

Workplan under the REC's project:

«Environmental NGOs electronic networking in SEE» 2004

Brief background

This workplan explains future activities of the NGO Osječki zeleni (OZ) in environmental information area aiming to establish environmental NGOs network in Croatia. During recent years, OZ worked on promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention, establishing cooperation with journalists, experts, NGOs and other institutions to improve informing on environmental issues in Croatia.

Joining REC's (*Regional Environmental Center for CEE*) project of «*Regional Environmental Press Center (REPC)*», OZ provide environmental informations, news, educational workshops for journalists and support cooperation of journalists with experts, NGOs and institutions. Continuation of REPC's activities during 2004/2005 was ensured with financial support from the *Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Croatia* for the project «*Environmental Press Center - EPC*».

Part of the EPC is *Independent Environmental Media – ALERT*, consisting of web-site <http://alert.zeleni.hr/>, mailing list and print version. The ALERT is aiming to inform all people interested in environmental issues. Soon after launching the web-site ALERT received positive critiques from general public, NGOs, experts and journalists. Currently, mailing list collect 235 subscribers from Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. Experience from ALERT, Osječki zeleni will implement in establishing electronic environmental NGO network.

Croatian NGOs doesn't established electronic network which causes serious problems in improving communication, coordination of activities and cooperation as well as problems in informing general public, institutions and media. Starting electronic networking in Croatia will have positive impact on future sustainability of environmental NGO sector.

The Network

The Aim

During 2004/2005 OZ will establish environmental NGO electronic electronic (further: The Network) in with aim to improve the organisation and coordination of activities within the NGOs in Croatia and connect them with existing networks in the SEE region.

Basic principles of the project

Following the basic principles of the REC's Environmental NGOs electronic networking in SEE, The Network will be established and carried using democratic procedures and transparent decision-making, as well as supporting cooperation among the Network's members.



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The Network will be registered under croatian *Law on Associations* (basic law for NGOs) as coalition of NGOs. Every croatian environmental NGO is invited to join the Network, which will ensure and promote information exchange among it's members and work on capacity building, sharing knowledge and ideas.

The Network will establish cooperation with other environmental networks in the SEE region to work on joint projects, campaigns and actions as well as regular contacts. All members of the Network will be encouraged to search for new funding resources, developing fundraising projects that could ensure long-term sustainability of the Network.

Activities

Main activities of the Network include:

- establishing excellent communication among members,
- sharing contacts, informations and news with other networks in the SEE region, other NGOs and experts, from country and abroad,
- providing right, full and up-to-date environmental informations,
- developing and managing web-site with up-to-date news from and for the members,
- publishing hard-copy booklet on members mission, main activities and contacts,
- providing mailing list for members in cooperation with NGO *ZaMirNET*,
- training/workshops for member's activists,
- development of thematic web-sites,
- developing joint projects.

The project will directly benefit at least 10 environmental NGOs from Croatia. The project will last for 12 months (October 2004 - October 2005) and the Network will continue to search for new funding resources and develop self-sustainable activities.

Activities Detailed Work Plan

Communication

Project team will collect contacts of the members and encourage them to share informations. Members will have access to contacts of media, other networks, other NGOs, institutions, experts.

Providing environmental informations

Web site of the Network will be designed and developed by OZ. The site will be hosted on the ZaMirNet server. As the Network will be legally registered, it is easy to get free-of-charge domain: www.TheNetwork.hr, which is provided by CARNet (Croatian Academic Research Network). The web site will be updated regularly with information useful for the members and all the project output, services and products. The web site will also include detailed information about the project. Content of the web – site will be:

- environmental news and informations (announcements, press releases, stories)
- searchable database of members,
- list of media, institutions, other networks,
- forum
- usefull publications in PDF format (including environmental legislation)
- mailing list subscription form
- informations about the project
- other links.

Training/workshops

NGOs meetings, discussions and sharing knowledge is crucial for establishing the Network. Members will be invited to delegate representatives who will discuss on:

- establishing, founding and registering the Network,
- creating Charter of the Network
- possibilities of cooperation among members
- using electronic services of the Network
- communication with media and institutions.

Trainers from OZ will explain electronic services and several examples of how the Networks work in other countries (BlueLink, EkoNet...). Journalist from mass media will be invited to explain ways of effective communication with media and institutions. The project team and trainers will prepare training materials with all the relevant informations about the project.

The workshop will last for two days and will be held during November/December 2004.

Members will be invited to choose location of the workshop to fit all.

The budget of the project include travel and accomodation expenses for the representatives and retribution for the trainers.

The booklet

Project team will collect contacts from the members and invite them to present the NGOs with short story. This booklet is aimed to inform people, who don't have access to the Internet, on existence and work of the Network. The booklet will be prepared by OZ and distributed to the members.

Joint projects

The projects will be developed with respecting importance of the issue for all members. For example, majority of environmental NGOs in Croatia consider organic agriculture as important for their local community and for Croatia. Education on organic agriculture and it's promotion could be one of the future joint projects, as well as other (Car Free Day, climate change issues, GMOs..).

Thematic web-sites

Osječki zeleni already develop and maintain several thematic web-sites:

- *Promoting the Aarhus Convention*: www.zeleni.hr/aarhus/,
- *Independent Environmental Media* – ALERT: <http://alert.zeleni.hr/>,
- *Car Free Day*: <http://www.zeleni.hr/projekti-kampanje/dba/dba.htm>,
- *Toner and ink-jet reusing*: www.zeleni.hr/toneri/
- and on-line presentation of the STUZ (a graphic team of the NGO): www.zeleni.hr/stuz/

Thematic web-site could be extremely important for starting new project or campaign of the Network. OZ will offer this service for Network's projects in cooperation with other members.