



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

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Annual report



Annual report for 2015

This report covers the work of the association for the period January – December 2015. It covers the activities realized in 2015 and presents activities that are planned to be implemented in 2016.

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 legal entities and 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, voluntariness 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 2014

President of the Association

- Viktorija Sazdova

Assembly

1. Viktorija Sazdova, donceva@gmail.com
2. Sofija Bogeveva, 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 2015

NGOs:

- ISLAA (Ivanov School of Leaders Alumni Association), Skopje
- Foundation Metamorphosis, Skopje
- USA Summer Work & Travel Alumni Macedonia;
- Foundation for Local and IT Development (FLORIT), Gevgelija
- Foundation for sustainable economy development PREDA Plus Prilep
- Coalition of the Civil Association "All for Fair Trials"

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 2015

During 2015, 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 participating on various events, seminars and conferences:
 - Realized event on the subject „Privacy – EU way“;
 - Participation of RE2020 in the project “Macedonia without waste 2015”;
 - Realized events for the European sustainable energy week 2015.
- Capacity building of RE2020 members aimed at successful operation and achievement of the Associations’ objectives through workshops, trainings and study visits on various topics.
 - Participation in the conference “Privacy in the digital age” in Kosovo;
 - Participation in “Building capacities for participation in the process of development of national policies”;
 - RE2020 as participant in the “VII School for active citizenship 2015”
 - Participation on the “Leadership Academy 2015”
- Preparation of project proposals due to all open calls for grants and tenders for service procurement.
- Signing memorandums of understanding with partnering institutions

4. Submitted project proposals and applications in 2015

During 2015, RE2020 participant members had worked on submission of three application proposals:

1. Submitted application referring the call for institutional grants published by Civica Mobilitas

In the period of January 2015, RE2020 had submitted application under the call for institutional grants published by Civica Mobilitas.

Civica mobilitas is a programme for support of the civil society organizations in Macedonia, financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by NIRAS, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation and SIPU.

The call for institutional grants is part of the second component of the programme, providing financial support .

2. Submitted project application proposal as a partner institution with Metamorphosis

In February 2015, RE2020 participated as a partner institution on a project application submitted by Metamorphosis. The project was applied within the call for proposals from EIDHR.

The project application titled 'Privacy Sensible Policymaking-Models for Institutionalization and Promotion of Privacy as a Human Right' is a part of second priority 'Supporting Civil Society in implementation of the EU Human Rights priorities'.

The goal of the project application is to increase the capacity of civil sector to mainstream privacy protection within the legislative process, and to promote privacy as a human right in the Macedonian society.

3. 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.

In the first quarter of the year, Macedonian Government published call for financial support of associations and foundations through grants for programs (projects) in 4 priorities areas. The total budget provided is 12.000.000.00 denars.

RE2020 submitted project proposal under the priority ‘Investment in education, innovations and information technology as a key elements 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’ .

5. Capacity building of the RE2020 members

5.1. Participation in conference „Privacy in the digital age“in Kosovo

The National Agency for Protection of Personal Data from Kosovo organized a conference“Privacy in the digital age“ in hotel “Emerald“. Ana Meskovska, member of RE2020 participated on the conference and the workshop “The day the hacking is legal” on 27th of January 2015.

The objective of this conference was to increase the knowledge of citizens about the constitutionally guaranteed rights for protection of their personal data, especially in the context of local and international legislation. Presenting different models and perspectives for creating balance between the rights of data protection and freedom of information were basic themes that were presented on the conference.

5.2. Participation in the training Building capacities for participation in the process of development of national policies

Magdalena Stamkova, member of RE2020 participated in the first training from the training cycle “Building capacities of the civil society organizations for their enhanced impact in the regulatory development process and evaluation of public policies.

The training cycle is organized and implemented by the Centre for Change Management and will be implemented in the period November 2015- April 2016.

The aim of the training was to prepare the participants for Development of evidence based policies and in its framework two politics were selected for ex-ante and ex-post analysis.

The training cycle has the purpose to provide knowledge and improve the participant’s skills in order to increase their participation in the Regulatory Impact Assessment, and their influence for improvement of national policies.

5.3. Member of RE2020 – participant in the VII School for Active citizenship

Blagica Micova, member of the Association RE2020 was one of the participants in the 7thSchool for active citizenship, organized by FORUM - Center for Strategic Research and Documentation Centar (FORUM-CSR), and implemented as part of USAID’s Civil Society Project.

This school is organized for young people, representatives of civil society organizations and informal groups, in order to provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills for

implementation of civic initiatives. The school consists of two training modules and an alumni meeting with former participants in the School.

5.4. RE2020 providing scholarship to its member for participating in “Academy for leadership 2015”

Miss Elizabeta Nikoloska, member of RE2020 was participating in the training program ‘Academy for leadership 2015’. All financial costs were covered by RE2020.

The Academy was organized and implemented within the support of the [Balkan Net](#) Foundation together with the Bulgarian National Association of Public Officers, and with support of the foundation Hans Zajdel and Council of Europe.

The Academy included three interactive workshops where the covered topics were referring to subjects related to leadership in the organizational performance (leadership individual evaluation, leaders standards, new approaches to leadership, preparing management strategies, leadership practices, developing networks for partners with other organizations etc.)

The first workshop took place in the period 23-26.02.2015 in hotel park ‘Pirin’, Sandanski, Bulgaria. The second module was held in the period 21.04.2015-23.04.2015 in Hotel “Milenium” –Ohrid, Macedonia, while the third one was held in the period from 13.06.2015 to 16.06.2015 in Hotel “Pomorje” – Bulgaria.

6. Promotion of the association in 2015

In the past 2015, 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](#).

In the past year Re2020’s website was modified and has been greatly improved in terms of: design, structure of information availability and transparency, visibility and accuracy of information and content. All information is published bilingual as well as the process of new members registration was created in more user friendly design by setting the manner of reporting and the form in a separate tab of the page. The front page also enables automatic downloading of current calls and content related to the activity of the organization, as well as useful links in the area.

Bellow is given short description of all workshops prepared and realized from RE2020 members’ participants.

6.1. Realized event on the subject “Privacy – EU way”

The Association RE2020 realized event on the subject “Privacy – EU way” held in the premises of the EU Info Center, Skopje. The goals of this event were to present the

proposed changes in EU directive related to personal data protection by presenting the Directive for ePrivacy as well as the proposed reforms due to the Directive for personal data protection. The following four activities were conducted during the event:

- Introduction and short overview of personal data protection;
- EU Directive and e-Privacy Directive;
- „Macedonian way“: How are we in Macedonia handling the data?;
- EU recommendations and measures for personal data protection.

Mr. Ljubomir Trajkovski, consultant with more than 20 years experience, opened the event. In his first presentation he introduced current achievements in the area of privacy and data protection in EU. In his second speech, he presented the new EU recommendations and criteria in the area of privacy and data protection. Magdalena Stamkova, member of Readiness for Europe 2020 presented the EU Data Protection Directive and e-Privacy Directive and proposed changes.

Mr. Igor Kuzevski, superior inspector for personal data protection in DPPD was invited to take participation on the event. He explained current situation of personal data protection in Republic of Macedonia and future steps for securing major safety of personal data and privacy as well as he presented new ideas that will be conducted in the future for securing better safety of personal data and privacy. This event was attended by representative from different institutions and private organizations.



6.2 RE2020 contribution within the project Macedonia without waste 2015

On 15th of October 2015, Capitol Mall Skopje hosted the final event of the project Macedonia without waste 2015 – “Awarding the participants in the project Macedonia without waste 2015”. Representative from RE2020 attended the event and received the certificate of appreciation for RE2020’ participation in the action “Collection of old paper” as part of this project.”

As organization that advocates for clean environment, Readiness for Europe 2020 will continue to support such actions and get actively involved in.

6.3 Realized events for the European sustainable energy week 2015

From 15th to 19th June 2015 were organized events to promote current trend in the area of sustainable energy and energy efficiency within the project European Sustainable Energy Week 2015.

The Association RE2020 with few other partners organizations as: Trajkovski and Partners Consulting, CeProSARD, Regional environmental center and the Energy Agency of Republic of Macedonia took attendance to the events in order to bring these topics closer to the Macedonian organizations from the private and the public sector.

The events were organized to the following locations and dates:

- Skopje, EU Info Center, 19.6.2015
- Tetovo, hall in the Municipality of Tetovo, 17.6.2015
- Veles, hall in the Municipality of Veles, 16.6.2015

The main objectives of these events were:

- To increase the awareness between the stakeholders for constant legal framework for sustainable use of energy as well as to define the obligations between the public and private sector.
- To transfer information about current initiatives and projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in the public and private sector as well
- To exchange good practices in the field of energy management



7. Partnerships with other organizations

7.1. Signing memorandums of understanding with partnering institutions

The Association RE2020 during 2015 formalized cooperation and good relations with few organizations by signing Memorandums of understanding. These Memorandums will contribute toward defining the scope of future cooperation between the organizations related to obtaining mutual interest activities and taking mutual advantage from association of the mutually offered professional services directed toward promotion of activities which will be implemented in all of the organizations.

During 2015, RE2020 signed Memorandums of understanding and cooperation with the following organizations:

- ISLAA (Ivanov School of Leaders Alumni Association), Skopje
- USA Summer Work & Travel Alumni Macedonia;
- Foundation for Local and IT Development (FLORIT), Gevgelija
- Foundation for sustainable economy development PREDA Plus Prilep
- Coalition of the Civil Association "All for Fair Trials"

7.2. Provided support for preparation of project proposal

Re2020 provided support to its associates iDex in the process of preparation of project proposal published within the call for "start-up" and "spin -off" companies and innovations by the Fund for innovation and technology development. Re2020 provided its support by conducting SWOT analysis and planning the project's budget.

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

In 2015, 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.

8. 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.

The remaining income of the association was realized through the annual membership fees and through organization of certification for two companies.

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

9. Planned activities for 2016

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.