



Formulation of the new common strategy on local sustainable development (Local Agenda 21) through networking and exchange of experience among NGOs and other stakeholders from different countries with emphasis on promotion and development of the "green entrepreneurship"

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Phase I - Covering period from 1st July 2004 – 31st March 2005

1. Project description

1.1 Problems addressed in the first part of the project by the partners

Project “**SuDNet - Sustainable Development Network**” is jointly run by the three NGOs: lead partner **EKO LIBURNIA**, Croatia (HR); **EKO-AGRO OHRID**, FYR Macedonia (MK); and **EKOPOT**, Bosnia-Herzegovina (BIH). **SuDNet** intends to introduce new methodology of sustainable local development through promotion and development of environmentally & socially acceptable economic activities in at least three Project municipalities (one each by country) within three selected Project regions: (1) County Primorsko-Goranska, HR; (2) Southern MK and (3) Tuzla Canton, BIH.

According to the Project partners' opinion, basic reasons to create and start this Project within selected regions are very much the same as the principal problems related to its brief implementation:

- Concept of sustainable development is almost unknown within Project regions.
- Lack of knowledge on economic value of the clean environment.
- Weak public participation in development decisions.

Although the above mentioned problems are similar in all three **SuDNet** project regions, project partners have concluded that present situation in Primorsko-Goranska County (HR) is much more favourable comparing to the other two, mostly due to the past efforts and activities of various regional sustainable development stake-holders (NGOs, municipalities, private sector, scientific & technical institutions, County government).

For that reason NGOs Eko-Agro (MK) and Ekopot (BIH), being beginners in the field of sustainable development projects implementation, have invited Eko Liburnia to assist them in their capacity building and formulation of the new common strategy on regional sustainable development (local Agenda 21 processes) through formulation and implementation of the joint



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project, i.e. through networking and exchange of experience among Project partners and other regional and local stake-holders.

Taking the above mentioned into consideration 1st Project Phase was aimed towards capacity building of both Eko-Agro and Ekopot in order that they may start solving principal problems in their project regions. Training as planned was provided by Eko Liburnia (HR) and two of its stake-holders from Croatia (AgriBioCert Omisalj and EIHP Zagreb).

1.2 Goal and objectives set for addressing the problem

Principal goal of the Project is to develop common sustainable development concept to be implemented within three participating regions/countries through commencement of at least three Local Agenda 21 processes in selected pilot municipalities (one each by region/country).

Specific objectives of the **SuDNet** project are as follows:

- To create awareness on sustainable development principles among Project regions' population, decision-makers and potential stake-holders through different promotion and training activities.
- To commence with the process of partnership and networking among NGOs and other sustainable development stake-holders from the three participating regions/countries (SuDNet), which should result in better understanding and further cooperation once the Project is terminated.
- To promote principles and techniques of environmentally & socially acceptable economic activities (ecotourism, organic food production, use of renewable energy sources, etc.) through selection, training and assistance to the existing and potential “green entrepreneurs” from three regions/countries.
- To formulate and promote national standards on eco-agritourism based on existing AIAB Italy standards. These standards have been already implemented through inspection & certification scheme and presently more than 200 certified eco-agritourisms operate in Italy. Standards are based on sustainable development concept and include obligatory and facultative requirements concerning: certified organic food and drinks; certified organic textiles and eco-furniture; use of renewable energy sources; hospitality; environmental education; sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage; etc. Eko Liburnia has signed Protocol of Cooperation with AIAB in 1997 and may use the standards without legal restrictions.

1.3 Activities implemented in each of the countries involved during the first project phase, highlighting and assessing the achievements and results and how they contributed to reaching the objectives and goal of the project



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Besides Project coordination and administration which is done throughout the project life, **Phase I** of the SuDNet project consisted of:

- Preliminary activities (July-September 2004)
- 1st Project workshop (October 2004)
- 1st Project workshop follow-up activities (November 2004 – February 2005)
- 1st Project evaluation (March 2005)

1.3.1. Preliminary activities (July-September 2004)

During preliminary phase all three partners have worked, each in its country/region, on:

- * collection and analysis of necessary data on Project regions relevant to the topics of the 1st Workshop;
- * selection of 2-3 potential pilot municipalities per region/country depending on shown interest;
- * selection of two persons per NGO who will be trained by the project – capacity building;
- * promotion of the Project and its activities among local population, potential stakeholders and media;
- * preparation of all presentations and working materials for the 1st Workshop (80% Eko Liburnia, 10% Eko-Agro, 10% Ekopot)

(a) Eko Liburnia (HR)

During preliminary phase Eko Liburnia has worked on promotion of the Project among County Primorsko-Goranska municipalities, existing and new entrepreneurs and its members mostly in collaboration with its stake-holders Regional Development Agency (RDA) PORIN and AgriBioCert..

On the basis of the above mentioned collaboration and recognizing the SuDNet concept, RDA PORIN and Eko Liburnia have submitted on 15th June 2004 joint project proposal titled “REGINA - Introduction and Implementation of the Sustainable Regional Rural Development Model Based on Certified "Green" Entrepreneurship” to the European Commission Office in Zagreb (EU CARDS 2003).

The aim of the Project is to create reliable sustainable development model and system for advisory support of certified "green" entrepreneurship (organic food production, ecotourism, sustainable forestry, renewable energy sources) in rural areas of County Primorsko-Goranska (highlands of Gorski Kotar, littoral hinterland and islands) through establishment of 6 entrepreneurial info-points linked to the RDA PORIN Rijeka. Target groups are 15 selected municipalities for which policy of "green" SMEs development will be developed and 75 rural entrepreneurs who will be assisted in training, business plan preparation, certification and access



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to the favourable loans. Project is based on Eko Liburnia's SuDNet concept and directly linked to the Interreg IIIB CADSES project SIMOCA and implemented in collaboration with Italian associates on the basis of the best "green" entrepreneurship practices. Main activities are: state-of-the-art survey on rural areas of the CPG, holding of workshops for municipalities' representatives, potential entrepreneurs and info-points co-ordinators, performing of entrepreneurial potential investigation, assistance in business plans preparation, study tour to Italy and establishment of regional business and technical advisory services to local entrepreneurs.

The estimated costs of REGINA project, which represents direct follow-up of the SuDNet activities, is 113.935,80 €, out of which PORIN and Eko Liburnia are securing 13.935,80 € (12,23%), while Town of Rijeka is providing 20.000,00 € (17,56 %). The remaining 80.000,00 € (70,21 %) is requested from the EU CARDS 2003 programme.

Preliminary phase was also used for preparation of all technical presentations for the 1st Project workshop (SuDNet presentation, SuDNet sustainable development approach, Aalborg charter and Agenda 21, certified ecotourism, conducting inquiry instructions). The work included authorized translation of the AIAB© EcoAgriTourism standards from Italian to Croatian (complete version has 75 pages). This work was done mainly by Ranko Tadic (Project coordinator HR) assisted by Sanja Gasparac (Project administrator HR), both of them co-financed by REC.

Furthermore, on 1st September 2004 contracts were signed with two Project consultants:

- * Drazen Lusic from organic certification body AgriBioCert Omisalj (organic food inspection and certification); and
- * Julije Domac from Energy Institute "Hrvoje Pozar" (EIHP) Zagreb (renewable energy sources)

stating their role within the Project including participation on the 1st Project workshop and providing of relevant advisory services throughout the project life.

Concerning selection of the Project pilot-municipalities, Eko Liburnia identified according to the shown interest Town of Rijeka (co-financing REGINA project with 20.000,00 €) as representative of the littoral part of the County Primorsko-Goranska. The cooperation was established with the Town's Office for Entrepreneurship whose representatives advised Project team to submit SuDNet project proposal for possible co-financing at beginning of 2005 through the annual public contest.

Original plan was to include also one municipality from Gorski Kotar area (representative of the mountainous karst area close to the National Park Risnjak), and one municipality from the islands (representative of the well-preserved tourism area). For that reason project team has contacted seven Gorski Kotar's municipalities (Brod Moravice, Delnice, Fuzine, Lokve, Mrkopalj, Ravna Gora and Skrad) and seven municipalities from island of Krk (Baska, Dobrinj, Krk, Malinska, Omisalj, Punat and Vrbnik), as well as municipality of Novalja from island of Pag (neighbouring County Licko-Senjska). In general majority of municipalities have shown the interest but due to





the summer time (vacations) project team decided to postpone final selection after holding of the Ohrid workshop.

Executive Board of Eko Liburnia has decided that two persons to be trained by the project (capacity building) are Sanja Gasparac and Kristina Badurina, assisted in their work by Sinisa Mitrovic and RDA PORIN staff (PORIN is full member of Eko Liburnia since 1997).

(b) Eko-Agro Ohrid (MK)

At the beginning of the Project implementation Pance Nikolov (Project coordinator MK) and Ljupco Ivanovski (Project administrator MK) expressed their concern about their everyday work on the Project since first one works with the Ministry of Agriculture as Head of Organic Production Unit, while second is manager of GICA Co., both being Project stake-holders. For that reason, and according to the Project Leader instructions, Eko-Agro Ohrid has employed from 1st July 2004 solely for the SuDNet implementation Ms. Biljana Dimitrova Radeska as the Project assistant financed by the REC. Ms. Radeska was also selected as one of the persons to be trained by the project (capacity building).

In Macedonia Eko-Agro Ohrid has identified municipality of Ohrid as the primary pilot area due to the interest shown in development of the ecotourism due to the existing environment protection projects for Lake Ohrid and National Park "Galicica" and a new project on establishment of eco-training centre St. Naum. During preliminary phase Eko-Agro representatives also contacted representatives of municipalities of Gevgelija, Kavadarci, Mavrovo, Stip and Struga. All municipalities have shown an interest to participate in the Project but due to the similar reasons like in Croatia final selection was postponed for period after the Ohrid Workshop.

During preliminary phase Eko-Agro Ohrid primarily worked on promotion of the Project and its activities within its project region (Southern Macedonia) which included numerous contacts with citizens, agricultural and food producers, scientific and technical institutions, as well as representatives of the Ohrid Municipality. Moreover, Eko-Agro Ohrid worked on preparation of the 1st project workshop including securing of funds to cover expenses of all participants not covered by REC funds (Project team from HR and BIH and two consultants only).

Furthermore, preliminary phase was also used for submitting of joint candidature of Eko-Agro and Eko Liburnia to host the 4th General Assembly of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo – ABM (Mediterranean regional group of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) and the ABM International Conference on Soil Fertility and Diversity in Mediterranean AgriEcoSystems in Ohrid in April 2005. This candidature was supported by the three important SuDNet stake-holders : the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Macedonia, Municipality of Ohrid and GTZ-AgroPromotion office in Skopje. The purpose of this candidature was to further promote certified green entrepreneurship (organic agriculture and ecoagritourism), as well as to expand SuDNet with more partners - similar organisations coming from different Mediterranean countries.





(c) Ekopot (BIH)

Members of the project team from Ekopot are Edina Busovaca (Project coordinator BIH) and Zlatan Saric (Project administrator BIH). Since later is permanently employed with the Faculty of Agriculture in Sarajevo it was decided that Edina Busovaca will be person responsible for everyday Project implementation to be co-financed by the REC, as well as one of the persons to be trained by the project (capacity building).

In Tuzla Canton, BIH Ekopot has identified two pilot areas being municipalities of Gradacac and Kladanj. In both Gradacac and Kladanj stakeholders are particularly interested in development of organic food production (well-known traditional plum growing area) and ecotourism based on existing spas (Banja Ilidza and Muska Voda). Kladanj even decided to co-finance the project in amount of 3,000.00 BAM. In these two municipalities Ekopot will organize and implement all Project activities following the 1st Workshop in Ohrid.

During preliminary phase Ekopot primarily worked on promotion of the Project and its activities within its Project region (Tuzla Canton) which included numerous contacts with citizens, agricultural and food producers, scientific and technical institutions, as well as representatives of the municipalities of Gradacac and Kladanj. Finally, Ekopot prepared presentation of its activities, its Project region and pilot municipalities (geographical location, climate, population, natural and cultural inheritance, historical sights, and agriculture) for the 1st project workshop in Ohrid.

1.3.2. First Project workshop, Ohrid (21st – 23rd October 2004)

(a) Eko Liburnia (HR)

On Eko Liburnia side participants of the 1st Project workshop were: Ranko Tadic (Project coordinator HR), Sanja Gasparac (Project administrator HR), Drazen Lusic (Project consultant on organic food inspection and certification) and Julije Domac (Project consultant on renewable energy sources), all sponsored by REC. On request of Ekopot representatives of Eko Liburnia started their journey by car on 19th October 2004 in order to meet with members of the Project team and stake-holders from BIH in Tuzla. On 20th October Eko Liburnia team travelled from Tuzla to Ohrid. Return trip started from Ohrid on 24th October and reaching final destination (Rijeka) on 25th October at 2:00 a.m.

(b) Eko-Agro Ohrid (MK)

On Eko-Agro Ohrid side organizers of the first workshop were: Pance Nikolov (Project coordinator MK), Ljupco Ivanovski (Project administrator MK) and Biljana Dimitrova Radeska (Project assistant MK). Participants of the workshop from MK (total of 37) included representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, municipalities of Ohrid and Struga,





UN project on Ohrid lake preservation, GTZ Agro-promotion Skopje, Faculty of Agriculture Skopje, GICA Company and farmers – members of Eko-Agro.

Since REC covered expenses (accommodation + food) of foreign participants only (four from HR and two from BIH), GICA Company as one of the MK stake-holders covered food expenses of all MK participants for three days. Stake-holders representatives from Skopje covered accommodation costs by themselves.

(c) Ekopot (BIH)

On Ekopot side participants of the 1st Project workshop were: Edina Busovaca (Project coordinator BIH) and Zlatan Saric (Project administrator BIH), both sponsored by the REC. Furthermore, Enes Hadzimuhamedovic, deputy mayor of Gradacac also participated. After meeting with Eko Liburnia team in Tuzla on 19th October 2004 Ekopot team travelled to Ohrid on 20th October and returned to Tuzla on 24th October at midnight.

First SuDNet Project Workshop Agenda

Thursday, 20th October 2004

- 19:00 Arrival of participants from HR (4) and BIH (3) to hotel “Riviera” Ohrid
- 20:00 Dinner + Meeting of the Project team

Friday, 21st October 2004

First Session – Hotel “Riviera” Ohrid

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 10:00 | Workshop opening | Ljupco Ivanovski, Eko-Agro
Vasil Lozankoski, Ohrid Municipality
Pance Nikolov, MOAF |
| 10:15 | SuDNet Project Presentation | Ranko Tadic, Eko Liburnia |
| 10:45 | Presentation of Ohrid Municipality (MK) | Ljupco Ivanovski, Eko-Agro |
| 11:05 | Presentation of Tuzla Canton (BIH) | Zlatan Saric, Ekopot |
| 11:25 | Presentation of CPG (HR) | Sanja Gasparac, Eko Liburnia |
| 11:45 | <i>Coffee break + press conference</i> | |
| 12:15 | SuDNet SD Approach Presentation | Ranko Tadic, Eko Liburnia |
| 13:00 | Open floor discussion | Participants |
| 13:30 | <i>Lunch</i> | |

Second Session – Hotel “Riviera” Ohrid

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|-------|--|---------------------------|
| 14:30 | Agenda 21 + Aalborg Charter | Ranko Tadic, Eko Liburnia |
| 15:15 | Renewable Energy Sources | Julije Domac, EIHP (HR) |
| 16:00 | Open floor discussion | Participants |
| 16:30 | <i>Ohrid Town Study Tour</i> | |
| 20:00 | <i>Welcome dinner at “Zlatno jajce” restaurant – host GICA Co. Ohrid</i> | |

Saturday, 22nd October 2004



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Third Session – Hotel “Riviera” Ohrid

09:30	Summary of the first day	Pance Nikolov, Eko-Agro
09:45	Organic Food Certification	Drazen Lusic, AgriBioCert (HR)
10:30	Certified Ecotourism	Ranko Tadic, Eko Liburnia
11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:45	AIAB© Standards on EcoAgriTourism	Ranko Tadic, Eko Liburnia
13:00	Open floor discussion	Participants
13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	

Fourth Session – Hotel “Riviera” Ohrid

15:00	Fragrances and Savours of Croatian Liburnia – Presentation of Film on Organic Agriculture	Eko Liburnia
15:30	Conducting Inquiry Instructions	Sanja Gasparac, Eko Liburnia
16:00	SuDNet Questionnaire Formulation	Participants
16:30	Closing Discussion	Participants

Sunday, 23rd October 2004

Project Study Tour

10:00	Visit to GICA Co. Ohrid
11:00	Visit to Eko-Agro Office
12:00	Visit to future organic production field (close to St. Naum)
13:00	Visit to St. Naum – future ecotourism site
19:00	Return to Ohrid

Monday, 24th October 2004

09:00	Departure of participants from HR and BIH from Ohrid
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More details about Ohrid workshop activities can be found at: www.gica.com.mk/reports1.htm .

1.3.3. First Project workshop follow-up activities (November 2004 – February 2005)

During this period each project partner was to perform independently 1st Project workshop follow-up activities within its region/country, consisting of:

- * Holding of two workshops per region/country which agenda is identical to the Ohrid one.
- * Performing of project inquiry using the questionnaire jointly developed by partners during the Ohrid workshop.

(a) Eko Liburnia (HR)

After the Ohrid workshop Ranko Tadic and Sanja Gasparac prepared the final version of the Project questionnaire (see Support materials) and send it in November 2004 to the Project partners in MK and BIH for further action.





Concerning activities in Croatia, scheduled originally for January-February 2005, Executive Board of Eko Liburnia has decided to postpone holding of workshops and inquiry (Rijeka, Delnice, and Novalja) to the second Project phase. The reason for such a decision was the fact that during preparation of the SuDNet project proposal (starting end-2003) Eko Liburnia has not taken into account that local/regional elections in Croatia will take place on 15th May 2005. After Ohrid workshop Project team contacted again CPG municipalities about their involvement within the Project but their representatives suggested that any long-term development project such as commencing with the Local Agenda 21 process will not be too viable if it starts with the outgoing local government.

As success of the Project is closely connected with cooperation with local governments of selected pilot-municipalities Eko Liburnia is of the opinion that Project will have much better results if national project workshops and inquiry are done after the local (municipal) elections, i.e. in June-July 2005.

The other reason for such a decision was that on 24th September 2004 the EU Commission has approved co-financing of the REGINA project requesting just minor changes and amendments. On 8th February 2005 the contract was signed and REGINA will officially start with its implementation on 1st April 2005 allowing follow-up of SuDNet activities with much bigger funds for 18 more months (REGINA duration is 24 months).

This Project phase was also used in assistance to Ekopot in preparation and starting of implementation of the EU CARDS BREAD & SALT project in BIH (Ranko Tadic is the Project coordinator on behalf of Ekopot), as well as to Eko-Agro in promotion and preparation of the 4th General Assembly of IFOAM ABM and the ABM International Conference to be held in Ohrid in April 2005 (including visit to the world biggest organic fair BioFach in Nürnberg, Germany in February 2005)..

Finally, on 17th February 2005 Eko Liburnia submitted SuDNet project proposal to the Town of Rijeka's Office for Entrepreneurship for co-financing in 2005 through the annual public contest.

(b) Eko-Agro Ohrid (MK)

After receipt of the Project questionnaire prepared by Eko Liburnia, Eko-Agro has translated it from Croatian into Macedonian in November 2004. As Ohrid was selected as the primary pilot municipality, inquiry was conducted solely in that municipality from 23rd-29th December 2004. Inquiry was conducted by Jasminka Gilevska and Vlado Kolevski, both financed by the REC. All 100 completed questionnaires were sent by mail to Eko Liburnia in January 2005 for final analysis (to be completed during second project phase).

Besides questionnaire Eko-Agro has also translated Aalborg Charter and AIAB© EcoAgriTourism standards from Croatian to Macedonian during this Project phase.





Concerning holding of two national workshops in Macedonia, scheduled originally for January-February 2005, Eko-Agro in consultation with the Project leader decided to postpone it to the second Project phase. The reason for such a decision was the same like in Croatia – holding of local elections in Macedonia in April 2005.

During its 5th meeting, held in Athens, Greece on 20th November 2004, Regional Board of the IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo – ABM has unanimously accepted joint Eko-Agro & Eko Liburnia candidature to host the 4th General Assembly of IFOAM ABM and the ABM International Conference on Soil Fertility and Diversity in Mediterranean AgriEcoSystems in Ohrid from 14th -16th April 2005. This candidature was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Macedonia, Municipality of Ohrid, GTZ-AgroPromotion office in Skopje and GICA Company Ohrid. From December 2004 – March 2005 joint Eko-Agro & Eko Liburnia team worked on national and international promotion of the event, as well as on its preparation including fund-raising to sponsor delegates from non-EU Mediterranean countries. More details about events can be found at www.ifoam-abm.com and www.ekoagro.com.mk.

(c) Ekopot (BIH)

After receipt of the Project questionnaire prepared by Eko Liburnia, Ekopot has conducted inquiry in municipalities of Kladanj (35 questionnaires) and Gradacac (65 questionnaires) from 14th-24th December 2004. Inquiry was conducted by Mirsad Zunic and Amira Avdic, both financed by the REC. All 100 completed questionnaires were sent by mail to Eko Liburnia in January 2005 for final analysis (to be completed during second project phase).

Unlike Eko-Agro who had to translate all the Project materials into Macedonian, Ekopot was using for its activities the original Eko Liburnia Croatian version.

Unlike Eko Liburnia and Eko-Agro, Ekopot held its two national workshops in Tuzla Canton, BIH as planned. Workshops were conducted by Edina Busovaca and Zlatan Saric. First workshop took place in Gradacac on 5th February 2005 (12 participants) while second in Kladanj on 26th February 2005 (17 participants).

Finally, following the successful Croatian experience with EU CARDS REGINA project, The Tourist Association of Tuzla Canton – TATC (one of the SuDNet BIH stake-holders) and Ekopot submitted on 19th October 2004 joint project proposal titled “BREAD & SALT - Introduction and Implementation of the Sustainable Regional Development Model Based on Tourist Valuation of Tuzla Canton Natural and Cultural Heritage with Emphasis on Promotion of Certified Ecotourism and Organic Food Production” to the European Commission Office in Sarajevo (EU CARDS Programme - EU Support for Regional Economic Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina). In Project proposal preparation and implementation two partners were assisted by Ranko Tadic from Eko Liburnia as the project manager

The aim of BREAD & SALT project is to create new jobs in sectors of hospitality (tourism and complementary food production) through introduction and implementation of the reliable





sustainable development model based on valuation of natural and cultural heritage connected to promotion of certified "green" entrepreneurship (ecotourism, organic food production) in all areas of Tuzla Canton (TC). This aim will be achieved through establishment of network of 7 BREAD & SALT multifunctional info-points (Gracanica, Gradacac, Kladanj, Lukavac, Srebrenik, Tuzla and Zivinice), linked to the project partners` offices: the Tourist Association of the Tuzla Canton (TATC) and NGO Ekopot Tuzla. Target groups are: (a) domestic and foreign visitors; and (b) existing and new cantonal entrepreneurs willing to be assisted in training, inspection & certification; and access to the favourable loans. Project is directly linked to the on-going REC/Europe Aid co-financed SuDNet project. Main activities are: state-of-the-art survey on natural and cultural heritage potential of the TC for tourism development purposes; holding of three workshops (for info-points coordinators and entrepreneurs); creation and maintaining of the Project web-site; publishing of three manuals for eco-businesses; and establishment of cantonal information services to visitors and business & technical advisory services to local entrepreneurs.

The Project was approved by the European Commission and officially started on 13th December 2004 (15 months duration). The approved budget of the BREAD & SALT project, which like REGINA project in Croatia represents follow-up of the SuDNet project, is 105.774,00 €, out of which TATC is providing 10.577,40 € (10%), while EU CARDS remaining 95.196,60 € (90%). The kick-off meeting was organised in Tuzla on 10th February 2005 attracting audience of more than 50 participants and many media representatives.

1.3.4. First Evaluation (March 2005)

Taking into account that SuDNet project did not provide funds for holding of meetings of the Project team other than three workshops, 1st evaluation was done in March 2005 through phone and e-mail contacts. This activity was used for SuDNet second phase planning including re-scheduling of uncompleted project activities from the first phase (workshops in HR and MK, inquiry in HR), planning of follow-up activities (REGINA, BREAD & SALT, ABM conference) and preparation of the Progress report.

1.4. Problems and challenges encountered during the first phase

- Unpredicted local elections in HR and MK (April/May 2005);
- Lack of experience of the partners from BIH and MK which resulted in delay in finalization of the Progress report;
- Huge geographical distance among partners which prevented regular direct contacts.

However, judging by the already started follow-up activities (REGINA project in HR, BREAD & SALT project in BIH, IFOAM ABM international conference in Ohrid, MK) involving all three SuDNet partners and ten SuDNet stake-holders (PORIN, AgriBioCert, Town of Rijeka - HR; TATC, municipalities of Kladanj and Gradacac - BIH; and Ministry of Agriculture, Municipality



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of Ohrid, GTZ-AgroPromotion and GICA Company Ohrid – MK) it can be stated that SuDNet project in its first phase achieved much more than expected in terms of its aim and objectives. Moreover, already commenced follow-up activities will allow more often direct contacts among members of the Project team and other partners` representatives during the second Project phase.

1.5 Any upcoming events, which may be of interest to REC staff.

- ❖ 4th General Assembly of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo – ABM and the ABM International Conference on Soil Fertility and Diversity in Mediterranean AgriEcoSystems, hosted by Eko-Agro and Eko Liburnia, Ohrid, MK, 14th-16th April 2005.
- ❖ First REGINA project public presentation / kick-off meeting, Rijeka, CPG, HR, 19th April 2005.
- ❖ Second SuDNet Workshop, Crikvenica, CPG, HR, 25th-27th April 2005. Members of the Project team and consultants from the RDA PORIN Rijeka will train selected participants (3 per region/county) in business plan preparation techniques related to the Project selected “green entrepreneurship” activities.
- ❖ First BREAD & SALT project Workshop, Tuzla, BiH, 26th- 28th May 2005.
- ❖ Third SuDNet Workshop, Tuzla, BiH, 23rd -24th September 2005. During Workshop all Project produced materials will be presented to the SuDNet stakeholders and the general public in forms of the CD-rom and Project web pages.





2. Support materials (see attached CD):

❖ Ohrid Workshop Presentations:

- SuDNet Project Presentation (.ppt) - English and Croatian version
- SuDNet Sustainable Development Approach Presentation (.ppt) - Croatian version
- Organic Food Certification (.ppt) - Croatian version
- Certified Ecotourism Presentation (.ppt) - Croatian version
- AIAB© EcoAgriTourism Standards (.doc) – short Croatian version
- Aalborg Charter (.doc) - Croatian version
- County Primorsko-Goranska Presentation (.ppt) - Croatian version
- SuDNet Conducting Inquiry Presentation (.ppt) - Croatian version

❖ SuDNet Inquiry

- SuDNet Questionnaire (.doc) - Croatian version
- Inquiry instructions

❖ SuDNet Photo Gallery 1

- Ohrid Workshop
- Gradacac Workshop (BiH)
- Kladanj Workshop (BiH)

