



This project is funded by the European Union



"Achieving Gender Equality in Rural Communities"

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As the country progresses on the EU integration reforms, respecting gender equality becomes important matter in our society, especially among the rural communities, being one of the important human rights and core values of the European Union. The gender equality is crucial precondition for sustainable development and practicing of the human rights and democratic standards. Despite the Government efforts to put in place structures and systems that will ensure gender balance, there is still a great need for building capacities and changing behaviours for enhancing the practices for equal human development. Sustainability is the cornerstone of the project's approach, with all inclusive involvement of the project local counterparts where all actions are tailored made according to identified needs of the community.

The Association for Local Rural Development is responsible for the implementation of the project "Achieving Gender Equality in Rural Communities", funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights..

The **overall project objective** is to achieve an effective and socially just socio-economic development, by fostering equal participation of women and man in the rural communities of Polog region: municipalities of Brvenica, Bogovinje, Zelino and Vrapciste.

The project **specific objective** is to enhance the capacity of local institutions for effective gender mainstreaming in policy creation, through creation of specific, applicable methodology and tools.

The project's **target groups** are members of the Municipal Equal Opportunities Commissions, as well as representatives of the department for social affairs and local economic development; local civil society organizations active in the field of human rights and gender issues; local business community, etc.

The **project's components** are:

- 1. Capacity building of local authorities** aimed to create and implement local gender equality policies. The capacity building efforts will be focused on implementing and development of **gender equality instrument, related policy and legislative framework, gender analysis and gender sensitive budgeting**.
- 2. Development of Local Gender Equality Plans** to enable institutionalisation of the gender mainstreaming approach on local level. The Plans will be submitted for approval to the Municipal Councils.
- 3. Public awareness and educational activities** on importance of the gender equality for the community, through organisation of public debates, printing and distribution of brochures and leaflets.

The **main project's results** are:

- ❖ Structured mechanism for civil society's participation in development and implementation of local policies on gender equality;
- ❖ Enhanced cooperation on gender mainstreaming among all relevant stakeholders on local level;
- ❖ Developed functional methodology and tools for gender mainstreaming in the rural municipalities of Polog Region;
- ❖ Raised public awareness in the rural areas on the instrument and the benefits of gender equality.

For more information please visit www.zlrr.org.mk , or contact us at office@zlrr.org.mk .

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