

**ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY**

Royal Norwegian Embassy  
Osma Udarna Brigada br. 2  
1000 Skopje  
Macedonia  
embskp@mfa.no

**Application for grants from the Norwegian Embassy in  
Skopje, Republic of Macedonia  
S52SKP-Applications for small scale grants**

The application should be sent by e-mail to [embskp@mfa.no](mailto:embskp@mfa.no) with a copy to the responsible unit for the grant scheme on [nse@mfa.no](mailto:nse@mfa.no)

<b>1. Project information</b>			
Project title: <b>Raising awareness for enhanced utilization of renewable energy (wood biomass) and improvement of living condition in rural areas</b>			
Project Location: 5 Municipalities in Macedonia (Kichevo, Berovo, Probistip, Kavadarci and Radovish) and Study visit in Bulgaria (Cepelare –biomass centre)		Total amount applied in MKD: 445 000 Den.	Project duration(m/y - m/y): 01.05.2012 – 31.10.2012
Brief project description (255 characters max.) The objective of this project is to present the possibilities for more effective and sustainable biomass (wood residues) utilisation from private forests to produce energy in rural areas in Macedonia. 5 workshops will be conducted in selected rural municipalities, with aim to raise awareness about biomass production and efficient energy use in public buildings. As final product informative brochure for ways of production and using biomass for energy production will be issued. This project is envisaged to contribute in raising awareness among private forest owners and other stakeholders in rural areas concerning biomass use and efficient energy consumption.			
<b>2. About the Applicant</b>			
<b>2.1 Contact information</b>			
Name and abbreviation: Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development-Skopje / REFORD-Skopje			
Postal address: st. Ognjen Prica no:11			
Telephone: +38923217322	Fax: +38923217322	e-mail: <a href="mailto:contact@refordcentre.org">contact@refordcentre.org</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.refordcentre.org">www.refordcentre.org</a>
Contact person: Ljubomir Netkov		e-mail: <a href="mailto:refordcentre@gmail.com">refordcentre@gmail.com</a>	Mobile phone: +38970350776
<b>2.2 Type of organisation (select from below)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Macedonian Organisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non Governmental Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Private Company <input type="checkbox"/> Governmental/ Public Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Other Please Specify			
<b>2.3 About the organisation</b>			
Brief description of the organisation (size/number of employees, year of operation, affiliation to larger network, etc): Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development (REFORD) is founded in 2010 as a training centre that affects areas of the Balkans and Southeast Europe, At the moment there are no employees but volunteers and people engaged on ongoing projects to improve organizational functioning. REFORD is established as network organization between the private forest user associations from Balkan and Southeast Europe. Member organizations are associations from: Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Montenegro with over five years track record of cooperation. This network registered REFORD in 2010 aiming to provide better services in the field of forestry, renewable energy, rural development and better lobby and advocacy foe all forest users in the Balkan. The main mission of REFORD is "Protection of individual and mutual interest of private and communal forests and mproving the living conditions of local communities in rural areas and use natural resources in a sustainable manner". For achieving this mission REFORD is focusing on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sharing knowledge and working methods;</li> <li>➤ Augmenting and strengthening social and economic power;</li> <li>➤ Executing projects; and</li> <li>➤ All other activities that can be helpful to achieve its aim</li> </ul> The realization of the basic goals of the Organization is administered by the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Education of the rural communities (training, consulting)</li> <li>➤ Contribution to the development of the private and communal forests;</li> <li>➤ Promotion of practice for sustainable management of the forests;</li> <li>➤ Promotion of initiatives from the rural development (consolidating land, development of the production chain, renewablw energy sources, agro-forestry, non-wood products from forestry, farmer forest);</li> <li>➤ Integrated management of natural resources, focusing on economic development of the local communities;</li> <li>➤ Administration of projects in partnership with local communities; and</li> <li>➤ Consulting.</li> </ul>			
<b>2.4 Internal routines</b>			
Does the organisation have anticorruption routines			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, documentation of the routines should be available upon request			
<b>2.4 Has the applicant received grants from the Norwegian Embassy, or other Norwegian Institution?</b>			

Yes

No

Please specify the date, institution and the project agreement nr.

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### 3. About the project

#### 3.1 Cooperating partner (if more than one, use attachment)

Name: National Association of Private Forest Owners - Macedonia / NAPFO-Macedonia

Contact person: Vojo Sokolovski

Address: Kej JNA 2/b-2 2330 Berovo

e-mail: macprifor@yahoo.com

Telephone nr.  
+38976485440

#### Type of organisation (select from below)

Non Macedonian Organisation

Non Governmental Organisation

Private Company

Governmental /Public Institution

#### 3.2 Applicant's and partners' roles in the project (Competence and qualifications in relation to the project theme):

REFORD is dedicated to develop and introduce innovative practices for sustainable forest development especially in renewable energy (biomass) and introducing fast growing species in the rural areas. During 2010 and 2011 REFORD was engaged by SNV-Nederland Development Organization on few tasks such as: preparing "Study for possibilities to use wood as renewable energy in Municipalities of Probistip, Makedonska Kamenica, Caska, Debarca and Konce"; organizing local informative meetings on biomass; piloting on fast growing species production; organized study visit for ZELS- Association of Local Government Units on use of wood residues to heat public buildings ; Organized workshop for ZELS on possibilities to use biomass.

However, people living in rural areas are not familiar with all possibilities to improve their living conditions. REFORD's role in this project will be to share knowledge and experience on wood biomass exactly with this rural communities of private forest owners and all interested local stakeholders. Practical examples (implemented pilot projects) on wood waste utilization and production of biomass to increase income will be presented through 5 workshops. Workshops will be conducted in all regions where NAPFO Macedonia has active branches (Kicevo, Berovo, Kavadarci, Probistip and Radovis region). NAPFO Macedonia as partner and beneficiary will be logistical support with its members in these 5 regions. A study visit will be conducted to neighbouring country- Bulgaria (Cepelare biomass centre) more experienced in biomass use in frame of this project.

#### 3.3 Project description

Project title: **Raising awareness for enhanced utilization of renewable energy (wood biomass) and improvement of living condition in rural areas**

Brief description of the present situation and the need/justification for the project. Please describe the project's position in relation to overall strategic plans, if relevant.

Macedonia is country where the latest statistical data are showing that the share of agriculture (including forestry, hunting and fisheries) sector in Macedonian economy was 12, 8% in 2005 or 9, 7% of GDP which is placing it in the most important sectors in Macedonian economy. The share is very high compared to other EU countries.

Forests and pastures encompass an important part of the livelihood of rural communities. Often poorer families have a higher dependency on forests and pastures (up to 50%) of their total family income. Forestry, agriculture, and stockbreeding are creating relatively big biomass potentials. According to the energy balance, biomass takes part with 7, 6 % of brute energy supply in the Republic of Macedonia and in general it is the wood for heating in households. Forest management in rural areas and mountain regions is one of the few possibilities for economy growth and improvement of people life quality. Private forest sector is very often neglected by the authorities even though private forests are contributing to overall development of the forestry sector.

This project is a joint effort of **REFORD** (Regional centre for forestry and rural development) as applicant and **NAPFO** (National association of private forest owners in Macedonia) as partner/ beneficiary. These organizations are closely cooperating in the field of private forestry, sustainable forest management practices and rural development.

This project will focus on biomass production and more efficient use of wood from private forests, especially the wood residues. Project aims to provide support to local communities and private forest owners in improving their living standards by production and more efficient use of wood biomass. People living in rural communities could significantly influence and contribute to improved forest management practices in the same time improving the rural economy.

The objective of this project is to present the possibilities to produce and use biomass (wood residues) as a renewable energy resource in selected municipalities in Macedonia. In this case the project will refer to production of energy for heat derived from fast growing species plantations and wood waste in small scale heating systems, using wood chips or processed wood waste as briquettes and pellets.

Project goal: (long term goal, one goal only)

Enhanced utilisation of wood biomass from private forests

Indicators of goal achievement:

Conducted workshops

Promoted innovative forest practices

Increased number of informed people living in rural areas

Realised study visit on biomass possibilities

Increased income generation among private forest owners

Risk factors:

In achieving the goals of this project no expected risks are anticipated

Target Group:

The project will be for all private forest owners who want to improve the quality and utilization of their forests by using their forest on sustainable way and using the wood waste as a source of heating. Macedonia has over 60,000 private forest owners and other unused land suitable for afforestation of fast growing species for production of biomass.

Project Strategy:

In conducting this workshops with members from NAPFO Macedonia, REFORD will use the long experience from his members of professional team which they have gained the domestic and foreign universities, trainings, conference, workshops and visits that have taken part in European countries and the experience acquired with cooperation with the Associations of European countries. These experiences will be applied to the conditions and needs that match the conditions and opportunities in Macedonia but in relation to European norms and standards.

The project will be nationally oriented with a regional approach and a strategic placement in the five regions: Kichevo, Berovo,

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Probistip, Kavadarci and Radovish, covering mainly rural areas. By using NAPFO's structure, human capacities and few owners' experiences in agro-forestry, fast growing species and SFM we plan to deliver practical knowledge to all interested private forest owners. Reality in Macedonia is that no one is offering any information about renewable energy to private forest owners. They are not informed about use of wood residues from their forests in a sustainable manner or how to produce biomass. Because of that interest in the workshops we expect to be very high. Additionally a biomass study visit for representatives from each region will be organized. At the end of the project a biomass informative material will be produced and distributed in Macedonia rural communities.

Project benefits, expected results (services/ products) of the project:  Improved sustainable utilisation of private forests Raised awareness about biomass production and efficient utilisation	Indicators of goal achievement: Number of people attending the workshops Reports from conducted workshops Report from study visit Issued brochure  Risk factors: In achieving the goals of this project no expected risks are anticipated
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**3.4 Project sustainability and risk factors**

Participation by different stakeholders and coordination with other actors/ donors:  
National association of private forest owners; Local governments; Ministry for agriculture, forestry and water management, other environmental NGO's; Public enterprise "Macedonian forests"

Other relevant sustainability elements (environmental, economic, socio-economic etc.):

Biomass is locally accessible in even the poorest nations and communities and its development can ease balance of payments deficits and foster energy security. Over a full life cycle (from the planting of the biomass to its ultimate conversion to energy) biomass is low carbon provided, it is harvested from sustainable sources on a perpetual basis in which upfront emissions from harvesting and transport are minimized and it is burnt efficiently to reduce products of incomplete combustion. It can therefore displace the emissions from fossil fuels in the long term.

Biomass energy is very flexible, and can already be converted into all the major energy carriers (heat, electricity, liquid or gas) at a range of commercial scales. While its competitive advantages for heat (either for cooking or dwelling spaces) are well known, conversion processes from electricity, liquid and gaseous fuels are now also becoming competitive and are slowly opening space for development in Macedonia.

Biomass energy is also labour intensive per unit energy produced in comparison with energy alternatives and can boost rural employment through assurance of adequate employment conditions of local actors involved as salary, health and safety. All these aspects are positively contributing to the efforts of promotion and further utilization of RES in municipalities.

Harvested wood from forest in Macedonia is more than 70% used as fire wood for heating of individual households.

Utilization of forests practiced today in Macedonia produce huge quantities of wood that is left in the forest unused. This wood is big potential for future to be used as a source for production of wood chips and pellets.

Rural municipalities in Macedonia have big potential for using biomass as energy source. Taking in consideration data provided and other researches done in this field one can conclude that RE potential is underused and under estimated. Introducing of innovative heating systems and involving local actors and community in processes of collection, processing and distribution of biomass will bust RE use in rural communities and will positively contribute to increase of rural economies. Improving the quality of life is as well very important issue, since many villages are abandoned due to difficult living conditions.

**3.5 Follow up /exit strategy**

- NAPFO in its long term programme has envisaged giving more attention on sustainable forestry management practices.  
- GEF-PMG project that NAPFO will implement in year 2012-2013 dealing with utilisation of wood biomass and introduction of innovative heating systems in public buildings will give good follow up on the workshops and goal that REFORD is trying to achieve with this project

**4. Bank details**

Full name of the account holder: Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development - Skopje

Corresponding bank: NLB Tutunska Bank

MKD Account nr. 210066605250185

Tax nr. 4057010510577

Central registry nr. 6660525

Account signatory: Ljubomir Netkov

Mobile phone: +38970350776

**5. Project budget and financial plan:**

A detailed breakdown of the expenditures must be provided in a separate attachment.

**6. Additional information**

Information about Tender Documentation (if any)

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Other useful information that are not included with this application

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**7. date and confirmation**

I am authorised to sign legally binding agreements on behalf of the applicant, and confirm that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge

Place and date Skopje; 30.03.2012

Name/ signature

Ljubomir Netkov

Note:

\* This form can be extended but not more than three pages.  
\*\* Attachment, supporting document can be presented