

Building sustainable community economical development in Mitrovica region

Kosovo Community Reconciliation and Development Program KCRDP

Over the last year, Partners Kosova and Fractal were implementing Kosovo Community Reconciliation and Development Program – KCRDP financed by Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both organizations have worked closely with community representatives from all project locations on identification of areas for investments in each local community throughout KCRDP project locations. The working groups with support of PK and Fractal economic experts have identified the following projects to implement in each project locations:



Vushtrri / Vucitrn & Gojbulë/ Gojbulja:



The representatives of both above mentioned location has agreed to join their funds for opening “Plant for producing plastic mesh and plastering facade elements“. The work of the both working groups has lead to this mutual understanding and joint proposal due to

specific requirements and advantages in the local market for that kind of product. The factory will bring together members from Albanian and Serbian community from both project locations. The factory will be based in Vushtrri/Vucitrn and will employ up to 12 persons.

Runik/Rudnik:



The working group in Runik/Rudnik for the last ten months has been generating different ideas and thoughts that will have direct impact on the increase of the local economy. With the facilitation of Partners Kosova and

Fractal staff, the selected members of KCRDP working groups, among other ideas given, decided to orient their available dedicated funds in establishing farm for fattening cattle in Runik/Rudnik. The village of Runik/Rudnik is a relatively large village in Skenderaj/Srbica Municipality, with mountainous and hilly ground configuration suitable for cultivation of crops. The proposed project idea will have capacity for holding 50–60 sheep & calves for fattening and employing at least 4 people as direct beneficiaries, while the entire village of Runik/Rudnik and surrounding villages will be indirect beneficiaries of this project.

Bajë/Banje:

With a great history and being well-known in the region for producing high-quality home made brandy [NIGHT DRAGON] with special taste, the working group of Bajë/Banje did hesitate to use that fact as advantage of their proposal for mini grant in establishing the “Home made brandy factory“. As this project has been previously tested by International Civilian Office [ICO] economic development department, it turned to be very good and buyers attractive product, market demand wise, therefore the opening of such a factory in Bajë/Banja will have direct impact not only on the employment but on expanding the possibility of cooperation between other ethnic groups as well, since the group representatives have already established contacts with different farmers from all surrounding villages that produce the pear. This type of



brandy is made from wild fruit (pear in this case) that grows in the area of Bajë/Banje village at an altitude of 700m. This project will directly employ up to 5 people, while the entire village and all farmers growing pear in surrounding villages like Runik/Rudnik, Surigana/Suhogrllo will be indirect beneficiaries of this project as well, as they will be able to sell their pear to brandy producers in Bajë/Banje. The pilot testing production was made possible two years ago with support of ICO and it did turn to be tremendously demanded in the market, including the high diplomacy representatives in Kosovo, Mr. Ahtisary who got a bottle of Night Dragon, and was quite pleased about it. Municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica will support this project with an amount of 10% of KCRDP grant [4500€] as support to newly created businesses within the municipality.

Zubin Potok:

In the past, this area used to be well developed in different ways, but it was especially famous for fish breeding not only in Kosovo, but in surrounding countries as well. One of the reasons is favorable conditions, such as proximity of the Gazivode Lake, and suitable weather conditions. Since the beginning of the project, Zubin Potok



KCRDP working group developed several ideas, but lately they were reduced to one that seemed to be the most logical and had best chance for sustainable economic development initiative. The idea is to establish "Carp Fish farming". As the members of working group mentioned, there



are many pits on the banks of Ibar river, caused by the excavation of sand and gravel for commercial purposes. Now pits are suitable for carp farming with certain investment. The members of the project-working group in Zubin Potok are engaged for quite a

longtime in the local agricultural cooperatives, and well-known experts in this field of work.

Çabër/Çabra:

Laying between municipality of Zubin Potok and the municipality of Mitrovica, village of Çabër/Cabra is Albanian dominated village within the Zubin Potok municipality with approximately 800 inhabitants. The KCRDP project group, as in any other project location, has been actively involved in identification and selection of potential idea for implementation of mini grant



initiative foreseen with KCRDP project. The group has been shifting between "Bee keeping" and "Strawberry cultivation/ production". With the analyses done by KCRDP external economic expert it was recommended that village of Çabër/Cabra does not fulfill the necessary requirements for implementation of such activities, due to: lack of adequate personnel to take over the management responsibilities and lack of long term strategy development vision on community interest and benefits. In order to overcome this, the KCRDP external economic expert has identified and proposed the alternative project idea for Çabër/Cabra implementation in order to decrease the unemployment within the village of Çabër/Cabra and to offer the economic perspective of the village itself. The proposed project presents the opportunity for the village of Çabër/Cabra to open "The factory for producing and packing the rice and Noha's pudding, and packing the other food products composed of powder and grains".

This proposal has the advantages in the Kosovo market as the products proposed for production are foreseen as "Customary food" and there is not such a production line in Kosovo.

This project foresees on employing between 6-9 individuals, with special focus on Çabër/Cabra housewives, but we all are eager to see the packed and well served Rice Pudding [locally known as Sutliash] and Noah's Pudding [Locally known as Ashura] as there is no such a product in Kosovo market currently.



Starting from 1st of March, 2011, KCRDP project website www.kcrdp.net will be up and running, please visit the website after this time, as we will update the information on project developments on regular bases.

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