



YUROM Centar

*Collectors of secondary raw materials for a more certain future*

**Sakupljači sekundarnih sirovina za izvesniju budućnost**

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## Information on the project:

### *Collectors of secondary raw materials for a more certain future*

- **Project goal:** Decreasing poverty of the local people by forming and providing initial equipment to associations of collectors of secondary raw materials
- **Territory:** City of Vranje, Municipalities of Bujanovac and Vladičin Han
- **Target group:** 50 collectors of secondary raw materials
- **Investment: 45,200 EUR**
  - 25,000 EUR – procurement of 50 cargo tricycles
  - 10,000 EUR – procurement of 3 presses for PET
  - 6,600 EUR – funding 3 new positions
  - 3,600 EUR – mentor support for the operation of the association
- **Time:** August 2012 - August 2013

## Most of the Roma households generate revenues based on the following sources:

- ▶ Seasonal jobs in agriculture and construction;
- ▶ Informal sector, including selling on flea markets, on the streets, in villages;
- ▶ Trade with various goods, from green groceries to fish, wood, etc.
- ▶ Collecting solid waste for selling;
- ▶ Payments from abroad;
- ▶ Social aid from the budget.

# ECOLOGY - ENERGY – ECONOMY

- ▶ ***Recycling industry in Serbia and in the Balkans – economic and energy potentials***
- ▶ Turkey is one of the biggest buyers of waste paper in the world, but Asia is also a big buyer
- ▶ Markets for metal are everywhere, including your countries, therefore the export is not economical except in certain circumstances
- ▶ Plastic is exported either to China, Europe, or is shipped to local plants
- ▶ Market for glass is underdeveloped, but it exists in Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Spain
- ▶ Market for paper exists in all countries of the Decade of the Roma, but there is a possibility that prices and demands are low

## Problems and Issues – basic ones for individual collectors from the point of view of a supplier of waste – *Economic issues*

- ▶ Low price of waste materials
- ▶ Low liquidity
- ▶ Landfills pay high taxes on the earnings of collectors in the form of 10.6% fee for cash withdrawals; Tax that landfills pay for cash withdrawals paid to the individual collectors is discouraging for the collectors (they must pay it);
- ▶ Where are taxes being spent if the Roma live, the way they live?

## Periods that show activity of collecting of secondary raw materials

- ▶ There are circa **6,000** Roma professional “collectors – wastemen” in Serbia

Up to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	More than 20 yrs.
13 %	32 %	19 %	23 %	13 %

## Type of the vehicle owned by a collector

- ▶ Vehicles in the form of horse and carriage make 28%

<b>Motorbyke with sidecar</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Tricycle</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Handcart</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Lorry</b>	<b>2%</b>





- ▶ Each citizen of the Balkans (71,000,000) produce in average 1 kg of waste daily. Most of this waste is not recycled and it is dumped at landfills.
- ▶ Governments in the region have not set up integrated systems of waste management, they work on the implementation of recycling programmes and seek ways to use waste for producing energy or fertiliser.
- ▶ Huge and only chance for large number of unemployed Roma (circa 50,000 Roma cannot find full-time jobs and circa 150,000 works through social associations, cooperatives)
- ▶ There is a need for National Strategies in order to commit municipalities to set up systems of waste management that would integrate Roma

## Social enterprise in Peru – City of Lima



Klaster „AMALIPE“ - 4 grada sa 65 sakupljača, 4 prese, 4 perforatora PET ambalaže



# Political issues

- ▶ Unequipped and uneducated individual collectors;
- ▶ Greater part of the market is in the «grey» zone for many decades, intentionally;
- ▶ Applicable legal framework is not implemented appropriately, and selective implementation of regulations is noticeable;
- ▶ There is no stimulation by the country, although recycling is important;
- ▶ Private sector does not receive support;
- ▶ Municipalities ignore organised collectors and unfair competition by public utility companies;
- ▶ Lack of expert knowledge on this issue within the public institutions;
- ▶ Lack of understanding and will for the importance of the sector for the Roma and benefits it brings;
- ▶ Pension - disability insurance of collectors;
- ▶ Child labor;

## Scene from Bujanovac, January 2014





## Collector from Vranje, fully equipped



# Cluster 'AMALIPE' - 4 towns with 65 collectors, 4 presses, 4 perforators for PET



## Cumulative analysis of the results – mean values of the AMALIPE Collectors' Cluster project

- ▶ 50 families included in total
- ▶ Number of members per family 4.4
- ▶ 7 work days a week, 8 to 10 work hours a day
- ▶ Realised earnings within one week from the selling of secondary raw materials €62.5 weekly or €250 monthly
- ▶ Monthly income increased by 150%

<i>Type of collected secondary raw material</i>	Plastic	Metal	Cardboard	Electronic waste
	<b>112</b> kg/weekly	<b>103 kg</b>	<b>116 kg</b>	<b>70kg</b>



## General comment about the project:

- ▶ The project contributed to moderate improvement of the standard of life in the Roma households by generating small additional income, but the basic source of income are still other incomes and/or social aid. Purchasing power of that household increased – “We Eat Better“
- ▶ A regular daily average income was provided to each family (circa €62 per week)
- ▶ All surveyed were satisfied – **DIRECT IMMEDIATE AID**
- ▶ It is necessary to further strenghten the association – companies that will guarantee maximum buy-out prices and protect the interest of collectors
- ▶ Local governments need to provide support through new plans for waste management, which are not interested for some reason
- ▶ Office space is needed

# Institutional competences for waste management

- ▶ In accordance with the National Strategies for Waste Management, responsibilities of the **Government**, through national parliaments, are to set up the legal framework for sustainable waste management, to propose economic instruments and dialogue with the existing Roma collectors for implementation of waste management
- ▶ EU – to open the topic of sustainable growth in the accession process – environmental protection, recycling, energy sector, unemployed Roma who are key factors in 40-year-old practice
- ▶ Municipalities are to implement practical political action and integrate the Roma in new local plans for waste management, recycling and sustainable growth

## What do we want?

- Adoption of legal framework for waste management in accordance with laws that lay down this matter in the EU;
- Higher public consciousness on the importance of encouragement and adequate infrastructure, that will open the series of stimulating measures for strengthening the position of Roma, the collectors; (healthcare, pensions for collectors);
- Strengthening the position of suppliers of waste material in order to improve quality and increase quantity of prepared and processed secondary raw materials;
- Establishing sustainable position of the Roma individual collectors, creating in that way possibilities for employment in future.



# WHAT DOES SERBIA GET OUT OF THIS PROJECT?

**FOR A YEAR, 50 COLLECTORS PAID TO THE NATIONAL BUDGET CIRCA 4 MILLION RSD OR 35,000 EUR**



# TODAY

- ▶ The second phase of the project is in progress
- ▶ One more town was included with 15 collectors from Surdulica - currently 65 families and 130 people in total
- ▶ Financial support provided by CARITAS Luxembourg and OSI from Budapest (Nadir Redžepi) for the procurement of technical equipment

# THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!

BEFORE



TODAY



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