

Mid-term NARRATIVE REPORT

- This report must be completed and signed by the person responsible for the project and counter-signed by the legal representative of the contractor who has signed the contract with the European Commission.
- The information provided below must correspond to the financial information that appears in the final financial report.
- Please complete the report using a typewriter or computer (if you have an e-mail address, this model can be sent to you electronically, if you send a written request to this effect).
- Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.
- The European Commission reserves the right to reject any incomplete or badly completed reports.

1. Name of contractor and of her/his legal representative:

Regional Development Agency PORIN Ltd., Doris Sošić

2. Name and title of the person responsible for the project:

Ranko Tadić, Project Manager

3. Title of the project:

REGINA – INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL BASED ON CERTIFIED “GREEN” ENTREPRENEURSHIP

4. Reference number of the project:

Contract No 91300

5. Start date of the project:

1st April 2005

6. End date of the project:

31st March 2007

7. Country (ies) in which the project took place:

Croatia, Primorsko-Goranska County.

A. Contractual Compliance

1. Has the project been carried out as foreseen in the contract? If not, please explain how and why the original proposal was modified, including the dates that any addenda were requested and received.

Project has been carried out as foreseen in the contract with delays in implementation of some activities due to the holding of regional and local elections in Croatia on 15th May 2005, which caused change in most of the towns/municipalities governments within Primorsko-Goranska County (PGC) and constitution of the new assemblies and executive bodies. As Project team had to implement most of the activities in close collaboration with towns/municipalities' governments, elections caused delay of three-five months in some of the Project activities.

During the first project year it was planned to carry out **four preparation** and **five execution activities**. All four **preparation activities** were carried out, two as planned (kick-off meeting & public presentation; development of sustainable development workshops' curricula), while two activities were implemented with delay due to the above mentioned reasons (contact/inquiry in 35 towns/municipalities from PGC; preparation of the Project database).

Concerning five **execution activities**, two were carried out as planned (selection of 15 towns/municipalities; holding of three sub regional SD workshops), while two have started with implementation (holding of 15 local SD workshops and entrepreneurial potential investigation /EPI/ in 15 selected Project towns/municipalities) and have been completed 60 and 47% as planned respectively during the first project year. The remaining part of these two activities, as well as implementation of the fifth one (second evaluation & selection of potential "green" entrepreneurs) is moved forward to the second project year to be fully completed in April/May 2006.

2. Was the provisional budget of the project respected? If not, please explain any changes that occurred.

Provisional budget of the Project was fully respected.

3. What dates were payments requested and received?

Payment was requested on 15th February 2005 and first instalment in amount of € 64,000.00 was received on 18th April 2005.

B. Project Activities

1. Please list all the activities since the beginning of the project.

Eg: Activity 1:

Conference at town X with Y participants for Z days

Topics covered:

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):

Your assessment of the results of this activity:

FIRST PROJECT YEAR (APRIL 2005 – MARCH 2006)

PREPARATION ACTIVITY 1 – KICK-OFF MEETING OF PARTIES AND ASSOCIATES (APRIL 2005)

The Project started with **unofficial Project announcement** (attachments 1) to the potential beneficiaries, media and the general public, held in Rijeka Town Hall on **18th February 2005** pending finalisation of the contract with the EU.

The **kick-off meeting** of two REGINA partners (RDA PORIN Ltd. and Eko Liburnia) was held on **1st April 2005** defining duties and responsibilities of all members of the Project team and other Project stakeholders (PINS Skrad and AgriBioCert Omisalj). Members of the Project team were determined as follows:

- # Project Manager/Expert on Green Entrepreneurship 1 – Ranko Tadic (Eko Liburnia), employee of Eko Liburnia from 1st April - 30th September 2005, later part-time engaged on the Project (contract between Eko Liburnia and his new employer);
- # Expert on Green Entrepreneurship 2 – Kristina Badurina (Eko Liburnia), employee of Eko Liburnia;
- # Expert on SME Development – Doris Sošić (Eko Liburnia), part-time engaged through contracts;
- # Project Administrator /Assistant on SME Development 1 – Mirta Klaricic (RDA PORIN Ltd.), employee of RDA PORIN Ltd.;
- # Assistant on SME Development 2 – Kristina Burina (RDA PORIN Ltd.), employee of RDA PORIN Ltd.;
- # Assistant on Green Entrepreneurship – Sanja Gasparac (Eko Liburnia), employee of Eko Liburnia; and
- # Technical Assistant – Ivana Pavlek (RDA PORIN Ltd.), employee of RDA PORIN Ltd.

As a result of kick-off meeting a contract between RDA PORIN Ltd. and Eko Liburnia was signed.

Official Project presentation (attachment 2) to the representatives of several ministries, chambers, Primorsko-Goranska County (PGC) regional government and Project area municipalities, as well as announcement to the general public through the first press conference, was held in Rijeka Town Hall on **19th April 2005**.

Activity was held as planned and provided expected results (Project team established, Project announced, presented to the general public and promoted through the media).

PREPARATION ACTIVITY 2 – CONTACT/INQUIRY IN 35 TOWNS/ MUNICIPALITIES FROM PGC (APRIL – DECEMBER 2005)

Through this activity Project team informed representatives of **all 35 towns/municipalities** within Primorsko-Goranska County (PGC) about the Project objectives, activities and expected results, as well as about their potential roles, benefits, duties and responsibilities within the Project. Town/municipalities were divided into 3 sub regions, as follows

Highlands: towns of Cabar, Delnice and Vrbovsko; and municipalities of Brod Moravice, Fuzine, Klana, Lokve, Mrkopalj, Ravna Gora and Skrad (subtotal of 9);

Littoral: towns of Bakar, Crikvenica, Kastav, Kraljevica, Novi Vinodolski, Opatija and Rijeka; and municipalities of Cavle, Jelenje, Kostrena, Lovran, Matulji, Moscenicka Draga, Vinodolska (Bribir) and Viskovo (subtotal of 16); and

Islands: towns of Cres, Krk, Mali Losinj and Rab; and municipalities of Baska, Dobrinj, Malinska-Dubasnica, Omisalj, Punat and Vrbnik (subtotal of 10).

Initial contacts with town/municipalities representatives started during project presentation in April followed by telephone contacts and several individual visits. However, due to the fact that **regional and local elections in Croatia** were held on 15th May 2005 serious implementation of this activity was delayed until September (in cases where local government was not changed) and even until November-December 2005 (in cases where local governments were significantly changed).

For the purpose of this activity Project team developed appropriate **questionnaire** (19 pages) through which municipalities were asked to inform about their general data as well as about their (non)existing rural development schemes, programmes and projects, including description of potential stakeholders (NGOs, existing and potential enterprises, technical and scientific institutions, etc.). Project questionnaire, together with official letter and brief information on the Project (attachments 3), were sent to all PGC towns/municipalities on **18th July 2005**.

Taking into account that neither one municipality was to be selected if it does not respond to the questionnaire, in a period from **September-December 2005** members of the Project team visited most of the towns/municipalities separately and interviewed representatives of the local government and other sustainable development stakeholders about their willingness to participate actively in Project activities. In a case that number of towns/municipalities from PGC interested to participate in the Project is less than 15, it was envisaged that selected municipalities from neighbouring counties would be approached and interviewed. However, that was not necessary. Although PGC town/municipalities showed different interest in the project, only one of them actually refused to participate (Municipality of Matulji) and 15 of them successfully filled-in the Project questionnaire.

To conclude this activity was successfully completed but delayed (four months longer than planned) due to the local elections in May 2005 and its outcomes, as well as to summer holidays which followed immediately after forming of many new municipal governments.

PREPARATION ACTIVITY 3 – PREPARATION OF THE PROJECT DATABASE (APRIL – DECEMBER 2005)

In order to define which rural areas and municipalities of the PGC have real potential for implementation of the REGINA sustainable agricultural and rural development (SARD) model, Project team collected and analyzed presently available and reliable data on Project area.

According to the mutual agreement RDA PORIN Ltd. project team was responsible for gathering data on present level of economic development and economic activities (excluding agriculture, forestry and fisheries) within PGC. Eko Liburnia project team was responsible for PGC data on: population; economic activities on agriculture, forestry and fisheries; climate; use of land (agriculture, forestry); environment; natural and cultural heritage.

Besides the above mentioned, REGINA database also contains:

- # spatial plan of the PGC and PGC development programme 2005-2009;
- # existing national development strategies (rural development, agriculture, environment) and regional studies and programmes;
- # data collected through the Project inquiry (PA 2);
- # data collected through Interreg III B CADSES project SIMOCA;
- # precise data on eco-certified entrepreneurs from PGC (AgriBioCert).

This activity was successfully completed but delayed (four months longer than planned) due to the same reasons like the previous one (waiting for the filled-in questionnaires from

towns/municipalities). However, it is envisaged that database will be regularly maintained throughout the Project life as continuous activity.

PREPARATION ACTIVITY 4 – DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SD) WORKSHOPS' CURRICULA (JULY-AUGUST 2005)

Based on positive response from towns/municipalities and collected data on present status of the rural areas in PGC, members of the Project team in collaboration with Project stakeholders developed complete curricula for the SD workshops to be held during the 2nd semester of the Project (attachments 4 and 5).

Activity was held as planned and provided expected results (workshops' curricula developed).

EXECUTION ACTIVITY 1 – SELECTION OF 15 MUNICIPALITIES (SEPTEMBER 2005)

This activity represented first Project evaluation. Based on response from 35 contacted, interviewed and inquired town/municipalities, results of Project questionnaires and according to the own criteria (based on findings of SIMOCA project), Project team selected 15 towns/municipalities with which RDA PORIN Ltd. will sign long-term protocols of cooperation, i.e. in which further Project activities would be implemented. Activity included second official press conference. Selected towns/ municipalities are:

Highlands: towns of Delnice and Vrbovsko; and municipalities of Fuzine, Mrkopalj and Skrad (subtotal of 5);

Littoral: towns of Novi Vinodolski and Rijeka; and municipalities of Klana, Lovran, Moscenicka Draga, and Vinodolska (subtotal of 6); and

Islands: towns of Krk, Mali Losinj and Rab; and municipality of Vrbnik (subtotal of 4).

Activity was held as planned and provided expected results (15 municipalities selected out of 35 contacted).

EXECUTION ACTIVITY 2 – HOLDING OF THREE SUB REGIONAL SD WORKSHOPS (OCTOBER 2005)

As Project envisaged three **sub regional workshops** (highlands, littoral, islands) were held, attended by representatives of selected towns/municipalities, representing different sustainable development stakeholders (local government, business community, non-governmental sector). All three sub regional workshops consisted of three sessions based on previously prepared curricula (see Preparation activity 4):

1st session - introduction to REGINA rural sustainable development model, presentation of the sub region based on results of the project inquiry and data collected, presentation of institutions and programmes in support of the entrepreneurship development

2nd session - basic information on Project proposed environmentally friendly economic activities with emphasis on development of ecotourism (including ecoagritourism and bihotels), organic food production and complementary environmentally friendly economic activities.

3rd session – SWOT analysis moderated by the Project team and performed by participants.

Workshops were held as follows:

Littoral: held in **Rijeka** on **10th October 2005** in RDA PORIN Ltd. premises, attended by 27 participants: representatives of sustainable development stakeholders (local government, business sector, NGOs) from five selected littoral towns/municipalities (Klana, Moscenicka Draga, Novi Vinodolski, Rijeka and Vinodolska), Project partners and Primorsko-Goranska County. Workshop was organised and hosted by RDA PORIN Ltd. and AgriBioCert.

Highlands: held in **Skrad** on **12th October 2005** in Skrad Municipality premises, attended by 26 participants: representatives of sustainable development stakeholders (local government, business sector, NGOs) from five selected highlands' towns/municipalities (Delnice, Fuzine, Skrad, Mrkopalj and Vrbovsko), Project partners and "Croatian Forests" Co. Zagreb. Workshop was organised and hosted by PINS Skrad.

Islands: held in **Krk** on **26th October 2005** in Krk Town hall, attended by 25 participants: members of Project team and representatives of five islands' towns/municipalities (Krk, Mali Losinj, Punat, Rab and Vrbnik) and Project partners. Workshop was organised and hosted by AgriBioCert Omisalj.

During workshops participants were asked to fill-in the workshop evaluation questionnaire and to promote Project and its future activities in their communities in order to motivate as many as possible potential beneficiaries.

Activity was held as planned and provided expected results (three sub regional workshops successfully organised and held).

EXECUTION ACTIVITY 3 – HOLDING OF 15 LOCAL SD WORKSHOPS IN SELECTED PROJECT TOWNS/MUNICIPALITIES (NOVEMBER 2005 – MARCH 2006)

Nine out of 15 planned half-a-day REGINA local workshops were organised and held in collaboration with selected towns/municipalities during the first Project year. Local workshops were attended by 35-47 participants from the local community, mostly existing and new entrepreneurs. The aim was to present direct information about the Project, sustainable development and "green" entrepreneurship to the potential beneficiaries (entrepreneurs).

Workshops were prepared and held by the members of the Project team and organised & hosted either by municipalities or other Project stakeholders. During workshops participants were asked to fill-in the workshop evaluation questionnaire and invited to take part in following Project activity, being the entrepreneurial potential investigation (EPI).

Workshops were held as follows:

1. Town of Rijeka: held in **Rijeka** on **15th November 2005** in RDA PORIN Ltd . premises, attended by 36 participants: entrepreneurs, town government and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by RDA PORIN Ltd. and AgriBioCert Omisalj.

2. Municipality of Skrad: held in **Skrad** on **19th January 2006** in municipality's premises, attended by 37 participants: entrepreneurs, municipality government and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by PINS Skrad and Skrad Municipality.

3. Town of Delnice: held in **Delnice** on **24th January 2006** in town's premises, attended by 38 participants: entrepreneurs, town government (including vice-mayor) and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by PINS Skrad.

4. Municipality of Klana: held in **Klana** on **25th January 2006** in Klana Multimedia Centre premises, attended by 37 participants: entrepreneurs, municipality government (including

mayor) and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by RDA PORIN Ltd. and Klana Municipality.

5. Town of Vrbovsko: held in Vrbovsko on **31st January 2006** in town's premises, attended by 35 participants: entrepreneurs, town government and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by PINS Skrad.

6. Municipality of Vinodolska: held in Bribir on **24th February 2006** in municipality's premises, attended by 35 participants: entrepreneurs, municipality government and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by AgriBioCert Omisalj.

7. Municipality of Moscenicka Draga: held in Moscenice on **6th March 2006** in "Perun" restaurant premises, attended by 47 participants: entrepreneurs (including some from neighbouring municipalities not participating in the Project), municipality government (including mayor) and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by the local M.O.B. Co.

8. Municipality of Fuzine: held in Fuzine on **15th March 2006** in municipality's premises, attended by 35 participants: entrepreneurs, municipality government (including mayor) and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by AgriBioCert Omisalj.

9. Municipality of Mrkopalj: held in Sunger on **18th March 2006** in local restaurant premises, attended by 36 participants: entrepreneurs, municipality government (including mayor) and the Project team. Workshop was organised and hosted by PINS Skrad.

This activity was not completed as planned during the first Project year due to the same reasons explained earlier (waiting on filled-in questionnaires from towns/municipalities). However, remaining six delayed local workshops, to be held in towns/municipalities of Lovran, Krk, Vrbnik, Novi Vinodolski, Mali Losinj and Rab were scheduled in the first year to be held in April/May 2006. Statistically speaking it can be stated that this activity was completed as planned 60%.

EXECUTION ACTIVITY 4 – ENTREPRENEURIAL POTENTIAL INVESTIGATION (EPI) IN 15 MUNICIPALITIES (NOVEMBER 2005 – MARCH 2006)

EPI represents follow-up activity of the local SD workshops and represents the most important criteria for selection of direct Project beneficiaries. In its implementation Project team is professionally examining individual business ideas related to "green" entrepreneurship of existing and new entrepreneurs in 15 selected towns/municipalities. It was expected that every local SD workshop (25-30 participants planned) will result on average with 10 "green" entrepreneurial ideas to be examined, and 5 promising businesses to be selected.

Based on well-developed criteria and methodology, EPI consists of five related activities performed by four-member' Project team:

- # Inquiry of the existing and new entrepreneurs in the form of questionnaire;
- # Individual interviews with each entrepreneur;
- # Additional discussions about possible problems;
- # Statistical analysis of data obtained through EPI on the field; and
- # Final judgement of presented entrepreneurial programmes with recommendations for follow-up.

First two activities are performed on the field (i.e. in selected towns/municipalities) while remaining three are completed in the Project office.

In a period from November 2005 - March 2006 Project team has performed EPIs in seven out of 15 towns/municipalities, as follows: Rijeka (constantly through offices of Project partners), Vrbovsko (15 days after holding workshop), Skrad (two times), Delnice (two times), Klana (two times), Mrkopalj (two times), and Bribir-Vinodolska (two times). EPIs in municipalities where workshop was held in March (Fuzine and Moscenicka Draga) are re-scheduled for the second Project year, as well as EPIs in six towns/municipalities where local workshops will be held in April/May 2006.

This activity started as planned (after holding of local workshops) but it was not implemented and completed as planned (during the first project year) due to the same reasons explained earlier. Furthermore, successful implementation of this activity is very much related to organisational skills of towns/municipalities' staff, and even more on positive response from potential beneficiaries. For that reason EPI had to be repeated in all towns/municipalities where it was performed and, in some of them, it is needed that Project team comes again. To conclude, statistically speaking, it can be stated that this activity was completed as planned 47%.

EXECUTION ACTIVITY 5 – SECOND EVALUATION & SELECTION OF POTENTIAL "GREEN" ENTREPRENEURS (PLANNED FOR MARCH 2006 BUT POSTPONDED)

This activity represents final planned activity of the first Project year and it is determining all Project activities to be implemented during the second one. It was expected that out of 150 completed EPIs every second "green" business idea has a potential to grow into "green" business venture. Ideally, it was presumed that 15 EPIs, held in 15 selected towns/municipalities, will produce on average 5 good individual "green" projects in different economic activities (tourism, food production & processing, wood processing, services, etc.). However, it was also presumed that a possibility exists that, for example, in one municipality neither one idea can be considered as applicable one, while in another municipality ten good "green" business projects may be produced. However, it was expected that 75 promising "green" businesses will be selected and included in further Project activities, according to the known and objective EPI criteria and methodology sorting business ideas into quality groups.

Taking into account that only 60% of local workshops and 47% of EPIs have been completed by the end of the first Project year (March 2006), Project team postponed this activity for the first semester of the second year, i.e. when workshops and EPIs in all 15 municipalities are completed.

2. Please list all materials and publications produced during the project (please enclose a copy of each item).

- # Curricula for sub regional workshops (15 lectures) – attachment 4
- # Curricula for local workshops (17 lectures) – attachment 5

3. Please outline any contracted activities and publications that have not taken place and any other changes to the foreseen activities or timetable, explaining the reasons for these.

All contracted activities and publications took place with exception of second evaluation & selection of potential "green" entrepreneurs to be implemented in the first semester of the second Project year.

4. What problems have arisen and how have these been addressed?

The main problem was change of the most towns/municipalities' governments due to results of regional and local elections in Croatia (15th May 2005) at the very beginning of the Project, which delayed implementation of some planned activities. For example, during the first unofficial public presentation of the Project, held in Rijeka on 18th February 2005, among participants were vice-head of the PGC, vice-mayor of the Town of Rijeka and head of the Town of Rijeka entrepreneurship department. In May 2005 neither one of these persons was holding that position. Therefore, it was needed that Project promote itself more than once. This problem was addressed with a lot of patience – Project team had to wait a couple of months before starting with implementation of some of its activities. At the end the problem was solved without too much harm done to the Project.

C. Impact and Evaluation

1. What is your assessment of the results of the project? Include observations on the extent to which foreseen goals were met and whether the project has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

REGINA project has **three overall objectives**:

- # to improve sustainable development of the rural areas of PGC through implementation of its own development model based on similar EU experiences (support to certified "green" entrepreneurship) and model developed by the Interreg III B – CADSES project SIMOCA;
- # to strengthen human potentials for economic growth through establishment of partnership with sustainable development stakeholders from selected Project towns/municipalities of PGC; and
- # to create a reliable support system to "green" entrepreneurs from rural areas of the PGC through business and technical advisory service carried out by six Project initiated REGINA info-points.

Specific objective of REGINA project is to increase number of economically profitable, environmentally acceptable and socially just enterprises within the rural areas of Primorsko-Goranska County.

During first 12 months of the Project following concrete outputs were produced:

- # Database on state-of-the-art of Primorsko-Goranska County (to be updated during the second Project year);
- # Toolbox for towns/municipalities' sustainable development stakeholders for support to certified "green" entrepreneurship in their communities (sub regional workshops proceedings)
- # Toolbox for entrepreneurs wishing to commence with some kind of "green" entrepreneurship (local workshops proceedings)

SME potential survey in 7 municipalities of the PGC completed.

2. In the light of experience gained, please describe what has been both positive and negative in the implementation and management of the project.

Positive in implementation of the Project was the interest shown by the target groups – both local sustainable development stakeholders & decision-makers and ordinary citizens.

Negative was strong influence of holding of political elections (stopping every development project for almost half a year), and very poor technical and management capacities of the towns/municipalities' governments, resulting in predominantly slow response to implementation of some Project activities (for example, filling-in of the Project questionnaire).

3. What has been the impact on both the target group and the target region?

Impact of one-year REGINA project implementation is beginning of the process of changing of initial unfavourable situation of its target groups:

- # concept of sustainable development is now much better known within the Project region;
- # knowledge on economic value of the clean environment exists in the region; and.
- # stronger public participation in development decisions is expected in the near future.

Although technical and management capacities of target groups are still rather weak, mostly due to the constant depopulation of rural areas, it can be stated that Project partners have succeeded in improving these capacities a bit. Finally, it is expected that number of certified “green” SMEs in the target region will increase due to the Project activities.

4. How and by whom have the activities been monitored/evaluated? Please summarise the results of the feedback received.

All REGINA activities are easily measurable, therefore it is not difficult to evaluate them both internally and externally. After every semester Project has its periodic internal evaluation resulting in concrete action:

1st Evaluation – Selection of 15 out of 35 towns/municipalities within PGC;

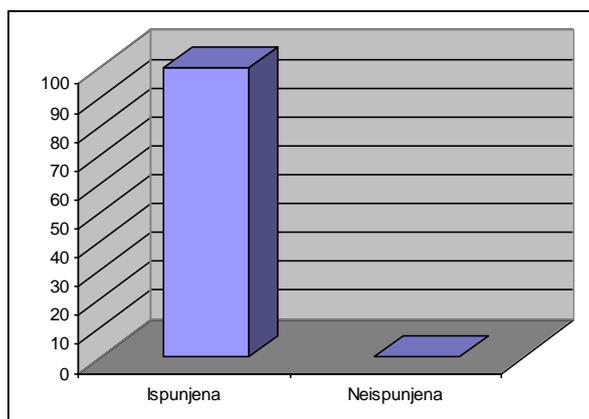
2nd Evaluation – Selection of 75 Project beneficiaries with good “green” business idea (potential “green” entrepreneurs);

3rd Evaluation – Selection of 6 out of 15 towns/municipalities for the RDA PORIN Ltd. info-points;

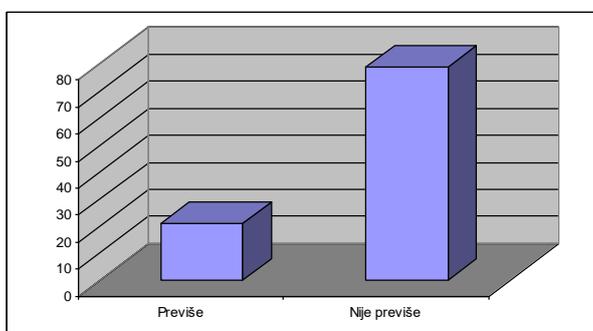
4th and Final Evaluation – Public presentation of the project results.

External evaluation is done by project beneficiaries themselves through filling-in of questionnaires after holding of every sub regional and local workshop. For example, results of analysis of questionnaires collected after holding of **three sub regional workshops** are as follows:

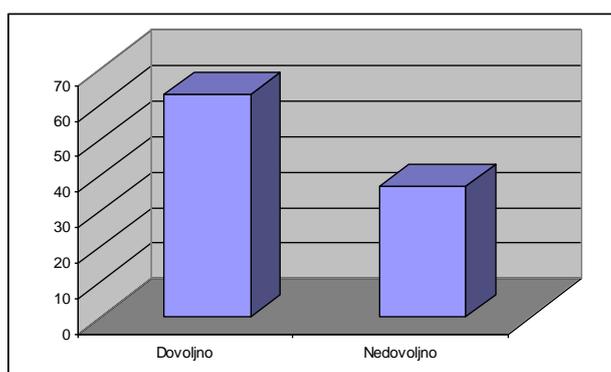
Q1. Fulfilment of participants' expectations (fulfilled or not):



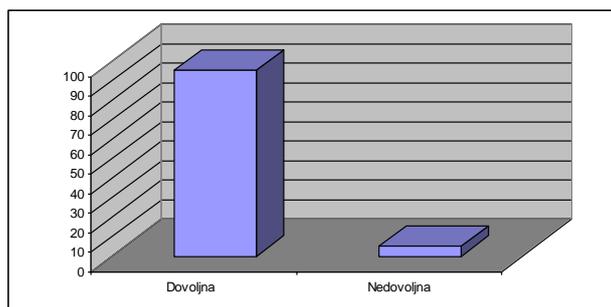
Q2. Share of theory in curricula (too much theory or not)



Q3. Share of practical examples in curricula (sufficient or not)



Q4. Possibilities for active participation – discussion (sufficient or not)



Average marks for workshop elements (from 1-5):

1. Contents - 4.25
2. Written materials - 4.39
3. Lecturers – from 4.00 - 4.80
4. Understanding – 4.65
5. Possibilities for active participation – 4.65
6. Premises – 4.37
7. Organisation – 4.44

TOTAL AVERAGE MARK 4.45

5. What impact has the project had on your organisation (and on your partners, if applicable)?

When RDA PORIN Ltd. applied for this project (June 2004) it was operating as Town of Rijeka entrepreneurial incubator and in September 2004 it became Regional Development Agency for all of Primorsko-Goranska County. REGINA allowed RDA PORIN Ltd. to promote its activities outside boundaries of the County's capital and to include some rural development activities (such as agriculture and forestry) in the scope of its everyday's work.

For Eko Liburnia, being the partner on the Project, REGINA project is an ideal opportunity to spread information on certified environmentally-friendly activities throughout Primorsko-Goranska County, which is the main activity of this NGO.

D. Partners and other Co-operation (If applicable)

Each partner organisation should write a one-page assessment on its role and co-operation in the project.

1. How do you assess the relationship between the partners of this project? Give details about the division of responsibilities, transfer of expertise, and overall co-ordination of the partnership(s).

The relationship between partners of this project proved successful and beneficial to the both. Lead partner RDA PORIN Ltd. has a lot of experience in SMEs development and during implementation of this project it changed its mission from an entrepreneurial incubator of the Town of Rijeka into the PGC regional development agency. Implementation of the REGINA project made this transition much smoother allowing RDA PORIN Ltd. to be better known in

rural areas of the county. Within the Project RDA PORIN Ltd. is participating in all project activities and provides its administration.

NGO Eko Liburnia Rijeka was chosen as an equal partner to RDA PORIN Ltd. due to its experience and expertise in "green" entrepreneurship, as well as due to its successful previous projects in rural areas of the PGC. Within the Project Eko Liburnia is participating in all project activities and provides its management.

Besides two partners, Project has two important collaborators in its implementation. Entrepreneurial incubator PINS Skrad is stakeholder for the Highlands sub region, participating in all sub regional activities and subcontracted for some of them (organisation and hosting of workshops, EPI, business advisory services). Cooperative AGRIBIOCERT Omisalj is stakeholder for Islands sub region, participating in all sub regional activities, subcontracted for some of them (organisation and hosting of workshops, "green" entrepreneurship advisory services including eco-inspection and certification).

2. Is the partnership to continue? If so, how? If not, why?

Project established partnership will continue through regular operation of six REGINA info-points after Project officially terminates, as well as through envisaged cooperation on new similar projects.

3. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and state authorities in the project countries? How has this relationship affected the project?

REGINA project was positively evaluated by the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, who supported the Project implementation through regular supply of information concerning governmental programmes in support to "green" entrepreneurship which were presented to participants of sub regional and local workshops.

E. Other

1. Visibility: how was the visibility of the EU contribution ensured in the project?

In all oral and written Project presentations and documents, including workshops proceedings, EU significant contribution to the Project was regularly stated which can be clearly seen from attachments to this report.

2. Did the grant help secure new sources of funding for the project? Please give details.

Town of Rijeka co-financed the Project from its beginning in total amount of 150,000.00 HRK (more than € 20,000.00) through several programmes in support to entrepreneurship. Furthermore, Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship sponsored the Project in amount of 5,000.00 HRK (app. € 700.00) through its development agencies' support programme.

3. Viability: will the work carried out in this project continue after the support from the European Commission has ended? Please give details.

Work carried out in REGINA project will continue after the support from the European Commission has ended through regular operation of six Project created info-points in different parts of Primorsko-Goranska County (two in littoral apart from Rijeka, two in highlands and two on islands). Info-points will be in full operation from 2007. It is envisaged that both partners will assist in smooth start-up of these info-points in collaboration with local governments of six selected towns/municipalities.

4. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the management of the EIDHR?

Project partners are fully satisfied with the management of the EIDHR and see no changes.

5 Please add any further information that would help the Commission to make a balanced evaluation of the project.

REGINA project is the first of its kind to be implemented within rural areas of PGC in strong collaboration with local communities. Taking into account that these communities are not too familiar with topics and approach used in this Project, evaluation must take into consideration these facts.

Date: Location:Rijeka.....

Name of the person responsible for the project:Ranko Tadić.....

Signature:

Name of the legal representative of the contractor:Doris Sošić.....

Signature: