



**Center for environmental research and information  
Eko-svest Skopje**

**ACTIVITY AND FINANCIAL REPORT  
2017**

**April 2017**

## **ABOUT EKO-SVEST**

The Association Center for environmental research and information EKO-SVEST Skopje (the "Association ") was established as a non-profit organization, and is registered in the Central Register of Republic of Macedonia on September 9, 2002, under EMBS No: 5690552.

## **MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT**

The mission of Eko-svest is to research, inform and act towards the improvement of public policies and people's behaviors for sustainable living and environmental protection.

Eko-svest supports and encourages civic awareness and active participation and promotes practical solutions in cooperation with organizations and institutions.

Eko-svest focuses on topics closely related to environmental protection: sustainable transport, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, sustainable waste management, protection against chemicals and heavy metals, and protection against genetically modified organisms.

As horizontal issues that affect the organization, but also its main goals are informing and education of citizens in Macedonia, public participation in environmental decision making, transparent and accountable work of public institutions, public money for public benefits, access to justice in the environmental decision making processes.

As of December 31, 2017, the Association had 5 employees (2016: 5 employees).

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Executive director: Ana Colovic-Lesoska

## **PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED DURING 2017**

The following projects have been implemented during 2017 and 2016 (continued into 2017):

### **(1)Project- Activities of CEE Bankwatch Network**

Activities of CEE Bankwatch Network, funded by the CEE Bankwatch Network via the DG Devco grant under the DEAR programme of the European Commission. These funds are mainly associated with the work of CEE Bankwatch Network project coordinator Ana Colovic- Lesoska, which entails coordination of a 3 year pan European project with 19 partners from EU.

### **2)Project-Building partnerships for climate protection in Macedonia funded by the European Climate Foundation**

The project-Building partnerships for climate protection in Macedonia builds a strong partnership among local communities, NGOs and institutions for a joint focus on protection of the climate by enabling sustainable and renewable energy solutions in Macedonia and discontinuation of harmful fossil fuel investment in the country.

**(3)Project-Working together for the clear air funded by XminY foundation and the Embassy of the USA in Macedonia**

The project-Working together for the clear air aimed at supporting local communities in voicing their concerns about air pollution in Skopje by providing them with mechanism, training and materials for actions, petitions and complaints towards the institutions. Additionally, the project aims to work with institutions and develop plans for air quality measures to be undertaken at central and local level in order to address air pollution in urban areas. The project finished in May 2017.

**(4)Project-Save the blue heart of Europe founded by EURONATUR**

The project-Save the blue heart of Europe, is aimed at protecting Mavrovo national park from the planned hydropower plant development. It entails international and national awareness raising about the impact of the planned projects on the national park, its species and habitats. The project is implemented by a partnership between the Eko-svest, Association and Front 21/24 with international NGOs such as Riverwatch and Euronatur. The funds from Euronatur originate from Mava foundation. The project is a continuation of the previous collaboration and the new action was initiated in January 2017, to last until December 2019.

**(5) Project-Coordination body between CSOs and the Government of Macedonia, supported by GEF Small Grants Programme in Macedonia**

This project is a continuation of the efforts of environmental CSOs to establish a mechanism for the structural coordination and collaboration with various sectors within the Ministry of environment. The project aims to use Ekosfera.mk portal for the communication and coordination and to train, coach and improve the capacities of environmental CSOs in Macedonia and to ultimately joint their efforts in their deliberations for healthy environment. The project started at the very end of 2016 and it was carried out throughout 2017 as well as the first 3 months of 2018.

**(6)Project City Tree in Macedonia, supported by private companies and the Embassy of Germany in Macedonia**

This project has the aim to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change and air pollution and to install 2 CityTree installations in Skopje and Tetovo. The City Tree installations have been patented in Germany and are based on internet technology and the purification capacity of plants, such as mosses. The project is also supported by individual donations from private companies in Macedonia: German Embassy in Macedonia, Vezeshari, Diamed, DHL, Ekolog, EDS, Knauf, ProCreditBank and Pakomak. In 2016, the order for the two installations was made, purchasing the installations, and the actual placement of the CityTrees in Skopje and Tetovo was scheduled for early 2017. In 2017, we also extended the support from private companies and a new City Tree installation is to arrive in Skopje in early 2018.

**(7) Project Protection of Galicica NP and raising awareness on air pollution supported by Heinrich Boell Stiftung**

This project aims at raising the awareness of local population in the Ohrid region about the values of Galicica National Park and Ohrid lake and the need for their protection. It comes as a response to the plans for massive infrastructure developments in the region. The project activities stirred discussions among experts, local communities, touristic operators and other stakeholders. Additionally, the same project focused on awarenss raising on national level connected to air pollution. A set of educational videos were produced throughout the project and widely distributed via social media.

**(8) Project IPA2CSO, supported by the Delegation of the European Union in Macedonia**

The aim of the project implemented in partnership together with Eurothink, Zenith Association and Reactor is to strengthen the established network of CSOs- the IPA mechanism in order

to enable a structured dialogue with the Government of Macedonia for meaningful IPA funds programming. The network of CSOs has grown to approximately 270 members in 2017. The project will finish in 2018.

**(9) Project Strengthening civil society to advocate for sustainable energy transition, supported by CISU**

This project is implemented in partnership with Inforse- the international network of CSOs working on sustainable energy issues. The aim of the project also implemented in Serbia, Ukraine and Moldova is to develop alternative energy development scenarios based on renewable energy and energy efficiency to help drive economies towards climate friendly developments. The project finished in 2017.

**(10) SMART OHRID supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in Macedonia**

The Smart Ohrid project is about a development of a sustainable transport solution concept for the Galicica NP and Ohrid coastline. Four different studies were commenced and a technical proposal was developed to propose the location of a bicycle path along the coastline, from Ohrid to St. Naum, accompanied by a park and ride point after Ohrid and a solar boat transportation system. Environmental, social and economic feasibility studies were also carried out, which resulted in the compilation of the Smart Ohrid pre-feasibility study publication. The concept was widely accepted by local communities and decision makers.

**(11) 14 days sustainable living challenge supported by the Swedish Institute**

We initiated a 14 day sustainable living challenge and we stimulated citizens to take it on by living, moving and eating responsibly for a period of 14 days. Social media as well as TV shows were used to spread the idea and we had 20 participants who regularly posted their experiences, including the Deputy Minister for environment. A set of infographs was prepared and published on social media to further provide information on the ways how people can change behaviors in order to help protect the environment and preserve their health.

**(12) Communities Communicating Climate Change supported by the Delegation of the European Union in Macedonia**

The contract for the 3 year grant was signed in December 2017. The project, developed and to be implemented in partnership with CNVP and DEM is an awareness raising action aimed at the topic of climate change. It has 4 components- capacity building, establishing electronic platform for communication, setting up a coalition for climate action and awareness raising activities.

**(13) Analysis of the status with POPs in Macedonia, supported by IPEN**

In late 2017 we re-established cooperation with the Czech organization Arnica and IPEN, who supported us to produce an analysis of the status with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Macedonia. A series of consultations and interviews as well as a workshop are planned during 2018. The project will last until May 2018.

**(14) Support to Evaluate project with the University of Manchester**

The Evaluate project is a large action implemented all across Europe. In Macedonia we conducted a set of interviews with energy poor and other households in order to generate data for further analysis by the University of Manchester. The work was mainly carried out in 2016 and the project finalized in 2017.

**(15) Stakeholder analysis for nature protection in Macedonia, supported by WWF Adria**

This is the first cooperation with the WWF Adria office. We prepared an analysis of stakeholders by conducting interviews and doing desktop power analysis of different stakeholders. As a result, we prepared a report to WWF providing them with baseline information on the potential avenues of cooperation and action with different stakeholders in Macedonia on the topic of nature protection and management of protected areas.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR 2017

### INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT Year ended December 31, 2017 (In Denars)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Revenues from projects implementation, donations and membership	25,747,763	10,900,011
Financial revenue –net	-	14,495
Excess of revenues over expenses brought forward from previous year	<u>2,963,195</u>	<u>1,394,708</u>
	<b>28,710,958</b>	<b>12,309,214</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Operational expenses	(6,611,454)	(5,642,773)
Staff costs	(3,703,478)	(3,653,067)
Capital expenses	(106,084)	(50,179)
Financial expenses-net	<u>(35,269)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b>(10,456,285)</b>	<b>(9,346,019)</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses for the year before income tax</b>	<b>18,254,673</b>	<b>2,963,195</b>
Income tax	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses for the year</b>	<b><u>18,254,673</u></b>	<b><u>2,963,195</u></b>

## REVENUES FOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION, DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIP

	In Denars	
	Year Ended	
	December 31,	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Projects</b>		
UNDP	522,671	-
SEE SEP	667,040	669,423
Front 21/42 Save the Blue Hart Campaign	1,021,970	-
Swiss Embassy	2,297,870	-
US Department of State	495,950	818,754
University of Manchester	325,746	-
European Climate Foundation	1,360,619	1,907,271
Heinrich Boell Stiftung	421,295	396,496
German Embassy	1,225,308	-
Inforse Europe	271,668	97,619
Adria Kroacia	281,319	-
Zelena Akcija	351,777	448,952
CEE Bankwatch Network	550,488	1,754,834
Swedish Embassy	166,018	-
Triglav Osiguruvanje	2,175,824	-
IPEN Gothenburg	167,182	-
Delegation of European Union in Macedonia	12,601,134	-
EVALUATE	-	310,256
City tree in Macedonia donations		
- German Embassy in Macedonia	-	772,017
- Veze Shari	-	307,500
- EDS DOO	-	370,169
- Ekolog	-	322,875
- Pakomak	-	615,755
- Pro-Kredit Bank AD Skopje	-	307,476
- Spec.hospital Diamed	-	307,450
- Knauff	-	246,000
IPA2CSO supported by the Delegation of the European Union in Macedonia	796,793	939,806
Evaluation of SLED Project	-	112,167
Save the blue heart of Europe funded by EURONATUR	-	192,191
	<b>25,700,672</b>	<b>10,897,011</b>
<b>Membership fees</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Donations</b>		
-Individuals	25,091	-
-Companies	15,000	-
	<b>40,091</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>25,747,763</b>	<b>10,900,011</b>

## OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

	In Denars	
	Year Ended	
	December	
	31,	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Office materials consumed	11,702	9,190
Energy & communal expenses	45,340	32,874
Renting business premises	259,464	163,244
Post, telephones, internet	84,496	77,343
Accounting&audit	120,799	51,000
Bank charges	70,146	56,899
Intellectual services	2,513,593	3,893,417
Donations to City of Skopje	1,110,889	-
Other miscallenous	<u>2,395,025</u>	<u>1,358,806</u>
	<b><u>6,611,454</u></b>	<b><u>5,642,773</u></b>

## STAFF COSTS

	In Denars	
	Year Ended	
	December	
	31,	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Gross salaries for employees	3,395,054	3,468,230
Allowances	53,600	52,656
Per diem	<u>254,824</u>	<u>132,181</u>
	<b><u>3,703,478</u></b>	<b><u>3,653,067</u></b>

Report prepared by

Ana Colovic Lesoska, Executive Director