

## Report from the First Workshop

### "Circular Economy and Youth: Digitization and Application of Information Technologies in the Country"

Mokrin, 03.10.2023.

Address: Mokrin House, Saint Sava 25

#### Agenda

9:00 – 9:30	Registration of attendees	
9:30 – 11:00	Presentation of the project "Circular Economy as a model of development that forms a new identity of the Republic of Serbia - EDUCIRC2022"	Prof. Mirjana Radovanović
11:00 – 12:00	Cafe Pause	
12:00 – 13:30	"Digital Village" project presentation	Marko Stepančev
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:00	Conversation with participants / locals	
15:30 – 16:00	Cafe Pause	
16:00 – 17:00	Suming results and considering future co-operation	

Project team members attended the Workshop:

Prof. Mirjana Radovanovic

Asst.Prof. Simonida Vukadinovic

Assoc.Prof. Diona Djurdjevic

Assoc.Prof. Jelena Jesic

As part of the project, three workshops are scheduled to be held in different regions of the Republic of Serbia, with the aim of promoting the project, talks with participants and polling.

In order to obtain the most representative results that would reflect the situation in the country, it was decided that the **First Workshop** will be held in Mokrin, a village in Banat. Apart from the fact that Mokrin has a long history and numerous specifics, Mokrin was also selected because the project "Digital Village" was successfully implemented in this place, which aimed to support the increase of digital literacy in rural areas (<https://digitalnoselo.rs/>).

One of the aspects involved in the project EDUCIRC2022 is to consider the state of the area, so it was definitely advisable to hear the experiences from the implementation of the "Digital Village" project. In addition, performing activities from the sphere of information technologies in the countryside is a significant development opportunity and fully fits the concept of a circular economy.

During the Workshop, which was held according to the scheduled Agenda, four basic activities were performed:

Presentation of the project "Circular Economy as a model of development that forms a new identity of the Republic of Serbia - EDUCIRC2022", which was done by Prof. Mirjana Radovanović. The basic motives, activities and expected results of the project are presented.

Presentation of the project "Digital Village", during which Marko Stepančev, in front of *Mokrin House*, presented the project and its results, with an indication of the successful implementation of activities and the exploitation of the project's results after its completion, which is certainly a valuable experience, especially when it comes to projects being realised in rural areas.

Great attention was paid to the conversation with the Workshop participants. Under the project plan, special attention is paid to young people in rural areas, so the majority of the participants were just this population. Pupils from the eighth grade of "Vasa Stajic" elementary school in Mokrin were attended the Workshop with teacher Jovana Nedeljkov. In this way, it is respected the fact that young people in rural areas are already at an early age beginning to participate in their household agricultural activities, and besides, they are the backbone for further development of the village. Therefore, it was very important to know whether, and to what extent, the country's youth were familiar with sustainable development and the circular economy, and in the open conversation, the youth pointed out the benefits and disadvantages of living in the countryside, as well as their view of the future. Pupils and teacher took active participation in the discussion, and recorded their answers in the poll questionnaire, which will be processed later along with data obtained from other regions of the Republic of Serbia.

Summing the results and consideration of future cooperation has shown that there is a mutual interest of project team members EDUCIRC2022 and *Mokrin House* for designing and implementing future activities, especially in the field of increasing the level of digital literacy in the countryside and promoting the activities of digital nomads, as an activity that fully fits the concept of the circular economy because it does not exhaust resources and does not pollute the environment and it supports the development of the local community.

The Workshop was attended by "Mokrin Women's Association" President Ms. Smiljana Karać, who conveyed the experiences of women in this environment, and gave a historical overview

of the quality of life in the countryside as a whole. At the age of 83, Ms. Smiljana Karać represents the oldest research participant.

The Workshop was covered by Kikinda TV as a regional television, but of particular importance because it covers the territory of North Banat, as a region that has been impoverishing for decades and recording a decrease in population. TV report can be viewed on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/6Ry3CahnpW4?si=NLlPEIwCVhIAiatC>

