total duration of the project is three years, from December 2017 to December 2020.

The results of the project “*Sustainable and Inclusive Balanced Regional Development*” are:

- ▶ The Government allocates and implements funds for balanced regional development in a transparent and predictable manner and according to the level of development of the planning regions.
- ▶ The needs and demands of the citizens, including those of the vulnerable groups, are systematically included from the Councils for the development of the planning regions in the planning of regional development.
- ▶ Centers for Regional Development (CRPR) for all eight regions, especially in less developed, improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

Grant scheme for investment projects

Among the key activities to achieve the goals of the project is to implement tools that promote modern techniques used by all EU Member States, such as inclusiveness and participation of all citizens in the regions. In this direction, within the framework of the project, the grant scheme for investment projects was implemented for which only the Centers for development of the planning regions could apply. According to the grant scheme, the areas of intervention in this program were environment, social inclusion, business infrastructure and tourism. The projects in all 8 regions were selected through the organization of regional forums attended by representatives from the civic, non-governmental, educational and business sectors, as well as from the citizens themselves.

In each planning region, the realization of one project was financially supported by the citizens that were selected in the process of consultation, for which a total of 850.000 CHF were provided. The priority project in the most developed Skopje planning region receives funds in the amount of 60.000 CHF, and in the least developed region, in the Northeast planning region, 145.000 CHF.

Grant scheme for innovative projects

Within this grant scheme, the focus is on the innovative dimension of the projects. Project ideas were identified in a participatory manner with the active participation of representatives from the non-governmental, educational and business sectors.

Innovation means the possibility of:

- ▶ getting a completely new product, service, organizational solution, process,
- ▶ upgrading the existing product, service, organizational solution, process by improving its quality, efficiency or cost effectiveness, or
- ▶ a new way of utilizing the existing product, tool, service.

The total fund for the Innovative Projects Support Scheme for 2019 is 311,841 CHF. Each of the eight planning regions had the opportunity to apply with a project with total value of 38,980 CHF.





**SHORT DESCRIPTION
OF THE APPROVED
PROJECTS WITHIN THE
GRANT SCHEME FOR
INVESTMENT PROJECTS**

SKOPJE PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Project title: Inclusive children's playground

Applicant: Center for development of Skopje planning region

Partners: Karposh Municipality

Total budget: 3.476.442 MKD

Own participation: 192.354 MKD

Participation by MLS / SDC: 3.284.088 MKD

Through the project, setting up new principles and the destruction of the invisible but still more than present barriers, among the children with proper growth and development and children with disabilities - creating a safe and stimulating community for acceptance and cooperation, are in one place. This would mean achieving equal opportunities and inclusion of children with disabilities.

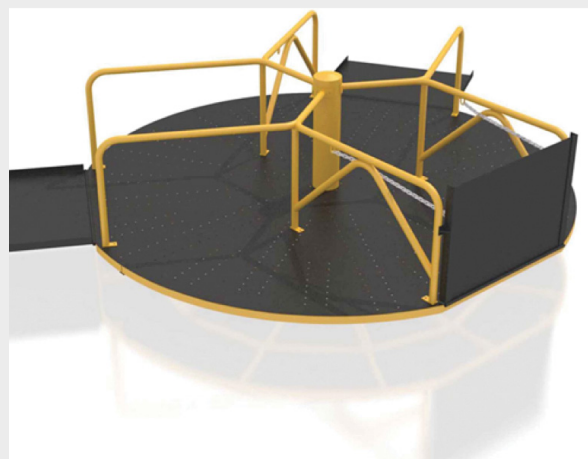
The idea is to build a children's inclusive playground, which would extend to 450 m² equipped with requisites adapted for children with disabilities, but also those with lighter and more severe physical obstacles, thus creating a safe, stimulating community of acceptance and cooperation, in which everyone is valued.

The funds from the project are intended for procurement of balance swing, swings for children, carousels, basket on the lower level, a large castle with ramps, sand pools, which would be at a distance that allows the uninterrupted movement of wheelchairs and other types of devices, paving the playground with rubber basement, construction of a water fountain, installation of LED lighting, benches for rest, bins.

RESULTS:

Socialization of children and their parents and encouraging interest in sports activities.

Encouraging social integration, inclusiveness and openness for equal opportunities for children with physical disabilities.



SOUTH-EAST PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL STATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Applicant: Center for Development of the South-East Planning Region

Partners: Municipality of Bogdanci, Municipality of Bosilovo, Municipality of Valandovo, Municipality of Vasilevo, Municipality of Gevgelija, Municipality of Dojran, Municipality of Konche, Municipality of Novo Selo, Municipality of Radovish, Municipality of Strumica

Total budget: 5.077.786 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation by MLS / SDC: 5.077.786 MKD

The procurement of agrometeorological stations in the South-East region will lead to improvement of the conditions for environmental protection through the introduction of modern technologies in agriculture, reduction of air pollution, soil, water, improved awareness among farmers about diseases that can occur in crops in a certain period of time, reducing the costs of protecting agricultural products, greater involvement of women in the agricultural sector.

The main objective of the project is to improve the conditions for environmental protection by introducing modern technologies in agriculture.

The project envisages modernization and facilitation of the cultivation of agricultural crops through procurement of 23 agricultural meteorological stations in all 10 municipalities in the region and raising the awareness of farmers about the risks caused by over-cultivation of the soil, as well as training for using a new way of management of crops through which it will be possible to obtain timely information on weather conditions and possible diseases in agricultural crops.



RESULTS:

Modernization and improvement of agricultural production through the installation of 23 control stations determined according to the number of crops most commonly grown in the municipalities.

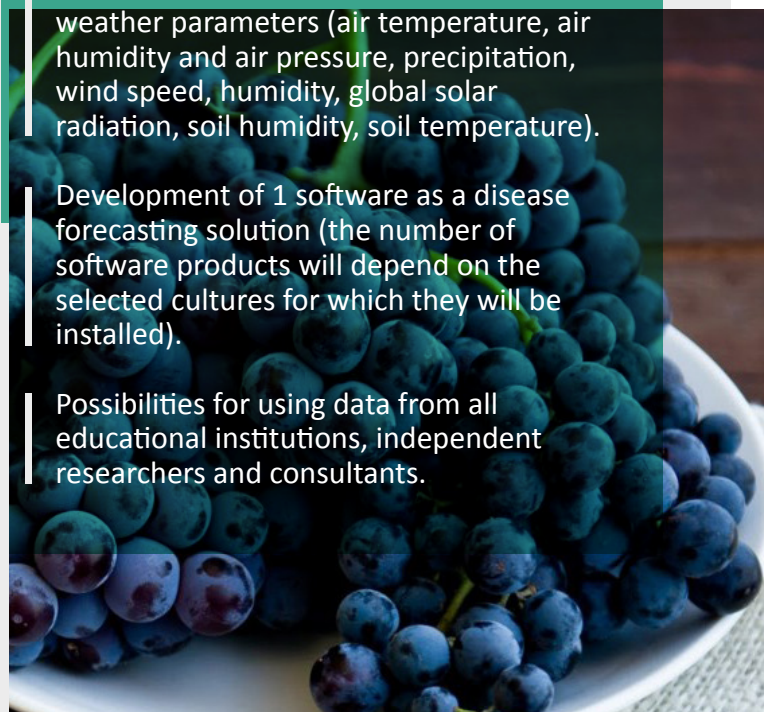
Improve the quality of fruits and vegetables by reducing the volume of treatment with chemical preparations on agricultural crops (reduction by at least 2/3 per year).

Development of 2 solutions for facilitating farmers' access to information on climate change:

A mobile application through which information is received for at least 8 weather parameters (air temperature, air humidity and air pressure, precipitation, wind speed, humidity, global solar radiation, soil humidity, soil temperature).

Development of 1 software as a disease forecasting solution (the number of software products will depend on the selected cultures for which they will be installed).

Possibilities for using data from all educational institutions, independent researchers and consultants.



EAST PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SKI LIFTS AT PONIKVA

Applicant: Center for Development of the East Planning Region

Partners: Municipality of Kocani

Total budget: 5.139.483 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation by MLS / SDC: 5.139.483 MKD

The project includes the reconstruction of the existing ski lifts with a total length of 692 meters, i.e. 248 meters (ski lift No. 1) and 444 meters (ski lift No. 3). The complete reconstruction of the old and dysfunctional ski lifts refers to the replacement of cables, anchors, bearings, reducers, complete electronics, reparation of moles and painting of pillars, and more. The reconstruction of the ski lifts at Ponikva will increase the demand for sports tourism, attract sports clubs and athletes, as well as amateurs, children and lovers of winter tourism and will increase the safety of visitors. With the complete reconstruction of the old and dysfunctional ski lifts the conditions for skiing are expected to be improved, current crowds to be reduced, i.e. to increase the overall capacity of these ski lifts.

With the realization of this project, the working conditions of the ski clubs and schools for young skiers as well as the overall skiing conditions for all potential skiers and tourists on Ponikva will be improved. The reconstructed ski lifts will be available for use by all people categories (children, students, employees, unemployed, pensioners), and special benefits (organized transport and free skiing) will be provided for the vulnerable categories of citizens who wish to ski.

RESULTS:

- Increasing the attractiveness and improving the tourist offer for the visitors of the Sport recreation center Ponikva in the winter
- An increase in the number of skiers by 20% and an increase in the number of tourists in the region by 10%.
- Opening new catering facilities and opening new jobs
- Increased capacity of these ski lifts.



PELAGONIJA PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: CONSTRUCTION OF A REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS - PARK FOR CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Applicant: Center for development of the Pelagonija planning region

Partners: /

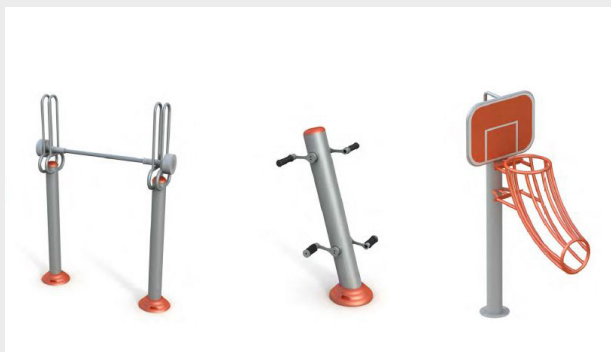
Total budget: 5.442.649 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation from MLS / SDC: 5.442.649 MKD

The main goal of the project is creating conditions for social inclusion of persons and children with special needs and visually impaired persons in Pelagonija region through the construction of dedicated infrastructure. In addition, the project will also increase the urbanization of the area and it will raise awareness of the need for environmental protection by placing urban and environmental props and contents in the City Park in Bitola.

A park/ complex will be built with special, certified and manufactured according to the modern standards, contents and props intended for use by socially and health endangered categories of citizens (children and persons with disabilities and visually impaired persons), which will provide opportunity for their recreation in the open, together with the children and the people without disabilities, i.e. developing their potentials through play and socializing within everyday life in the Pelagonija region. The project will directly contribute to providing equal and modern conditions for education, socialization and inclusion of children and adults with special needs and visually impaired people from the Municipality of Bitola, Municipality of Novaci, Mogila Municipality and the Municipality of Demir Hisar.



RESULTS:

Construction of a Regional Park for social inclusion of 830 square meters with placement of requisites and substrates certified according to the European norms for quality and safety.

Enabling conditions for improved movement of the visually impaired people on the open space through a tactile path.

Setting up the first fitness zone for people with disabilities in the region.

Preparation and installation of information boards adapted for people with disabilities, including those with visual impairments.

Build a rest and relaxation zone.

POLOG PLANNING REGION

PROJECT NAME: SMART INFO AND PROMOTIONAL CENTER (PIPC)

Applicant: Center for development of Polog planning region

Partners: /

Total budget: 6.437.054 MKD

Own participation: 399.066 MKD

Participation by MLS / SDC: 6.037.988 MKD

This project envisages the opening of Smart Info and Promo Centers (SIPC) which would improve the overall tourist experience of visitors in this region. The project proposes the construction and equipping of three SIP Centers that would be connected with a digital platform, which would be updated with the most relevant data for tourists, such as adventure, hospitality, hotels, museum and similar type of data, accompanied by marketing and promotional materials available in the centers, as well as trainings for servicing, relations and communication of officials that will be employed in those centers.

The opening of these SIP Centers would mean easier access to information for everyone and an easier way of direct, face-to-face communication with tourists. This would be achieved by cross-matching the available data and information from all channels of communication, as well as through a digital platform that enables real-time data exchange for visitors to the resort.

The project directly affects about 176 thousand citizens from this region.

RESULTS:

Establishment of 3 new, networked SIP Centers in the region: Gostivar, Mavrovo and Popova Shapka.

Creating and updating a register of tourist attractions, events and products.

Data collection, marketing, supply of updated data that would generate increased profits, and create custom tailored tourist products that are in line with the demands, a trend that more and more worldwide tourist destinations move towards.

Increase the tourist offer by 6%, through start up initiatives, increasing employment in the region by 1-2% in the first 18 months, and increasing the number of tourists by 7% to 12%.



SOUTHWEST PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: REGULATION OF ATTRACTIVE ZONES AND PATHS IN THE SOUTHWEST PLANNING REGION

Applicant: Center for development of the Southwest planning region

Partners: Municipality of Struga, Municipality of Ohrid, Municipality of Debarca

Total budget: 7.773.702 MKD

Own participation: 1.676.860 MKD

Participation by MLS / SDC: 6.084.313 MKD

The main goal of the project is to enrich the tourist offer by building pedestrian paths and arranging attractive places that lead to natural, cultural, archaeological sites and tourist values in the urban and rural areas, thereby increasing the number of tourists and their time of stay in the Southwest region.

The realization of the project will contribute to improving the image of the Southwest planning region as a tourist destination, as well as the quality of the experience of tourists, especially the individual guests coming to Ohrid, Struga and Debarca. The realization of the project refers to the arrangement of the pedestrian walkway Struga - Kalishta which will be marked and insured on route, clearing the route from bushes, trees and roots, supplying, transporting and installing a buffer layer of crushed stone, procurement, transport and laying of the asphalt layer, then arranging the pedestrian walkway at Slatino Lake, building a parking lot with a sidewalk, construction of gazebos, installation of urban equipment and construction of a pedestrian path from Saat Kula to Gorna Porta.



RESULTS:

Making conditions for a more dynamic development of the tourist activity in the Southwest region through the arrangement of 3 new recreational tracks in total length of 2056 m, 3 new sightings and 1 new parking for vehicles and bicycles.

Setting up 16 units with new urban equipment.

Setting up new paths in the Android GIS application SW Macedonia attractions, for easier viewing of all tourist contents in the three partner municipalities and in the region.

Increased length of stay of tourists in the Southwest region.

Facilitating access to important tourist attractions in the Southwest region for all categories of visitors.



VARDAR PLANNING REGION

NAME OF THE PROJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF A SKATE PARK WITH 7 ELEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING PATHS IN THE VARDAR PLANNING REGION (SK8 & BIKEVPR)

Applicant: Center for Development of the Vardar Planning Region - Veles

Partners: Municipality of Kavadarci, Municipality of Demir Kapija, Municipality of Caska

Total budget: 8.936.283 MKD

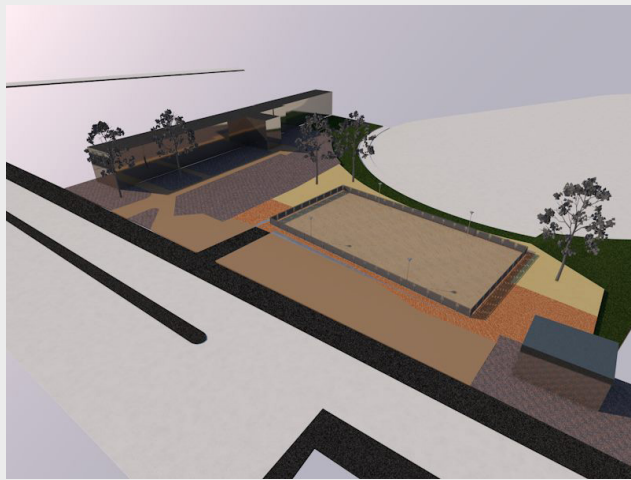
Own participation: 2.212.069 MKD

Participation by MLS / SDC: 6.724.214 MKD

With the change of the tourist demand, i.e., with the needs of the tourists to travel to places that are generally unknown and untouched by the human hand, the Vardar region, which abounds with such potentials, recognizes tourism as an opportunity for its further development. The entry of elements for extreme and adrenaline sports in this region will significantly improve the tourist offer and make the Vardar region more attractive as a tourist destination.

This project envisages activities that would improve the conditions and the offer for an adrenaline tourist destination in the central part of our country. The realization of these activities will enable expansion of the tourist offers, which will result in affirmation and promotion of the natural beauty in the Vardar region.

12



RESULTS:

Construction of a Skate Park for extreme sports in Kavadarci.

Mapping and upgrading 10 tracks for hiking and cycling through the surroundings of Demir Kapija and wider.

Mapping and communal arrangement of climbing site in the Demir Kapija gorge, Demir Kapija.

Construction of a pedestrian path linking the local road Nezhilovo - Mountain Hut Cheples to the sources of the Babuna River, Municipality of Caska.

Enriched tourist offers in the Vardar region.



NORTHEAST PLANNING REGION

TITLE OF THE PROJECT: REGULATION AND VALORIZATION OF SPORTS RECREATIONAL ECO CENTER BISLIM (BISLIM)

Applicant: Center for development of Northeast planning region

Partners: LAG "ABER 2015"

Total budget: 7.914.100 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation by MLS / SDC: 7.914.100 MKD

The project for development of the site BISLIM and the 7 km Bislimska gorge, which has huge untapped potential for development of various types of alternative sports and rural tourism, envisions the construction of a sports center that offers various activities. Implementation of the project activities would mean improvement of the conditions for rural development, tourism development and mobility in the Northeast planning region, social inclusion, increased interest in sports and sports activities among young people, formation of sports associations, development of competitive tourist offer, creation of favorable conditions for public-private partnership and many others.

These activities could be used by a large number of citizens and tourists of all ages, and different vulnerable categories. Implementation of this project is of great importance for this region, as it would encourage its touristic, economic and social development, and it will contribute to the retention of its population which has significantly decreased in recent years. The effects of this project are long-term, and it is self-sustaining through the means that will be provided by the visitors.



RESULTS:

Complete equipping and adaptation of the landscape of the gorge, supply and installation of urban equipment, marking paths for trekking, mountaineering, sports climbing, mountain biking, and kayak trails on the Pcinja River.

Built and arranged tracks for sport climbing and VIA-FERRATA - 60 tracks for sports rock climbers.

Purchase of 15 kayaks with complete equipment that can be used by people with special needs.

Procurement of 8 male and 8 female bikes, as well as 6 electronic bikes and a mobile workshop for mountain biking

Supply of two 4-wheel motors for first-aid and other logistical support.

Creating a mobile application with GPS (for all sights, pedestrian and bicycle routes and paths adapted for people with special needs).





**SHORT DESCRIPTION
OF THE APPROVED
PROJECTS WITHIN THE
GRANT SCHEME FOR
INNOVATIVE PROJECTS**

SKOPJE PLANNING REGION

TITLE OF THE PROJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF AN INNOVATIVE MULTIFUNCTIONAL PLAYGROUND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SARAJ, V. KONDOVO

Applicant: Center for development of Skopje planning region

Partners: Bajram Shabani PS - Municipality of Saraj, v. Kondovo

Total budget: 1.664.856 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation from MLS / SDC: 1.664.856 MKD

In order to exploit the benefits of sports and sports activities among children from earliest age, this project envisages the construction of a new playground in the village Kondovo, Municipality of Saraj. On an area of 1000 m², there is an old and neglected sports field which is a danger for the users that have activities there. Therefore, by renovating and reconstructing it, children will have a place where they can carelessly play, grow and properly develop.

The implementation of this project would bring benefits to more than 3000 citizens from this region, primarily for students, then young people, college students, athletes and sports clubs.

RESULTS:

Complete equipping, lighting and landscaping the space in order to get a multifunctional playground for more sports such as basketball, football and volleyball.

Increasing the quality of educational institutions in an innovative way by improving the learning environment.

Attracting young people who spend their free time on sports activities.

Increasing the physical activity among children, which would improve their social behavior, it would encourage friendship through sports, and improve lifestyle habits.

Enabling access for people with disabilities in order to be included in sports events and activities.



SOUTHEAST PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: JOINT WORKSPACE - A TOOL FOR STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR

Applicant: Center for Development of the South-East Planning Region

Partners: Foundation for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

Total budget: 2.374.335 MKD

Own participation: 276.515 MKD

Participation by MLS / SDC: 2.097.820 MKD

The main goal for realization of this project is an improvement of the entrepreneurial environment for promotion of SMEs in the Southeast planning region. By creating common working space, it contributes to enriching the business ecosystem for supporting entrepreneurship through an innovative tool following the latest trends in this field.

Starting from here, and at the same time using the experiences of other countries in the implementation of the so-called Common Workspace, this project aims to provide to SMEs from the region an infrastructure that will help them improve the efficiency of their operations, get in touch with potential partners and possibly initiate joint cooperation with other enterprises or with the academic sector. In addition, the common space for work, for the Center will be an effective instrument for approaching the business sector from across the Southeast region and achieving more intense relations. In the common space it is planned to have events organized in order to initiate cooperation between SMEs, business associations, NGOs and the academic sector. The project includes promotion of the activities and the achieved results.

RESULTS:

Establishment and full equipping of the Common Workspace including a meeting hall of 92.6 square meters.

Enabling active use of the Common Workspace for at least 20 users.

Creating and offering at least 5 services to potential users.

Improving the conditions for more intensive cooperation between representatives of the business sector and educational institutions.



EAST PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: HEALTHY CHILDREN - A SECURE FUTURE

Applicant: Center for Development of the East Planning Region

Partners: Municipality of Stip, Municipality of Kocani, Municipality of Delcevo

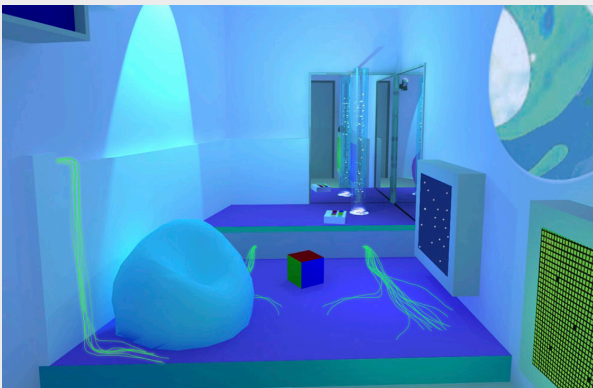
Total budget: 2.077.000 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation from MLS / SDC: 2.077.000 MKD

In the last few years there has been an increase in the number of children with developmental difficulties to varying degrees at pre-school age in the East planning region. Problems faced by institutions where these children are studying, are the insufficient equipment of the premises, as well as the lack of professional preparedness of the staff working with these children. The purpose of this project is to solve the problems through procurement of equipment and building "Sensory rooms", combined with trainings for the staff. Sensory rooms represent specially designed environment that should provide for the children with special needs, controlled exposure to one or more sensory experiences in order to encourage sensory integration, which is the basis for forming answers to the external environment.

The long-term effect of this project would be to increase the integration of the children with developmental difficulties in the education system and further in the society.



RESULTS:

Equipping 3 multi-sensory rooms in the elementary school Malina Popivanova in Kocani, Astibo Stip kindergarten and the day center for children with disabilities Delchevo.

Organizing 6 three-day trainings with the aim to improve the skills of the teaching staff, that works with children/ pupils with special needs.

Empowering people with special needs for better quality of social and economic life in the future.

PELAGONIJA PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: INNOVATIONS IN FUNCTION OF REGIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT - PELAGONIJA CREATED FOR ADVENTURE

Applicant: Center for development of the Pelagonija planning region

Partners: /

Total budget: 2.091.000 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation by MLS / SDC: 2.091.000 MKD

The Pelagonija planning region carries a huge potential for adventure tourism, which, unfortunately, is far from used. The activities envisaged in this project aim at maximum use of this potential. One of the segments that contribute to the tourist experience is related to adrenaline tourism and adrenaline experiences that tourists want to experience when visiting a new destination. Currently, there is no common space with dedicated facilities and infrastructure (Adrenaline Park) in the Pelagonia planning region that can be used for adrenaline tourism activities. The establishment of the first park complex with adrenaline content for children and adults where different target groups of visitors, domestic and foreign tourists can practice adrenaline activities, will enrich and upgrade the existing tourist offer of the region, where both tourists and domestic visitors from the region and beyond can socialize, entertain, educate and recreate. All this will contribute to the positioning of the Pelagonia region as a destination for adventure tourism.

Through the activities of the project, a functional adrenaline park for children and adrenaline park for adults will be set up on the territory of the National Park Pelister, which will be available for use by the entire population in the region and wider, promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination, building an educational corner on open air where educational events and meetings of different types of formal and non-formal education can be held.

RESULTS:

Enrichment of the tourist offer of the region.

Construction of an adrenaline park.

Creating equal and contemporary conditions for education, socialization and inclusion of children and adults.

Construction of an educational corner on open air (classroom in nature).

Direct benefit for more than 230 thousand inhabitants.

Development of e-platform for tourist promotion of the Pelagonia region.



POLOG PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR SUSTAINABLE INFORMAL EDUCATION IN TOURISM

Applicant: Center for Development of the Polog Planning Region

Partners: /

Total budget: 2.101.801 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation by MLS / SDC: 2.101.801 MKD

This project envisages the adaptation of classrooms in rural areas in vacant or semi-vacant schools, that would serve as cabinets for cooking classes. Such cabinets would be equipped with modern kitchens in which classes could be attended by participants from existing hotels and restaurants as well as unemployed people of the rural population who are interested in working in a hotel or restaurant or people that want to start their own business. Raising the quality of food and services in the tourist facilities, supported by improved information and promotion of tourists, mutual networking and access to the international market of businesses in the region, as well as developing online tools for the same purposes, are expected to significantly improve the situation with exploiting the tourism potential, and thus the economic development.



RESULTS:

- Creating and adapting a training room/ classroom.
- Establishment of the first social enterprise in the Polog region that will continue to support similar activities of the rural population.
- Reconstruction of a room in the RPS Instikbal in the village of Garje to a classroom/ kitchen.
- Upgrade an existing cooking program, with traditional recipes and ingredients.



SOUTHWEST PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: VISUALIZATION OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE SOUTH-WEST PLANNING REGION

Applicant: Center for development of the Southwest planning region

Partners: Municipality of Makedonski Brod, Municipality of Vevchani, Municipality of Debar, Municipality of Debrca

Total budget: 2.119.842 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation from MLS / SDC: 2.119.842 MKD

The implementation of this project will lead to the development of alternative forms of tourist activities based on selective types of tourism on the territory of four municipalities in the Southwest planning region and raising the local tourist offer, especially in the rural micro areas of the region.

This project envisages the establishment and arrangement of locations for setting up info points (info touch panels) in the Municipalities of Makedonski Brod, Vevchani, Debar and Debarca, preparation of texts and photographs for the tourist attractions in all four municipalities, translation of the contents in English, preparation of a software solution for presentation of tourist attractions from the 4 self-governing units, procurement of info-kiosks and their set up on the respective locations and promotion of the info touch panels in all four municipalities. According to the declarations of the equipment manufacturers, info-kiosks are supposed to have economic life of five years, after which it is necessary to make replacement of some of the hardware equipment.

20

RESULTS:

Affirmation of the values of the rural areas in the region that should be integrated into the tourism offer of tour operators, but also in programs of local travel agencies.

Informing and promoting tourist attractions.

Availability of information through info points for all categories of citizens and tourists.

Redistribution of visitors from the most visited locations in other less-known micro-environments in the region.



VARDAR PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: EXPANDING THE TOURIST OFFER IN THE VARDAR PLANNING REGION THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PLATFORM FOR PARAGLIDING AND PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT IN THE DEMIR KAPIJA GORGE

Applicant: Center for Development of the Vardar Planning Region

Partners: Demir Kapija Municipality, Association Klisura Sports Club

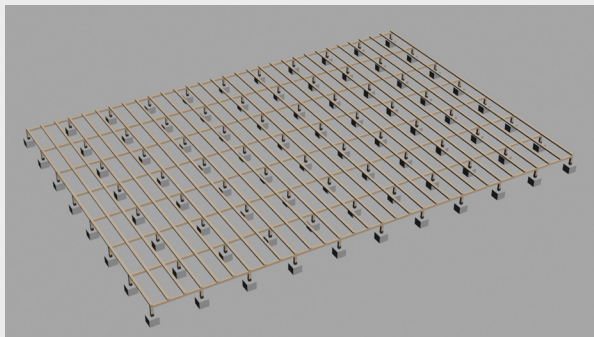
Total budget: 2.096.166 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation by MLS / SDC: 2.096.166 MKD

The project refers to the construction of a platform for paragliding in the Demir Kapija Gorge, purchase of two tandem paragliders and GoPro cameras, further development of the track that lead to the platform, establishing links with the existing tourist facilities throughout the region and advertising the tourist offer in the hotels, wineries and restaurants with the development and distribution of leaflets, and the utilization of already existing human resources with exceptionally high knowledge in sports activities and natural beauties of the region.

The implementation of this project would mean increased attraction and retention of tourists, revival of tourism in this region, opening new opportunities for cooperation between local businesses, developing social entrepreneurship and increasing the total income of tourist facilities, which would have a positive impact for more than 100 000 inhabitants of the region.



RESULTS:

Promoting Demir Kapija and the Vardar Planning Region as an adventurous-tourist destination.

Establishing additional links with wineries and hotels around the Vardar planning region.

Encouraging economic growth, better employment opportunities that will lead to a larger and more skilled workforce that will stay in the region.

Increase the number of tourists and overnight stays in hotels, camps and hostels up to 20% annually.

NORTHEAST PLANNING REGION

PROJECT TITLE: INCLUSIVE SMART CLASSROOMS (U - SMART)

Applicant: Center for Development of the Third - Northeast planning region

Partners: MPS Krste Misirkov Kumanovo

Total budget: 2,097,820 MKD

Own participation: /

Participation by MLS / SDC: 2.097.820 MKD

The focus of this project is education, more precisely creating skills and equal opportunities for using innovative software tools and computer technology in primary education through practical examples of virtual technology. Inclusive smart classrooms will integrate students with special educational needs into regular classes and will have the equal opportunity to access any smart inclusive classroom.

By procuring the new technology that would be included in the teaching process, in the primary schools Krste Misirkov and Brakja Miladinovci that share common premises, over 2,000 students and 40 children with special needs from this region will benefit directly.

RESULTS:

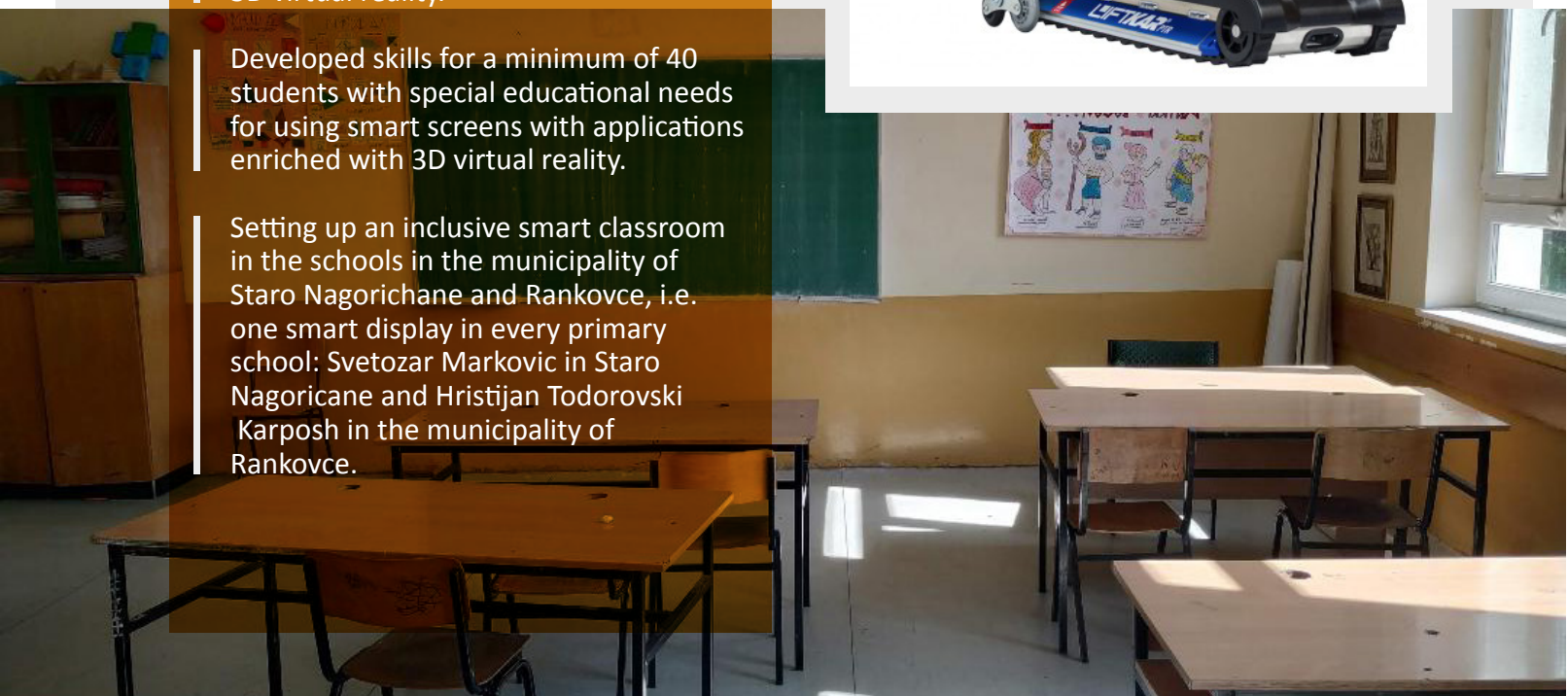
Installment of "SMART Display" or smart screens in all 46 classrooms where 2,000 students from both primary schools attend classes.

Purchase of two Lifkar - Carriers for the transfer of persons with disabilities by stairs.

Developed students' creative thinking skills for using smart screens with educational applications enriched with 3D virtual reality.

Developed skills for a minimum of 40 students with special educational needs for using smart screens with applications enriched with 3D virtual reality.

Setting up an inclusive smart classroom in the schools in the municipality of Staro Nagorichane and Rankovce, i.e. one smart display in every primary school: Svetozar Markovic in Staro Nagoricane and Hristijan Todorovski Karposh in the municipality of Rankovce.







Republic of North Macedonia
**Ministry of
Local Self Government**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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