

## Project:

### “Rural development and EU integration in Forestry”

On May 09, 2013 in Hotel Continental, Skopje, R. Macedonia, was the Start up of the project “*Rural development and EU integration of forestry*”.

NAPFO Macedonia in close collaboration with CNVP (Connecting Natural Values and People Foundation) in Macedonia and REFORD (Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development ) as co-provider (organisation that will help in implementation of the training course) , applied and got the project “*Rural development and EU integration in Forestry*”, supported by Nuffic (The Netherlands Fellowship Programme)

The main object of the project is to deliver trainings which will produce a group of expert members that can act internally in the organization and be able to provide extension services for private forest owners. The training should specially address the lack of knowledge of NAPFO members in EU processes concerning forestry and rural development, LEADER programmes, organisational strengthening and institutional development. This group of experts should additionally strengthen the position of the organisation on national level, and with knowledge gained in EU processes to secure further development of the organisation and its sustainable functioning. The group of experts should also be trained in writing project proposals and sourcing funds for activities that contributes to sustainable development of the organisation. The group of experts in the future should be able to share their knowledge and expertise further in the association to other private forest owners and people leaving in rural areas.

Members of the organisation that are selected for this training are the core group of experts and people who are involved in every day working of the organisation. Situation at this moment does not provide possibilities for professional employed staff in the association. The people working for the association are experts and in same time private forest owners that work on voluntary basis for the association. They are people with different educational background but very well informed about constrains and possibilities for development of private forestry in the country and rural development possibilities that forestry offers in rural areas. For this training, group of 12 experts from the association were selected, ones that are most active and ones that can contribute to development of the organisation and achieving its long term goals and sustainability.

The following areas of development for the trained experts will be delivered:

- Presentation skills
- Communication skills
- Facilitation skills
- Negotiation skills
- Project writing and basics of project management
- Gender in forestry and rural development

- EU legislation on rural development
- Related EU forestry legislation
- Marketing and entrepreneurship
- Ecosystem services provided by forests and cooperation with other sectors
- LEADER programmes and its implementation
- Introduction in certification schemes and FLEGT

The proposed training will mobilize the capacity of the existing group and in the same time will contribute to filling the gaps in knowledge and expertise that this group of people has on different issues concerning Forestry, Rural development and EU integration.