

**ФОНДАЦИЈА
ЗА РАЗВОЈ НА
ПОКАПНАТА
ЗАЕДНИЦА**



**LOCAL
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION**

Narrative Report for 2015

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The Local Community Development Foundation — Stip is a nongovernmental organization founded in 2006. LCDF is the successor to the NGO Support Center — Stip.

Mission:

Enhanced citizen engagement and participation in the policy-making and implementation processes.

Vision:

LCDF is leader organization; team oriented with strengthened human capacities, financially stable, nationally recognizable and established as meaningful partner on international projects.

Strategic Goals:

1. Increase the impact of civil society sector on public policy creation and implementation;
2. Increase the responsibility of the citizen to affect local problems;
3. Expanding the work of LCDF onto Western Balkans.

The annual program of LCDF is supported by Civica Mobilitas

➤ **Debate Club (January 2015 – December 2015)**

The Debate Club has operated within the framework of the Local Development Foundation –Stip since 2008. With support from LCDF the Debate Club has held weekly practice meetings facilitated by club members who know the debating format and have experience debating.

Objective: To increase youths' understanding of local politics and current events, and develop their critical thinking skills.

Activities:

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1. Lectures and practice debates held for local youth, at no cost;
2. Organized public debates for club members on topics relevant to the community;
3. Youth participation in local, regional, and national debate tournaments.

Results:

- 30 youth participated in the beginner Debate Club;
- 30 youth participated in the advanced Debate Club;
- Held 90 meetings for the beginner and advanced Debate Clubs;
- Organized 3 public debates;
- Participated in one local, two national, and one international youth debates;
- Received the third place award in a national youth debate.

Project financed with funds from the Local Community Development Foundation – Stip.

➤ **Parking is a life standard too (01.05.2015 – 20.06.2016)**

Objective: Increase the involvement of citizens in local policy making.

Short-term Objectives:

- To mobilize the wider public in addressing identified needs and problems;
- To prepare policy briefs;
- To encourage the general public and NGOs to work with local municipalities to become more transparent in their management of public funds.

Activities:

1. Petitioned and mobilized local citizens about their desire to abolish paid-parking in the city-center;
2. Held press conferences at the start of the project, during implementation, and after completing the petition;
3. Held public debate;
4. Composed policy brief.

Results:

- Increased transparency with regard to municipal management of public funds;

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- Mobilize the citizenry to affect local problems;
- Encouraged public debate to identify alternative solutions to the traffic and congestion problems in the city center.

Budget: 2.000,00 EUR

Project was financed by the European Union, through the program "Support for Strengthening the Sustainable Development of an Active Societies" Conducted by Foundation Metampress and MCET

➤ **Project and Budget forums in the municipalities Centar, Struga, and Strumica (April 2015 – December 2015)**

This project saw the delivery of budget and project forums in the municipalities of Centar, Strumica, and Struga. We organized two project forums and two budget forums in each municipality. For the project forum citizens had the ability to identify priority programs for the project and each municipality. In the budget forums we discussed how projects are financed from project funds. About 1000 citizens participated in these forums, and four projects were selected for funding – one in each municipality, and one that targeted a priority program identified through the forums.

Objective: To increase citizen participation in decision-making processes at the local level.

Activities:

1. Trainings for moderators and editors;
2. Two project forum sessions were held in each municipality – Centar, Strumica, and Struga;
3. Two budgeting forum sessions were held in each municipality – Centar, Strumica, and Struga.

Results:

- Realization of citizen forums in Centar, Strumica, and Struga;
- Four projects were created and financed through the project fund;
- Priority development programs established in Centar, Strumica, and Struga;
- Over 1000 citizens and 16 facilitators and moderators participated in the project.

Project financed by the Open Society Foundation – Macedonia

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➤ **Increased Transparency of Local Funds for Civic Associations (21.01.2015 – 31.05.2016)**

Objective: General objective for the project is to increase the transparency and accountability of Local Self-Government when allocating resources and funds from municipal budgets to associations.

Specific objectives:

- Develop methodologies for the distribution of funds and resources to associations from municipal budgets in eight municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia;
- Prepare guides for the development of criteria and procedures to promote the good practices when distributing funds to associations from municipalities;
- Encourage more active engagement from civil society to improve practices by local self-governing units to support associations.

Activities:

1. Prepared and adopted methodologies for the provision of funds from the municipal budget;
 - 1.1 Workshops for the preparation of methodologies for financing associations with funds from the municipal budget;
 - 1.2 Advocated for the adoption of prepared methodologies;
2. Promotion of project results;
 - 2.1 Publication of results;
 - 2.2 Press conference
3. Coordinated meetings with partner organizations

Results:

- Increased transparency, responsiveness, and responsibility in Local Self-Governing Units when dealing with public funds;
- Developed methodologies for the distribution of funds from municipal budgets to support associations;
- Improved process for evaluating, monitoring, and reporting, implemented projects and activities of associations that received support from Local Self-Governing Units;

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- Established and increased communication and cooperation between associations and Local Self-Governing Units for the joint development of solutions;
- Prepared a manual for the exchange of practices and experiences which will serve other municipalities and associations to develop methodologies for the allocation of resources to associations from municipal budgets

Total Budget: 40.000,00 USD

Project was financed by a project from USAID to support civil society organizations.

➤ **Citizen Participation in Rural Areas (July 2015 – December 2015)**

The project was implemented between 15 July 2015 and December 2015 in cooperation with: Norges-Vel – Kriva Palanka; ZG LAG Voice of the Village – Kumanovo; and, the Rural Development Center of Bujrum – Kumanovo

Objective: To educate young people from the Northeast Region of the Republic of Macedonia through experiential learning about the significance of social values (including the development of legal order and local self-government, the business sector, ecology, media and social issues) aimed and to develop the personal skills, knowledge, and capacities of young people.

Activities:

1. Organized Facebook group and social media campaign;
2. Television and radio programs;
3. Three two-day trainings;
4. Development of a training manual.

Results:

- Delivered trainings and strengthened the capacities of 206 young people from the Northeast Region;
- Trained 15 youth workers to facilitate capacity building trainings;
- Created a manual for youth capacity building.

Project was financed by a project from USAID to support civil society organizations.

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➤ **Regional Office of the National Youth Council of Macedonia – For the Eastern Region (2014 – 2015):**

The Local Community Development Foundation served as the regional office for the National Youth Council of Macedonia for the East and Southeastern Planning Regions. The objective of this activity is to implement and promote the activities and work of the National Youth Council of Macedonia.

Activities:

1. Implemented meetings to gather the needs and problems of local youth;
2. Organized public events;
3. Created policies and documents on the local needs of youth;
4. Consulted with youth organizations from the region, and across the Republic of Macedonia;
5. Promotional activities for the National Youth Council of Macedonia.

Results:

- Implemented meetings to identify problems facing youth in the region;
- Organized five public debates on topics related to youth policies and youth civic engagement;
- Organized soft skills trainings for youth from the region;
- Included 150 youth from the Eastern Region of the Republic of Macedonia.

Activities were financed with funds from the National Youth Council of Macedonia.

➤ **Save the Park in the 8mi Noemvri Neighborhood 01.12.2015 – 31.05.2016)**

The project to save the park in the 8mi Noemvri neighborhood in Stip was initiated by an informal citizens group after the Municipality of Stip decided to sell the park's land. The objective of the project was to mobilize citizens, promote transparency within the Municipality, and encourage citizen consultations when significant decisions are being made by the Municipality. More than 500 young people participated in the project activities.

Objective: Increase the inclusion of citizens in the Municipality's decision making process in decision which hold significance to the citizenry.

Activities:

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1. Contacted the Constitutional Court and place a complaint to the State Inspectorate for Local Law and Criminal Charges and Public Prosecutors Office, Stip;
2. Held a debate and exhibition titled, "The Spirit of the Park";
3. Held the multimedia event "Games without Borders" to save the park;
4. Organized a 5k run and walk;
5. Created info-stands about the park, and citizens rights;
6. Participated in TV debates;
7. Created a video campaign for social media networks.

Results:

- Petition with over 400 signatures;
- Mobilized 900 citizens from the neighborhood to work to save the park, and increase transparency at the municipal level

Project was financed by Civica Mobilitas

➤ **Cost Benefit Analysis "Subsidized Employment of Yount People Under 29"**

In the structure of the project FlsCast, LCDF, along with the Association Center for Strategies and Development – Prilep, completed an analysis on the costs and benefits of implementing a government measure to subsidize the employment of young people (29 years and younger). To complete the analysis we were granted access to information from the Employment Agency of the Republic of Macedonia.

Activites:

1. **Training about how to complete cost – benefit analyses;**
2. **Prepared a cost – benefit analysis about the government subsidized employment of young people under 29.**

Results:

- Strengthened the capacity to complete cost – benefit analyses;
- Completed a **cost – benefit analysis about the government subsidized employment of young people under 29.**

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Project was financed with funds from FinanceThink

➤ **Trainings to Write CVs and Motivational Letters**

These trainings were held in cooperation with the Info-Club – Stip. Participants from the youth club at the Local Community Development Foundation participated. The trainings were held in November 2015 and attended by 30 local high school students. The trainings were held by employees of the Foundation for Development of the Local Community - Stip and the local coordinator in Info Club - Stip.

Objective: To develop youths soft skills, including the ability to write professional CVs and motivational letters.

The project was financed by the Local Community Development Foundation – Stip.

➤ **Youth For Heritage “The invention of nation - the invention of Europe” – Germany**
(June 2015 – November 2015)

Three youth exchanges were planned and held as part of this project. The project was implemented with partners from Germany, Albania, Ukraine, Russia, and Greece. We held five meetings where partners had the opportunities to commission the work of the Local Community Development Foundation, and to cooperate as we engaged in dialogues to develop a deeper understanding of European order and the concept of European identity. The project's results included enabled cooperation between our organization and our partners, and a publication of our work to raise awareness of the work of this project, and of the partner organizations.

This project was financed by Erasmus+

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