



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ СЪЮЗ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ СТРУКТУРНИ И
ИНВЕСТИЦИОННИ ФОНДОВЕ



Стамболово-Кърджали 54



ПРОГРАМА ЗА
РАЗВИТИЕ НА
СЕЛСКИТЕ РАЙОНИ



EUROPE INVESTS IN RURAL AREAS
EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2014-2020

„Measure 19 “Community-led local development” of the Rural Development Program 2014–2020

**Results from the implementation of the Strategy for Community – led
local development of NGO “Local Initiative Group
Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54”**



**2021
Stambolovo**

Project “Together – for a Happy Childhood”, with beneficiary – The Municipality of Kardzhali

On 27.04.2020 the Mayor of the Municipality of Kardzhali Dr. Eng. Hassan Azis signed an Administrative Agreement for provision of grants BG05M20P001-3.011-0001-C01 for the implementation of project “Together – for a Happy Childhood”, which will be funded by Operational Program “Science and Education for Smart Growth” 2014–2020, procedure BG05M20P001-3.011 LAG Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54 – Sub-measure 1 “Support for pre-school education and training of disadvantaged children” of the CLLD Strategy of LAG “Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54”.



The project proposal is implemented by the Municipality of Kardzhali in partnership with four kindergartens, located on the territory of LAG “Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54”, namely: KG “Winnie the Pooh”, which covers the villages – Chiflik, Murgovo and Perperek; KG “Slaveyche” covering the village of Shiroko Pole; KG “Mickey Mouse” in the village of Stremtsi and the village of Gorna Krepост and KG “Kokiche”, covering the villages – Most and Miladinovo. The project has a total value of BGN 286 410,45, which is the full grant under the Operational Program “Science and Education for Smart Growth”. The implementation period is 24 months.



The project “Together – for a Happy Childhood” is focused on working with a specific target group, including children and parents from the ethnic minority groups, whose social and personal realization is severely limited

due to the social and psychological isolation in which they find themselves.

The main goal of the project is to create conditions for social inclusion of children from the marginalized groups by improving their access to quality education.



The specific objectives of the project are:

1) improving the quality of education in four kindergartens, located in small settlements from the territory of the LAG “Stambolovo – Kardzhali 54” and 2) improving access to pre-school education in these settlements in order to reduce the number of children not covered and dropping out of pre-school education.

The planned activities of the project are aimed at mastering the Bulgarian language and development of social and communication skills of 130 children who are trained in the four kindergartens, partnering in the project, as well as at surveying the problems and attitudes of parents and removing children from the closed community in which they live so that they can successfully integrate into school. The project includes the implementation of a number of diverse, emotional and fun in nature activities, tailored to the needs of the children in kindergartens, as well



as activities, related to increasing the motivation of 260 parents to participate in the educational process of their children.

The children are included in various interests clubs, which develop their creative talents, their cognitive aspirations and affirm their cultural identity. The project gives children the opportu-



nity to perform in exhibitions and concerts, thanks to which some of them go on excursions for the first time, visit theater, museums, libraries, perform by playing on stage and filming videos and movies.

In addition to children, parents are also involved in some of the activities and in the process of communication, the participants will learn to perceive diversity as a main feature of modern society.

The activities in the clubs provoke great interest among the children – they are quite enthusiastic and share not only with their parents, but also with their friends and relatives. Therefore, the effect is multiple.



Activity 1 – Establishing and functioning of Club “From A to Z” – The activity covers 5 clubs that work actively and organize numerous events, led by their leaders. In the first three months, the club leaders developed programs and schedules for the activities of each club to work with children and their parents. The programs reflect the specific opportunities and needs of the different age groups and are approved by an expert on educational activities, also appointed by the project. The total number of children included in this activity is 69, out of which – 68 are from the ethnic minorities and one child is from the Bulgarian ethnic group. The children visit the clubs with the informed consent of their parents. By the end of the project, a total of 340 learning periods with the children from the club “From A to Z” are planned to be implemented for the activity; 10 adapted works will be dramatized; fairy tales, myths and legends of different ethnic groups, living in Bulgaria will be collected. The children will visit two theater plays, a library and a bookstore. At the end of the project, as a result of the acquired knowledge, the participants will compete in the organized competition “Mnogoznayko (Know-all)”.

As a result of the activities of the club, a significant development in terms of language competence of the children from the ethnic minorities will be achieved; a tolerant attitude and impartiality towards the representatives of the different ethnic groups from the target group will be cultivated.



Activity 2: Establishing and functioning of the “Colorful Rainbow” Club

The aim of this activity is to preserve and develop cultural identity by getting to know and recreating the way of life, the culture and traditions of the ethnic groups in the region by means of fine and applied arts. Through the activities in the club, the children began to gain knowledge about the old crafts; gained experience and skills for handmade models of different materials, learned how to use various operations and techniques in their production to achieve the task, set by the leader. In these activities, children show creativity on a daily basis, they become more enterprising, knowledgeable and capable. This activity is also aimed at involving parents in the creative process and in educational activities in general. The fine arts are gradually becoming a means of enriching the ecological culture and building a love of nature, acquaintance with its richness, diversity and beauty. At present, all five clubs have been formed and are functioning, covering a total of 68 children, out of which 67 are from ethnic minorities and 1 is from the Bulgarian ethnic group. The children are informed and work under the direct supervision of the five supervisors. What is planned is to hold a total of 340 learning periods, creating 30 works each – the result of children’s productive creativity; making and fixing houses for birds, creating green areas in the yards of all the partner kindergartens, organizing a joint picnic with the children and their parents, which will encourage parental participation in the child’s life. A poster will be made by each club for the Children’s Day – June 1st



The success of the children from the target group will be demonstrated during the final event “Together – for a Happy Childhood”.

Activity 3: Establishing and functioning of “Sing and Dance with Me” Club



„In three of the kindergartens – project partners: KG “Winnie the Pooh” – outsourced group in the village of Perperek, KG “Kokiche” – the village of Most and KG “Slaveyche” – the village of Shiroko Pole clubs “Sing and Dance with Me” have been formed as the total number of the participants is 36 children. The aim of the activity is to preserve and develop the cultural identity of the children from the ethnic minorities by learning and performing songs and dances of the three main ethnic groups in the region. Each club has one lead who has informed the parents about the goals of the club in advance and has received their consent for the children's participation. The set goals that are to be achieved with the target group are:

- Holding of 204 classes with 36 children included in the clubs;
- Studying traditional /18/ dances and /18/ songs of the three main ethnic groups in the region;
- Carrying out mutual visits between the participants for the three main holidays – Christmas, Ramadan Bayram and St. George's Day.

This club members will have the pleasant and responsible task to prepare and perform a concert for their peers from a kindergarten in the municipality of Stambolovo. As a result of the club work, the musical and motor culture of the children will be enriched and an education of tolerant attitude towards the “other” will be created.



Activity 4: Establishing and functioning of “MY MOTHERLAND” Club

The activity in the club directs the children's attention to the richness of the Bulgarian nature, the heroism of the numerous local and national heroes, the past of the region and its history. A total number of 60 participants is registered in this club. The actual work with the target group started in January and envisages the following outcomes:

- 340 classes held with 60 children included in the clubs;
- Created 5 “My Homeland” corners;

- Implemented visits to administrative buildings, libraries, health center in the settlements;
- Created 5 natural calendars in the five clubs;
- Created 5 culinary exhibitions "My Mom's and Grandma's Tasty Dishes", with the active participation of family members;

Organized visit to the Zlatograd Area Complex, where the participants in the clubs examined the Revival architecture, got acquainted with the old crafts and the work of the Revival life.



Activity 5. Organizing trainings with parents and children

This activity is managed by a child psychologist, appointed after a selection procedure, that was started in May 2021. Training with the parents of the children from the target group was held in each kindergarten-project partner.



The topics of the trainings have been selected based on the results of a survey, focusing on joint work to overcome the problems identified by parents. Along with the group work with the parents, individual counseling due to the worrying behavior of some children is conducted. This is an opportunity to raise an alarm about the problems related to the acceptance of the different and to take actions before the problems get worse. Prevention is especially important in these cases, because the deteriorated relationships hinder the socialization and integration of children – members of groups that unite children from different ethnic communities. Information materials on individual topics have been prepared for the training sessions. In these materials, parents find the information they are looking for and some of the possible solutions to the child development common problems.

Along with the teachers, two well-known psychologists, a social pedagogue, health and educational mediators, and talented artists take part in these activities. When the activities are completed, children's teachers will already have enough experience to keep on performing such initiatives on their own. In addition, they will be supported by relatively good parenting expertise and the local communities will certainly benefit from the implemented activities.

After the end of the project, the children from the target group will improve their knowledge of the Bulgarian language, will learn and will be able to apply new communication and social skills that will help them to integrate successfully in the next educational levels and to have better social and personal realization. Parents, in turn, will be more actively involved in the educational process and will support the development of their own children.

In this way, the vicious circle, which deprives parents of their active role in raising the children, creates alienation and unnecessary barriers between families belonging to different ethnic and social communities, is avoided. Moreover, they realize that the connection between the family and the kindergarten must be constantly promoted, because the processes that happen at home and in the kindergarten are connected. As a result, the child is properly raised, gets the right education and builds the necessary social skills.



The partnership work of teachers, parents and children, sharing of information, ideas and opinion, only improves the process of their education, optimizes their adaptation and social realization.



The project team is guided by the understanding that "the society must invest resources in the development of its children as it turns out to be the most valuable investment."



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The responsibility of the opinions, expressed within this publication, rests with NGO “LAG Stambolovo–Kardzhali 54”.