



**Small or medium-scale focused research project (STREP) proposal
WM Call 3**

Support to Implementation and Monitoring of Waste Management, Montenegro

Deadline for submission of concept notes: 22nd June 2022

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Programme: PreAccession Countries/New Member States

Title of the action: Waste-useful resource

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Title of the call for proposals	Support to Implementation and Monitoring of Waste Management, Montenegro
Budget	7000 €
Name of the lead applicant	Marko Miljanov Elementary School, Podgorica
Number of the proposal¹	App. Reference: 1
Title of the action	Waste-useful resource
Location of the action	Montenegro
Duration of the action	11 months

Participant no. *	Participant organisation name	Part. short name	Country
1.(Coordinator)	Marko Miljanov Elementary School	MM	Montenegro
2.	Landfill, DOO Podgorica	DOO Landfill	Montenegro
3.	NGO Green home	Green home	Montenegro

¹ For restricted procedures only; when the contracting authority has evaluated the concept note it informs the lead applicant of the outcome and allocates a proposal number.

1. Proposal abstract

Although Montenegro became the first country in Europe to declare itself an ecological state with its Constitution, 30 years ago, the overall ecological environment and nature conservation in the country have been steadily declining since that day and Montenegro now lags behind most EU countries. Also, numerous reports from international and domestic organizations and institutions have shown that this endeavor will be extremely difficult, due to numerous challenges in the country in this regard: inadequate legislation, lack of coordination and monitoring between various environmental institutions, lack of strategic planning and financing in this sector, lack of capacity at all levels, and most importantly for this project - inadequate awareness of the importance of selective waste disposal, recycling and reduction of municipal waste. The project is in line with all relevant national, regional and local strategies. The proposed project is directly in line with the objectives and relevant priorities of the Call for Proposals. As the general goal of the project raising the environmental awareness of the inhabitants of Podgorica, with a special focus on primary school students, the project directly contributes to the objectives of the Call. The project will affect various areas, primarily in the field of human rights promotion, environmental sustainability, youth activism and good governance. Namely, the project aims to promote the right to a healthy environment as one of the most endangered human rights today, while raising overall awareness and advocating for stronger involvement of public institutions in environmental protection, all activities will be related to selective waste disposal population and the environment in general. EU targets on the circular economy envisage that by 2025, at least 55% of municipal waste will be recycled and composted. However, in recent years, only 1,5% has been recycled, although the goal set for this year was to be 20%. The problem with waste will not only be solved by collecting it and managing it better, but a new approach is needed that solves the core of the problem. In the first place, this refers to the education of students who will soon become the new generation that will run the country. Students will transfer the acquired knowledge to their parents and to the community in which they live. The students, the school where they study, the city where we live and the whole community will benefit. This will be a pilot project concerning the city of Podgorica, and if it is successful, then we would do a project at the state level. This project proposal will outline the detailed steps of the activities that will lead to the fulfillment of this goal.

Marko Miljanov Elementary School will have benefit because it will buy the missing teaching aids from the money we will receive from the collected waste for recycling, as well as recycling containers that will be operational after the completion of the project. An integral part of the project will be research related to the impact of such knowledge and skills on primary school students. This will be measurable through an input and output test to assess environmental awareness before and after this project. The results of the research will be useful for further integration of knowledge on waste selection, recycling and the importance of the individual for the community. Also, it will be important for the whole of Montenegro because the project will be an example of a school, municipality and non-governmental organization. In cooperation with the media, we will inform the wider community and other countries of the Western Balkans about the benefits of our actions.

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2.1 Concept and objectives

The overall ecological environment and nature conservation in Montenegro is such that according to all research it is not difficult to conclude that it lags behind most EU countries in this regard. Approximately 60 % of the total waste ends up in unregulated landfills. Of that, 37 percent was organic waste, 21 percent was plastic, 13 % was paper, 9 % was glass and 20 % was other waste. In Montenegro, only 1,5% of municipal waste is recycled, and the goal set by the EU is 55 % by 2025. The biggest problem is Podgorica because almost a third of the population lives in it. There are 9 recycling yards and 2 sanitary landfills in the country. The government has announced the construction of 4 Waste Management Centers and the existence of a waste treatment center. Despite all the infrastructural conditions, no progress can be seen in the selection and disposal of waste. Employees of the Public Utility Company and the Landfill believe that the main problem is that they do not have enough employees and that there is no public awareness of the importance of waste management. Several projects related to this topic have been implemented, but none have yielded any notable results. We hope that by meeting the goals of this project, Montenegro will be closer to meeting EU requirements and a healthier environment. Recycling is mentioned in the subject Biology, but there are no containers for waste selection in schools. At several locations in Podgorica, there are containers for organic waste, and the recycling yard is located in front of the company Landfill, which is remote for most residents and requires additional funds for transportation, so most give up this method of waste selection. The project will move within the following priorities, which are fully in line with the requirements of the European Union, also with the principles of sustainable development.

- Priority 1: Awareness of the importance of national policies on waste selection and further management.
- Priority 2: The importance of educating young people about waste as a resource, with a focus on primary school students.
- Priority 3: Waste selection in Montenegro.
- Priority 4: The importance of cooperation and support of institutions.
- Priority 5: Involvement of civil society and business entities in the political dialogue on healthy environmental issues.
- Priority 6: The importance of the media in spreading knowledge about waste as a resource, that our waste is our responsibility.

2.2 Progress beyond the state-of-the-art

- Marko Miljanov, school teachers, would give an introductory lecture with all classes at the beginning of the school year.
- Organize parent meetings to explain the importance of waste as a resource
- In front of the school we would place containers of different colors with markings for plastic, metal, glass and paper.
- The Landfill company would have 2 trucks every day that would come in front of the school twice a day and collect the waste brought by the students.
- A press conference would be organized to present the project and its significance for the wider community
- The Ministry of Education and its associates would create an educational brochure that would be distributed to other schools in Montenegro that are not covered by this pilot project.
- Involvement of volunteers who, upon invitation from households, would take the selected waste to the recycling yard.
- Municipality to support a free line to report collected waste.
- Every month we would receive information on the amount of selected waste and how much money the Landfill paid into the school account.

.They would enter into an agreement with private companies engaged in the production of recycled products.

- We would enter into an agreement with a private company that exports metal to the countries of the region.
- We will promote the results of the project in the media of the Western Balkans, with their Ministry of Education, so that they and their schools can try to raise students' awareness of the importance of waste selection at the place of origin.

2.3 S/T methodology and associated work plan

- a) Before the beginning of the school year, the teachers would organize an agreed meeting with the employees from the Landfill and NGO Green home.
- b) On the first day of the school year, all teachers would give the same lecture to their students. It would be about the importance of the project, the role of students in it and the benefits that schools and themselves will benefit from it, and to conclude the importance of the individual to the community.
- c) Organize a meeting with parents to make them aware of the importance of the project and their activities.
- d) Bring containers of various colors in front of the school, which will clearly show which container is for plastic, paper, which for metal, which for glass.
- e) Hold a press conference to make the Montenegrin public aware of the project
- f) Organize volunteers of the NGO Green home to visit households every day and offer them to come at their invitation and take the selected waste.
- g) They would conclude an agreement with Telekom Crne Gore on the opening of a toll-free line to call people who want a volunteer to come to their estate to take my waste to the landfill.
- h) Two trucks of the Landfill would come and take out the waste every day in front of the school.
- i) Two cars would be available to volunteers tasked with transporting waste to a recycling landfill.
- j) The Landfill accountant would report daily to the school coordinator on the amount of money received from the collection of waste that the children brought to the recycling containers.
- k) Students would be regularly informed about their contribution to the community and the school
- l) Each class would decide itself what they would most like to buy from the earned money.
- m) Based on the most votes, the school would decide which teaching aid the students most wanted to buy.
- n) Organization of an eco-school for students from the Western Balkans.
- o) Testing eco-school participants before and after attending.

2.3.3a Work package list

	Work package title	Type of activity²	Lead partic.	Lead partic. short name	Person-months³	Start month⁴	End month⁴
1.	Initial educational lectures for students of Marko Miljanov school	Education, presentation	800	M.Miljanov	800	September	

² Please indicate one activity per work package:
RTD = Research and technological development; DEM = Demonstration; MGT = Management of the consortium

³ The total number of person-months allocated to each work package.

⁴ Measured in months from the project start date (month 1).

2.	Organizing parent meetings	education	35		35	September	
3.	Installation of waste selection containers	Installation	4		4	September	Jul
4.	The municipality would organize duty trucks for waste collection	transportation	2		22	September	Jul
5.	Press conference to promote the project in the local the media	media campaign	20		201	September	Jul
6.	Involvement of NGO volunteers Green Home to collect waste	volunteering	100		100	September	Jyl
7.	Opening a free line for volunteers to come to households	volunteering	20			September	July
8.	Daily measurement of waste weight collected by students	measurment	4		4	September	July
9.	Organizing an eco-school camp	Education	50		50	July	July
10.	Promotion in state and regional media	media campaign	20		20	June	July
11.	Promotion of project results in EU member states	media campaign	20		20	June	July
	TOTAL				850	September	July

2.3.3.b List of Deliverables

Del. no. ⁵	Deliverable name	WP no.	Nature ⁶	Dissemination level ⁷	Delivery date ⁸ (project month)
1.	Local media press conference	WP	R	PU	Month 1
2.	Articles in the print media of Montenegro	WP 10	R	PU	Month 3
3.	Articles in the print media of the countries of the region	WP 10	R	PU	Month 5
4.	Progress report of the whole project	WP	R	PU	Month 7
5.	Project progress report published in the media of Bosnia and Herzegovina	WP 10	R	PU	Month 9
6.	Project progress report published in the media of Serbia	WP 10	R	PU	Month 9
7.	Project progress report published in the media of Macedonia	WP 10	R	PU	Month 9
8.	Project progress report published in the media of Albania	WP 10	R	PU	Month 8
9.	Interview with a journalist from EU countries	WP 11	R	PU	Month 9
10.	Addressing the European Commission for extending the duration of the project and for additional funding	WP 11	R	PU	Month 10

⁵ Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates. Please use the numbering convention <WP number>.<number of deliverable within that WP>. For example, deliverable 4.2 would be the second deliverable from work package 4.

⁶ Please indicate the nature of the deliverable using one of the following codes:

R = Report, **P** = Prototype, **D** = Demonstrator, **O** = Other

⁷ Please indicate the dissemination level using one of the following codes:

PU = Public

PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services).

RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services).

CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

⁸ Measured in months from the project start date (month 1).

2.3.3.c. Milestones

Milestone number	Milestone name	Work package(s) involved	Expected date ⁹	Means of verification ¹⁰
1.	Checking the initial interest of students	WP1	beginning of September	teachers will report to the coordinator
2.	Checking the initial interest of the student's parents	WP2	beginning of September	teachers will report to the coordinator
3.	Checking the proper separation of waste in containers	WP3	Once a day	Landfill employees will report it
4.	Controlling the work of volunteers	WP6	periodically	coordinator reporting
5.	Animating local media for the project topic	WP5	once a month	
6.	Checking whether companies recycle the collected waste		once a month	company reports
7.	Checking whether the number of project participants is declining or increasing			monitoring
8.	Checking timely implementation		once a month	monitoring
9.	Measuring the contribution of the project to the recycling process in Montenegro	WP8	from the beginning of September to the end of July	Landfill employees will report it
10.	Publishing the results in the countries of the region and European Union	WP 5,10,11	at the end of the project when the final data are collected	contact with journalists from three EU countries

⁹ Measured in months from the project start date (month 1).

¹⁰ Show how you will confirm that the milestone has been attained. Refer to indicators if appropriate. For example: a laboratory prototype completed and running flawlessly; software released and validated by a user group; field survey complete and data quality validated.

2.3.3.d. Summary of efforts

- The greatest efforts will be made to keep the desire of students and parents to participate in the selection of waste at the place of origin for the first 15 days. This will be an additional job for teachers. The pandemic class lasts 30 minutes and it will not be easy to complete regular lessons and commitments in combination with project implementation. Parents will invest extra effort and time to pack recyclable waste that students will carry daily in containers in front of the school. DOO Landfill will employ 4 part-time workers who will be in charge exclusively for the implementation of this project. Volunteers will, in addition to obligations regarding other projects, have the obligation to take over waste from households by invitation.

3. Impact and sustainability of the action

- The proposed project aims to impact different sectors of the society and in several aspects, most important being technical, economic, social and ecological. To that end, each target group and/or beneficiary of the project will be impacted in different ways and through different activities. The project's impact on the technical aspect of representatives of public authorities (especially local environmental institutions) and CSOs will be made through trainings, conference, research and report, as well as introducing them with the new methods and EU practices when it comes to selection of the waste and recycle. These two groups will benefit in the long-run by working together in achieving the aims of the relevant national strategies, whereas their technical capacities may be strengthened in the near. Younger population, especially elementary school students will be impacted in several ways, primarily through new knowledge received through the new environmental program, but also by learning new skills waste management, means of protecting the environment and video production, which may affect their future plans and economic stability. Nature needs healing and sustainable management at all levels.

3.1. Dissemination and/or exploitation of project results, and management of intellectual property

-In cooperation with the local print media, we will promote the project. In cooperation with televisions with a national frequency, we will inform the public about our activities. We will get in touch with the regional media and in that way try to animate the countries of the region so that they also educate elementary school students in this way and in that way we get healthier environment and our neighboring countries. We will create eco-camps whose participants would be students from the Western Balkans who, after returning to their countries, transferred their experiences and knowledge to their peers. Our project will contribute and be a step closer to accession to the European Union.

4. Risks

All activities proposed in the project are planned with minimum, or no risks involved: It may happen that students and parents, despite the efforts of teachers, will not want to participate in the project. They can have excuses that this is an additional effort, that this is not part of the basic role of the school, that parents do not have time to pack waste, that they find it difficult to carry a waste bag next to a school bag, that this is the responsibility of other Ministries and not school teachers. ..The pandemic covid 19 is still in full swing, the current omicron strain is in full swing so it could happen the Government introduces quarantine and then we can not achieve the proposed goals.

5. Ethical Issues

This project proposal respects all ethical principles. Includes students of Marko Miljanov Elementary School, but for the purpose of educating and forming awareness of the importance of waste as a resource.

5.1. ETHICAL ISSUES TABLE

	YES	NO
Informed Consent		
• Does the proposal involve children?	YES	
• Does the proposal involve patients or persons not able to give consent?		NO
• Does the proposal involve adult healthy volunteers?		NO
• Does the proposal involve Human Genetic Material?		NO
• Does the proposal involve Human biological samples?		NO
• Does the proposal involve Human data collection?		NO
Research on Human embryo/foetus		
• Does the proposal involve Human Embryos?		NO
• Does the proposal involve Human Foetal Tissue / Cells?		NO
• Does the proposal involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells?		NO
Privacy		
• Does the proposal involve processing of genetic information or personal data (eg. health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction)		NO
• Does the proposal involve tracking the location or observation of people?		NO
Research on Animals		
• Does the proposal involve research on animals?		NO
• Are those animals transgenic small laboratory animals?		NO
• Are those animals transgenic farm animals?		NO
• Are those animals cloned farm animals?		NO
• Are those animals non-human primates?		NO
Research Involving Developing Countries		
• Use of local resources (genetic, animal, plant etc)		NO
• Impact on local community	YES	
Dual Use		
• Research having direct military application		NO
• Research having the potential for terrorist abuse		NO
• Does the proposal involve clinical trials of ICT implants?		NO
The project proposal includes students of primary school Marko Miljanov, but for the purpose of educating and forming awareness of the importance of waste as a resource.		