

## Implemented Community Forums

### *Community Forum Programme in the Municipalities of Gostivar and Debar (2009-2010)*

#### **Achieved results:**

- 7 forum sessions held in Gostivar, while 5 in Debar with average of 87 citizens in Gostivar and 114 in Debar participated in the forum sessions



- Successively conducted ethnic and gender sensitive process. The participation of women and all ethnic minorities was specifically encouraged during the process. For example, an average of 40% of woman and 40-60% of ethnic minorities in Gostivar and Debar were actively involved in the forum process.

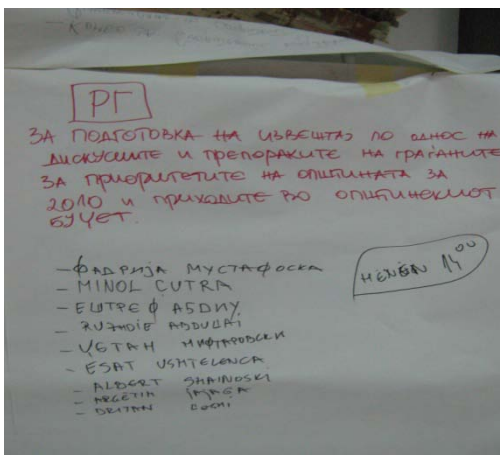


- Improved project development capacity of the local community in Gostivar. While participating in the project development process the citizens together with the local municipal administration built skills and acquired knowledge for project development.



Specifically, eight (8) project ideas were developed to the project concepts in Gostivar and after integration of similar project concepts, the following four (4) projects were developed:

- European school – reconstruction of secondary school premises and providing equipment for practical work
  - Tradition goes on – opening an agricultural museum in the village VRUTOK
  - Reconstruction of the sidewalk of the river Vardar
  - Carefree childhood – reconstruction of kindergarten premises, providing equipment and arrangement of the yard
- Improved budget development capacity of the local community in Debar. While participating in the elaboration of the process of budget development the citizens together with the local municipal administrations built skills and acquired knowledge for budget development. Specifically: 32 project ideas and suggestions outcome from budget forum discussions in Debar.



- Improved project implementation capacity of the local communities. In the implementation phase of the forum projects the municipal administration developed practical skills in project implementation. It is particularly important that this was a “partnership” capacity as projects brought together the municipal administration with other local stakeholders. Specifically, the following sustainable projects were selected by the Forum participants and successfully implemented with a visible impact on the community:

#### **Municipality of Gostivar**

- Reconstruction of the sidewalk of the river Vardar



## Municipality of Debar

### 1. Reconstruction of the boulevard Illyria



- List of recommendations related to addressing various local issues submitted to the Municipal authorities and taken into account by them. For illustration, in addition to the selected forum project which was assessed as priority, 15 recommendations addressed by the citizens in Debar were included in the Municipal Programme and Budget for 2010. While in Gostivar, 13 recommendations outcome from the forum process were given into consideration to the municipality of Gostivar.



- Established partnerships between local stakeholders (NGOs, local government, business sector and other local institutions). For example, in Gostivar, the project partners and the municipality has contributed additional 45.500 EUR (in-kind and financial support) for implementation of the project in addition to approximately 98.000 EUR provided as program fond by CIRa through SDC Community Forum Programme Fund and the Municipality of Gostivar.

While in Debar, the project partners and the municipality has contributed additional 73.000 EUR (in-kind and financial support) for implementation of the project.

- Improved capacity of the local administration regarding decentralization. While participating in projects and responding to recommendations from the citizens, the local municipal administration practically implements its new responsibilities related to the decentralization process.
- Two Bulletins in Debar and three in Gostivar were published in Macedonian and Albanian language



### Community Forum Programme in the Municipalities of Berovo and Sveti Nikole (2008-2011)

#### Achieved results:

- 7 forum sessions held in each Municipality; average of 79 citizens in Berovo and 96 in Sveti Nikole participated in the forum sessions



- Successively conducted ethnic and gender sensitive process. The participation of women was at a satisfactory level in both municipalities, approximately 40-60% of forum participants were women. Since the percentage of ethnic minorities is very low in both municipalities, the presence of Roma representatives, especially in Berovo can be considered as satisfactory, while in Sveti Nikole representatives from Roma NGO were present at the sessions and it should be mentioned that most of the representatives of Roma population, declare themselves as Macedonians.
- Improved project development and implementation capacity of the local communities. In the forum session phase of the forum projects the municipal administration together with the citizens developed practical skills in project implementation. It is

particularly important that this was a “partnership” capacity as projects brought together the municipal administration with other local stakeholders.



Specifically, the following sustainable projects were developed by the Forum participants:

**Municipality of Berovo**

1. “Clean water for healthy life”- building a collector system in Berovo
2. “Building sidewalks and sewage systems in the city center in Berovo and the Roma neighborhood” (later revised and renamed in “Building sidewalks and sewage system on the Marshall Tito street”)
3. “Clean Environment” - completion of the sewage system in Ratevo, Rusinovo and Nesovski Oresi
4. “Culture and Tradition” - reconstruction of the multifunctional building “Partisan” and building fence around the primary school “Dedo Ilo Malesevski”
5. “Sport for all” - reconstruction of the wardrobes in the city/sport arena
6. “Sidewalk and recreation for all” - reconstructing and organizing the Bregalnica river front
7. “Coffee on the square” - organizing and reconstructing the city square
8. “European Carnival” - building a multifunctional room for cultural events and storage for keeping instruments and equipment

**Municipality of Sveti Nikole**

1. Youth Centers in rural areas "Open door"
  2. “Do sports and be happy” – building outdoor sport terrain;
  3. “One step forward towards employment” - opening a consulting/business center
  4. “Different, but equal” – traffic polygon and equipment of classroom for children with special needs
  5. “A given hand” – construction of center for support of vulnerable groups
- Related to the implementation phase of the forum projects it could be stated that the municipal administration developed practical skills in project implementation. It was especially evident in the municipality of Sveti Nikole where the municipal administration needed a lot of support provided by CIRa to successfully implement

the forum projects. Also, it is particularly important that this is a “partnership” capacity as projects brought together the municipal administration with other local stakeholders. Specifically, the following sustainable projects were implemented:

### **Municipality of Berovo**

1. “Building sidewalks and sewage system on the Marshall Tito street”



### **Municipality of Sveti Nikole**

1. “Different, but equal” – traffic polygon and equipment of classroom for children with special needs



2. “A given hand” – construction of center for support of vulnerable groups



- List of recommendations related to addressing various local issues submitted to the Municipal authorities and taken into account by them. For illustration, in addition to the developed and selected forum projects which were assessed as priorities, 11 recommendations were addressed by the citizens in each of the municipalities.



- Established partnerships between local stakeholders (NGOs, local government, business sector and other local institutions). For example, in Sveti Nikole, the project partners and the municipality has contributed additional 22.500 EUR (in-kind and financial support) for implementation of the project in addition to 130.000 EUR provided as program fond by CIRa through SDC Community Forum Programme Fund and the Municipality of Sveti Nikole. While in Berovo, the project partners and the municipality has contributed additional 45.000 EUR (in-kind and financial support) for implementation of the project.
- Improved capacity of the local administration regarding decentralization. While participating in projects and responding to recommendations from the citizens, the local municipal administration practically implements its new responsibilities related to the decentralization process.
- Follow up sessions successfully implemented in both municipalities where citizens were informed about the achieved results related to the implementation of forum projects and recommendations
- Six Bulletins published (two in each municipality) for both Forums.



## Community Forum Programme in the Municipalities of Cashka and Strumica (2008-2009)

### Achieved results:

- 7 forum sessions held in each Municipality; average of 49 citizens in Cashka and 95 in Strumica participated in the forum sessions



- Successively conducted ethnic and gender sensitive process. The participation of women and all ethnic minorities was specifically encouraged during the process. For example, an average of 55% woman in Strumica and 26, 5% of ethnic minorities in Cashka were actively involved in the process of project development.
- Improved project development capacity of the local communities. While participating in the elaboration of project ideas the citizens together with the local municipal administrations built skills and acquired knowledge for project development.





- Specifically: five (5) projects were developed by the forum participants in Strumica and four (4) projects in Cashka

**Municipality of Strumica**

1. Center for rehabilitation and re-socialization of drug and alcohol users – “POKROV”
2. Club for psychosocial support of patients of cancer – “VIVA”
3. A flower market – “IRIS”
4. Renovation and equipment of the sport hall in the Gymnasium “Jane Sandanski”
5. Center for pensioners and old people

**Municipality of Cashka**

1. Cheples – for reconstruction of a mountain house;
  2. Streets and local roads – for reconstruction of three streets in the villages of Gorno Jabolcishte, Dolno Jabolcishte and Chashka;
  3. Water Supply System - for construction of a water supply system in the village Busilci;
  4. Sport and recreation – for construction of a sport playground in the primary school in Caska
- Improved project implementation capacity of the local communities. In the implementation phase of the forum projects the municipal administration developed practical skills in project implementation. It is particularly important that this was a “partnership” capacity as projects brought together the municipal administration with other local stakeholders. Specifically, the following sustainable projects were selected by the Forum participants and successfully implemented with a visible impact on the community:

**Municipality of Strumica**

1. Center for rehabilitation and re-socialization of drug and alcohol users – “POKROV”



2. Club for psychosocial support of patients of cancer – “VIVA”



## Municipality of Cashka

- Streets and local roads – for reconstruction of three streets in the villages of Gorno Jabolcishte, Dolno Jabolcishte and Chashka;



- Cheples – for reconstruction of a mountain house;



- List of recommendations related to addressing various local issues submitted to the Municipal authorities and taken into account by them. For illustration, in addition to the developed and selected forum projects which were assessed as priorities, 37 recommendations were addressed by the citizens in Strumica and 25 in Cashka.



- Established partnerships between local stakeholders (NGOs, local government, business sector and other local institutions). For example, in Strumica, the project partners and the municipality has contributed additional 50.000 EUR (in-kind and financial support) for implementation of the project in addition to 130.000 euros provided as program fond by CIRa through SDC Community Forum Programme Fund and the Municipality of Strumica.
- Improved capacity of the local administration regarding decentralization. While participating in projects and responding to recommendations from the citizens, the local municipal administration practically implements its new responsibilities related to the decentralization process.
- Six Bulletins published (three in each municipality) for both Forums. What's more, the bulletins in Cashka were also published in Albanian language

### **Community Forum Program Inception Phase in the Municipalities of Kicevo and Gjorce Petrov (2006-2008)**

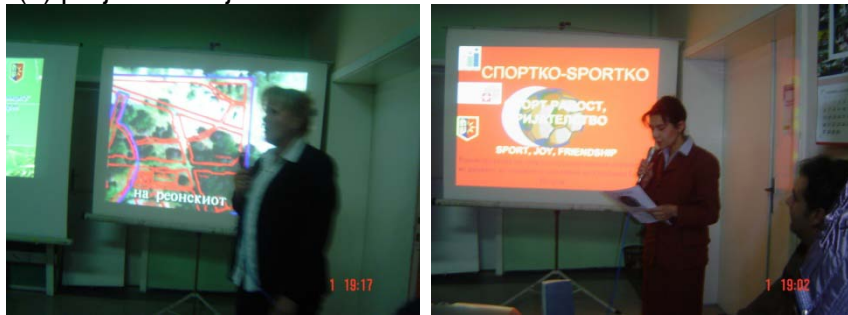
#### ***Achieved results:***

- 7 forum sessions held in each Municipality; average of 101 citizens in G. Petrov and 70 in Kicevo participated in the forum sessions



- Successively conducted ethnic and gender sensitive process. The participation of women and all ethnic minorities was specifically encouraged during the process. For illustration, an average of 26% woman and 29% of ethnic minorities in Kicevo were actively involved in the process of project development.
- Improved project development capacity of the local communities. While participating in the elaboration of project ideas the citizens together with the local municipal administrations built skills and acquired knowledge for project development.

Specifically: eight (8) projects were developed by the forum participants in Kicevo and two (2) projects in Gjorche Petrov



- Improved project implementation capacity of the local communities. In the implementation phase of the forum projects the municipal administration developed practical skills in project implementation. It is particularly important that this was a “partnership” capacity as projects brought together the municipal administration with other local stakeholders. Specifically, the following sustainable projects were selected by the Forum participants and successfully implemented with a visible impact on the community:

#### **Municipality of Kicevo**

1. Construction of a pedestrian zone in the city downtown



2. Construction of 9 access ramps in public institutions for people with disabilities



3. Reconstruction of the sport-facility *SOKOLANA* - cultural heritage building protected by the *Agency for Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Macedonia*



**Municipality of Gorce Petrov**

1. Reconstruction of the central park in the municipality (pedestrian zone build, squares constructed, park candelabras, benches and trash containers installed), including summer theatre stage, 2 fountains, 2 children playground, toilet and warehouse, horticultural revitalization



- List of recommendations related to addressing various local issues submitted to the Municipal authorities and taken into account by them. For illustration, in addition to the developed and selected forum projects which were assessed as priorities, 18 recommendations were addressed by the citizens in G. Petrov and 9 in Kicevo. What's more, as a result of the advocacy efforts of citizens in the Municipality of Gjorce Petrov, the second forum project for construction of 6 sport playgrounds in primary schools was implemented. In addition 5 more issues which were on the list of recommendations were solved by the municipality: water supply network improved, sewage system constructed in Volkovo village, underpass constructed in the settlement of Dame Gruev and provided support facilities to the Association for Arts and Culture "Gligor Prlichev". While the Municipality of Kicevo also managed to implement one more of the forum projects "Investing in improved education – reconstruction of parts of the interior in three schools in the municipality".



- Established partnerships between local stakeholders (NGOs, local government, business sector and other local institutions). Each municipality has contributed at least 30.000 EUR (in-kind and financial support) for implementation of the projects in addition to 120.000 Euros provided by CIRa through SDC Community Forum Program Fund.
- Improved capacity of the local administration regarding decentralization. While participating in projects and responding to recommendations from the citizens, the local municipal administration practically implements its new responsibilities related to the decentralization process.
- Four Bulletins published (two in each municipality) for both Forums. What's more, the bulletins in Kicevo were also published in Albanian language
- Documentary film related to the forum process in all pilot municipalities produced and presented to the forum participants