

Annual Report for 2018

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1. Introductory words

Dear Friends,

This is the Annual Report on the work of the Foundation for the Development of Northern Montenegro – FORS Montenegro for 2018, prepared in order to inform citizens, partners and associates about our work, results achieved and development directions.

In accordance with the mission of the organisation, during the previous year we worked on making contribution to improvement of the quality of life of citizens in northern and central municipalities, through implementation of projects directed at socio-economic development, environmental protection and development of civil society.

During 2018, FORS Montenegro worked on implementation of four projects, within which we maintained and strengthened collaboration with local authorities from the municipalities in northern and central regions of the country, line ministries, donors, partners and associates and the media. Several new projects were developed and written and some of them have already been approved to be implemented during 2019.

Implementation of projects contributed to strengthening the capacity and development of the Foundation as a whole, individuals who constitute it as

well as organisations and institutions that we cooperated with. FORS Montenegro aims to develop as an organisation which constantly learns, which during the past year was done through work on projects, collaboration with partners and participation in a number of trainings, conferences, round tables and lectures.

During the past year, 4 employees worked in FORS, led by management bodies – Executive Director and Management Board. As primary fields of work for 2019, we identified environmental protection, protection from hazards, health, development of civil society, education, development of green economy and green entrepreneurship. Within these areas, and others which prove as relevant and important, we will work to contribute to the improvement of the life standard through different projects directed at strengthening the capacity of institutions, organisations and associations which provide services to citizens, education and strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation.

Warm regards,

FORS Montenegro team

2. About the Foundation

FORS Montenegro is a regional development organisation founded in 2006 with the seat in Nikšić. The area covered by the work of FORS includes 15 municipalities in the northern and central regions of Montenegro: Andrijevica, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Gusinje, Danilovgrad, Žabljak, Kolašin, Mojkovac, Nikšić, Petnjica, Plav, Plužine, Pljevlja, Rožaje and Šavnik. During the past twelve years, a number of projects were implemented in these municipalities, in different areas including agriculture, tourism, environmental protection, protection and rescue, non-institutional education, health, development of civil society, European integrations, etc. Through implementation of these projects, we established very good and successful cooperation with local authorities, ministries, non-governmental organisations, media, schools, kindergartens, private companies, individuals, etc.

During 2018, 4 employees worked in FORS, and apart from them external consultants were engaged in line with the needs, contributing with their work and expertise to more successful implementation of projects.

Vision

FORS Montenegro is a reliable partner and a leader in abetment of sustainable development of Northern Montenegro.

Mission

FORS Montenegro is the organization that actively cooperates with local institutions and citizens, regional and international organizations, as to mutually realize projects, whose aim is to hasten sustainable development that contributes to attracting of investments, motivation of development of micro, mini and medium enterprises, promotion of competitive advantages of Northern Montenegro and increasing of citizens' participation in projects that result in the improvement of life standards and are directed to promote the protection of life environment.

Objectives of the Foundation are: socio-economic development, development of civil society and environmental protection.

FORS Montenegro has cooperated and still cooperates with numerous donors including European Union, USAID, UNESCO, Foundation Caritas Luxemburg, SNV, Milieukontakt International, US Embassy in Montenegro, FAO, Lux Development, Government of Montenegro, and other national and international donors.

3. Implementation of projects

During 2018, FORS Montenegro worked on implementation of 4 projects:

- *DIRECT – Disaster RESilient Communities and Towns*, donor: European Union;
- *GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region*, donor: European Union;
- *Disasters do not know borders*, donor: European Union;
- *V-IOLA - Volunteer-based International On-line Asset*, donor: European Union.

3.1 DIRECT – Disaster RESilient Communities and Towns

In 2018, FORS Montenegro continued with the implementation of the project ***DIRECT – Disaster RESilient Communities and Towns*** funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) of the European Commission. The project, which started on 1 January 2017 and lasts until 31 March 2019, has the aim to improve preparedness of local communities, institutions and services for more efficient response to a growing number of natural and man-made hazards. A very important segment of the project is international cooperation in this area

which will lead to exchange of experiences and good practice models and which will be realised throughout the project as it is implemented in partnership with services from Slovenia and the Czech Republic. The partner from Montenegro is the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro.

Main project activities include: trainings for rescuers on protection and rescue in case of fires, floods, earthquakes, etc., field rescue exercises, trainings on Disaster Risk Reduction – DRR, development of evacuation plans for schools and local communities, awareness raising campaign related to disaster risk reduction, study visit to EU, international conferences on DRR, etc.

During 2018, several cross-border trainings and drills related to reacting in case of different emergencies were organized, as well as other activities which contributed to the improvement of the protection and rescue systems in the target countries such as trainings for representatives of local authorities and schools on disaster risk reduction, awareness raising activities on disaster risks, creation of evacuation plans for schools and communities, etc. So, in 2018, the following international trainings and drills were organized and attended by rescuers from Montenegro:

- A training and exercise on Rope Rescuing were organised in Slovenia from 19 to 22 March 2018 and attended by 10 representatives from Montenegro.
- Six representatives of the protection and rescue services from Podgorica, Nikšić and Žabljak, Mountain Rescue Service of Montenegro and Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro participated in the specialized training on *Rope Rescuing* (advanced level), organized in Slovenia, from 16 to 20 September 2018.
- Within the project an international demonstration exercise on protection and rescue from floods has been organised today in Podgorica on the Zeta River enabling testing and demonstration of readiness for interventions of 32 rescuers from Montenegro, Slovenia and the Czech Republic on swift waters, in line with the *Rescue 3* system. Before the exercise, a four-day training of rescuers from the three countries on this topic was organised including theoretical and practical parts and during which the participants had the opportunity to learn about contemporary methods of protection and rescue on swift waters from the licensed instructors from Mountain Rescue Service of Croatia.

The training participants who satisfied all the requirements and gained skills of this training, which was assessed by the trainers, received internationally recognised certificates *Rescue 3*.

- Ten members of protection and rescue services from Podgorica, Nikšić, Danilovgrad, Bar, Ulcinj, Budva, Tivat, Kotor, Herceg Novi and Berane together with the representative of the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, participated in the training on *Rescue in case of earthquakes*, organised in Ostrava, the Czech Republic during the previous week, from 9 to 12 October 2018. During the training which consisted of the theoretical part and practical work and exercises, the participants learned from experienced and professional trainers about techniques in rescuing in case of earthquakes and improved their knowledge and skills on this topic. They also exchanged experiences and good practice models with their colleagues from Slovenia and the Czech Republic, who also participated in the training.

After the trainings and exercises organised within the project, the participants – rescuers organized workshops on these topics in protection and rescue services in Montenegro. During these events, they passed some of the knowledge and skills to their colleagues.

Apart from the above mentioned activities aimed at strengthening the level of readiness of rescuers for reacting in case of natural and other hazards, in order to improve readiness for efficient response of other actors, a training on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Kolašin, from 19 to 22 June 2018. Total of 21 participants from local authorities, educational and health institutions attended the training.

During the four-day training, the participants learned about key concepts of disaster risk reduction, Strategy for disaster risk reduction in Montenegro with a Dynamic activity plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the period from 2018 to 2023, international initiatives and cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction, components of disaster risk management at national and local level, identification, assessment and monitoring of risks, as well as the organisation and functioning of the protection and rescue system in Montenegro.

Within the project, two international conferences on disaster risk reduction (DRR) were organized in Montenegro and Slovenia.

FORS Montenegro and Directorate for Emergency Management organised a two-day Conference on *Risk Management and Resilient Cities* organised in Kolašin on 28 and 29 June 2018, with the aim to contribute to raising the awareness of general population and specific target groups on risk management and resilient cities as well as to enable exchange of experiences, attitudes, good practice models and lessons learned when it comes to disaster risk reduction. The following officials spoke at the opening of the Conference: Mr Dragan Pejanović, State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, Mirsad Mulić, Director-General for Emergency Management, Veselin Šturanović, the Executive Director of FORS Montenegro and representatives of the project partners – Miran Štular from Slovenia and Marek Gašparin from the Czech Republic. The Conference gathered representatives of the institutions and services dealing with emergency management and protection and rescue, civil society organisations, state and local authorities, media, project partners, etc. from Montenegro and the region, as well as from EU countries. During the two-day work, the participants discussed challenges we face in the context of the increased number of disasters, experiences and good practice models in risk management, international cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction, strengthening preparedness for more effective response to disasters, provision of information and education of citizens, as well as the importance of involvement of different institutions in building resilience of communities and their activities in this area.

A Conference on *Involvement at local level in disaster risk reduction* was organised in Bled in Slovenia on 30-31 August 2018. The Conference gathered around 60 representatives of institutions and organisations dealing with protection and rescue and emergency management in Slovenia, Italy, the Czech Republic and Montenegro. The aim of the Conference was to enable exchange of experiences and good practice models in the area of disaster risk reduction – DRR. During the two-day Conference, the participants presented and discussed the following topics: organisation of the protection and rescue systems in different countries, with the emphasis at the local level, role and activities of different institutions and services in case of natural and other disasters, benefits from international cooperation in this area including bilateral agreements and participation in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, as well as the case studies of response when different disasters occurred. Representatives of FORS Montenegro and the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro participated in the work of the Conference.

In addition to the above mentioned trainings, conferences and drills, during 2018 several TV and rad shows and features and lectures for students and local population related to disaster risk reduction were organized. Also, publications on these topics were created and their distribution is in progress. Another activity that was implemented during 2018 and which contributes to better protection and preparedness for hazards in creation of eight evacuation plans for schools and communities in Montenegro.

Total value of the project is € 736,257.34, out of which the EU contribution is € 552,131, or 74.99% of the project costs. The allocation for Montenegro is € 288,795.34 with the EU contribution of € 218,582.

3.2 GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region

On 1 March 2018, FORS Montenegro started with the implementation of a project **GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region** with the aim of increasing the activities and impact of civil society organisations from Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania in the environmental protection through networking strengthening their capacities and promoting green economy.

A three-year project is implemented in the above-mentioned countries, and its main activities include trainings for representatives of civil society organisations on green economy, public advocacy and lobbying, participation in decision making, monitoring of public policies, project cycle management, etc., familiarisation with good practice models in green economy and green entrepreneurship through study visit to EU and presentations organised in the target countries, sub-granting for civil society organisations, regional conferences on green economy and green entrepreneurship, development of a Study on possibilities for the development of green economy in the target region, etc.

The project is implemented in partnership with organisations SMART Kolektiv from Serbia, Centre for support and development from B&H, EKO Svest from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Association Slap from Croatia. The project is financed by the European Union within Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016-2017.

During 2018 several activities were implemented which were mostly related to strengthening of capacities of civil society organisations, provision of

information of target groups on green economy and green entrepreneurship, preparation of the call for proposals for civil society organisations, etc.

Within the project, a two-day training on *Green Economy* for civil society organisations from Montenegro, B&H and Serbia on *Green Economy* took place in Kolašin, on 15-16 October 2018. The training gathered 33 representatives of CSOs who had the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills on topics related to Green Economy such as green entrepreneurship, principles of green economy, the development and examples of this concept in the European Union, new movements in this area, etc. The training was conducted by Sonja Vuković and Dragana Lisjak, representatives of the Association Slap from Croatia.

A training on *Project Cycle Management* addressed to representatives of civil society organisations from Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was also organised in Kolašin, on 13-16 November 2018. This training was meant to strengthen participants' capacities to design and implement projects financed by the European Union. During the training, the participants had a chance to learn about available funding sources, application procedures, main project elements, how to formulate and prepare project proposals, and other important topics related to accessing EU funds. Implementation procedures including contractual obligations, financial and procurement matters, communication and visibility, reporting, etc. were also amongst the topics tackled during the training, which was attended by 30 representatives of civil society from the region.

A three-day training on *Public Advocacy and Lobbying* was organized in Sarajevo from 30 October to 1 November 2018, for civil society organisations from Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training was attended by around 30 organisations that had the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills on topics such as the process of creating and making decision, types and elements of public policies, public advocacy and lobbying, lobbying and advocacy in EU, good and bad examples, creation of advocacy strategy and selection of the most appropriate approach, etc.

A training on *Participation in Decision Making* addressed to representatives of civil society organisations from Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was organised in Belgrade, on 17-18 December 2018 by SMART Kolektiv. During the training, the participants had a chance to learn about the nature of the right to participate, the role of civil society organisations, relevant international documents in this area, participation of

civil society organisations in the EU Accession negotiations, phase of development of public policies and forms of participation, etc. The training was attended by around 30 representatives of civil society from the region.

In addition to the above mentioned activities directed at empowering civil society organisations for the development of green economy and green entrepreneurship, project cycle engagement, public advocacy and lobbying and participation in decision making, presentations of good practice examples from Croatia were also organised as well as several media activities including press conferences, TV and radio shows and features, newspaper articles and website texts, etc.

Total value of the project is € 828,955.00, out of which the European Union finances € 745,890, or 89.98% of the total project costs. The amount allocated for Montenegro is € 331,321.98, out of which the EU finances € 298,123.52.

3.3 Disasters do not know borders

On 17 April 2018, FORS Montenegro started with the implementation of a new project ***Disasters do not know borders*** with the aim to strengthen capacities of institutions and services from Montenegro and Albania dealing with protection and rescue for disaster risk reduction, as well as raising awareness of the local population on the risks of floods. A two-year project is implemented in Montenegro and Albania, and its main activities include procurement of equipment for protection from floods and weather forecasting, trainings for representatives of institutions and services dealing with protection and rescue and emergency management, cross-border field exercises, updating of the databases on floods in the region of Shkodra Lake, seminar on best EU practice in flood protection, awareness raising campaign on the risks of floods, preventive measures and protection and rescue activities, etc.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro and the Prefecture of Shkodra from Albania. It is financed by the European Union through Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020.

Within the project a cross-border demonstration exercise on protection and rescue from floods was organised in Podgorica on 31 October 2018,

enabling testing and demonstration of readiness for interventions of 26 rescuers from Montenegro and Albania on swift waters, in line with the Rescue 3 system. Before the exercise, a four-day training of rescuers from these two countries on this topic was organised including theoretical and practical parts and during which the participants had the opportunity to learn about contemporary methods of protection and rescue on swift waters from the licensed instructors from Mountain Rescue Service of Croatia. The training participants received internationally recognised certificates *Rescue 3*.

After the training, workshops for rescuers were organized in the protection and rescue services in Podgorica, Bar and Ulcinj during which the training participant shared their experience and part of the knowledge gained on the training and exercise.

Also, during 2018 a procurement of the equipment was implemented for the Institute for Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro whose employees are one of the project target groups. New equipment for numerical weather prediction and numerical early warning, whose total value is € 19,305 will contribute to faster and more efficient forecasting of meteorological and hydrological conditions on the territory of Montenegro, as well as to the improvement of the early warning system related to natural hazards, of meteorological and hydrological origin. Efficient functioning of the meteorological and hydrological network in Montenegro and timely informing of the competent bodies of the possibilities of meteorological and hydrological hazards of a bigger scope, enable readiness of the protection and rescue system for fast and adequate response, which contributes to reducing risks of disasters and their consequences. A press conference on the occasion of presenting this equipment was organized in Podgorica, on 20 December 2018 during which the representatives of the Institute as well as the project partners – Directorate for Emergency Management and FORS Montenegro addressed the media.

FORS Montenegro and Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro prepared a brochure on flood risks and protection within the project, in order to inform citizens on the causes of floods and threats they pose, as well as the appropriate behaviour and prevention and mitigation of the harmful consequences on lives and health of people, environment, cultural and historical heritage, economic activities and infrastructure. In addition to this brochure, a leaflet on the number 112 was prepared in order to inform citizens on this unique European number for emergencies. Apart from the development and distribution of publications, a

series of other activities directed at informing the citizens on the risks from hazards and appropriate preventive measures were organised such as TV shows and features, workshops for local population, etc.

Total value of the project *Disasters do not know borders* is € 483,538.35, out of which the EU contribution is € 410,900, or 84.98% of the project costs. The allocation for Montenegro is € 294,775.40 with the EU contribution of € 250,726.76.

3.4 V-IOLA - Volunteer-based International On-line Asset

During 2018, some of the activities of the ***V-IOLA - Volunteer-based International On-line Asset*** project were implemented. This project started on 1 January 2018, it is funded by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission (EACEA) and its lead partner is the Civil Protection Department of the presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Italy. The project is financed through the Call for the development of voluntarism in humanitarian aid. FORS Montenegro is one of the project partners together with the organisations and institutions from Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Romania and Hungary which implement activities related to disaster risk reduction.

In 2018, the activities that were implemented were related to research of the level of development of voluntarism and the possibility for its development in humanitarian aid and civil protection, familiarisation with good practice examples in this area and DRR in general, as well as the activities related to informing partner organisations in Montenegro and Serbia on possibilities for certification for sending and hosting volunteers in line with the rules of the EU Aid Volunteer Initiative.

4. Development of new projects

In line with the goals and mission of the Organisation, vision of its development and needs identified in municipalities that we cover with our work area, during 2018 several new projects were developed and submitted to national and international donors.

Within the 1st Call for proposals of the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia – Montenegro 2014-2020, a project related to reduction of risks from disasters in the cross-border area was submitted. The project was submitted in partnership with the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

During 2018, the project related to the protection of reproductive health in the cross-border region and which was submitted within the 1st Call for proposals of the IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Kosovo* 2014-2020. The implementation of this project begins on 1 March 2019.

FORS Montenegro took part in the Public call for proposals of the Fund for protection and rescue, published by the Ministry of Interior, by submitting the project *Resilient Communities*. The project was approved and its implementation starts on 1 January 2019. The aims of the project re o strengthen the capacity of the Protection and Rescue Service of Nikšić Municipality through procurement of the equipment or which all approved funds in the amount of € 10.000 are allocated and to raise the awareness of the citizens of Nikšić on disaster risk reduction, which will be achieved through joint activities of FORS and the Protection and Rescue Service.

Within the trilateral programme of the European Union, Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro, FORS Montenegro participated in two projects which were submitted to the public Call for proposals in December 2018.

5. Cooperation

In 2018 we established and continued cooperation with numerous partners and associates from Montenegro and the region, on development and implementation of projects and initiatives with the aim of improving the specific areas in which we work and, eventually, improvement of the quality of life in local communities. To that end, we continued very good cooperation with local authorities from the municipalities which we cover with our work, Ministry of Interior – Directorate for Emergency Management, Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro, protection and rescue services, elementary and high schools, media and numerous civil society organisations from Montenegro and the region.

During the past year, we also established or improved cooperation with numerous partners and associates from the neighbouring countries through development and implementation of joint projects. In doing so, we mostly cooperated with the Association Slap from Croatia, organisations SMART Kolektiv from Serbia, EDEN Centre from Albania, Centre for Development and Support from BiH and EKO Svest from FYR Macedonia, Protection and Rescue Service of the Municipality Kranj from Slovenia, Fire and Rescue Brigade of the

* Ovaj naziv ne prejudicira stavove o status i u skladu je sa Rezolucijom Saveta bezbednosti Ujedinjenih nacija 1244 i mišljenjem Međunarodnog suda pravde o kosovskoj deklaraciji nezavisnosti.

Moravia-Silesian Region, Czech Association of Fire Officers, Prefecture of Skadar from Albania, Civil Protection Department of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, etc.

A very important encouragement for our future work we find in created conditions for continuation of cooperation with almost all partners and associates, which provides significant added value to the initiatives that we implement, through exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices.

6. Public Relations and Communications

During 2018, provision of information on our activities was included in all important phases of implementation of projects and initiatives. Communication activities included the following mechanisms:

- Press conferences;
- TV and radio shows and features;
- Website;
- Social networks;
- Printed media and internet portals;
- Publications;
- Mobile application on the available EU support;
- Video material from protection and rescue trainings and exercises;
- Promotional material.

During 2018 several press conferences were organised with the aim of presenting new projects and results achieved.

During 2018, FORS Montenegro organised a number of TV and radio shows and features in order to inform citizens on specific topics, project activities and results. All major project activities were also presented on our website www.forsmontenegro.org and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FORSMNE?ref=ts&fref=ts>, as well as through newspaper articles and articles on the most read internet portals in Montenegro and the region.

Provision of information on the topics of importance for citizens of Montenegro in general and specific target groups was also done through two publications which were distributed at various events and which are also available in electronic form on the website of FORS Montenegro and our project partners. In 2018, we developed and distributed the following publications:

- Brochure on *Protection from and risks of floods*;
- Leaflet on *112 Number –unique number for emergencies*.

7. Organisation of Work and Management

Within the Foundation, there are two sectors – Sector for project development and implementation and Sector for Finance and Administration.

During 2018, 4 employees worked in FORS Montenegro, led by the management bodies – Management Board and Executive Director, as follows:

- Veselin Šturanović, Executive Director;
- Marija Krković, Finance and Administration Manager;
- Tamara Todorović, Project Implementation Manager;
- Marija Đikanović, Senior Project Officer.

Management Board, which is the highest body of the Foundation held regular meetings during which its members considered the work and results of the Foundation, as well as development directions. During the previous year, the Board worked with the following constitution:

- Dragana Varezić, President;
- Ljiljana Radović, Member;
- Igor Noveljić, Member.

8. Development Directions in 2019

In line with the objectives, mission and vision of the Foundation, as priority development directions for 2019, we have identified continuous development of the human resources of the Foundation, improvement of the procedures for preparation and implementation of development projects related to priority areas and realisation of socially responsible activities.

Development and implementation of projects in the following sectors have been planned for 2019:

- environmental protection and climate changes;
- strengthening capacity for protection from natural and other hazards;
- health;
- civil society development;
- socio-economic development;
- social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility;

- green economy and green entrepreneurship;
- informal education of children and youth;
- improvement of cooperation between civil society and local and national authorities and good governance;
- strengthening capacities for accession of EU funds available.

Apart from the above-mentioned priority areas, in line with possibilities, we have also planned activities in the following sectors: health, culture, European integrations, democracy and good governance, strengthening capacity for project cycle management at all levels, cross-border and regional cooperation, etc.