



Joint actions for prevention and reduction of the consequences of disasters in the municipalities of Sandanski and Radovich

Interreg - IPA CBC 
  **CCI 2014TC16I5CB006**

Duration: 24 months

This project is co-funded by the European Union and National Funds of the participating countries



Lead Partner: Municipality of Sandanski, Republic of Bulgaria

Project Partner: Centre for development of the South-East planning region

The series of destructive natural disasters in 2017 have led to severe human, environmental and economic losses in Europe. The region is significantly vulnerable towards climate change while it is very weakly prepared to respond to natural hazards and disasters adequately.

Floods have a serious impact on the economic, social and local situation in the region. The cross-border region is subject to torrential rains during the summer with increased frequency and duration. As a result, the river basins of the main rivers in some critical areas are unable to accept the waters of these precipitation. This leads to flooding of the terrain, and further to floods with extremely unfavorable consequences for the areas, such as destruction of the available infrastructure - bridges, roads, even loss of human lives, etc.

As a result of increased rainfall, the municipality of Sandanski and the municipality of Radovich suffered from floods caused by the rivers Sandanska Bistrica and the river Sushica and because of the bad weather conditions and climate change, the significance of such a project is great.

Total value of the project:

587.931,97 EUR

Budget of the Centre for development of SEPR: 389.783,17 EUR

Main objective of the project:

Prevention and mitigation of consequences of natural and man-caused disasters of cross-border dimension and impact.

Main Activities of the Project:

1. **Information and publicity campaign** which will allow promotion of the activities, events and results of the project in the cross-border region;
2. **Preparation of Guide “A collection of good practices for combating the climate change consequences in communities”** which will be distributed in Bulgaria and N. Macedonia, and will aim to increase the awareness of the policy and decision makers in the cross-border region;
3. **Organization of open workshops on climate change and “green” activities** in Bulgaria and N. Macedonia with the aim to increase the awareness of young people on the climate change consequences, and related risks such as erosion, flooding, storms and drought etc.;
4. **Organization of roundtable discussions on mitigation of climate change** in order to mitigate the consequences of climate change in Bulgaria and N.Macedonia, for support and exchange of good practices, experiences and knowledge on the various measures for mitigating the consequences of climate change;
5. **Infrastructure activities in the Municipality of Sandanski** – arrangement of a part of the Sandanska Bistrica riverbed and flood area including the construction of several correction walls of different length and gabions facilities according to the technical designs, cleaning and arrangements of the river bed, strengthening and creating dykes and river banks, etc. Additionally, afforestation and reforestation of the river basin will also be included, as a measure for reducing the erosion and quieting the noise created by the river flow;
6. **Infrastructure activities in the Municipality of Radovich** – arrangement of the 624 meters section of the river, by cleaning the river bed, setting up cascade thresholds, a quay wall, arranging the bottom of the river bed, building stairs on the quay wall and ramps to create access to the river. Also afforestation and reforestation of the river basin is predicted.

Results of the Project:

- Implemented climate change adaptation measures related to the significant reduction of the risk of flooding in the Municipalities of Sandanski (Bulgaria) and Radovich (N.Macedonia);
- Constructed green infrastructure that will contribute to the reduction of the adverse consequences of flooding, which at the same time provides additional benefits regarding carbon storage, noise reduction and biodiversity;
- Increased awareness and knowledge of young people on the climate change consequences and their influence on the cross-border region, as well as on the possible measures to address those issues;
- Fostered communication and exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge on the various measures for mitigation of climate change consequences among the various stakeholders of the communities in the common cross-border region;
- Improved quality of life and increased security against natural disasters in the cross-border region.



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