



**Association of professional
consultants –
READINESS FOR EUROPE 2020**

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Annual report



Annual report for 2016

This report covers the work of the association for the period January – December 2016. It covers the activities realized in 2016 and presents activities that are planned to be implemented in 2017.

1. About the Association

Profile

Readiness for Europe 2020 is an Association of professional consultants established in March 2012, with the purpose to support and strengthen the capacities of organizations in Macedonia for achieving the objectives of the Strategy Europe 2020, as well as international cooperation.

The Association, where currently there are 9(nine) professional members, is open to all other interested individuals who have expertise appropriate to the goals and work of the Association.

Strategic objectives of the Association

1. **Increase awareness of Macedonian society** on the importance of the Strategy Europe 2020 and productive participation in achieving its strategic goals.
2. **Representing the interests of the Macedonian organizations** in national and European institutions associated with the strategy Europe 2020.
3. **Digital Society:** Speeding up broadband deployment and utilization of the benefits of digital single market for households and firms.
4. **Innovation:** Improving the basic conditions and access to finance for research and innovation, aiming to strengthen the innovation chain and increase the investment in all countries of the Union.
5. **Education:** Increasing the performance of the education system and strengthening its attractiveness to international students.
6. **Competitiveness:** Industrial policy in an era of globalization, especially for SMEs, as well as support the development of strong and sustainable industrial base capable of competing globally.
7. **Climate, Energy and Mobility:** Help with the separation of economic growth from resource use through decarbonization of the economy, increased use of renewable energy sources and modernization of the transport sector and energy efficiency promotion.
8. **Employment and Skills:** Modernization of the labor market by facilitating labor mobility and skills development throughout the life cycle with a view to increasing participation in the workforce, and better coupling of supply and demand of labor.
9. **Fighting Poverty:** Provision of social and territorial cohesion so that the benefits of growth and employment will expand widely and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion can live with dignity and take active participation in society.

Readiness for Europe 2020 (RE2020) is achieving its strategic goals by:

- Professional work, expertise, impartiality and neutrality, independence, voluntarily and solidarity as fundamental principles in action for responsible work in the NGO sector.

- Cooperation with other NGOs and citizens associations who have the same or related programmes.
- Active participation in various national and international projects, participation and organization of workshops, seminars, research activities, transfer of knowledge and so on.
- Transparency and accountability in cooperation with donors, foundations and beneficiaries.

Organizational structure in 2016

President of the Association

- Viktorija Sazdova

Assembly

1. Viktorija Sazdova, donceva@gmail.com
2. Sofija Bogeva, General secretary, sofijabogeva@gmail.com
3. Blagica Michova b.micova@gmail.com
4. Jasmina Trajkovski, jtrajkov@gmail.com
5. Ana Meshkovska, anameskovska@gmail.com
6. Ljubomir Trajkovski, Ljubomir.trajkovski@t-home.com.mk
7. Magdalena Stankova, Magdalena.Stankova@gmail.com
8. Elizabeta Nikoloska, elizabetanikoloskapp@gmail.com
9. Vlado Trajkovski, vlado.trajkovski@gmail.com

Associates in 2016

NGOs:

- University Treto Doba Skopje, <http://www.u3dskopje.com/>
- Social Innovation Hub Skopje, <http://socialinnovation.mk/>
- Economic Chamber of Commerce Skopje
- United Nation Development Programme Macedonia
- State Election Commission Macedonia
- Macedonia – Turkish chamber of commerce – MATTO (<http://www.matto.com.mk/>)

Private sector:

- Trajkovski & Partners Consulting;
- iDex;
- iVote

2. RE2020 Vision and Mission

Vision

Successful performance of Macedonian society in the implementation of the Strategy Europe 2020, through a willingness to deal with challenges and obstacles that await us in the future

Mission

- *What: building awareness, readiness for innovation in work operations, compliance with the modern requirements of the common European single area through interoperability and security*
- *For who: Macedonian society, especially public institutions and civil society as carriers of Europe 2020 and Digital Agenda.*
- *How: Transfer of the best European practices through European, regional and national partnerships with organizations that respect and support the common development, and joining the common European area.*

3. Completed activities in 2016

During 2016, the activities of the Association Readiness for Europe 2020 were mainly focused on:

- Raising awareness of civil society about the existence of the association by:
 - **Participation** on a [seminar on socio - economic enterprises in Macedonia](#) organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Austria;
 - **Participation** on the [1st Social Innovators Conference in Skopje](#)
 - **Active contribution** to the [National competition for tackling climate change #OdTebeZavisi](#) (mentorship support)
 - Published [article](#) about Social innovation in the magazine LiceVLice by one of the association members
 - **Participation at the** [International Innovation Conference](#) - “Innovation – Creating the future”
 - **Organization** of an event on the topic “[Modern electoral quality management systems](#) based on best practices and international standards” with support of the State Election Commission Macedonia
 - **Participation at** the international conference “[Innovation – Creating the future](#)”
- Capacity building of RE2020 members aimed at successful operation and achievement of the Associations’ objectives through workshops, trainings and study visits on various topics.
 - international conference “Innovation – Creating the future”
- Preparation of project proposals due to all open calls for grants and tenders for service procurement.



4. Submitted project proposals and applications in 2016

During 2016, RE2020 participant members had worked on submission of three application proposals:

1. Submitted proposal together with the Economic Chamber of Macedonia under the call of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights 2016 by EC

The project proposal was submitted under the 3rd Lot of the Instrument “Support to the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights” titled “From Human rights to Business Growth in Macedonia”.

The overall objective of the project proposal is creation of an environment for business growth by implementing sustainable employment practices by honoring human rights in business.

2. Submitted project proposal under U.S. EMBASSY GRANTS PROGRAM 1/1

RE2020 submitted a project proposal under the U.S. Embassy grants program for realization of **SMART summer camp for social innovations**. The overall project goal is to empower the students to generate change for themselves, inspire others and contribute to the community development in Macedonia.

Supporting partner with the project was Social Innovation Hub Skopje.

3. Submitted project proposal under U.S. EMBASSY GRANTS PROGRAM 1/2

RE2020 submitted a project proposal under the U.S. Embassy grants program called “ICT for elderly people – Yes we can!”.

The overall project goal was to help reduce the digital gap in Macedonia between the people with effective access to ICT and the once without or with limited access, for achieving e-inclusion for securing social justice and equality in the society. And further to help elders experience active and joyful aging.

Partner in the project was CSO University Treto Doba Skopje

4. Submitted project proposal for financial support of NGOs by the Macedonian Government

RE2020 submitted project proposal on a call for providing financial support to associations and foundations published by the Department for cooperation with non-governmental organizations, part of the General Secretariat of the Government of R. Macedonia.

The proposal was submitted under the priority ‘Investment in education, innovations and information technology as a key element for creating society based on knowledge’, and choose the following key area ‘Reducing digital gap by creating conditions for easier access to information and communication technologies and improving information and communication skills of citizens’.

The project proposal was called **Increasing the information-communication skills of the members of University Treto Doba**. The overall project goal was to help reduce the digital gap in Macedonia between the people with effective access to ICT and the once without or with limited access, for achieving e-inclusion for securing social justice and equality in the society.

Partner institution was University Treto Doba.

5. Realized projects in 2016

1. Peer review of a e-course for social innovation for public administration for UNDP Macedonia

Under UNDP request RE2020 submitted a proposal for Peer review of a e-course for social innovation for public administration. The peer review is planned to be completed by end of February 2017. After the course if finalized, RE2020 will publish the e-course on its website.

6. Capacity building of the RE2020 members

1. Participation in the conference on the occasion of the celebration of "Women Entrepreneurship Day" WED 2016

Ana Meskovska, member of RE2020, participated to the "Women Entrepreneurship Day" 2016 conference. The event took place on 18.11.2016 in TCC Grand Plaza.

2. Participation in conference "Access to information and personal data protection"

Ljubomir Trajkovski member of RE2020, participated to the "[Access to information and personal data protection](#)" conference. The event took place on 18.11.2016 in Skopje Marriott Hotel.

The event was open by the Deputy Head of Mission at British Embassy Skopje Mr. Paul Edwards. The agenda covered topics such as Legal framework and current situation; Access to Information and Protection of personal data - experiences from the United Kingdom; Right to privacy - challenges globally; Access to information and protection of personal data - the view from civil society; Online platforms for citizen involvement. The presenters were renowned experts from Macedonia and the UK.

3. Participation in the international conference "Innovation – Creating the future"

Ljubomir Trajkovski and Sofija Bogeva on 21 November 2016 attended the international conference on innovation titled as Innovation – Creating the future in Sofija, Bulgaria.

The conference was part of the project APInno – Action Project for Innovation, an Erasmus+ project, at which the project partners presented the project results.

The project was aimed at fostering the collaboration between business and universities as one key issue to be targeted by developing an innovative approach and methodology for teaching one of the under-exploited concepts - Innovation Management (IM).

During the conference our representatives had the chance to hear few distinguished keynote speakers from UK, Republic of South Africa, Spain, Italy and Bulgaria, as well as take participation in two parallel discussions and games: Innovation in education and Education in innovation. The conference was a great opportunity for our members to discuss about the future challenges that higher education institutions will face and ways in which innovation management can help mitigate the effects of the rapidly changing world and do some networking.

More info about the project and the conference can be found here www.apInno.eu

7. Promotion of the association in 2016

In the past 2016, the Association dedicated large portion of its activities on promotion. For that purpose, the members took participation on various seminars, conferences and events on subjects of interest for their further progress and achievement of the objectives for which the association has been established. The events are listed in point 5 of this report. Another type of promotion the Association had achieved is by being present on the social networks Facebook and LinkedIn.

8. Partnerships with other organizations

7.1. Continued cooperation with LL-C (Certification) from Czech Republic

In 2016, The Association has continued the partnership cooperation with the Certification Body LL-C (Certification) from Czech Republic. Through this cooperation, the Association has facilitated information access to all interested organizations from the public and private sector by delivering them complete information and certification offers. This cooperation is continued due to the showed benefits from the past years for the Association in terms of strengthening the relations with institutions from the public and private sector by enabling easier information access referring to the processes and procedures for certification.

9. Financial statement

Readiness for Europe 2020 is registered in the Trade Registry and the Registry of legal entities with a decision from 09.04.2012.

- **ID No** 6776434
- **VAT No** 30120120011753

The financial work is organized in a way that complies with fundamental principles of transparency, accountability and filing. The accountancy work is in accordance with the Law for accounting for non-profit organizations, while the administrative work is in compliance with the Law for archive operations.

Below you can find simple representation of the organization income – expenses structure.

Total income	Total expenses
197.998,00 denars	162.028,00 denars

Beside the annual reports, the association prepares other relevant reports requested by donors.

10. Planned activities for 2017

1. Promoting the Association with the aim to raise public awareness for the Association by participating in public events and conferences and promotion through social media
2. Searching for opportunities for financing (calls, tenders etc.)
3. Submitting at least 5 project applications
4. Organization of event on the subject: Innovations and competitiveness
5. Organization of event for promotion of RE2020 related to the Strategy for southeastern Europe 2020 (CEE 2020) as well as promotion of EU policies and trends
6. Participation of trainings and study visits for capacity building of RE2020 members
7. Activities for promotion of energy management standards due to securing energy efficiency
8. Promotion and participation in Erasmus+ programmes
9. Signing partnerships with domestic and foreign NGOs for mutual project participation and events organization

Concrete specification of the activities will be defined on the annual meeting held each year in March.