

Renovation of MZ building in Temska: incentives for increase of civic participation



MZ Building before renovation



Citizens of Temska now have place for community gatherings where they could plan their community development

TEMSKA, SERBIA – Through the USAID-funded Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) program, CHF International is improving community infrastructure and working conditions of the institutions in Serbia.

Settled in the extraordinary beautiful countryside, MZ Temska is located in Pirot Municipality. In cooperation with Community Development Council (CDC) Temska, CHF worked on renovation of MZ building which was old and in poor state. CHF supported this project since local community and local NGOs strongly contributed to this renovation. 4100 people of Temska and residents of 7 surrounding villages have great benefits from this project. The community of Temska now have a post office, police station, an ambulance and MZ office facilities within this building: overall: better working conditions for all the individuals and institutions that use the building.

Community of Temska and its inhabitants showed the high level of self-organization and readiness to be actively involved in a process of creating

sustainable community. The next common project between citizens of Temska and CHF is Peasant's Cooperative. The idea of Peasant's Cooperative is to gather small entrepreneurs and farmers who would easier make a break into the new markets. The basic activity in Temska community is production of agricultural products, especially mushrooms and potatoes. There are also farmers that raise pigs. One of their biggest problems was distribution of the goods. Newly founded Peasant's Cooperative would enable farmers from Temska to sell their products, as well as to improve their production

CHF was a catalyst for positive changes in Temska, at the very beginning of CHF involvement in this region. Citizens of Temska needed motivation for moving out of lethargy after the years of promises. CRDA program showed them that good results could be reached only with active approach of all subjects in community.

Upon the successful cooperation with CHF, citizen of Temska started to build better world, from the ground up.