



**Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is a partner in an international project “Capacity building on sustainable utilization of ecosystem services by local communities in mountain regions ”(CAPLOCOM), funded by the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Interreg - IPA CBC between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of North Macedonia 2014-2020, which started on 05.03.2021 with the signing of a Subsidy Contract № RD-02-29-68/05.03.2021**

### PROJECT SUMMARY

<b>Project title</b>	“Capacity building on sustainable utilisation of ecosystem services by local communities in mountain regions”
<b>Acronym</b>	<b>CAPLOCOM</b>
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Local Economic Development Agency - Razlog, Bulgaria
<b>Partners</b>	Environmental Organisation Zdravec 2002, North Macedonia Forest Research Institute - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences /FRI-BAS/, Bulgaria
<b>Priority axis</b>	Environment
<b>Specific objective</b>	1.1 Environmental protection and sustainable use of the common natural resources of the CBC area
<b>Duration (in months)</b>	15
<b>Total budget (in €)</b>	96 670,39
<b>Aim</b>	<b>The main project’s aim</b> is to strengthen the cooperation between both countries for promoting awareness of local population on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. The second aim is to achieve improved and synchronized capacity in understanding and rationally managing of mountain ecosystems, its resources and services.
<b>Project Activities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International Opening Seminar ”Awareness raising and willingness for cooperation in capacity building for better management of natural resources”</li> <li>2. Analysis of the impact of climate and land-use change on mountain ecosystems’ resources and services in cross border area</li> <li>3. Training course for stakeholders to build capacity in mitigating climate changes and integrate Ecosystem Services (ES) concept in local planning and management</li> <li>4. Development of Long-term Strategy for enhancing the integration of ES concept in the Network of Protected Areas and territorial development of mountain areas</li> <li>5. International CAPLOCOM Final Conference</li> <li>6. Guidelines for Implementation of Best Management Practices at Regional Scale</li> </ol>

<b>Expected Project Results</b>	<p>Strengthened cooperation between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of North Macedonia for promoting awareness of local population on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p>Improved and synchronized capacity of the local community in understanding and rationally managing of mountain ecosystems, its resources and services</p>
<b>Target Groups</b>	<p>The local communities from the cross-border region, scientists, representatives of environmental and youth NGOs, public authorities responsible for nature management, state forestry, schools, universities, and other stakeholders from both countries</p>



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