

Association for sustainable development

MILIEUKONTAKT MACEDONIA

Company Profile

www.mkm.mk

2020

Milieukontakt Macedonia (MKM)

is a non-for-profit, civil society organization, supporting initiatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) on issues related to the environment, climate changes, nature and sustainable development.

Milieukontakt Macedonia

Established in 2012 following 12 years of successful implementation of Milieukontakt International programs in RNM.

MKM has 7 full time employees as well as pull of experts from various areas and subjects.

Except the permanent staff MKM has IT and technical team that contributes towards professional execution of tasks and excellent performance of the organization.

Table of Contents

Introduction	02
Our Mission and Approach	04
Our Strengths	05
Our Areas of Expertise	06
MKM as part of the Milieukontakt International Network	07
Our Capacity Building Programs	09
Involving Citizens	10
The Green Agenda	12
New Public Service in RNM	16
Our Projects	17

Our Mission & Approach

Our vision is to help create a strong, visible, professional, self-sustainable environmental CSO movement, based on the principles of democracy and openness. This means a movement that is highly visible in society, able to raise public awareness and capable of playing an important role in policy and decision-making processes, on local, national and international level.

MKM initiates partnerships to improve the quality of life by enhancing people's participation in the development of environmentally sustainable societies. It cooperates with international partners because environmental problems do not stop at borders. Many of the current environmental challenges are worldwide. Locally, people can get support and learn from the experiences of others working on the same problems in other parts of the world.

MKM connects people, organizations and networks that deal with the same challenges and want to cooperate to enhance people's participation in defining their own future.

MKM provides people with the means and skills to use the possibilities for participation, including training, advice, assistance and seed financing.

As participatory decision-making processes are essential in these partnerships,

MKM focuses on designing and implementing tools for participatory learning, decision making, and project implementation.

Our Strengths

- Application of participative methodologies in decision making and process
- Capacity building through mobilization of participant knowledge and skills in training
- Advise and coaching of networks for sustainable development

Our Areas of Expertise

1. Capacity building
2. Networking and linking people and organizations
3. Public participation in decision making
4. Joining different sectors
5. Solving environmental problems
6. Development of public campaigns on environmental issues
7. Democratization and EU accession

As Part Of

MKM as part of the Milieukontakt International Network

Milieukontakt International is a network of organizations, committed experts and trainers who believe that public participation and stakeholder involvement are essential to achieve results in sustainable development projects.

We operate in 20 countries in Europe and Asia, supporting citizens to improve their quality of life through the principles of sustainability:

- (1) Healthy environment
- (2) Social justice
- (3) Economic prosperity

Full name: Association for Sustainable Development
MILIEUKONTAKT MACEDONIA Skopje

Short name: ASD MKM Skopje

Address: Kukushka 4A, 1000 Skopje, RNM

Contact: www.mkm.mk

Email: info@mkm.mk

Tel/Fax: +38922460876

Executive Director: Maja Markovska

Email: maja@mkm.mk

Banking Detail:

ASD Milieukontakt Macedonia, Skopje Ul.Kukushka 4a, Skopje, RNM

NLB Tutunska Banka AD Skopje

ul. Majka Tereza 1, Skopje, RNM

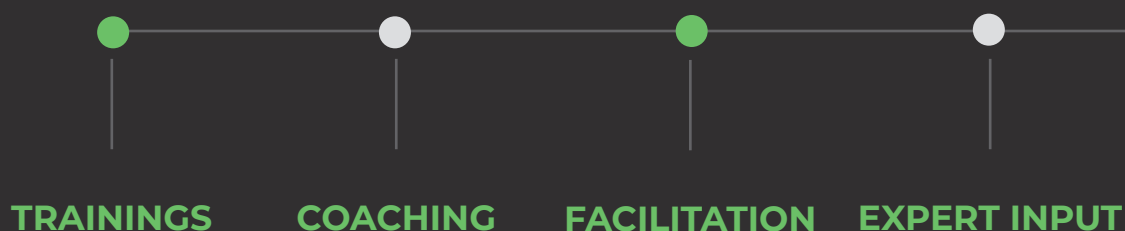
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Being an environmentalist means life-long learning, and that is why it is so interesting! To be effective, an environmental movement requires a certain set of skills that are not easily learned at school or university. Environmentalists must know about a wide range of subjects covered within the term 'environment'. Energy, climate change, waste, water management, sanitation, chemicals and agriculture are some of the issues with totally different context. We also must keep up with developments in scientific and political circles.

These days, it is all about climate change and what it will or will not bring in the future. We must keep our knowledge up-to-date to be partners with governments and other stakeholders. Besides this knowledge on global issues, we must know what is going on in our country, region, town or village to be effective in our actions. This means that we are constantly learning and adapting scientific knowledge to our own day-to-day work. We must be able to translate this knowledge into policy and action. Communication skills are essential, as are legal expertise and negotiating skills. We sometimes must go to court or negotiate if we cannot reach our goals in any other way.



Our Capacity Building Programs

Our Capacity Building Programs are aimed at:



IDENTIFYING VALUES

CREATING LOCAL OWNERSHIP

ENSURING WIDE PARTICIPATION

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Supporting CSOs in RNM with MKM in the period 2000-2020

Improved their skills in playing a constructive role towards a sustainable...
Improved the knowledge of CSOs on issues regarding environmental topics, and especially on climate change management on a local level...
Society raised their visibility on the social media...
Increased their capacity to operate in national and international networks...
Enhanced their use of tools for information sharing...
Strengthened their role in the EU integration process...
Got better in obtaining funds for their activities...
Were trained to take part in decision making process...
Were trained to actively participate in policy creation within the decision-making processes also for issues related to the environment...
Obtained knowledge on how to and where to request environmental information...
They are ready to participate actively in public discussions with regard to environmental plans, programs and policies...

Public Participation

from Informing
to Involving

MKM achieves high quality results by stimulating stakeholder involvement in its projects. It uses innovative participative methods for effective and sustainable decision making and can reach and directly involve local citizens. MKM works with local and national authorities, business, and civil society.


Through our partners in the Milieukontakt International network, we have direct access to social and political networks, know country specific laws, regulations, cultural aspects, civil society, environment and local networks in 20 European and Asian countries.



APPROACH

Through our methods we build trust and relationship with relevant stakeholders and we ensure project sustainability, as all our projects are based on local priorities, needs and wishes.

The method is special participation in the process is not limited to experts or certain stakeholder groups, but is broad and open to all; thus, the process and its results are genuinely owned by the local people. Our work is result-oriented without losing an eye on the process.



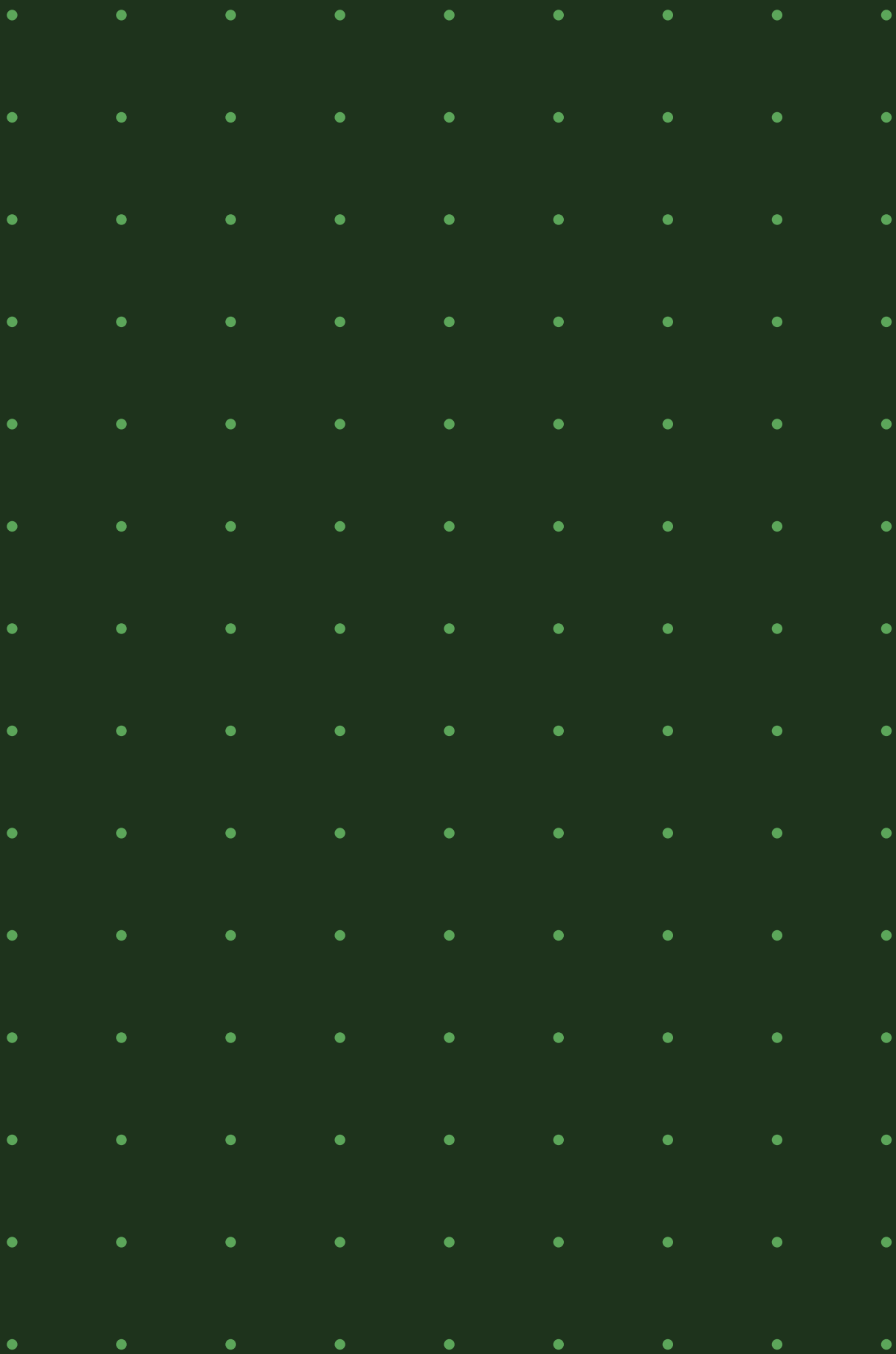
The Green Agenda

The Green Agenda method that we developed and used in more than 10 countries in Europe and Asia is based on involving citizens in creating sustainable community strategies on preservation of cultural and natural values. In North Macedonia the methodology was further enhanced for development of Municipal Climate Change Strategies.

MKM adapted the Green Agenda methodology and used in 10 pilot municipalities. The project aims at preparing municipal stakeholders to better manage local climate change challenges, with a special focus on improving local democratic processes and increasing capacity to adapt to climate change.

The project approach seeks to address both the need to strengthen civil society and to raise awareness, boost activism, and bolster local resilience to climate change. Using an innovative methodology Green Agenda, it proposes to bring together various stakeholders, including CSOs, citizens, the private sector, and municipal authorities, to develop a consensus-based strategy and action plan to address adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects. It also supports the implementation of urgent actions and pilot projects which will boost the municipal fight to climate change.





Cleaner drinking water in RNM

This project was identified as an urgent action during the green Agenda process in Pehcevo in 2013, when developing their municipal climate change strategy. In a participatory approach the members of the thematic working group on water agreed that this urgent action is of highest priority in this area.

The installation of a new filter in the existing water treatment plant solved the problem of contamination of drinking water with sand which used to occur during heavy rainfalls that now happen more often due to climate change. The new filter also had positive economic impact on the population by reducing citizens' costs for buying drinking water and for transportation of water in tanks from the nearby mountains.

More energy efficient public buildings in RNM

The capacity building and citizen involvement pillars of MKM's activities are meant to help build a sustainable society and specifically to help prevent and solve environmental problems. Solving environmental problems is the third of our pillars. MKM connects the three pillars in the conviction that one cannot be done without the other. Creating a sustainable society requires involvement of citizens and capacities of skilled experts.

During the development of municipal climate change strategies in Tearce, Kivogashtani, Bogdanci, Pehcevo and Mavrovo Rostushe in 2013 and 2014, the following climate change mitigation measures were selected through the participatory green Agenda process:

- Replacement of old mercury lightbulbs with energy-efficient and installation of digital timers in the public lighting systems in Tearce and Pehcevo
- thermal insulation of a kindergarten roof in Bogdanci
- thermal insulation of outside walls and new roofs on the town halls in Kivogashtani and Pehcevo
- Thermal insulation, new energy efficient heating systems 3 public buildings in Kivogashtani, Pehcevo and Mavrovo Rostushe.
- the following long-term results were achieved:
- 20% less energy for heating



New Public service in RNM

In 2012, MKM started an initiative to stimulate citizens to be more proactive in solving environmental problems in three pilot communities. The shoot & react project introduced a new citizen friendly service for reporting local environmental problems.

The project combined a website, telephone hotline and smartphone app and enabled citizens to directly report local problems, shortened reporting procedure, and provided real-time feedback on the status of reported problems. It also shortened the time authorities need to act upon the problems, making these services more effective and efficient.



Capacity Building for SMEs about the use of EU Funds

MKM initiated working with a little different target group in 2018, the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in RNM. The scope of the project was strengthening the capacities of the SMEs in our country about the use of available EU Funds and programs, and with the only goal of improving their competitiveness on a national, as well as on international level.

Representatives from 10 SMEs passed several trainings and acknowledged the available EU Funds in Macedonia, such as Horizon 2020, COSME, Erasmus & ENIF Platform, the criteria, modality of project development and application, and some of them with the assistance of mentors working with them have developed projects, submitted the same and have been approved.

The representatives from these 10 SMEs had the opportunity to pass several days in Turin, Italy. CEIPIEMONTE S.c.p.a from Italy organized a visit to the Economic Chambers and SMEs in Italy, as well as a B2B event for experience exchange and partnership conclusion between Macedonian and Italian companies.

A part of the Macedonian SMEs signed Memoranda of Cooperation and mutual projects work

Aarhus Center

The first Aarhus Center in North Macedonia was also established and initiated operation towards the end of 2019. The Aarhus Center (AC) is registered within the project “Building capacities of environmental CSOs to increase democratic processes in Macedonia”, financed by the EU measure for horizontal capacity building.

The scope is to raise awareness through dissemination of environmental information among the public, as well as monitor the implementation of the Convention by state authorities.

The operation of the Aarhus Center is based on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) from 1998.

The Aarhus Center is a place where citizens and institutions can be promptly informed about environmental matters and prepare relevantly for their inclusion in the decision-making processes.

The Aarhus Center will alleviate the access to information to citizens and institutions, will assist the realization of the right to participation in the environmental decision-making processes, as well as give legal support for breach of rights in environmental matters.

The Aarhus Center will provide the support of competent authorities to strengthen their resources and fulfill the obligations undertaken by the ratification of the Aarhus Conventions.

Within the activities of the Aarhus Center the “Friends of Aarhus” Network has been established, and the same is open for all entities interested in cooperation and promotion of the implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).



Our Projects

2019 - 2021

Contracting authority: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Project Title: Enhancing Dojran Lake Unique Biodiversity through Engagement of all Stakeholders and Implementation of Ecosystem – Based Approaches

Project objective:
Improvement of water quality and strengthened governance of the catchment management zone through sustainable management, conservation, and restoration of the Dojran lake through ecosystem-based approach
Total Budget: 147 735.30 USD

2018 - 2021

Contracting authority: EU Delegation - Macedonia
Project Title: Building capacities of environmental CSOs to increase democratic processes in Macedonia

Project Objective:
Create enabling conditions for environmental CSOs to actively participate in policy and decision making on environmental topics
Total Budget: 412 306.20 EUR

2018 - 2020

Contracting authority: EU Delegation Albania
Project title: River Basin management and transparency

Project objective:
To strengthen CSOs capacities for involvement in the process of development of River Basin Management plans in Albania and contribute toward wider public support of RBM Plans
Total Budget: 295 248.00 EUR

Projects

2018 - 2019

Contracting authority: UNDP CO - Republic of Macedonia
Project Title: Conservation of biodiversity in mountain grazing areas of Shara

Project objective:
Strengthen capacity on sustainable pasture management and improve local livelihood
Capacity building programme for pasture management
Total Budget: 4.480,258,00 MKD

2018 - 2020

Contracting authority: Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), implemented by CeProSARD
Project Title: Strong civic support for effective application of the energy policies in the EU accession process

Project Objective:
To empower active participation and engagement of civil sector in pursuing activities that are of public interest and in support of the country's EU accession process
Total Budget: 44 212.50 USD

2019 - 2019

Contracting authority: Municipality of Valandovo
Project title: Evaluating Energy Efficiency Measurements

Project objective:
Preparation of Sustainable Energy and climate change Action Plan and preparation of Energy Efficiency Program
Total Budget: 18 000.00 EUR

Projects

2017 - 2019

Contracting authority: Central Financing and Contracting Department (CFCD)
Project Title: Stronger Local Businesses for Global Market Challenge

Project objective:
To enhance country's economy competitiveness through improved capacities of the key actors for development of joint actions for utilization of the available EU funds
Total Budget: 194 654.38 EUR

2017 - 2017

Contracting authority: Food and agricultural organization of the united nations (FAO)
Project Title: Development of National Capacity to respond to UNFCCC Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions in particular Article 6 commitments under the convention

Project objective:
Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in a sustainable manner. Organizational and institutional capacities of public and private institutions, organizations and networks are strengthened to support innovation and transition towards more sustainable agricultural production.
Total Budget: 10 000.00 USD

2016 - 2017

Contracting authority: EU Delegation
Project Title: Stronger CSOs for a participatory transposition and implementation of the EU 2020 climate and energy package (CEEU2020)

Project objective:
improve the environmental governance in Macedonia by creating conditions for CSOs to participate effectively in the decision-making processes related to EIA/SEA procedures in EU 2020 climate and energy package
Total budget: 255 090.00 EUR

Projects

2017 - 2017

Contracting authority: Association Center for development and promotion
Promo Idea – Strumica in the frame of INTERREG IPA CBC Bulgaria –
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Programme (CCI Number:
2014TC16I5CB006)

Project Title: Raising the competitiveness of regional tourism by supporting
the development of rural and cultural tourism in the cross-border area of
Bulgaria and Macedonia (RURAL REVIVAL)

Project Objective:

Preparation of Marketing Strategy for Development of Rural Tourism in the
CB region of Bulgaria and Macedonia.

Total Budget: 7 400.00 EUR

2012 - 2017

Contracting authority: USAID

Project Title: Municipal Climate Changes Strategies Project

Project Objective:

Improve local democratic processes and increase capacity to adapt to
climate change. Municipal stakeholders better prepared to face local
climate change challenges. Preparation of local strategies for climate
changes in Pehchevo, Bogdanci, Krivogashtani, Tearce, Mavrovo-Rostushe,
Vinica, Prilep, Delchevo

Total Budget: 3 080 000.00 USD

2014 - 2015

Contracting authority: GIZ/ORF

Project Title: Regional Model for smart municipal Reporting system

Project Objective:

To jointly develop a regional model for a smart municipal service reporting
system used by citizens, local government associations and consumer
organizations in Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro

Total Budget: 90 130.00 EUR

Projects

2014 - 2016

Contracting authority: Ministry of environmental and physical planning
Project Title: Strengthening institutional capacities of local self-governance units through the preparation of municipal environmental and climate change strategies

Project Objective:
Preparation of local strategies for climate changes in Vasilevo, Radovish, Gostivar and Saraj.

2016 - 2016

Contracting authority: Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation
Project Title: Increasing Market Employability – IME

Project Objective:
Develop Brochure on the available technical and investment support in Energy Efficiency Sector in Republic of Macedonia in the Green Economy Sector of IME programme.

2015 - 2017

Contracting authority: UNDP
Project Title: Supporting the operationalization of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control System of the Strumica river basin.

Projects

2014 - 2015

Contracting authority: GIZ ORF MMS
Project Title: Regional model for the system for signaling issues with municipal communal services

Project Objective:
Researching the already existing or possible solutions for improved communication between citizens and local self-governance authorities related to the signalization of communal issues in their communities.

2014 - 2015

Contracting authority: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation HSI
Project Title: Promoting an integrated approach to sustainable management of characteristic natural resources in Pehchevo

Project Objective:
The main goal of this project is providing the conditions for sustainable natural resources management in Municipality of Pehchevo.

2014 - 2015

Contracting authority: GIZ ORF MMS
Project Title: Research and analysis of the existing communication tools and mechanisms of local authorities in Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Projects

2009 - 2011

Contracting authority: European Commission
Project Title: European Partnership for Local Green Agendas

Project Objective:
Promotion of good governance principles through the green Agenda process.
Total Budget: 360 000.00 EUR

2009 - 2010

Contracting authority: PSO
Project Title: A window to Green Agenda in the Western Balkans

Project Objective:
To enhance the capacities and effectiveness of 18 local partner CSOs in six Western Balkan countries, who participated in the Milieukontakt's green Agenda program
Total Budget: 216 059.00 EUR



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