

**The project « Local Action Groups for better EU Communities- LAGs4EU » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"**

**9 events have been carried out within this project:**

**Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 47 participants from Pazin - Croatia, Kamnik - Slovenia, Portogruaro - Italy, Mostar - Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bistrita and Craiova - Romania, Rzeszow - Poland and Velky Tyneec- Czech Republic.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Kližska Nema, Slovakia, from 10/7/2015 to 12/7/2015

**Short description:** During the event, participants gained knowledge and know-how on tourism development and the significance of volunteering in the community projects. The workshops catalyzed the know-how exchange. The presentation ensured best practices exchange on including citizens in the development processes, especially when it comes to their involvement in policy-making processes. Participants were introduced with touristic and cultural specifics of the host region.

**Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 59 participants from the city of Mostar- Bosnia and Hercegovina, Craiova, Seini, Roznov- Romania, Rzeszow – Poland, Velky Tyneec- Czech Republic, Kližska Nema- Slovakia, Kamink- Slovenia and Portogruaro- Italy.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Pazin, Croatia, from 22/7/2015 to 24/7/2015

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to learn about local traditions and means of their preservation as well as of good practices on how to engage various level policy makers in protection of local heritage. Exchange of information between partners occurred and participants had opportunity to find out about others background and their field of interest as a basis for future discussions and collaborations. The wider audience had opportunity to find out about the project, its goals and activities and discuss it directly with the lead and other partners. Partners have heard about best practice example on cultural preservation, valorization and utilization of cultural assets through EU funds and community activities from the host region. They have been given overview on available funding sources for related themes. Furthermore, partners and citizens built their capacities for active engagement in development of their local communities and learned about forms of engagement and influencing policy- making processes.

**Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 33 participants from the city of Roznov- Romania., Pazin Croatia, Velky Tyneec- Czech Republic and Kamnik- Slovenia

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina, from 14/4/2016 to 16/4/2016

**Short description:** Participants had chance to learn about the usage of EU funds in countries that are not yet members of the Union and the impact of EU policies on work and activities local entrepreneurs and CSOs, with the focus on support of youth entrepreneurship initiatives and projects. They were introduced to the ways in which the local government and CSOs in B&H conduct actions in the field of improving development of democracy and civil participation and raising the overall quality of life fostering multicultural dialogue between existing ethnic groups.

#### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 57 participants from the city of Klišska Nema- Slovakia, Mostar- Bosnia and Hercegovina, Portogruaro- Italy, Kamnik- Slovenia, Pazin- Croatia and Craiova- Romania

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Slatinice, Czech Republic, from 19/5/2016 to 21/5/2016

**Short description:** Czech Republic is ranked as one of countries with the highest level of support of the LEADER principle so the participants had opportunity to learn from the experience of Europe very best regarding the implementation of the approach. Participants also learned about regional and local branding in the Olomouc Region and how it is incorporated into the complex system of regional branding on the territory of the Czech Republic. The hosts presented various projects that were implemented during past years with the financial subsidy of EU means.

#### **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 54 participants from the city of Pazin- Croatia, Rzeszow – Poland, Velky Tynec- Czech Republic, Klišska Nema- Slovakia, Mostar- Bosnia and Hercegovina, Kamnik- Slovenia, Roznov and Craiova- Romania

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Caorle, Italy, from 15/6/2016 to 17/6/2016

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to present a series of projects funded by EU funds in the Caorle area that represent good practice in region's most important economic sectors- fishing, tourism and the environment. The participants, through informal discussions, were encouraged to share the experiences regarding the nature preservation and negative human impact on natural resources.

Furthermore, participants gained knowledge of host's territory through the environmental and historical point of view. It has allowed Italian partners to show some of the excellence of the area and how the various public and private actors are using European projects for protection, valorization and implementation of pilot actions. It demonstrated the power of the citizens in development of local community.

#### **Event 6**

**Participation:** The event involved 42 participants from Portogruaro- Italy, Kaunas- Lithuania, Velky Tynec- Czech Republic, Craiova- Romania and Mostar- Bosnia and Hercegovina

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Rzeszow Poland, from 21/7/2016 to 23/7/2016

**Short description:** Local LAGs presented their activities in rural development and fostering citizens' participation in decision-making processes. Local producers presented the participants their products as well. Participants had chance to discuss and exchanged ideas on local decision involvement as well as on EU project possibilities.

During the meetings, round session of discussion and brainstorming participants had the opportunity to get to know the development and structure of eco production, cultural heritage as well as to compare and discuss the situation and regulative in their countries. During the study visits, participants experienced the best practices of eco-tourism on site and got a chance to be inspired by the local farmers and entrepreneurs.

#### **Event 7**

**Participation:** The event involved 100 participants from the city Kaunas- Lithuania, Velky Tynec- Czech Republic, Pazin- Croatia, Mostar- Bosnia and Hercegovina, Portogruaro- Italy, Rzeszow – Poland, Klišska Nema- Slovakia and Craiova- Romania

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Kamnik, Slovenia from 19/8/2016 to 21/8/2016

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to make an impact on local development processes and develop a sense of solidarity, unity and cooperation between EU communities. The partners have heard hosts best practice examples regarding preservation of nature and its usage for developmental and tourism purposes while ensuring the sustainability of such utilization through EU funds and community activities. Presented examples also showed participants how active and adventure tourism could be important and fruitful direction for development of rural communities in environment friendly and sustainable way.

At the festival Kamfest they experienced local culture and traditional local food.

#### **Event 8**

**Participation:** The event involved 26 participants from the city of Velky Tynec- Czech, Pazin- Croatia, Mostar- Bosnia and Hercegovina, Rzeszow – Poland and Craiova- Romania.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Trakai, Lithuania, from 7/4/2017 to 9/4/2017

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to acquaint participants with the Trakai region- its history, culture, gastronomy as well as development of the sectors of agro eco-tourism and organic farming. Participants got a clear understanding on organic farming development in Lithuania and main tasks for future development in EU. Participants also attended a small organic exhibition, where special attention was devoted to degustation of

organic products. The workshops provided best practices and know-how regarding the development of organic farming in a sustainable way, especially when it comes to various opportunities for organic agriculture that EU programs provide. The participants gained competencies and basic knowledge and skills of local organic farming development, which they will apply in the implementation of regional and rural development initiatives in the future in their communities and LAG strategies. They will be able to multiply the knowledge and skills gained throughout visit of Trakai and other regions of Lithuania in order to encourage rural people to take initiatives of improving the quality of life in rural areas.

### **Event 9**

**Participation:** The event involved 25 participants from the city of Velky Tynec- Czech, Pazin- Croatia, Mostar- Bosnia and Hercegovina, Rzeszow – Poland, Portogruaro - Italy and Kaunas- Lithuania

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Craiova, Romania, from 2/5/2017 to 4/5/2017

**Short description:** The host partner had ensured that the international participants were introduced to diverse spectrum of Romanian partners and fields they are active in. The workshops had ensured best practice exchange regarding various segments of rural development. The presentation and workshops had further enhanced the best practices exchange and had stimulated participating citizens to take part in actions in their local community. The participants had the opportunity to learn about peculiarities of Oltenia region, natural and cultural attractions, especially Dolj and Mehedinti Counties. Furthermore, participants heard about the best practice example on cultural preservation, valorization and utilization of cultural assets through EU funds and community activities from the host region.