

# Report

**General Assembly REFORD 2013**  
**Regional Networking for Private and Communal Forestry**  
**30<sup>th</sup> September – 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2013**



October, 2013

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## **1. Introduction**

From 30<sup>th</sup> September till 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 in Kolashin, Montenegro was organised the forth General Assembly (GA) of Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development (REFORD). Active participation in the GA were representatives from Communal and Private forest owners associations from Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Croatia and R. Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and CNVP representatives from R. Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania.

The event included the official REFORD General Assembly meeting, field visit and sharing on overall RD and Forestry situation in MNE. Existence of support funds for PFO's was the main focus trying to link the involvement of associations with rural development and possibilities for economic service provision and financial sustainability of the associations.

## 2. Programme

REFOD GA had the following programme:

<b>Monday 30.09.2013</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Who?</b>
14.00- 18.00	If arrival is any time after 14:00 you can make use of SPA facilities before the meeting	
18.30 – 18.40	Opening of General Assembly Welcome to guests	Anela Stavrevska, REFORD technical secretariat support; Miodrag Bakic, President of PF Association from Montenegro
18.40 – 18.50	Acknowledgement of present participants	Board member from Montenegro
18.50 – 19.10	Approval of agenda	Board member from Albania
19.10 – 19.30	Official approval of membership ; APFO "Our Forest" from Republic of Srpska – BiH and Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners Associations	Board member from Kosovo
19.30 – 19.50	Present financial and activity report for 2013/ Questions	Anela Stavrevska REFORD technical secretariat support
19.50 – 20:10	Election of a new President / Management board	Board member from Macedonia All participants
20.30	Dinner	
<b>Tuesday 01.10.2013</b>		
08.00 – 08.30	Breakfast	
08.30 – 09.00	Presentation on overall RD and Forestry situation in MNE; Existence of support funds for PFO and involvement of association;	NAPFO Montenegro
09.00 – 09.30	Travel to visit location	NAPFO Montenegro
09.30 – 12.30	Field visit / rural development /possibility for economic service provision and financial sustainability of the associations	NAPFO Montenegro
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	All participants

13.30 - 14.00	Travel back to hotel	NAPFO Montenegro
14.00- 14.45	Group work on possibilities to involve the associations and increase their sustainability	Peter Kampen, Executive Director CNVP
14.45 – 15.00	Coffee break	
15.00 – 17.00	General discussion and group work on REFORD activities for 2014; Summary for 2014 activities	Anela Stavrevska REFORD technical secretariat support
17.00 – 17.30	Closing assemble and wrap up	New elected president
19.00	Dinner	
<b>Wednesday 02.10.2013</b>		
07.30	Breakfast	
08.00	Joint coffee; Possibility to use the hotel SPA facilities Departure	
12.00		

### Participants

- 2 people, National Association of Private Forest Owners from Macedonia
- 2 people, National Federation of communal forest and pastures in Albania
- 2 people, National Association of Private Forest Owners in Kosovo.
- 1 person, Secretariat of Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development
- 0 guest National Association of the Owners of Wood which are not state property "GOROVLADELETS" - Chepelare, Bulgaria
- 2 guest Association of Private Forest Owners in Montenegro
- 2 guests Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners Associations
- 1 guests Associations of Private Forest Owners "Our Forest" Republic of Srpska – BiH.
- 2 person, CNVP Advisors Macedonia
- 2 people, CNVP Advisors Albania
- 2 people, CNVP Advisors Kosovo

### **3. REFORD General Assembly meeting**

On the first day, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2013 the president of REFORD Anela Stavreska-Panajotova, opened the forth REFORD GA and welcomed the guests. Mensura Nuhodzic from the Montenegro Association acknowledged the presence of the participants and concluded that the majority of the REFORD members are attending, 6 of 7 members were present. The Associations from Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, Croatia, Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Macedonia were present; the Association from Bulgaria was absent.

Guests on the GA were director of Forestry Directorate of Montenegro Mr. Rados Sucur and director of forestry unit of Municipality Kolasin Mr. Slobodan Scekic. Mr. Sucur welcomed the guests and expressed his satisfaction that this meeting is being held in Montenegro, he also expressed his readiness to support the development and improvement of private forestry in Montenegro.

#### **3.1 Approval of the agenda**

The representative from Albania presented the agenda of the GA, there were no comments and changes to the agenda. Herewith it was concluded by Agron Nikqi representative of NAPFO Kosovo that the agenda is approved. The GA meeting continued according to the approved agenda.

#### **3.2 Acceptance of member organizations**

Croatia and Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) were presented to the members based on their written interest becoming a member of REFORD. With an open voting all presented participants officially accepted NAPFO from Croatia and Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as new members of REFORD. REFORD now has seven members.

#### **3.3 REFORD Financial and Activity report 2012/2013**

In continuation of the agenda were presented the financial and activity reports from the years 2012 and 2013. Without additional questions and comments the financial and activity reports were accepted by all members. It was only a suggestion, that in the future, the financial report should be expressed in euros, not in MKD. Representatives from Albania and Kosovo Associations briefly presented some of their activities supported by the Sida Project that are related to REFORD, like, sharing knowledge, exchange of information between REFORD and the Association. It was agreed that more on this sharing could be done in future by using the organizations websites to post news on forestry developments and other important information.

Anela briefly describe the method of financing of REFORD explaining that still REFORD functioning is financed by a project and for the moment membership fees don't exist.

New members from Croatia and Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) had a lot of questions that had to do with the Statute, so few parts of the statute were clarified.

### ***Annex 1 Finance and activity report.***

## **4. Election of a new President and Management board**

### **4.1 Election of new President**

Clarification discussion was opened regarding the new president election. It was proposed and agreed by all participants to have a 2 year president mandate (as written in the statute). All decided to elect presidents from the member country by alphabetic order (English). Therefore agreed was to start with president from Albania Federation and by open voting was decided to have Alhora Kacani for a new president.

These new decisions mean that the classical voting will not be used any more, but that a president rotation scheme will be followed from the members of REFORD based on alphabetical order. The member association that has its turn can propose its candidate for President which then will need to be accepted by the GA by voting (refer annex 4 for the decision).

### **4.2 Election of new Management board**

It was agreed that Management board should be consistent of 7 members, even though in future more associations could join REFORD. In this case each association delegated one representative in the Management Board (active in its own associations, aware of the activities going on and preferably English speaking and having easy access for communication). Each association selected a member to be part of the Board, and the selected members are:

1. Vojo Sokolovski (Macedonia)
2. Miodrag Bakic (Montenegro)
3. Dusko Topic (RS/BiH)
4. Milenko Zupanic (Croatia)
5. Alhora Kocani (Albania) – already elected as President
6. Blerina Hoxha (Kosovo)
7. Ahelia Pocekaska (Bulgaria)

The mandate is 2 years and for future elections voting might be needed in case REFORD will grow in its membership. The Management Board decides of the number of delegates to be sending from all members associations to the Assembly meeting (as according to the Statutes).

## **5. Presentation on overall RD and Forestry situation in Montenegro**

Mensura Nuhodzic presented overall forestry situation in Montenegro and possibilities for forestry sector trough EU funds of rural development programs and some national programs/funds. She presented the new forestry inventory data, which is particularly important that the percentage of private forests in Montenegro changed from 33% to 50%.

For more information, please see the presentation. Annex 2

## **6. Rural development and possibility for economic service provision and financial sustainability of the associations (Field visit)**

Field visit was organized to raise awareness among REFORD member associations about all possibilities for providing services to their members and in same time assuring the sustainability. We visited charcoal producers family and had a very interesting discussion about charcoal demand on the market. The charcoal producer shared many of the problems they face while collection of wood remains, prices they pay and market competitiveness. Currently they collect the wood remains with the help of their family members. Many families depend on production of charcoal but are not organized and sell very small amounts since their product is not market competitive. Their family income could be significantly increased if they sell jointly and supply bigger companies. Most of these producers own private forest and live in the rural area. The possibility to be organized through the private forest owners association was immediately recognized and further the discussion continued on the benefits to be organized.

The second field visit spot was owner of forest and pasture land around Kolasin. He has briefly described the way of managing his forest and other agricultural and livestock activities. During the visit we could easily see many additional benefits that one could enjoy next to the forest. The property was stretching to the top of a hill with a beautiful view to Kolashin and surrounding mountains. His meadows where spilled with different kind of mushrooms, overloaded fruit trees and he was storing the grass for winter to feed the animals. The owner organized table to taste his mushrooms, apples and some of his home made rakia and cheese.



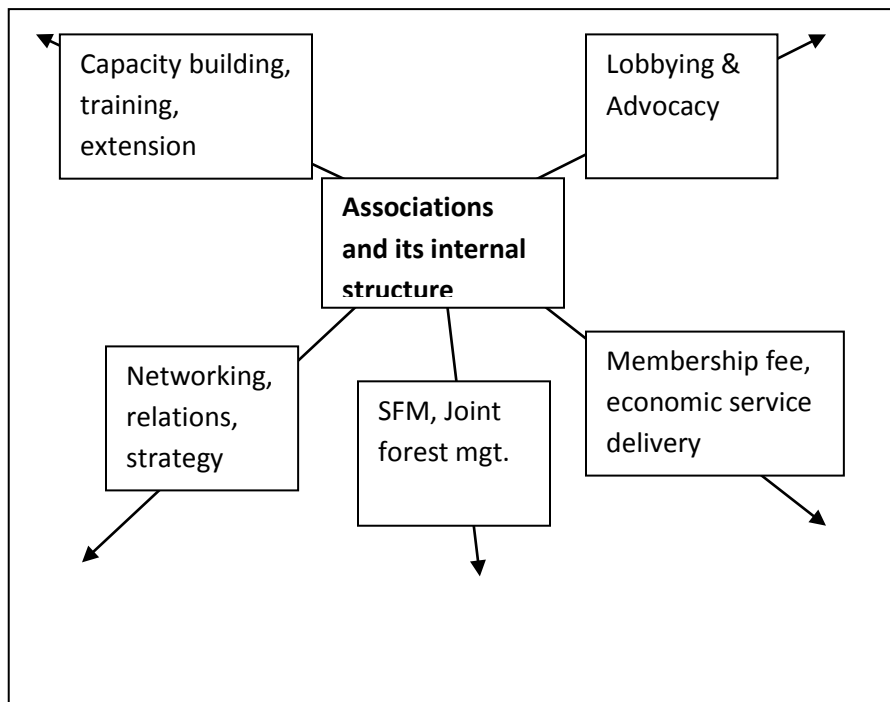
All participants very much appreciated this experience to taste local products, discuss directly with the owner about all problems, possibilities to improve the farm management and his hospitality.

It was a joint conclusion of all participants that Non Timber Forest Products are not sufficiently valorized and there is a significant potential to increase income of rural population. In future activities and lobbying, REFORD should pay more attention to other values of forest as well.

## 7. Group work on possibilities to involve the associations and increase their sustainability

CNVP Executive Director, Peter Kampen, gave a reflection on the work we did before in REFORD on the functioning and role of associations and the options for service delivery. It is important for to assuring financial sustainability of the PFO associations. Besides donor support and membership fees it is important to focus on service delivery. These can be the most important but need still to be developed or elaborated. Some small examples exist.

A short overview was given on the roles and functions of the associations (refer to REFORD regional seminar on service delivery 2011, from the Sida Kosovo & Regional Forestry project.



These main areas of roles were used to reflect on opportunities to increase the financial sustainability of the associations. The participants were divided into three groups and discussed the possibilities for sustainability of associations. These are the group work outcomes:

#### Group 1

Membership fee; Donors; Income from project implementation; Percentage from projects; Funds collected by the state; Income from provided services;

#### Group 2

Municipality; Lobbying; Donors; Service delivery; NTFP fee;

#### Group 3

Lobbying- Budget line from Government for PFO/Users; Membership fee; Ecologic service providers- production and selling of wood products and NTFP, advertisement, publishing, Fair (public events); Capacity building and other.

The listed possibilities vary from country to country but many were recognized as the same. In the wrap up session it was concluded that associations could improve their sustainability by the following activities:

- Lobbying for funds from Ministry
- Membership fee
- Economic service providers
- Donors
- Municipalities
- Service delivery

### **8. General discussion and group work on REFORD suggested activities for 2014;**

In a plenary session and through group work activities for REFORD were discussed and suggestion for coming year. The main results are listed below:

- ✓ The venue for the next General Assembly meeting was not decided. For 2014 it would be needed to plan two MB meetings during the year, one in spring and one autumn.
- ✓ The second MB meeting could be in same time used for preparation of the next GA meeting.
- ✓ For 2014 it was agreed that the financial report should be expressed in euros.
- ✓ Associations and REFORD should use more their websites to post news on forestry developments and other important information.
- ✓ REFORD opened Facebook account and all members are encouraged to make use of this space for sharing information.
- ✓ In future activities and lobbying, REFORD should pay more attention to other values of forest as well.

**ANNEX 1:****REVIEW OF INCOMES AND EXPENSES of REFORD**

MKD 61.5 = 1 Euro

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
INCOMES FROM DELIVERED SERVICES	MKD.1.709.674, 00	
INTEREST	MKD. 182, 00	19, 00
TRANSFERRED SURPLUS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	MKD. 76.346,00	65.507,00
<b>TOTAL INCOMES</b>	<b>MKD.1.786.202, 00</b>	<b>65.526,00</b>
OFFICE OPPERATING SUPPLIES	MKD. 1.358,00	
GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES	MKD. 89.314,00	
TRANSPORT SERVICES	MKD. 106.647,00	
JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS	MKD. 100, 00	
PAY TOL	MKD. 1.970,00	
BANK PROVISION	MKD. 3.767,00	1.037,00
DAILY AND TRAVEL CHARGES	MKD. 142.432,00	
ACCOUNTING SERVICES	MKD. 59.000,00	
NOTARY SERVICE	MKD. 150, 00	
LCB'S CONTRACT SERVICES	MKD.1.076.217, 00	
SERVICES FOR SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES	MKD. 232.754,00	
NON-OPERATING EXPENSES/OTHER EXPENSES	MKD. 6.986,00	3.095,00
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	MKD. 40.698,00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>MKD.1.720.695, 00</b>	<b>44.830,00</b>
NET SURPLUS	MKD. 65.507,00	20.696,00

## **REFORD Engagement**

### **October 2012 till September 2013**

- Prepared reports for 2012 activities of REFORD in Macedonia;
- Prepared reports for 2012 activities of REFORD on the Balkan;
- Analysed REFORD website, prepared information and filled missing parts;
- Updated REFORD website with documents, reports, photos, information;
- Coordinated activities for changes of documents in Central Register unit of Republic of Macedonia;
- Assisted and coordinated submission on final annual account;
- Updated REFORD documents archive;

#### Focus 1: Strengthening REFORD network and services delivered to member associations for Business Development and organisation

- Represented REFORD on IUFRO 15th International Symposium on Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development;
- Active effort on lobbying for inclusion of forestry in Rural Development programme at EU AGR-ENV Directorate General and specific ministries in the countries;
- Organised Study Visit for exchanging experience in Bulgaria between NCFCP Albania, NAPFO Bulgaria, Kosovo and Macedonia.
- Prepared partnership statement between REFORD and CNVP;
- Updated PADOR profile of REFORD;
- Increase its member organizations with two new;
- Organised and implemented REFORD general assembly.
- 5 days engagement for overall REFORD functioning (follow up on financial and administrative work, regular update of website and regular communication with its member organizations)

#### Focus 2: Improvement of services delivered to forest owners

- Possibility for engagement in Kosovo and Albania with 5 days. Invite Association from Kosovo and Federation from Albania for brief explanation how they used this possibility.

#### REFORD actions and participation:

- Regular overview of project possibilities
- Organized Regional Workshop “Supporting non-state forestry in South-East Europe” jointly with FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization and CNVP. Event was important from strategic point of view for better positioning of REFORD.
- Gained knowledge by participation in the project “Rural development and EU integration in Forestry” – Financed from NUFFIC - The Netherlands Fellowship Programme. Important because this knowledge could be shared with other REFORD members.

**ANNEX 3:****REFORD General Assembly Meeting****Kolasin - Montenegro 30<sup>th</sup> September- 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
1.	NAPFO- Kosovo	Blerina Hoxha	hoxhablerina@gmail.com	+37744373161
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3.	APPPK - Kosovo	Agron Nikqi	Agron- nikqi@live.fr	+37744291394
4.	FPPKK Kukes	Xheld Shak		+355692371753
5.	NFCFPA	Albora Kacani	alborakacani@hotmail.com	+355692987734
6.	CNVP- Kosovo	Miftar Lokaj	Miftar.lokaj@cnvp-eu.org	+044178877
7.	NAPFO - MNE	Miodrag Bakic	Privsume@gmail.com	+38267537705
8.	NAPFO - MNE	Mensura Nuhodzic	njenja@t-com.me	+382 76227423
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10.	NAPFO “Our Forest” RS	Dusko Topic	duletopic@gmail.com	+38765518398
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13.	REFORD	Kristina Buzaroska	<a href="mailto:contact@refordcentre.org">contact@refordcentre.org</a> kbuzaroska@gmail.com	+38972204906
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#### **ANNEX 4: Decision of REFORD regarding President**

On its General Assembly meeting on 30 September and 1 October 2013 in Kolasin, REFORD discussed and reviewed the procedure for election of the President.

In accordance with the Statutes, article 28 regarding the election of the President, the following is decided:

*The President will be provided on a rotational basis from the member associations of REFORD according to the Alphabetical order in English of the names of the member associations.*

*The member association having its turn for presidency is proposing its candidate to the General Assembly of REFORD after which the President will be elected through majority voting by the General Assembly.*

Herewith as decided by the General Assembly, held in Kolasin, Montenegro, on 30 September and 1 October 2013,

The President of REFORD

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Name, date