



# COSV

COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI  
PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO





# WHO

# WE ARE



COSV is a non-profit association with legal personality, founded in 1968, engaged in **development and humanitarian aid interventions** in **Europe, Balkans, Southern Africa** and **Middle East**. Since 1972, the association has the recognition by the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, from over thirty years works with the leading agencies of the United Nations and its numerous offices as well as with funds from the European Commission. Currently it is included in the list at the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation provided for the Article 26 of the new Law 125 of 2014.

**COSV operates for peace, human rights respect and environment protection, through inclusive development paths, built basing on partnership and networking approach, that enhance local realities.** The association is **fully independent** both organisationally and politically and operates **rejecting those behavior that compromise its decision-making autonomy** or which do not represent the reality of the project **countries in a correct and respectful way**, also of the **dignity of persons**.

In addition to operating in accordance with the Articles of Association, the organization carries out its activities in all its areas of expertise, according to the principles of its Code of Conduct; Ethics Charter of the Association of Italian NGOs (AOI); the “Elewitt Chart” of European development NGOs; the CODE OF CONDUCT for the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent for rescue operations in case of disaster. As for the **donors policies** according to the relevant regulations, COSV collaborates to audits and controls. Furthermore it annually certifies its budget by an external body.

# OUR MISSION

Our work is oriented to the **reconstruction of share capital** and to the **establishment**, through and in the communities, **of strong relations**, to sustain important **political and economic transformations underlying progress**.

The program undertaken by COSV in recent years, consists of several **projects that** – even if realized in different context – are **deeply connected** and put their roots down in the **sustainable community approach**:

To support **local partners** (public or private) and create **multi-stakeholder networks**, based on **partnerships collaboration and trust**



To involve communities of the intervention countries in **innovative and inclusive development paths**

To promote **multiculturalism and dialogue**



To chase **inclusive and long-lasting development**, betting on **social enterprise and networking models**



To work towards **environmental sustainability**, mediating between **economic growth and natural resources protection**.



# VALUES & IDENTITY

## INDIPENDENCE & NETWORK

COSV belongs to itself:  
it is not tied to political parties or  
interest groups and it is partner of  
numerous networks and national and  
international coordination committee



Squeezed between  
conflicting interests,  
our role is to be  
"third part." We are  
on the civil society  
side and its values,  
which we also uphold  
before Italian and  
European institutions

## IMPARTIALITY



## NEITHER RAMBO NOR MARTYRS

But professionals, solid in their  
motivations and oriented to  
the development of their skills,  
in order to improve  
effectiveness and efficiency

## COOPERATION, NOT CHARITY

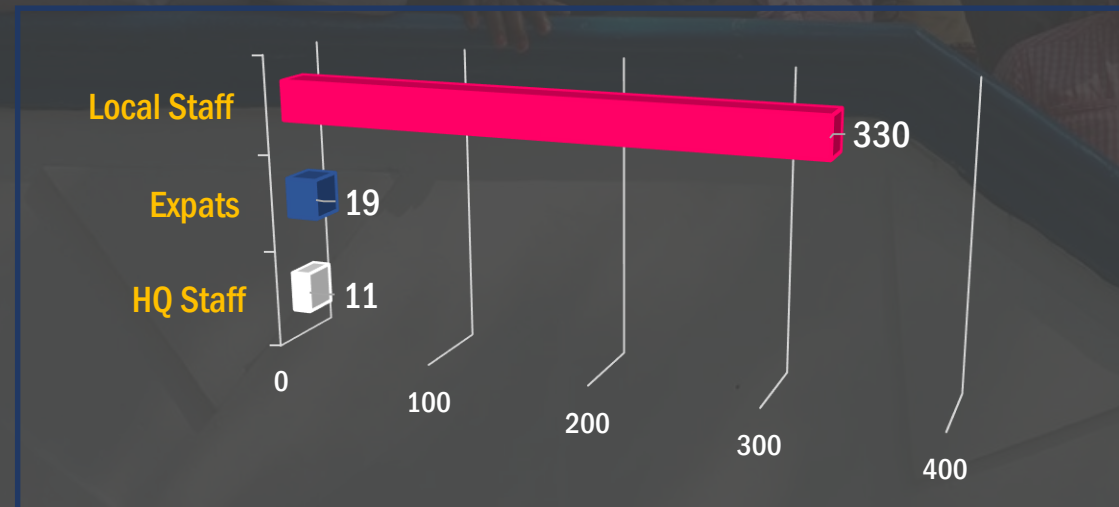
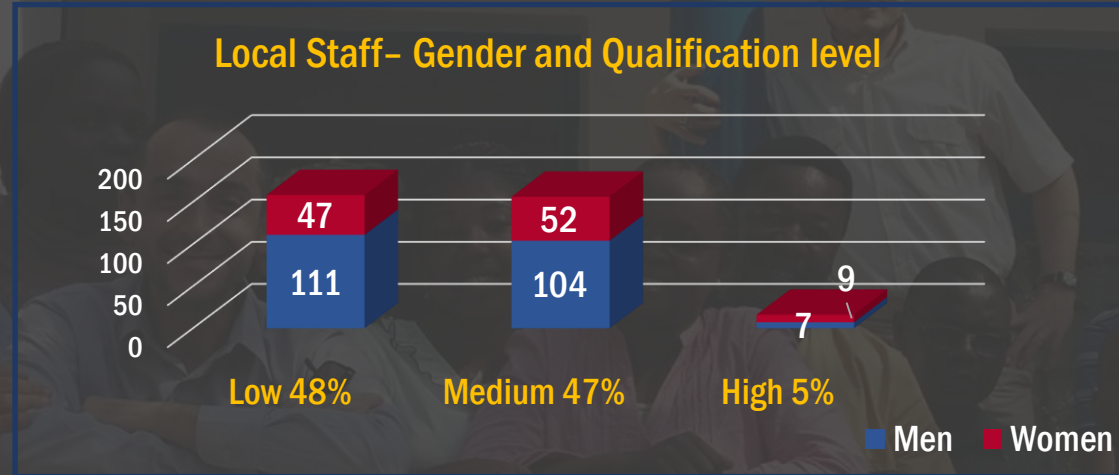
We believe in the "culture of cooperation" understood  
as solidarity between communities and combat against  
mechanisms that create inequality.

# STRATEGY

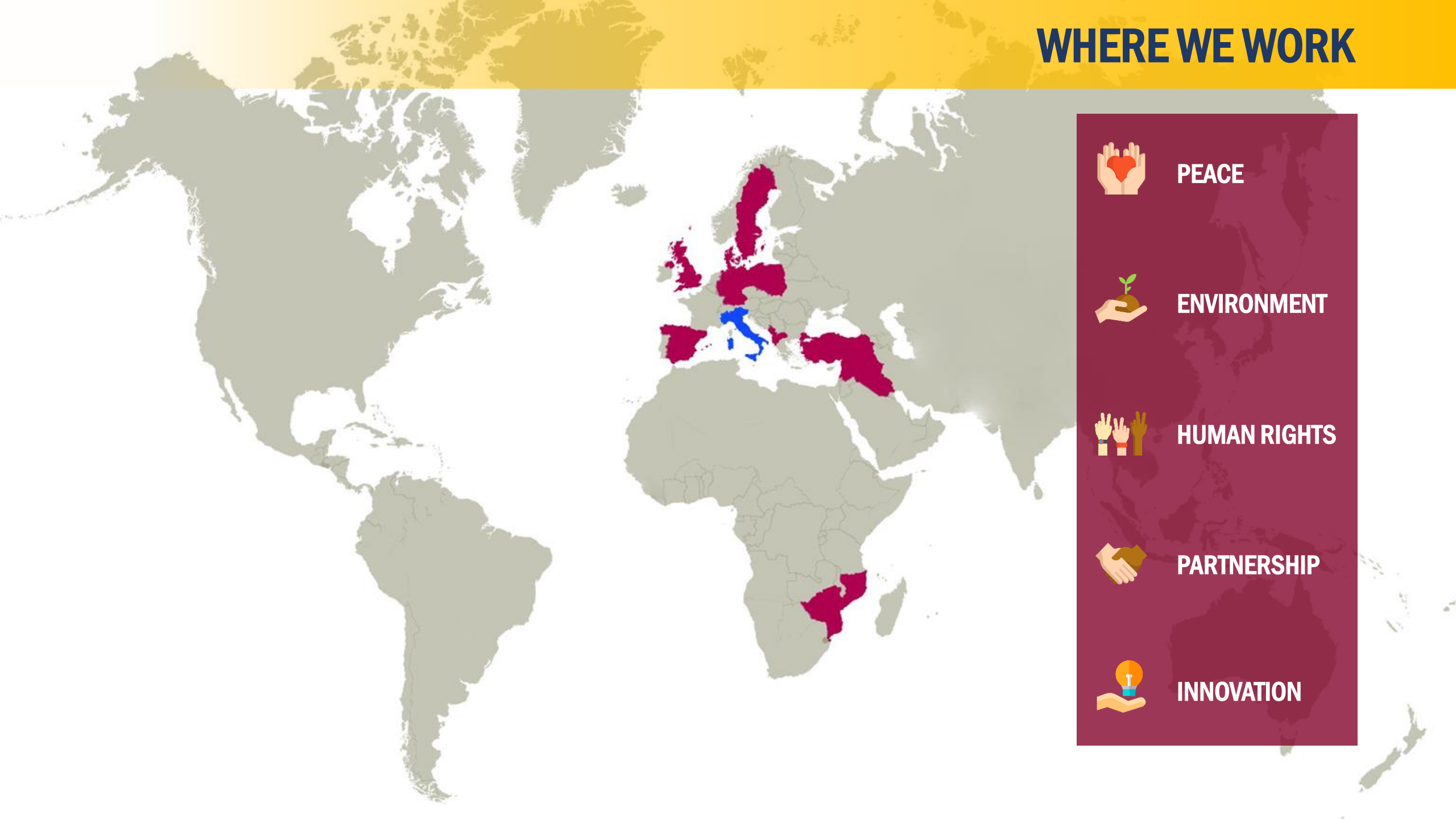


Since several years, the analysis COSV has been running, pushes more and more towards a necessary **diversification of interventions**, tools and methodologies with which to operate. A complex path, but in our opinion essential, in order not to fail in our mission. To overcome die-hard prejudices, leave comfortable known paths and old-established routes, it will turn out to be crucial. But only a true innovation can lead to a long-term perspective. Concretely, **COSV strategy is shaping itself especially in the relationship with its partners and with new actors of cooperation, understood in a broader sense.**

# HUMAN RESOURCES



# WHERE WE WORK



PEACE



ENVIRONMENT



HUMAN RIGHTS



PARTNERSHIP



INNOVATION





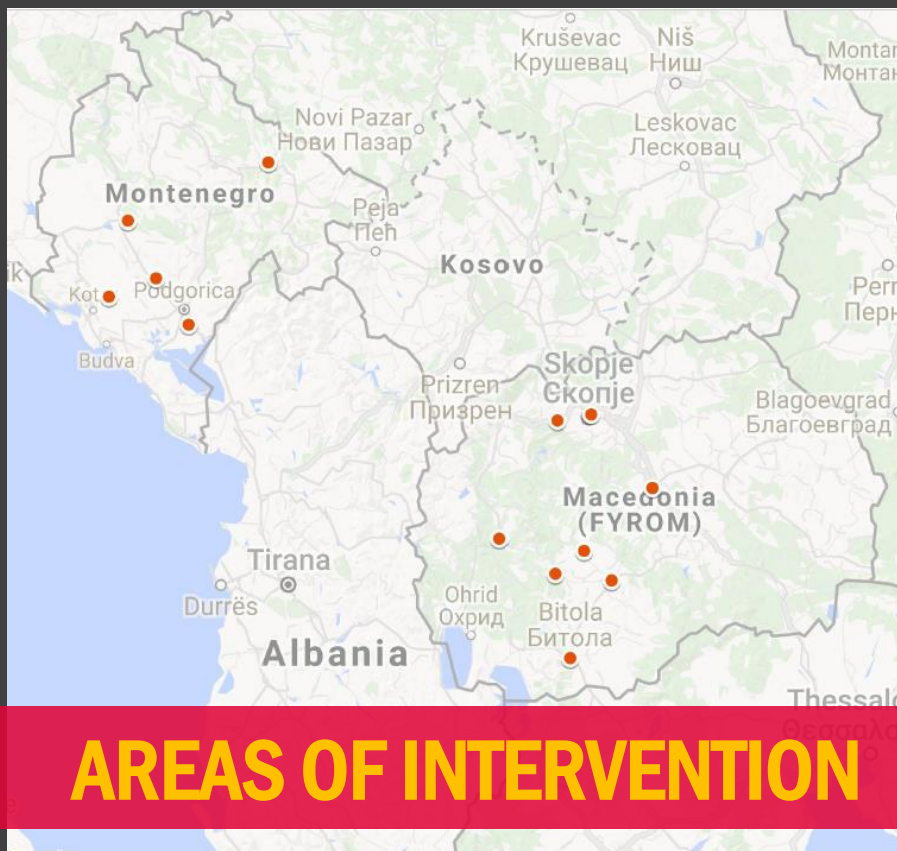
We want to build stronger partnerships in public-private-social area, trying to facilitate the creation of a network of small local associations, by offering technical and financial support.

We aspire to the creation of local spin-offs, with a focus on social enterprise.

We are committed to reinforcing relations with close Countries and with institutions in Montenegro and Macedonia., in order to extend, in the future, our presence in the area.

# BALKANS





## AREAS OF INTERVENTION

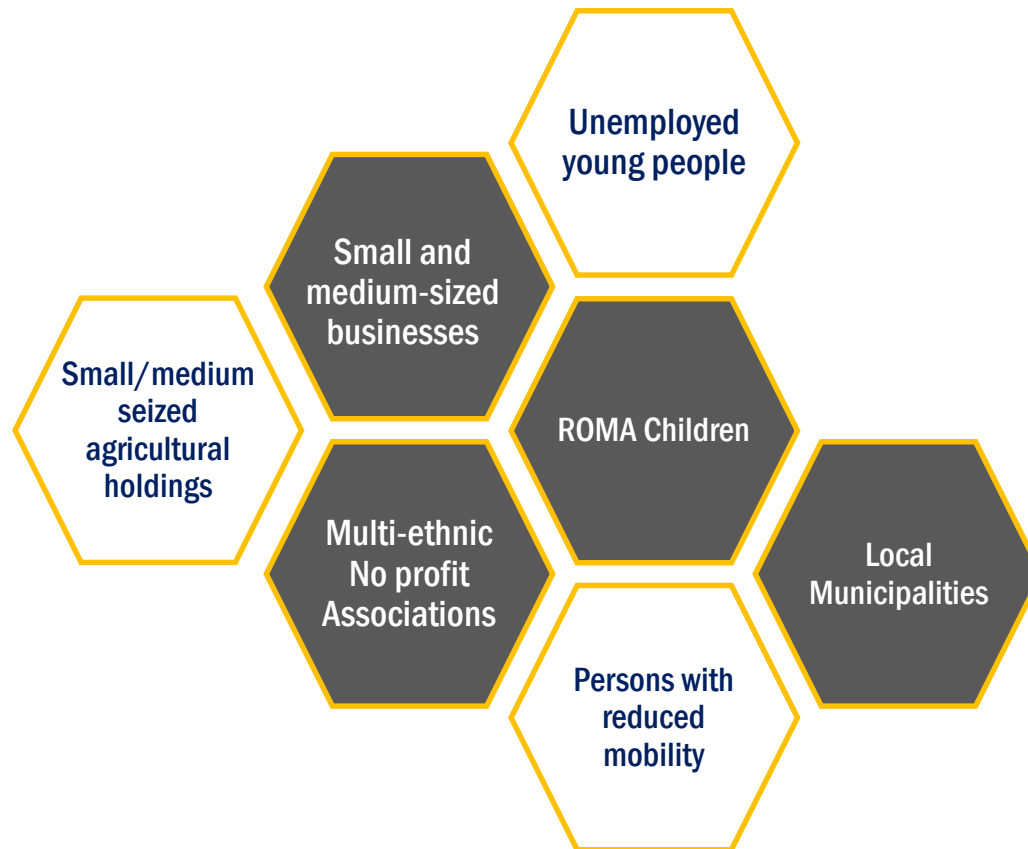
## COSV IN THE AREA

From 1999 we've been acting in the Balkans. Here, we've been on a path that has followed regional development, starting from emergency response projects (Ninety's Balkans Wars). Today, we make interventions in the economic and social sphere.

We are experiencing an advanced approach to development cooperation. Partnerships are in focus: we cover a linking role among governs, local authorities, universities, business framework, local/regional no profit organizations and their Italian/European counterparts.

## BENEFICIARIES REACHED

**Primary schools**, relatives of **persons with reduced mobility**, **multi-ethnic Municipalities**, small farmers **communities**, inhabitants of **Lakes Prespa areas** (Macedonia/Albania).



## TARGET GROUP

### DONORS

European Delegation to the Republic of Macedonia

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Macedonia



## PARTNERS IN THE AREA



БАИРСКА  
Светлина



Slow Food®  
Bitola



•mladi!info•  
INTERNATIONAL



Republic of Macedonia  
Government of the Republic of  
Macedonia

Center  
for Civic  
Initiative



Центар за  
граѓанска  
иницијатива



СЕГА

Коалиција на младински организации  
[www.sega.org.mk](http://www.sega.org.mk)



Centar za razvoj  
nevladinih organizacija



WOMEN CIVIC  
INITIATIVE

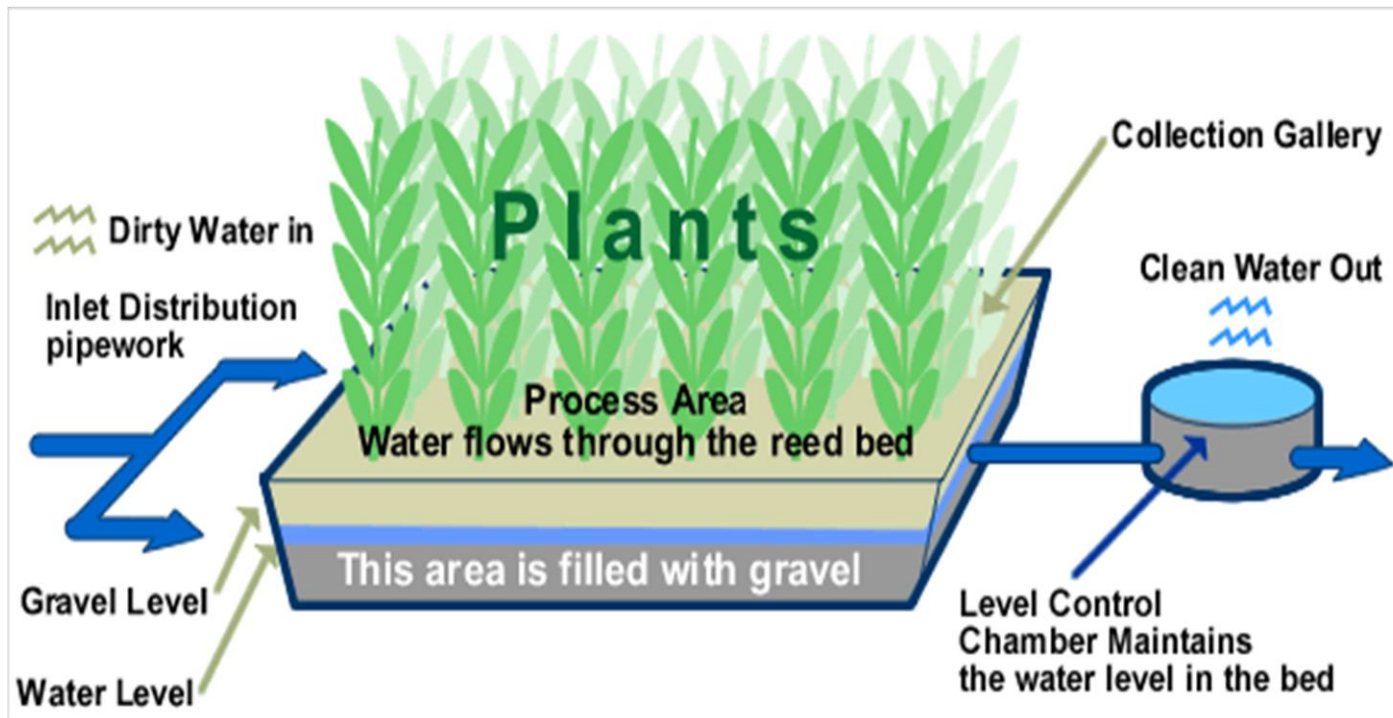


# Innovative practices in Environmental Protection



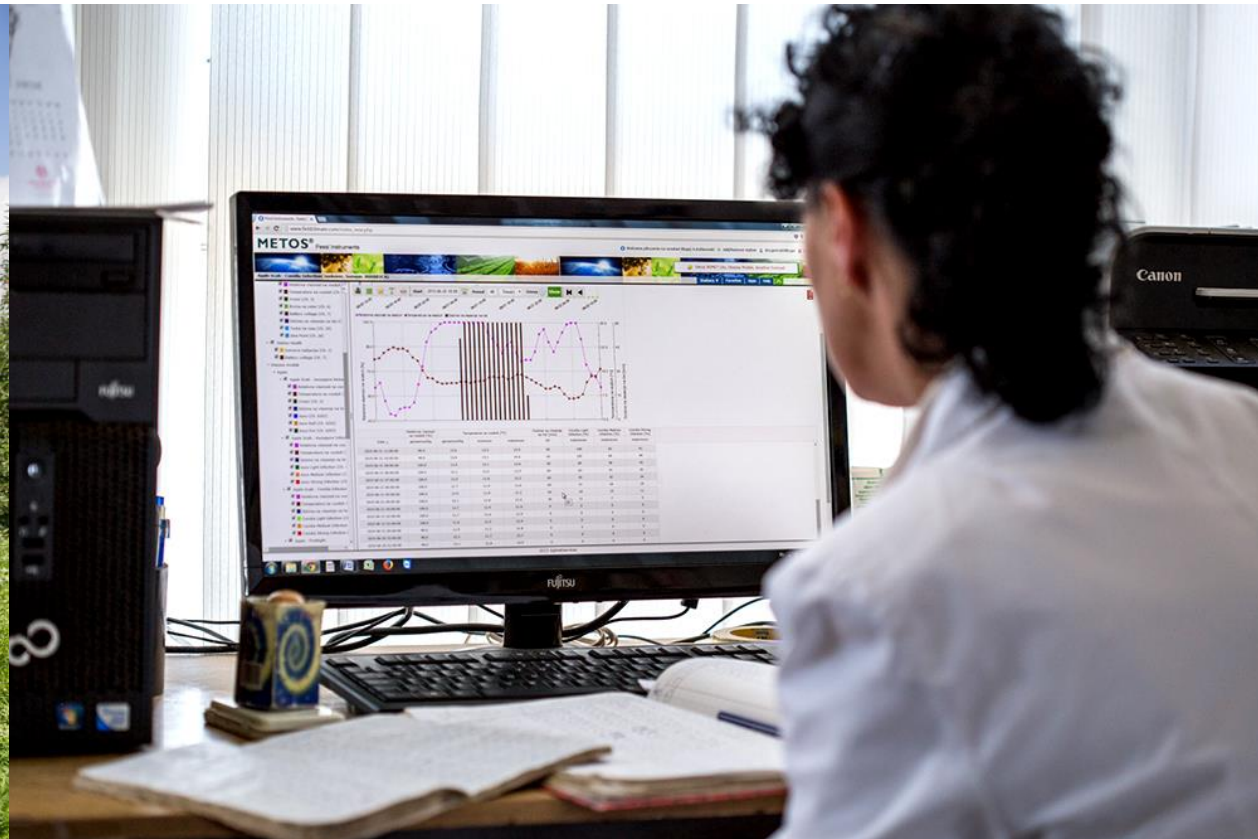


## Established and installation of Reed Beds techniques





## Rational use of pesticides and fertilizers





eco-lab







## PARTNERSHIP PROFIT NO-PROFIT

COSV expressed its own consensus towards the idea that profit sector contribution to strategies of fight against poverty should be enhanced, in consciousness of its irreplaceable role in creating employment, in developing economic partnership relations and in spreading entrepreneurial know-how.

# FOCUS

## TOWARDS A COMMON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

### Step 1

Agreement between Indigo Hydro Makedonija and COSV

### Step 2

Involvement of Resen Municipality and Prespa Association of farmers in a common strategy

## TASKS

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Indigo Hydro Makedonija       | → Technical skills and financial investment                            |
| COSV                          | → Management of activities in Prespa Lake and planning new EU projects |
| Resen Municipality            | → Collecting organic waste   |
| Prespa Association of farmers | → Provide the organic waste  |



**ИНДИГО ХИДРО МАКЕДОНИЈА**  
INDIGO HYDRO MACEDONIA





# PROFIT NO-PROFIT

In several ground there's been a discussion on **intervention methods of the profit sector in cooperation and on its relation with no-profit world**. COSV takes part on numerous tables and work groups that treat the issue to make its own **contribution in the construction of innovative and effective alliances**. For example, these include the National Council of Development Cooperation Working Group and Sodalitas Laboratory, which produced the Guide towards International Cooperation Partnerships.

Since first elaboration phases of the new Law on cooperation, COSV has strongly supported the idea that then was included in UN 2030 Agenda: private profit participation is irreplaceable in the fight against poverty. This is a full-blown assumption, included among Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also International Cooperation, both in Europe and Italy, currently provides – with precise limits and conditions and with respect of CSR rules and OCSE guidelines – for the inclusion of profit sector in development cooperation programs, with the possibility of funding and preferential lending.

**The starting point of partnerships among so different actors**, lies on the **inclusive business**, that qualifies the work of several **enterprises** which, seeking profit and new markets opening, **concretely impact on poverty reduction and are perceived from local communities as development agents**. However, it must be understood that referring to international development cooperation scopes without ambiguity has to be always a priority.

All public and private actors always have to keep in mind that international cooperation activities have specific purposes and goals of fight against poverty and iniquity, of inclusive and sustainable human development, of partnership creation and peacebuilding.

To answer in a correct way to international cooperation scopes, partnership among different actors (seen as an appropriate tool to reach SDGs) becomes an essential element to design and manage project that aim at satisfying local actors' needs, that want to launch business activities. Then, partners involved in such operations cannot be nothing but actors belonging to different sectors: **profit, no-profit and local partners**. Precisely on these lasts its needed to insist **to not incur in failures or, even worse, in damages towards local economy and development processes underway**.

Furthermore is essential to distinguish between **public and privates local partners**. The proposal for partnership should refer especially to these lasts, which are **potential agents of their own social and economic development**. Interventions that do not provide for such a relation hardly can be classified in international cooperation sphere, but rather as belonging to other categories such as relocation, supply of good and services and marketing.

**Convergence and sharing of goals** are fundamental, but also concrete intervention methods cope an essential role and are to be «melted» among the different partners without inflexibility and mutual prejudices.

In our opinion, from a NGO's point of view the **«choice» or profit partners** seeks in very concrete terms:

Acceptance of everyone mission, with conviction, without prejudice, but also with consciousness that «non everyone can get along with everybody».

Mutual and real understanding of strengths and weaknesses, of the eventual difficulties faced in the application of proper codes and guidelines.

Interest (shared within the company) towards international cooperation

Sharing of not only technical competences, but also of the ones with social impact on the NGOs intervention contexts.