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Corruption in Ecology under the Watchful Eye of Media and CSO in Republic of Serbia and Republic of North Macedonia

Green Funds in Grey Areas

Prepared by Roma Center for Democracy, Republic of Serbia



Southeast European Leadership for
Development and Integrity

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About the project:

- **Lead applicant: Roma Center for Democracy , Bujanovac, Republic of Serbia**
- **Partner: Green Institute, Skoplje, Republic of North Macedonia**

- **Total budget of the project: 11.947 EUR**
- **Duration: 7 months**



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Context:

- **Chapter 27** - in the accession process with EU, RS and RNM will require most of the funds for compliance with EU environment protection standards (e.g. it is estimated that RS will require between 5 and 7 billion EUR for this purpose);
- **Corruption** - Corruption Perception Index ranks RS 87th and RNM 93rd out of 180 countries; Environment already suffers from malpractice in public procurement practices (e.g. Aleksandrovacko lake near Vranje in South Serbia and Drisla sanitary landfill near Skopje RNM)

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Overall objective – contribute to the fight against existing corruption in environment funds area, by joining efforts of media and NGOs in RS and RNM

Specific objectives - building the capacities of the media and civil society in order to provide wider public support and promote usage of the existing mechanisms for combating corruption in spending public funds for environment protection; Cooperation of the investigative journalists and CSOs from RS and RNM in joint efforts to expose and fight corruption practices in public environmet funds spending



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What shall we do:

1. Call investigative journalists (up to 10), to attend 2 days training about Chapter 27, with focus on environment and corruption;
2. Follow up support the journalists to prepare and publish (at least 5 per country) articles on our web portals (www.ktjs.rs and www.text.mk) about corruption cases and malpractices in environment protection area;
3. Organize two TV shows on local televisions (TV Info Puls and TV Cod), which will raise public awareness of this type of corruption in RS and in RNM);

What shall we do:

4. Build Regional network of civil society organizations and individuals/experts willing to monitor the progress of corruption in environments funds cases;
5. Organize Conference in Skopje, with interested parties, relevant institutions and experts about corruption in environment funds in RS and RNM;
6. Prepare policy papers for both countries, for battling corruption practices, and expediting them to interested parties and relevant institutions (e.g. public prosecutor office).

Expected results:

- at least 10 journalists trained for investigating corruption in environment funds spending;
- at least 10 articles about corruption in environment funds spending published;
- two TV shows about corruption in environment funds spending broadcasted;
- Regional network of CSOs and individuals/experts created;
- Conference in Skopje about corruption in environment funds spending organized;
- Policy papers about corruption in environment funds spending, for both countries, drafted and expedited to interested parties and relevant institutions.

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**Thank you
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