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• • • • • Visegrad Fund

Visegrad project 2nd study visit to Macedonia

Building International Bridges – Social Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Local Economic Empowerment” project April – December 2022

23 – 26/27 September 2022

Location – Macedonia

REPORT – STUDY VISIT TO MACEDONIA 2022

Project title	❖ <i>Building International Bridges for Social Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Economic Empowerment</i>
Project purpose	❖ Exchanging good practices and policies between 5 partner countries for the social entrepreneurship tools / developing international networks and building bridges between SEE region and EU countries
Project activity	❖ 2nd study visit - Macedonia
Activity aim	❖ Exchange of good practices between 5 partner countries on social entrepreneurship development
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Municipality of Krobia, Poland – lead organization ❖ Municipality of Revuflop, Hungary ❖ Municipality of Velky Meder, Slovakia ❖ Barka Foundation, Poland ❖ SIEC, Social Integration & Empowerment Centre, Macedonia ❖ Mislá, Macedonia ❖ ERGON, Czech Republic <p>❖ The detailed list of participants is attached here below, while the lists for attendance were shared during the agenda days.</p> <p>❖ In total, we had 2 participants from the Czech Republic, 7 participants from Poland, the Slovak partners could not fit their obligations into the proposed dates while Macedonia had 10 partners / members of the Macedonian network attending the social entrepreneurship fair and other project events (the number of attendees in Macedonia during the fairs and workshops organized in synergies with the EPTISA / CIVICA project is estimated to be around. 110 NGOs and social enterprises that presented their work).</p> <p>❖ The whole visit was organized in several cities – Skopje, Ohrid, Vevacni, Bitola and Veles, with fairs and visits / meetings with the mayors of various local cities (Berovo, Delcevo municipality secretary, Bitola Mayor, Ohrid Vice-mayor, Veles mayor etc).</p> <p>❖ We had participants from various NGOs, municipalities, ministries, international and national EU Delegation representatives.</p>
Project preparations	❖ Were done in cooperation between several projects – Visegrad partners, EPTISA project team and the CIVICA Mobilitas who organized the NGO fair for civic society and social enterprises. This study visit was more

	<p>demanding in terms of logistical details, such as the accomodation, travel, food and agendas details, as we had to coordinate activities in multiple cities, including contacting municipalities, regional centres for the support of social enterprises, NGOs, hotels, restaurants etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The following logistical challenges were present in the preparations period, namely: ❖ Arranging travelling to Macedonia and finding suitable tickets; however, the team managed to find very good flight options ❖ Minor changes regarding the hotel arrangements in Skopje, due some hotel logistics which were solved quickly by the hotel staff
<p>Project agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The full agenda is attached here below and within the online Visegrad system, with final reporting; here is a brief summary of the agenda for the study visits to Macedonia: ❖ All guests arrived on the 23rd of Spetember 2022 and were accomodated in a Skopje hotel, followed by a welcoming partners' meeting / dinner. ❖ On the 24th of September 2022, the guests were a part of the SE fair and in the afternoon, they were taken to the city of Ohrid, for next activities ❖ On 25th of September 2022, the group had a morning planning meeting to go through the coming project activities and to plan the Polish / Czech study visit. Then, the whole group visited the Ohrid fair and had a public procurement workshop, while in the afternoon, they had the opportunity to meet the mayor of Vevcani, which is a municipality open for entrepreneurship. ❖ On the 26th of Septmeber, the Hungarian and Czech participants left to the airport while the Polish group stayed a day longer in order to visit the mayor of Bitola and Veles, thereby talking to Ses and NGO representavites ❖ The 26th of September 2022 was finished with the return of the group to Skopje and a dinner meeting with the Consule of the Polish Embassy in Skopje and the NGO partners from Skopje, Ljubeznost. ❖ On the 27th of September 2022, the Polish group was taken to the airport, which completed the study visit.
<p>DAY 1 /2 – Skopje visit / fair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The official opening of the visit happened upon the arrival of the group on the 23rd of September 2022, with the meeting of project partners from Macedonian and the rest of the partner countries.
<p>DAY 2/3 – Ohrid and Vevcani visit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Upon the evening arrival to Ohrid, the group had a common dinner to additional good practices exchange and networking between partners who presented good practices from their countries, in order to inspire the local

	<p>stakeholders for social entrepreneurship future initiatives. The group visited Ohrid during the day and Vevcani municipality in the afternoon. Ohrid fair for social entrepreneurship was organized with the assistance of the regional centre from Ohrid, with the presence of various stakeholders and a workshop on public procurement, with the EPTISA experts. talked to the Mayor of Vevcani to explore the possibilities of future cooperation. The mayor of Krobia used the opportunity to invite the Vevcani mayor to be a part of the coming study visit and to see how the Polish municipalities practically implement social entrepreneurship in their municipalities, forming social enterprises.</p>
DAY 4, Bitola & Veles visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The final day was used for visiting the mayors of Bitola and Veles, including their local social enterprises and regional centres' representatives, who eagerly listened to the stories of the Polish representatives of the municipalities of Krobia and Roketnica and the social enterprises who informed the Macedonian colleagues that, despite some challenges, it is possible to start social entrepreneurship initiatives.
Project visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Was done via social media, via the partners' FB / Instagram pages and the websites, as the following links can show:
Synergies with other projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EPTISA, CIVICA, municipalities, the Polish embassy etc.
Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Budget management is challenging due to the logistics of travelling ❖ Important to continue such exchange projects as we can see positive changes in partner countries in terms of social entrepreneurship development
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Decide upon the dates of the study visit to Poland / Czech Republic, make reservations for the end of November 2022 ❖ Prepare input on the ISEN network / website, national country reports and the community wisdom brochure devoted to T.Sadowski – input by partners by end of October 2022 ❖ see how to include the Serbian partners into the new project proposal and which 6-7 participants from Macedonia will visit Poland
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ For next Visegrad activities – ISEN network and building partnerships needs to be a focus of the new follow-up project that the group is ready to design by the end of the year beginning of 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Have Serbia/Macedonia and Poland be the meeting places for the group and enable all ISEN network members to meet in one place at once❖ Check the possibilities of matching Visegrad funds with embassy funds for practising SE initiatives
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AGENDA STUDY VISIT MACEDONIA – 23-26/27 SEPTEMBER 2022

AGENDA – MACEDONIA STUDY VISIT

Building International Bridges – Social Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Local Economic Empowerment”

23-26 September 2022 – participants from Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland agenda

26-27 September 2022 – participants from Poland agenda

*organized in collaboration / synergies with the EPTISA project **Support to Social Enterprises***

<p>DAY 1 – 23 September 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arrival of the participants – 16.45 / all guests arrive at once, around (pick-up of guests, Visegrad transportation, tel. +389 70 217 345) ➤ Travel from the airport to the city centre – around 17.15 ➤ Accommodation in Skopje – 18.00 / hotel Best Western, Gjuro Strugar, Skopje 1000, Macedonia, tel. +389 (0) 2 328 9111; https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-skopje/best-western-hotel-turist/propertyCode.89900.html ➤ Individual preparations for the study visit / free time – 18.00 - 19.30 ➤ Partners’ meeting / dinner – 19.30 - 21.00 / 21.30 (with the NGO partners from Macedonia, and potentially with the Polish embassy representative, to be confirmed); restaurant Siesta, Luj Paster 11, Skopje, tel. +389 77 666 603
<p>DAY 2 - 24 September 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breakfast – 8.30 - 9.30 (check-out / prepare suitcases for travel to Ohrid / take to the SE centre / leave in the hotel) ➤ Workshop with mayors – 10.00-12.00 ➤ Skopje fair of social enterprises / NGOs – 12.00 - 14.00 (with an official opening of ministries, EPTISA, Civica and Visegrad representatives, with the speeches of the EPTISA Team Leader, B.Sadowska and mayor of Krobia)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visiting stands / networking – 13.15 – 14.00 ➤ A pitching session – 14.00 - 16.00 / social enterprises and companies (mayors' attendance/optional for the Visegrad study visit participants is to be present during the session or walk around to visit the fair / mini lunch-catering in the aula of the SE centre (sandwiches to be provided before 14.00) ➤ Pick-up suitcases / preparations & travel to Ohrid – 16.15 -16.30 / 16.30 (suitcases to be taken from the hotel); ➤ Arrival Ohrid / rooms accommodation – ca. 19.00 / 19.30 accommodation in the hotel Daljan, P.O. Box 104, 6000 Ohrid ➤ Dinner – 20.30 / with the hotel Daljan social enterprise presentation ➤ <i>N.B. late city walk is optional and not provided for by the organizers</i>
<p>DAY 3 – 25 September 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breakfast – 7.00 - 9.30 ➤ Meeting of partners – 9.30 - 10.30 ➤ Ohrid fair of social enterprises / NGOs – 11.00 – 14.00/14.30 (with a mini-lunch provided by the Ohrid SE regional centre; workshop for mayors and presentation of the Visegrad group, networking/ partnership building) ➤ Travel to Vevcani municipality – 15.00- 15.30 (Mayor of the Vevcani municipality meeting – 15.30 in the municipality of Vevcani and then walk around to discover the potential of SE development in Vevcani ➤ Dinner at the local restaurant with Mayor of Vevcani and Mimoza Popovska / SE Regional Centre at 17.30 – 19.00 ➤ Return to Ohrid, hotel Daljan – 19.30 city walk in Ohrid, free time ➤ Come back to Daljan hotel at 21.00/21.30
<p>DAY 4 – 26 September 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Travel Ohrid-Skopje – 6.30/7.00 - 11.00 ➤ <i>N.B. Czech / Hungarian group is taken directly to the airport in Skopje (lunch packages to be arranged for these guests by the hotel Daljan staff)</i> ➤ Guests' flights departure – at 13.00 (for this part of the group) <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Polish guests' breakfast – 7.00-8.30 (with check-out)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Study visit to Bitola / meeting social enterprises – 8.30 - 9.30 (City hall, meeting with mayor and Regional Centre representatives) ➤ Travel to Veles – 11.00 - 12.30 ➤ Lunch in Veles – 12.30 - 14.00 (with Mayor of Veles and Snezana Dimitrievski/ Regional Centre) ➤ Meeting with the Veles mayor / Association for People with the Cerebral Paralysis – 14.00 – 15.30 ➤ Arrival to Skopje – 16.30 – accommodation in the hotel Best Western ➤ Free time ➤ Dinner in Skopje – 19.00 / Siesta restaurant / a city walk is optional
<p>DAY 5 – 27 September 2022</p>	<p><u>Polish guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breakfast – 7.00 - 10.00 ➤ Check-out – 10.00 - 10.30 ➤ Pick-up guests / travel to the Skopje airport – 10.30 ➤ Departure flights – 13.00