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European Union
Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 10 January 2013

Achieving gender equality in rural communities project completed

On Friday, 11 January 2013, at 10:30, a closing conference of the EU-funded project “Achieving gender equality in rural communities” took place at the EU InfoCentre.

At the event, the opening addresses were delivered by:

H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav, Head of EU Delegation;

Ms. Elena Grozdanova, State Advisor on gender equality, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;

Mr. Hazbi Idrizi, Mayor of the Municipality of Bogovinje;

Mr. Enver Pajaziti, Mayor of the Municipality of Brvenica;

Mr. Bajram Kadrija, Mayor of the Municipality of Vrapcishte;

Mr. Fatmir Izairi, Mayor of the Municipality of Zhelino.

Ms. Sanela Skrijelj, Project Coordinator of the Association for local rural development presented the project's recommendations for increased quality of implementation of the Law for gender equality of municipal level.

Gender equality is one of the priorities of the EU Aquis and as most important these concepts are imbedded in all programs promoted and supported by the EU. Thus, The EU-funded project: “**Achieving gender equality in rural communities**” aimed to promote policies, mechanisms and values that should provide greater opportunities for both women and men, to be able to fulfil their individual priorities and to engage actively in development of their rural communities.

The project's main objective was to achieve effective, socially just development and enhance gender equality in rural communities through institutionalisation of a gender mainstreaming approach in the policy making process on local level. The project has been implemented in four municipalities of Polog region: Bogovinje, Brvenica, Vrapcishte and Zhelino, in the period January – December 2012, budgeted with more than 70,000 EUR.

Project's activities resulted with the following outcomes:

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- **Capacity of local institutions, commissions for equal opportunities and NGOs from the respective municipalities for effective gender mainstreaming enhanced.**
- **Cooperation on gender mainstreaming among all relevant stakeholders on municipal level improved.**
- **Crated and adopted Local Action Planes for gender equality.**
- **Raised public awareness.**