

Report from the Second Workshop

" Circular economy in rural areas: youth and women as a factor of
village development "

Čumić, 11.10.2023.

Place: Elementary school "Prota Mateja Nenadović", Čumić

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	Presentation of youth activities in the village of Čumić	Aleksandar Jovanović, Director of the School
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 Radovanović

Asst.Prof. Simonida Vukadinović

Assoc.Prof. Diona Djurdjević

Assistant Zoran Brljak

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 **Second Workshop** will be held in the village of Čumić, in the municipality of Kragujevac.

The village of Čumić is located in the heart of Šumadija, with a long history and successful development. "Prota Mateja Nenadović" elementary school, where the activities of the Second Workshop were carried out, is the first elementary school in Serbia, which began its work in 1830 in a space that was donated and equipped by the locals. The primary school is the central point for many activities in the village. 100 pupils attend the school, which certainly represents a positive sign of the present and future of this village.

The Second Workshop was attended by 54 people from the village of Čumić, mostly women and young people.

The village has an ambulance station and is well connected to Kragujevac. The inhabitants of the village are mainly involved in the production of flowers and fruits, and they have harmonized the production to a large extent with certain postulates of the circular economy; energy is consumed efficiently, most greenhouses use pellets as an energy source, a large part of the waste is processed and reused in the household itself. Entire families are engaged in the performance of activities, which fulfills another important prerequisite for the development of the circular economy - employment at the local level, in accordance with the abilities and possibilities of each individual.

Therefore, it was considered adequate to conduct the survey and interview with the respondents done right in the village, which can be considered a positive example on the way to adopting the concept of circular economy. It was instructive to find out whether and to what extent the locals are familiar with state policies, whether they are ready to invest in activities that would fully fit into the concept of circular economy, how they see and evaluate their perspective and the future of young people. In addition, direct contact with young people gives the opportunity to see their vision of the future of the village, their plans and thoughts. It was especially important to look at the functioning of a successful family household, which represents the backbone of the circular economy and rural development as a whole. The village of Čumić and its residents of all ages gave an insight into the above.

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.

The presentation of village activities, with an emphasis on youth activities, was presented by Mr. Aleksandar Jovanović, director of the School, with the participation of teachers and other members of work collective. He introduced the members of the project team to the efforts to develop school tourism in the village, because within the School, the old space and furniture donated by the locals have been preserved, which gives a picture of life in the village throughout history. Rural tourism fits the circular

economy concept to the greatest extent and will certainly represent another positive step forward for the village of Čumić.

During the conversation with local residents over 30 years old (predominantly women), an insight was gained into the quality of their life, the problems they face in everyday life, and the local women pointed out the numerous advantages of living in the countryside. They provided information about the way family households do business, the ways in which energy is efficiently consumed and the issue of waste is solved. The local women introduced the members of the project team with their view of the future of the village, and indicated possible measures that the state authorities could adopt and implement, with the aim of encouraging the circular economy, agriculture and rural development as a whole.

The young people who attended the workshop showed a high degree of maturity, which is certainly to the greatest extent a consequence of life in the countryside, which requires young people to get involved in household work activities relatively early. They introduced the members of the project team with their vision of the present and the future, with the noticeable desire of most of them to stay in their village and continue doing family business.

The Workshop was covered by TV Kragujevac. TV report can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.educirc.rs/en/report-from-tv-kragujevac-on-the-realization-of-project-activities-in-cumic/>