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Project Proposal

“Widening and strengthening of environmental NGO-s Network”

Background:

To improve the access of environmental information in Albania and region, providing the exchange of information through a network of Albanian environmental NGO-s (AENGO), Centre for Electronic Communication (QKE-AL), has continually tried to create a suitable structure for exchanging information, in Albanian society through:

1. Improving skills and capacities of AENGO-s on electronic communication
2. Facilitating the exchange of information
3. A Dynamic web page helping AENGO, as a source of information and news about environmental movement in Albania.
4. A mailing list with 70 members of AENGO-s, where is exchanged not only environmental information, but also social, legislative, youth information and different announcement, To Whom It May Concern.

Electronic communication has been seen as one of the tools that can help easier way of consolidation for AENGO-s sector. Through the communication is possible the distribution of different information as: data related to a specific field, news on events interesting people, information for organisations operating in Albania and outside, what they offer or what they need.

According to this QKE-AL evaluate as much important the information exchanged between AENGO-s and more, to create a possibility of collaboration between them. This will led to reinforce the civil society and developing the capacity to make able a significant impact in decision-making on Albanian environmental issues.

Description on QKE-AL and Activities:

The Centre for Electronic Communication is established in December 2001, as an initiative of a group of representatives from various NGO-s. The main goal of the centre is improvement of capacities for environmental NGO-s concerning electronic communication. The improvement of qualification of environmental NGO-s concerning electronic communication, sharing information in real time, providing equipments for the

improvement of communication are some of the foreseen activities in the future.

MilieuKontakt Representative in Albania initiated and supported the establishment of the Centre for Electronic Communication and the initial training activities, the office space, logistics, etc.

Here is a short description about the activities we implemented and our contacts in the region.

1. Starting the electronic communication and ICT use between AENGO-s, we started with some **training sessions** related to communication via e-mail and use of Internet in searching information.
 - a. More than 20 persons from 8 AENGO-s participated in those sessions, starting up a low level of electronic communication.
2. **Implementation of a need assessment of AENGO-s** regarding the electronic communication facilities.
 - a. We created a picture of the situation in this field and developed our strategy.
3. **“Promotion of networks and cooperation among AENGO-s”** financed by Regional Environmental Centre (REC) Tirana, consisting in training sessions for 38 NGO-s in which participated 68 persons.
 - a. The most active AENGO-s has the skills to communicate via e-mail, to search information using the ICT tools and to write articles for a newspaper.
4. **“Improvement of the electronic communication network for ENGO-s”**, financed by Milieukontakt OOST Europa.
 - a. A national electronic platform where AENGO-s can publish and share information.
5. Participation in the **“Regional Content Sharing In The SEE Region”**
 - a. A regional platform in which is published news's of regional and/or national importance.
6. **“Strengthening the network and coalition building of Albanian environmental NGOs”**, financed by Prince Bernard Cultural Foundation (PBCF), Netherlands.
 - a. Dissemination of equipment, computers and free e-mail access offered for active environmental NGO. Online and direct counselling and trainings of AENGOS staff related with the equipment and on collecting, processing and exchanging information.
 - b. Development of information, Electronic newsletter: frequency: once a month and printed newsletter: 6 editions/year

We established contacts with the NGO-s we trained and with the similar experiences networks in South East European Region like, Bluelink (Bulgaria), Strawberry net (Romania), Orange net (Moldova), Zeleni Istria (Croatia), Sharri net (Kosova), ect, through trainings, meetings, study tour and workshop we participated in the region. Our main collaboration is the Regional Platform of Information Exchange.

Goals:

Our main goal is: Through electronic communication, widening and strengthening of Albanian environmental movement, improving e-com network, creating new cells all over Albania. Which means, creating small electronic communication cells in different cities of Albania, as a part of electronic communication network of AENGO-s.

Objectives:

- To improve the information flow and the access to information in quantitative and qualitative aspects;
- Improving technical skills of QKE-AL members;
- To develop mechanisms for better information exchange and sharing information among NGOs and other information Albanian resources;
- To stimulate cooperation and communication among environmental NGOs and strengthening the network in Albania.

Target groups

1. All interested groups, individuals of Albanian Environmental NGO-s will have access of information provided by Centre for Electronic Communication.
2. Centre for Electronic Communication Albania will improve its technical skills for further development.

Activities

1. Training on electronic technology
2. Training and counselling for AENGO
3. Development of information
4. Access to environmental information.

1. Training on electronic technology for QKE-AL

The development of electronic communication in Albania is increasing rapidly and the Albanian society is developing toward changing with its requirements. QKE-AL would like to have its contribution to fulfil needs of AENGO-s toward electronic communication.

Regarding to these needs, QKE-AL would like to improve the trainer's capacity in:

1. *Web page developing and maintaining*
2. *APC (Action Application)*

This training is going to be held in Skopje during May 2004.

2. Training and Counselling

Online and direct counselling related with the equipments and information structure.
Trainings of AENGO-s staff, on collecting, processing and exchanging information.

Tasks to be performed:

- a. Regional trainings on basic knowledge on: Computer maintaining
E-mail, internet
Using spaces of QKE-AL web page
- b. Meeting and training with local cells (the assisted NGO-s will serve as local cells of information). Specific trainings on how to use the Action Application.

Beneficiaries: a. Members of AENGO Network (Kavaja, Tirana, Pogradec, Elbasan, Lezhe, Shkoder, etj.)

b. Contact persons of local cells

3. Development of information.

Centre for Electronic Communication would like to develop a dynamic web page which offers:

- Fresh news
- Mailing list
- Discussion forums
- APC
- Web Mail reader
- Electronic newspaper

Under QKE-AL domain we will offer 3 web pages for more active AENGO, which have given their contribution in improving the information exchanged.

4. National Meeting “Access to environmental information.”

This Meeting aims:

- To promote the new web page and its spaces
- Presentation of QKE-AL work during 3 year period of existence
- Presentation of Local cells and their work
- Further strategy on developing Environmental Network in Albania

METHODS

1. Increasing the number of users and contacts through electronic mail communication

2. Promote this way as an efficient tool for access and distribution of information
3. Establishing and maintain a list of users interested on getting and sending information
4. Publishing qualitative information from NGO-s to NGO-s
5. Assistance on line and on site in technical aspect

Tasks to be performed:

Collecting information from environmental NGO-s on environmental issues, (a number of articles are going to be send by NGO-s that will receive assistance by this project).

Analysing information- (information collected, prepared for publication)

Information published- (publication on web and periodic summaries)

Web services - (for all the time, online information about activities)

Expected outputs:

- I. Environmental NGO will be trained on building the capacity in technical aspect (use and maintenance of different soft and hard ware, web maintenance)
- II. 10 environmental NGO will be network cells of electronic network, improving their work on collecting, analysing, and distributing the information
- III. Improvement of technical skills of members of QKE-AL
- IV. Increase of information exchanged between Albanian environmental NGO-s
- V. Number of subscribers to electronic services provided by QKE-ALBANIA

Beneficiaries:

Albanian Environmental NGO-s & QKE-AL

Monitoring indicators:

- I. Number of environmental NGO-s in which information guiding and direct technical assistance will be given;
- II. Professional trainers
- III. Dynamic web page
- IV. Quantity of guiding articles;
- V. Number of emails exchanged.

Follow up:

Through this project the information network and exchange will be improved. The work will be focused, mainly in training and counselling form, news and announcement and a number of meetings. More users will have access to information as a result of online

services provides and the capacity within target groups and the use of electronic communication will be increased.

We will ask from the organisation supported and assisted by us, to send online a periodic report about the activities done in the zone they are operating, providing so a wide net of information.

Working Group:

- Coordinator/ head of the project will be responsible for
 - The quality of the work
 - Distribution and collection of questionnaires
 - Purchasing and distribution of the computers
 - Reporting to the donors.
- Technique consultant will be responsible for:
 - Consultancy related with technical manner
 - Equipments, etc....
- Trainers will be responsible for:
 - Handouts of trainings
 - Training on e-com
- Editor of information will be responsible for:
 - Publishing news in web
 - Counselling related with information
 - Edition of information.

IX. Implemented project

NR.	Title of project	Budget	Donors
1	Building capacity of Albanian environmental NGO-s	350 Euro	Milieukontakt OOST Europa
2	Need Assessment of environmental NGO-s	410 Euro	Milieukontakt OOST Europa
3	Regional exchanging of information	2500 Euro	REC Hungary
4	Promotion of Network and Cooperation between environmental NGO-s	6000 Euro	REC Tirana
5	Improvement of electronic communication network for environmental NGO-s	7000 Euro	Milieukontakt OOST Europa
6	Strengthening the network and coalition building of Albanian environmental NGOs	13300 Euro	Prince Bernard Foundation, Netherland