

Rural Communities Culture

Program for rural development



Country / region or city:

**Western Balkans
(Macedonia, Kosovo,
Serbia, Bosnia and
Herzegovina)**

Name of Cooperation project:

**Rural Community
Development**

Partner organizations:

**Contemporary Art Centre
(Macedonia)
Community Development
Foundation Mozaik
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Academy for Training and
Technical Assistance
(Kosovo)**

**School on the Edge of
Survival (Serbia)**

Duration of project:

**April 1, 2009 – March 31,
2012**

The idea of the project Rural Community Culture is to create an innovative approach for cultural development of the rural communities in the Western Balkans and to offer opportunities for the local artists, creative practitioners, cultural organizations, the civil sector and interested individuals through implementation of cultural and artistic projects, and by building the capacities of the local communities to achieve further local development.

Rural Communities Culture is developed by four partner organizations from 4 different countries: Contemporary Art Centre (Macedonia), Community Development Foundation Mozaik (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Academy for Training and Technical Assistance (Kosovo) and School on the Edge of Survival (Serbia). The project is built based on the partners' previous positive experiences gathered through their individual work in small communities in the region.

www.scca.org.mk
www.mozaik.ba
www.atta-ks.org

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and Cooperation SDC)

The overall goal of the *Rural Communities Culture* is to develop and implement cultural policy based on the cultural needs and habits of the local communities, and in interaction with the cultural offer.

The other specific goals of the project are:

- To build the capacities of at least 20 rural communities for joint planning and implementation of innovative, community driven initiatives
- To create effective approach to cultural and social development and building capacities of local communities for their further cultural and social development
- To raise interest for rural cultural development and promoting regional project approach and results

The strategy for the implementation of the project will be based on four types of actions:

- Socio-cultural animation where through theatre performances, mobile cinemas, exhibitions, and poetry readings, the cultural life in the rural communities will be enriched
- Capacity building of the rural communities through community cultural initiatives, theatre workshops, and specially tailored trainings
- Regional networking which will be established by organizing regional meetings and on-site visits in order to improve the approach for cultural and social development of the rural communities and build the capacities of the project partners

The Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans (SCP) is run by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council, upon mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The SCP encompasses Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo.

It supports local partners, which emphasize the variety, independence and performance of cultural life. The SCP regional cooperation projects focus on the capacity building and institutional development processes of cultural organizations with a regional orientation. ■