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Reference List



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Tuzla, January 2015

Development Association NERDA started operating on 01 January 2015, so this year marks ten years since the establishment of the Association. From the very beginning of our operations NERDA has been promoting the concept of regional economic development according to the principles of the European Union and along with other Development Agencies in BiH we have been introducing new practices with lots of success. Over the years we have built a status that is based on the expertise of human resources, transparency in the management of funds and independence in our work, proving that NERDA has complied with the principles established in the beginning and has showed determination and commitment in achieving its mission.

By engagement and commitment of the staff in the main office in Tuzla, and in sub-regional offices in Bijeljina, Orašje and Zvornik, NERDA continuously worked on accomplishing the program goals of the Association. In operational terms the work of the Association is stable, and NERDA team still has 15 dedicated and competent employees.

This brochure serves as a Reference List with an overview of projects implemented by NERDA and supported by international and local funds over the past 10 years. Through these projects NERDA provided significant support to regional and local economic development, entrepreneurship development and support to institutional strengthening of public institutions and organizations participating in the economic development of BiH.

In addition to contributing to the development of North-East Bosnia and Herzegovina, our projects helped us grow and build our capacities that we shall certainly continue to utilize in support and implementation of development initiatives and projects throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Tuzla, January 2015

Enes Drljević, Director

PROJECT TITLE Business Environment Strengthening for more SMEs in Tuzla and Neighbouring Municipalities – BESt4SMEs

Donor	European Union in through IPA 2011 – Support to Local Economic Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contract Budget (€)	566.778.67, EU Grant is: 481.761,00 or 85%
Period of Implementation	January 2014 – January 2016
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina/Tuzla Canton: Municipality of Tuzla, Municipality of Srebrenik, Municipality of Kalesija
Contract Number	2013/336 - 355

Description:

Project is implemented by Development Association NERDA (Coordinator) and its project partners are: Municipality of Tuzla, Municipality of Srebrenik, Municipality of Kalesija and Technology Park BIT Centre Tuzla.

Overall objective:

Improvement of business environment and enhancing employment possibilities through innovations in Tuzla and neighbouring municipalities.

Specific objectives (SO):

- SO1: Upgrading business infrastructure in Tuzla, Srebrenik and Kalesija for SMEs and business start-ups in ICT and other sectors.
- SO2: Increasing the level of business support services available for SMEs and business start-ups in Tuzla, Srebrenik and Kalesija.
- SO3: Strengthening of local partnerships through collaboration in LED initiatives in Tuzla, Srebrenik and Kalesija

Expected results:

The project will result in strengthened cooperation at the local level to improve business environment for SMEs through better business infrastructure. Specifically, the project will improve business support services and will contribute to promotion of innovations and new technologies since the Project will result in establishing of two BSCs with incubators in Srebrenik and Kalesija and expansion of BIT Center in Tuzla.



PROGRES – Protection of Nature and Globalisation PROJECT TITLE of Renewable Energy Sources

Donor	EU through IPA II Programme – Cross-Border Cooperation Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contract Budget (€)	Total value of the Project: 486.880,28 Budget of the BiH partners: 244.827,13, EU grant amounts to 208.103,00 or 85%
Period of Implementation	May 2013 – January 2015
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina/Tuzla Canton: Municipality of Gračanica and Municipality of Kalesija
Contract Number	2013/318-952

Description:

Lead Partner in the Project: Nijemci Municipality, HR
BiH applicant in the Project: Development Association NERDA
Partners in Project in HR: Development Agency Hrast d.o.o., Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar, and Ekosustav d.o.o.
Partners in Project in BiH: Gračanica Municipality and Kalesija Municipality

General Objective:

By using Renewable Energy Sources (RES) contribute to environment protection and enhancing the life conditions through cooperation of two cross-border areas.

Specific Objectives:

- SO1: Increase the public awareness about importance of using RES in rural areas.
- SO2: Educate representatives of local self-governments, economic entities and farmers in rural cross-border areas in purpose of further inform about RES
- SO3: Encourage the energy independence of local self-governments in rural cross-border areas.

Results:

The equipment for the use of RES purchased and installed at the two demonstration facilities in Gračanica and Kalesija (solar collectors and a heat pump for the Mixed Secondary School Kalesija; and photovoltaic panels and solar collectors for the Sports Hall "Luke" in Gračanica); developed and published the Study on the RES potentials in Gračanica and Kalesija and the Study for the CRO project area; organized and realized 4 educations on potentials and the use of RES in CRO and in BiH for around 130 participants; organized and realized a three-day study visit to Slovenia for a group of around 40 participants from CRO and BiH; organized and realized three PCM educations for around 50 trainees; organized and realized 8 entrepreneurial educations for around 120 trainees; skills and competences of target group in both cross-border rural areas were enhanced in relation to the RES. More about the Project at www.projectprogres.net

PROJECT TITLE Competitive Regional Economic Development in Krajina – CREDO Krajina

Donor	Swedish Agency for International Development and Cooperation Sida
Contract Budget (€)	937.000,00
Period of Implementation	February 2013 – August 2015
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina/– Krajina region
Contract Number	55060015

Description:

The implementation of „Competitive Regional Economic Development in Krajina – CREDO Krajina“ Project started on 21 February 2013. The Project is financed by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency Sida, and implemented by Eda Agency from Banja Luka in partnership with Development Association NERDA.

The project aims to improve competitiveness of small and medium enterprises in the Krajina region, in order to create and sustain jobs, reduce poverty and improve the economic status of the area. The project should enable creation of 250 new jobs and keeping of 1000 jobs in the companies / sectors covered by the project interventions. Also, the project should facilitate vertical and horizontal coordination of policies directed towards small and medium enterprises in the project area. The project duration is 30 months.

Added Value: Following the extensive floods from May and August 2014 that caused a large negative impact on businesses, NERDA and Eda jointly submitted an initiative for grant fund to the donor in order to mitigate the consequences of floods in companies. After evaluation of all applications by joint Evaluation Commission, the total of 52 applications were selected from priority sectors (metal processing, wood processing, leather and footwear, food, and the production of plastics and tooling) that have successfully undergone the application process. Of the funds available under this Programme, grants were allocated to co-finance the costs of floods in selected companies. With the grant funds in the amount of 993,000.00 KM, the companies implemented the investment of over 5,600,000.00 KM, which led to retaining of 2,498 jobs and will lead to creation of 127 new jobs.

PROJECT TITLE Vocational Training and Employment of Blacksmiths, CNC Operators and Mechatronics for the Needs of UNIS TOK Ltd. Kalesija

Donor	Project USAID Sida FIRMA, Federal Employment Institute, Municipality of Kalesija
Contract Budget (€)	31.751,00
Period of Implementation	January 2013 – June 2014
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina /Tuzla Canton, Municipality Kalesija
Contract Number	PO 2012 298

Description:

In January 2013 Development Association NERDA signed the Memorandum of Understanding together with eight international and local organizations and institutions in order to implement the „Vocational Training and Employment of Blacksmiths, CNC Operators and Mechatronics for the Needs of UNIS TOK Ltd. Kalesija“ Project. Signatories of this Memorandum were US Agency for International Development (USAID) on behalf of FIRMA Project, NERDA, as well as representatives of the Federal Employment Institute and Tuzla Canton Employment Office, representatives of the Ministry for Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Tuzla Canton, vocational high schools in Tuzla and Kalesija and Municipality of Kalesija as one of co-funding partners of the project.

Overall objective of the project is to establish sustainable model of cooperation with local partners in order to enable vocational training and improvement and employment of work force in BiH.

Up to 100 persons should have their knowledge and skills as CNC operators, blacksmiths and mechatronics improved and find their jobs in UNIS TOK in accordance with development needs and investment dynamics of this company.

Results:

From the beginning of the project implementation until June 2014, the process of vocational training and improvement of skills and knowledge was successfully completed by total 96 unemployed persons. Out of this number, 35 trainees in total are employed in UNIS TOK Ltd. Kalesija. Furthermore, in accordance with its needs and plans, UNIS TOK Ltd. will hire other trainees that passed final tests successfully as their ranking results were delivered to this company upon project completion.

PROJECT TITLE Clustering Knowledge, Innovation and Design in the SEE Wood Sector – ID:WOOD

Donor	European Union through South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme
Contract Budget (€)	137.830,00
Period of Implementation	October 2012 – December 2014
Country / Region	South-East Europe/Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contract Number	SEE/D/0227/1.2/X

Description:

Development Association NERDA was the leading partner for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of Tuzla Canton was the partner in this project. Project was implemented with support of partners from 9 different countries: 6 EU members (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italia, Romania, Slovenia) and 3 non-EU members (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia).

Overall objective of ID: WOOD project was to encourage innovations and competitiveness of small and medium entrepreneurship in the wood sector in South-East Europe through transfer of technical and organizational know-how enabling the local organization and institutionalization of support (wood clusters, wood technology centers and regional development agencies) for solving structural deficits of small and medium enterprises and increasing innovation potentials of production sector. Specific objectives of the Project were: construction and development of transnational network of clusters in wood-furniture industry, wood technology centers, RDAs and pillars of knowledge (universities, centers for industrial design etc.); encouragement of innovation skills in support structures of wood sector.

Results:

1. A functional network of partners established
2. Developed thematic dossiers with the themes: furniture, clusters, sawmills, construction, transnational cooperation
3. Through the established network of partners support was provided to companies in the sector

PROJECT TITLE Environmental Technologies and Renewable Energies in the Balkan Area (L.84)

Donor	Italian Ministry of Economic Development (L.84/2001 - Funds)
Contract Budget (€)	26.192,90
Period of Implementation	January 2012 - December 2013
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Serbia/ Montenegro/ Macedonia
Contract Number	VLP-56/12

Description:

The project implementer was Metropoli, Special Agency of the Chamber of Commerce of Florence (Italy), member of the Enterprise Europe Network, in partnership with: Aries - Special Agency of the Chamber of Commerce of Trieste, Italy; Promos - Special Agency of the Chamber of Commerce of Milan, Italy; Regional Development Agency for Central BiH – REZ Zenica, BiH; Regional Development Agency for Northeast BiH – Development Association NERDA, Tuzla, BiH; Chamber of Commerce of Serbia; Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro, and Chamber of Commerce of FYRMacedonia.

The overall goal of the project was to contribute to the process of economic development in the Balkans in particular in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia Herzegovina, through targeted interventions in the environmental sector, promotion of European standards and legislation regulating the environment protection and sustainable development of the area for economic and employment growth.

Results:

One of the key activities during the first year of project implementation was a comprehensive analysis in the field of environment protection and renewable energy sources (RES) in the countries that took part in the project. Based on results of the analysis, focus groups and preparatory seminars were organised in the second year of the project implementation to present funding opportunities, public-private partnerships in given sectors as well as to present valid EU legislation in the sector of environment protection and use of RES. Very significant activity in the second year of the project was also organisation of bilateral business meetings (matchmaking) with the aim to enable cooperation among companies in the Western Balkan and exchange of knowledge and experience on new technologies.

PROJECT TITLE CREDO Competitive Regional Economic Development in Herzegovina

Donor	Swedish Agency for International Development and Cooperation "Sida"
Contract Budget (€)	360.630,00
Period of Implementation	June 2010 – February 2013
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Herzegovina Region
Contract Number	53020019

Description:

CREDO Herzegovina overall objective is to increase competitiveness and growth of SMEs in the selected sectors in the Herzegovina region through three-phase interventions, based on the Methodology developed through CREDO Project implemented by NERDA in North-East BiH.

CREDO Herzegovina project aims to support creation of at least 50 new jobs and to formalize and/or sustain at least 150 jobs in companies and sectors included in CREDO Herzegovina interventions.

The project is implemented by REDAH (Development Agency for Herzegovina Region) and NERDA is their supporting partner (given the experience of the CREDO North-East BiH Project).

Results:

Based on the results and findings of the Baseline Study of Industrial Sectors, five key/priority sectors were selected (Metal, Tourism, Plastics and Rubber, Cheese Production and Information-Communication Technologies) on which the project focused its interventions and in which the Sector Boards were formed with the representatives of businesses. Interventions in the sectors were carried out through the Boards and all this contributed to creation of 150 new jobs and formalization/sustaining of 893 existing jobs.



PROJECT TITLE CREDO Competitive Regional Economic Development in North-East BiH

Donor	Swedish Agency for International Development and Cooperation "Sida"
Contract Budget (€)	3.200.000,00 (for both phases)
Period of Implementation	June 2007 – December 2011
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North East BiH region
Contract Number	76003885 and 76003978

Description:

CREDO was a project designed to support competitive regional economic development in North-East Bosnia and Herzegovina, through two-phase interventions. The main goal of CREDO was to create/formalize and/or sustain up to 300 jobs, reduce poverty and improve the economic status of NE BiH, supporting SMEs development and growth.

Main project results are: CREDO Development Fund grants awarded to 51 small and medium enterprises and 8 municipalities. The total value of realized investments amounted to ca. 2.75 million EUR. Investment projects that were implemented enabled creation of over 500 new jobs and sustaining more than 2.500 existing jobs, significantly exceeding the expected results of the project.

NERDA also led the process of strategic planning for six Ministries in the Government of Tuzla Canton, resulting in development of six Strategic plans for the period 2012 – 2014, as well as the strengthening of capacities and education of 22 civil servants that participated actively. The project was structured around these key components: establishment of Regional Boards for priority industrial sectors in NE BiH, support to Municipalities through establishment of Territorial Information System, Development Fund, training program for SMEs, Forum of Integrated Economic Development, continuous research and analytical work through studies, brochures, round tables, seminars, conferences, etc. More about the project at www.credo.ba

PROJECT TITLE

Bosnia and Herzegovina – ICT RTD Technological Audit

Donor	European Commission (service contract)
Contract Budget (€)	60.000,00
Period of Implementation	November 2009 – April 2010
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contract Number	30-CE-0297790/00-95

Description:

Bosnia and Herzegovina - ICT RTD Technological Audit was initiated in the end of 2009 to analyze the status of research activity in domain of information and communication technologies, respective technological development and level of participation of bh. institutions in FP6 and FP7, and based on results of the study to provide recommendations for actions to be taken in order to increase participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 7th Framework Program (FP7). NERDA delivered all contracted services and produced Reports as required by the EC



PROJECT TITLE

Co-financing Support to the Implementation of NERDA Business Plan 2009-2011

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	Total Value: 820.332,16 EU contribution: 225.000,00
Period of Implementation	September 2009 – September 2011
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North East
Contract Number	2009/217-429

Description:

Under this contract, NERDA was the EU grant beneficiary for delivery of the following key activities/services aimed at regional economic development in NE BiH:

Support to Regional Economic Development and Municipalities – Driving Force of Development, Information Dissemination, Support to Strategic Planning in the NE BiH Region, Support to Cross-Border Cooperation, Regional Monitoring, Support to Entrepreneurship Development, Support to Investments, Organizational growth and capacity building of NERDA.

Key results are:

Information on available funding sources disseminated to more than 1.500 main regional stakeholders, cross-border cooperation and EU CBC Programs broadly promoted, absorption capacity of the NE BiH region increased through delivery of training in Project Cycle Management for NE BiH Municipalities (the total of 111 staff members of Municipalities trained), brochure “Invest in NE BiH” produced, institutional capacities in strategic planning strengthened as well as NERDA's leading development agency position.

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	Total: 720.584,87 EUR EU grant: 249.988,49 EUR
Period of Implementation	01/01/2007 – 31/12/2008
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North East
Contract Number	2006/132-475

Description:

Under this contract, NERDA was the EU grant beneficiary for delivery of the Action aimed at positioning of NERDA as the leader of the regional economic processes in the two year period (2007–2008).

The main action areas were:

- Coordination of implementation of Regional Development Strategy of NE BiH;
- Increasing interest for investment in the Region;
- Building up capacities of local and regional stakeholders;
- Identification, design and/or implementation, coordination and monitoring of regional projects to include cross-border and trans-border cooperation;
- Business support and SME development.

Key results are:

Support to SMEs ensured through trainings and consultancy; System for monitoring of EU funded projects implemented in the NE BiH region set up; Investment promotion brochure developed; Absorption capacities of local and regional stakeholders increased through delivery of Project Cycle Management trainings.



PROJECT TITLE

Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises

Investors in the Fund	Local governments and NERDA
Credit Potential of the Fund(€)	ca. 2.750.000,00
Period of Implementation	March 2008 -
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North East
Contract Number	-

Description:

NERDA established a Guarantee Fund for SMEs to stimulate their investment in production processes and job creation initiatives. Investors in the Fund are Tuzla Canton Government, Tuzla Municipality, Kalesija Municipality, Vlasenica Municipality and NERDA, while the interest of other municipalities is growing with prospects for new members in the upcoming period.

The multiplication factor for the deposited funds is 3, and the interest rate for companies is 6.99%.

This NERDA's tool is perceived by SMEs as a valuable means of financial support in their growth.

By the end of 2014 the total of 126 credits were disbursed in the total value of ca. 3 mil EUR. Current credit potential of the Fund is ca. 2,75 mil EUR.

PROJECT TITLE ACInD – Adriatic Cooperation for Industrial Development

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	41.156,00
Period of Implementation	July 2007 – July 2009
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North-East BiH
Contract Number	2007/140-509

Description:

The general objective of ACInD was to contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon and Goteborg strategy through the promotion and enhancement of industrial sites infrastructures of the involved areas. The leading applicant for the Project was Provincia di Ferrara, with partners from Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Albania and NERDA as the partner from.

Among other activities, NERDA produced these two studies:

- Feasibility Study on Realization of Technology Park for Energy and Ecology Tuzla, and
- Feasibility Study on Standards and Certification – Environment Protection in Power Plant Tuzla



PROJECT TITLE Support to Institutional Capacity Building

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	Total Value: 283.414,38 EU contribution: 99.000,00
Period of Implementation	01/01/2006 – 31/12/2006
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North-East BiH
Contract Number	2005/114-866

Description:

Under this contract, NERDA was the EU grant beneficiary for delivery of the Action aimed to further strengthen the institutional capacities of NERDA as the leading development agency in the region. Main actions areas were:

- Design of regional projects;
- Regional Strategy revision;
- Monitoring and Evaluation of EU-funded Regional Economic Development projects in NE BiH;
- Organizational Development;
- Support to Business and SME Development;
- Public Awareness and Visibility.

Key Results are:

NERDA's institutional capacities increased and strengthened, Regional Development Strategy revised, system of support to SMEs established. In addition to these, a series of public awareness and visibility activities in relation to EU support to regional economic development in BiH implemented.

PROJECT TITLE Establishment and Development of the Regional Agri-business Centers Network – ABC

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	Total Value: 206.570,06 EU contribution: 184.328,86
Period of Implementation	01/11/2005 – 01/01/2007
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North-East BiH
Contract Number	2005/110-070

Description:

The objective of the project was to contribute to economic development of the agriculture sector by setting up an operational network of agri-business centers that will primarily support development of small and medium enterprises in the relative sector.

Key results of the project are:

- Established network of five agri-business centers in Bijeljina, Gračanica, Brčko District BH, Bratunac and Odžak;
- Functional database of companies in agriculture sector in NE BiH;
- Efficient and effective co-operation established with all relevant stakeholders;
- Direct assistance delivered to SMEs.



PROJECT TITLE Save the River Spreča

Donor	EU/UNDP / GEF Danube Regional Project The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Office in BiH
Contract Budget (€)	Total Value: 27.110,48 Donor's contribution: 13.400,00
Period of Implementation	12/01/2006 – 31/01/2007
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Tuzla Canton: Municipalities of Kalesija and Gračanica
Contract Number	L014639

Description:

“Save the River Spreča” project aimed to affect the awareness of population in the Spreča basin in order to reduce toxic sources and nutrients beneath ground and surface water through reduction of chemicals and application of best practice in agriculture production.

The Project raised awareness of agriculture producers, students and other population and improved cooperation among stakeholders through exchange of experiences in the area.

PROJECT TITLE Support to Institutional Capacity Building

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	Total Value: 121.985,52 EU contribution: 100.000,00
Period of Implementation	01/01/2005 – 31/12/2005
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / NorthEast BiH
Contract Number	2004/096-922

Description:

NERDA was the lead manager of this project whose objective was to consolidate NERDA as a leading development agency in NE region and to use it as a tool for planning and implementing the economic development through strong public-private partnership.

Key results of this Project were: NERDA's becoming a fully operational development agency with skilled staff and equipment, which positioned itself as the owner of the implementation of Regional Development Strategy documents and the main monitoring agency for RED projects whose implementation is supported by EU funds.



PROJECT TITLE Business Support and Promotion Centre – BSPC

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	Total Value: 83.011,50 EU contribution: 73.296,25
Period of Implementation	26/11/2004 – 26/08/2005
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Tuzla Canton
Contract Number	2004/091-359

Description:

The objective of the project was to develop the mechanisms within the RDA in order to ensure strategic approach to the SMEs sector development.

As the result of this Action a „Business Support and Promotion Centre“ was established in the Agency and its main function is to support development of the existing companies as well as to support development and implementation of business ideas of start-ups. The Center now facilitates contacts between companies (national and international) and provides services to SMEs and potential investors.

PROJECT TITLE Establishment of Info-Centre

Donor	European Union
Contract Budget (€)	Total Value: 54.457,88 EU contribution: 27.079,50
Period of Implementation	03/03/2004 – 03/09/2004
Country / Region	Bosnia and Herzegovina / North-East BiH
Contract Number	QNE01

Description:

The general objective of this Project was to efficiently manage development processes, while the specific objective of the project was to ensure qualitative and structured collection, processing, analysis and usage of data and information making sure that all citizens and stakeholders in development processes participate in decision-making processes. The Info Center was established within the Agency and serves as a reliable source of business-related information open to business community and individuals that wish to obtain market economy-related information for Tuzla Canton, BiH and other countries.



OTHER PROJECTS (2005-2014)

- 1 In 2014 NERDA directly participated and provided assistance in development of the „Guide for Investors in Tuzla Canton“ together with employees of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Development of Tuzla Canton. The intention of the team that worked on development of the Guide was to present all information and data, which might be useful and valuable to potential investors. The Guide was finalized jointly, translated in English language and uploaded to the websites of Tuzla Canton Government and Development Association NERDA.
- 2 “Market Makers” is a programme supported by the Swiss Government, and is implemented by a Consortium including Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and Kolektiv d.o.o. (Posao.ba). MarketMakers is enhancing the growth of private market in targeted sectors with the aim to lead to creation of new jobs for young women and men in BiH. One of the sectors supported by the MarketMakers is production and processing of food, which has the growth potential in North-East BiH. As of 2013 NERDA is a co-facilitator in the implementation of the initiative for market development in the food production and processing sector in North-East BiH.
- 3 During 2012 and 2013, as part of the FIRMA Project (funded by USAID and Sida), NERDA implemented a project to support metal-processing companies aimed at certifying companies in line with EN ISO 3834, 1090, 17660 and 13445 norms. The total of 11 companies was involved in the certification process, and the total value of the project was 25.400 BAM.
- 4 During 2011 and 2012 NERDA delivered a series of trainings in Project Cycle Management for representatives of Municipalities, Cantonal Ministries, institutions, non-government organizations and companies. The aim of the training was to acquire knowledge and develop skills for preparation and development of quality project proposals according to the European Union methodology. Over 150 trainees successfully completed the training and gained valuable knowledge.
- 5 In 2011-2012 NERDA developed a “Manual for Creation and Implementation of Energy Efficiency Policies of Tuzla Canton” for Tuzla Canton Government. This Manual was developed through cooperation with experts from Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering, and it offered a wide range of recommendations in support of Tuzla Canton’s effort to become energy efficient region.
- 6 In 2011 NERDA facilitated and managed the process of strategic planning in Tuzla Canton Government that involved six Ministries of Tuzla Canton. These are: (1) Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and sports, (2) Ministry of Reconstruction, Development and Return, (3) Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining, (4) Ministry of Urban Planning and Environment Protection, (5) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Industry, (6) Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Traffic. The activity resulted in development of six Strategic Plans for the period 2012-2014. Also, this was an opportunity to build capacities and educate 22 staff members of the Ministries involved.

OTHER PROJECTS (2005-2014)

- 7** Project TransGrowth – SEENET Program
During the 2010-2011 NERDA was one of the partners in the TransGrowth project (SEENET Program). The objective of the project was business promotion for trans-national growth of integrated local production systems. Institutional partners in the project were Regions of Emilia-Romagna, Marche and Veneto in Italy, Counties of Osijek – Baranja and Vukovar – Srijem in Croatia, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia, and Tuzla Canton in BiH. The 1st stage included a preliminary analysis of fruit growing sector and wood processing sector in Tuzla Canton. NERDA prepared a statistical analysis of the fruit and wood processing sector, which helped the identification of topics for seminars/workshops that were held during 2011, and covered the topics such as: final wood-processing, quality and certification, clusterization and networking.
- 8** Contract with Project “Fostering Agriculture Markets Activity (FARMA)” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, funded by USAID and Sida. In 2011 NERDA was contracted to deliver training for agriculture producers with the following topics: business planning, access to finance, and good practice in agriculture. NERDA completed four trainings on „Business planning and access to finances“ and delivered 10 coaching days for 53 participants in Bijeljina, Zvornik, Orašje and Gračanica. NERDA also completed six trainings on „Good Agriculture Practice“ and delivered 12 coaching days for 233 participants in Gračanica, Srebrenik, Gradačac, Zvornik and Srebrenica. In total, NERDA completed ten training courses for 286 participants and delivered 22 coaching days.
- 9** Contract with Project “Fostering Interventions for Rapid Market Advancement (FIRMA)”, funded by USAID and Sida. In 2011 NERDA realized three small-scale projects under the contract with FIRMA Project, namely NERDA organized and hosted the presentation of Qualified Business Finance Consultants in Tuzla to inform companies about all available possibilities for accessing finance. Also, NERDA realized a contract „Capacity Building for implementation of ISO 14001“, and finally organized and hosted a seminar for export-oriented SMEs under the title „Authorized and Approved Exporter Status“.
- 10** Project „Administrative Support to BiH Operating Structure for Initial Phase of Implementation of the Three Bilateral IPA CBC Programs with Neighboring Countries: Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro“ (2008-2009):
NERDA was one of the partners to the Directorate for European Integration in BiH and provided assistance in facilitating the BiH based cross-border cooperation management structure in the initial phase of the implementation of the IPA Bilateral Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Programs. The Antenna Office for the BiH-Serbia CBC Program was established in NERDA premises in Tuzla and full support to the preparation of the Call for Proposals was provided by NERDA.

OTHER PROJECTS (2005-2014)

- 11** Project „CulTuRe“ – Promotion of Tourist Potentials and International relations of Tuzla Municipality“ (2006-2008) – funded by the Italian Foundation „Casa di Risparmio“ from Bologna. NERDA was partner to Tuzla Municipality, Bologna City and Bologna University. NERDA was responsible for development of the document „Strategic Guidelines for Promotion of Tourism Potentials of Tuzla“ and provided technical assistance to Tuzla Municipality in both phases of the project.
- 12** Project “Improving the Conditions of Children and Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (2006) which was implemented by CISP Tuzla, and in cooperation with NERDA, aimed at intervening in the youth sector by applying integrated and cross-sector approach both at local and state level. The Project supported the youth participation in socio-economic life through A Guarantee Fund for Youth which offered the youth in BiH a chance to access loans for business start-ups. NERDA is the regional coordinator of the Fund for NE BiH.
- 13** UN Development Program - Sustainable Transfer to Return Related Authorities - SUTRA 1, 2 and 3 (2005-2006). NERDA was one of the partners in the phases of this Project and implemented activities within economic component in Tuzla, Lukavac, Šamac, Bosanski Brod, Brčko District, Zvornik and Vlasenica. Namely, NERDA carried out field visits to families of returnees in order to collect data and analyze the needs for their economic rehabilitation and sustainable return. The outcome was the Feasibility study for each Phase of the Project.
- 14** Project „Tuzla – Ravenna: One Systematic Integration“ (2005-2006):
The general objective of the action was to improve institutional cooperation between the Province of Ravenna and Municipality of Tuzla aiming at transfer of know-how, application of effective public policies to develop the economic system in the area, creation of integrated network of SMEs that could be connected to the systems of Emilia Romagna Region in Italy. NERDA performed activities related to collection of socio-economic data for the region of NE BiH as well as organization of activities with SMEs.

