



## **OVERALL REPORT**

**REFORD Regional Activities, September 2015 – December 2016**

(Supported by FLED Project)

### **Introduction**

REFORD member associations supported by FLED Project financed by Sida/CNVP Albania, during the period September 2015 – December 2016 developed certain activities according to their respective contracts. Activities and outcomes related are summarized in the following pages:

**December 25, 2016**



<b>NFCFP ALBANIA18 LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description of realized activity</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Output</b>
FLED 5.4.2 c.3	From the last meeting in Peja 2015, where NFCFPA selected provision of GPS training and participatory mapping services, Federation visited two CFPUAs and discussed about the possibility of cooperation and implementation of these activities. In the meetings were present even representatives of LGUs forestry service staff and it was agreed to provide these services for the respective LGUs.	5	The Forestry Service technical staff in two local governments units (Pogradec and Prrenjas) are able to collect geographical data through GPS and have the basic knowledge on map preparation.
FLED 5.4.2 d.1	Under this activity NFCFP has developed frequent meetings with the representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Payment Agency where it was discussed the current situation on forestry sector and the need for inclusion of forestry in RD schemes. These meetings were followed by other official meetings with the director of Programming and Assessment of Rural Policies and the Director of the Directorate of Selection and Approval of Projects of the Payment Agency.	3	Inclusion of FPUAs in the ESP competitive grant schemes and possibility for inclusion in RD schemes subsidized by Ministry of Agriculture
FLED 5.4.1 e.2	Invitation of two women from producer groups to participate in the Forest Fest in Berovo and all arrangement and preparations for participation in the event.	3	Participation in NTFP fair and shared experiences.
FLED 5.4.1 c.1	NFCFP organized two meetings with the Director of Programming and Assessment of Rural Policies and Director of the Directorate of Selection and Approval of Projects of the Payment Agency to discuss on the possibility of reviewing the policy of rural development for inclusion of FPUAs in benefiting schemes. A third meeting was developed with the managing board of the ESP, where it was discussed on criteria and facilitation of procedures for FPUAs to apply for competitive grant schemes.	3	Agreement in principle for inclusion of forestry in RD schemes subsidized by Ministry of Agriculture and
FLED 5.4.1. d.1.	NFCFP reviewed the measures of RD in Albania and prepared a report on the historic of RD practices so far and the potential subsidiary schemes on	2	RD measures/practices reviewed and shared with

	going. A presentation on RD practices was prepared and shared with REFORD members in Zabljak, Montenegro.		REFORD members
FLED 5.4.1. b.3	NFCFP with a group of representatives from CFPUAs lobbied at the Ministry of Environment for definition clearly the rights, roles and responsibilities of CFPUAs in the new law on forest and pastures. In this framework, a letter with respective comments and suggestions was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Parliament, Prime Minister and all relevant institutions.	2	Requests on the rights, roles and responsibilities of CFPUAs acknowledged by policy and decision makers.
<b>NAPFO BULGARIA 4 LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description of realized activity</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Output</b>
FLED 5.4.1 d.1	NAPFO Bulgaria reviewed the practices and measures of Rural Development in Bulgaria and prepared a pptx presentation to share with REFORD members. Since for objective reasons we could not participate in the event of Montenegro, we shared our presentation with REFORD members via email.	2	RD practices and measures shared with REFORD members.
FLED 5.4.1. b.3	NAPFO lobbied at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Parliament for the forest owners to be part of the decision making process and the restrictions of the rights of use by the private forest owners to be limited and compensation for the economic losses caused by legal restriction of the rights of property use.	2	Policy and decision makers are acknowledged with the requests of private forest owners and pressured by this group of interest.
<b>NAPFO BiH4 LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description of realized activity</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Output</b>
FLED 5.4.1 d.1	NAPFO reviewed the practices and measures of Rural Development applied in BiH and prepared a pptx presentation to share with REFORD members. Since for objective reasons we could not participate in the event of Montenegro, we shared our presentation with REFORD members via email.	2	RD practices and measures in BiH shared with REFORD members.
FLED 5.4.1. b.3	NAPFO lobbied at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Water Administration for more rights for private forest owners and to be limited the restrictions of forest use and to be facilitated the procedures of	2	Policy makers are known with the requests of private forest owners of R.

	exploitation and sale of forest products.		Srpska and the word for reviewing the policy on private forestry was given.
<b>CROUPFOA (CROATIA) 10 LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description of realized activity</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Output</b>
FLED 5.4.2 e.2	<p>CROUPFOA organized the study visit on biomass value chain for renewable energy (detailed agenda, accommodation, transport and all related arrangements). This study visit was organized for private forest owner associations – members of REFORD.</p> <p>The main goal of the study visit was to share knowledge and experiences on biomass value chain for renewable energy in Croatia. The specific objective was to support the capacities and roles of the Federations at regional level therefore it was focused on two main issues: 1. Support national meetings on sharing and learning innovative technical knowledge (meetings, lobbying, coordinating) and 2. Study, review, share RD practices and knowledge with other relevant organizations in Balkan region and wider.</p>	4	Shared knowledge and experience on innovative technical practices for the use of biomass for renewable energy among REFORD members.
FLED 5.4.2 e.3	CROUPFOA prepared and shared with REFORD members the detailed report from the event organized in Croatia and published it in social media (facebook) and REFORD website.	2	The detailed report of the event in Croatia shared with REFORD members and information about the event published in social media and website
FLED 5.4.1 d.1	NAPFO reviewed the practices and measures of Rural Development applied in Croatia and prepared a pptx presentation to share with REFORD members.	2	RD practices and measures in Croatia shared with REFORD members.
FLED 5.4.1. b.3	CROUPFOA conduct one day lobbying activity in respective Ministry of Agriculture, Sector for Forestry. On this event, also the high representatives of Advisory service participated. On this meeting CROUPFOA was lobbying for common interests of all private forest owners: emergency adoption of Ordinance for forestry measures under RDP;	2	Requests and interests of private forest owners in Croatia are made obvious to policymakers.

	capacity building in department for private forest in Ministry of Agriculture; capacity building in Sector for projects in Advisory service; open calls for programs and projects which are under the jurisdiction of advisory service; analyze the green tax foundation and deregulation of the process for private forest owners and Advisory service; capacity building in Agency for payments in agriculture, special for forestry measures; start the process for preparing the new forest act; analyze the parafiskal taxes in forestry with the accent on forest owners and entrepreneurs in forestry; till summer open all calls for forestry measures under the RDP.		
<b>NAPFO KOSOVO7 LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description of realized activity</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Output</b>
FLED 5.4.1. d.1.	NAPFO reviewed the measures of RD in Kosovo and prepared a report and a pptx presentation and shared with REFORD members in Zabljak, Montenegro.	2	RD measures/practices reviewed and shared with REFORD members
FLED 5.4.1 e.2	Two representatives from NTFP producer groups were invited to participate in the Forest Fest in Berovo and were assisted to prepare the NTFPs for exhibition in the fair.	3	Participation in NTFP fair in Berovo, exhibition of NTFP products and shared experiences.
FLED 5.4.1. b.3	An important activity has been lobbying on interest of private forest owners at the level of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development. Issues of concern which are addressed have been the main requirements of PFOs for changes in the Law of Forestry; simplifying legal procedures of cutting and support for management plans and including private forest owners in the subsidy schemes. A position paper was sent to all relevant institutions of Kosovo.	2	Policymakers are acknowledged and pressured to take in consideration the requests of PFOs
<b>NAPFO MACEDONIA36 LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description of realized activity</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Output</b>
FLED 5.4.2 c.1	NAPFO has been operating the owners from all over Macedonia or assisted in the filling of applications in forestry measures of the Rural Development.	5	Assistance of forest owners to complete their application.



FLED 5.4.2 d.3	NAPFO ensured the presence of field representatives of the Agency for Rural Development, where was discussed the specific needs for specific forestry support measures by them, but also discussed the procedures necessary documents when applying.	4	Adduction of requests for forestry measures in RD program in support of private forest owners
FLED 5.4.1 c.2	NAPFO worked to inform the Membership levels on the possibilities offered by rural development program, but also worked with the agency to support rural development to facilitate conditions and requirements by them when submitting applications for support in order to increase the number of applications and requests to the agency to support rural development.	6	Informed private forest owner associations on possibilities of RD program
FLED 5.4.1 d.1	NAPFO prepared a report on completed activities, and opportunities for additional measures in rural development and shared with members of REFORD	2	Shared additional RD measures with REFORD members
FLED 5.4.2 f.1	NAPFO prepared a detailed agenda for the event, sent invitations to all scheduled participants, provided accommodation for participants, food and beverage and so on.	1	Completion of all arrangements for the Forest Fest event
FLED 5.4.2 f.2	NAPFO realized implementation of activities planned around the time of the Forest Festival.	7	Event duly organized and shared experiences with REFORD members.
FLED 5.4.2 f.3	NAPFO prepared a report on the event (as took place, what was discussed, what was achieved, who participated etc). Also NAPFO shared experiences with the present REFORD members in the event.	2	Shared experiences with REFORD members
FLED 5.4.1 a.2	NAPFO organized a workshop where were been invited all relevant institutions of the state and they attended with their relevant representatives from the Ministry of Forestry Department, the Agency for Promotion of Rural Development Department, representatives of local institutions (Municipalities, cadastre, etc.) For this workshop NAPFO prepare appropriate agenda and content of the workshop.	6	Private forest issues discussed with relevant actors
FLED 5.4.1 e.2	NAPFO prepared an exhibition of non-wood forest products, which was attended by all members of REFORD.	1	Non-wood forest products exhibited in Berovo fair and shared

			experiences with REFROD members
FLED 5.4.1 b.3	NAPFO lobbied at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy for adding a new measure under the Rural Development Program	2	Request for adding the new measure
<b>UAPFO MONTENEGRO27 LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Output</b>
FLED 5.4.2 c.2	<p>Union of Associations of Private Forest Owners (UAPFO) have had one joint meeting in BijeloPolje with 20 UAPFO representatives and CNVP representatives (from MK and MNE), where was discussed about possibilities for service provision of NAPFO MNE. After the mentioned meeting UAPFO representatives had three (3) meetings in the forestry unit (FU) in BijeloPolje, Rozaje and Berane with in total 25 PFO representatives and FU representatives. The discussion topic was the possibilities of cooperation and implementation of the proposed activities and it was concluded that there are possibilities of performing this activity by NAPFO. A simple action plan for its implementation was prepared after the meetings.</p> <p>It was concluded also that the association in addition to these activities, will try to realize some other activities such as the distribution of seedlings and for this service to take some economic profits. The UAPFO this year distributed 25,000 seedlings to its members. The association has also begun to charge for membership fee for its members with a minimum fee of 2 euros. There were held three informal meetings that were attended about 200 PFO where seedlings were distributed and was discussed about service provision.</p>	5	Economic services analyzed and provided to private forest owner associations
FLED 5.4.2 d.2	4 representatives of UAPFO had a meeting with representative of the Ministry for agriculture and rural development Mr. DarkoKonjevic in order to get information how the program of development of agriculture and rural areas in MNE IPARD 2014-2020, were prepared and start lobbying for the establishment of specific measures for the development of the forestry sector.	3	Information on the RD program gathered and started lobbying for inclusion of forestry in RD schemes



FLED 5.4.1 c.3	Meeting with representative of Ministry for agriculture and rural development (MARD) Meeting presented 10 PFOs MNE and representative of MARD and Forestry Administration (FA). We have presented PP presentation with the RD measures which could be used by PFOs.	6	Policymakers acknowledged with the specific requests by PFOs for inclusion of forestry at RD measures
FLED 5.4.1. d.1.	UAPFO prepared a review on the possible RD measures and practices in MNE.	2	RD measures in Montenegro reviewed and shared with REFORD members
FLED 5.4.1 a.1	UAPFO through two round tables presented the results of a comprehensive analysis of all existing forestry documents in MNE and discussed possibilities for improvement in many topics related PF, especially in topics related allocation of certain funds to finance UAPFO MNE activities, start of work of the extension services, developing management plans for private forests, financing of certain activities in private forests and so. Round tables attended 20 representative of PFO from whole MNE and 10 representative of all institutions related the forestry sector and RD in MNE	6	Lobbying and advocacy with relevant policymakers for more rights and stronger role of PFOs
FLED 5.4.1 e.2	NAPFO MNE selected two women representatives of forest producers groups who participated and exhibited their products and the products of its members at the fair in Berovo.	3	Participation in NTFP fair and shared experiences.
FLED 5.4.1. b.3	UAPFO Montenegro presents its work and REFORD efforts in front of relevant international institutions in the country, participate in events representing REFORD. Overall idea is to promote Family forestry and REFORD network to be better recognized.	2	REFORD family forestry more acknowledged in Montenegro
<b>REFORD LCB days</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>LCB day</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
FLED 5.4.1 c	Support inclusion of forestry in rural development programs. Regular activities of PFO from the REFORD network.	20	Report from the activities.
FLED 5.4.1 d	REFORD regional meeting reviewing rural development practices (including biomass and innovative programs).	18	Experiences and efforts of national associations from REFORD network

			are shared on joint event; Report from the event.
FLED 5.4.1 e	Sharing and learning through joined activities of forest producer groups in regional level. To investigate possibility to link producers (offer), demand (trade) with possible cooperation among two countries (AL and MK; AL and MNE).	27	Reporting from the events in the countries.
FLED 5.4.2 d	Collaboration among RD paying agencies and associations. Piloting one forestry related RD measure. The measure will include testing the measure, monitoring of costs and activities, documentation needed. Outputs will serve for creation of real measure in RD National Programmes.	30	Increased knowledge on RD measures and support through the program to family forest owners.
<b>OVERALL COORDINATION</b>		<b>19</b>	
<b>TOTAL LCB DAYS</b>		<b>220</b>	

## **OVERALL CONCLUSIONS**

After implementation of all planned activities according to the respective contracts for each REFORD member associations can be concluded as following:

1. Selected economic services by REFORD member associations and implementation at their respective countries has begun;
2. Jointly lobbied and advocated at relevant institutions for inclusion of forestry in Rural Development measures and legal reform in the forestry sector;
3. Increased networking and cooperation between REFORD member associations;
4. Forestry planning process in REFORD member countries reviewed and experiences shared among members;
5. Increased acknowledgement of REFORD Organization and family forestry in the Balkan region and beyond.