ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

ENECA is a local non-governmental non-for-profit organization based in Nis, registered in 2005.

Our mission is sustainable local development in the Southeast Europe (SEE). We strive to continuously and consistently follow and meet our clients' and partners' needs, providing the environment, which would improve their business, knowledge, skills and abilities. We are completely dedicated to socially responsible business activities taking care of human needs and preserving natural resources.

Since its establishment, ENECA has been active in the field of socio-economic development, with over 3000 small businesses supported through direct assistance in equipment, business and professional training, direct monitoring and consulting.

Through a range of projects that we have implemented independently or in cooperation with local and international partners, by continuously improving of acquiring knowledge, as well as monitoring the socio-economic situation in Serbia and the region of Southeast Europe, ENECA has managed to maintain continuity in its work and remain focused on critical socio-economic issues present in the south of the country.

By supporting the establishment and development of small businesses, ENECA has enabled employment and job creation in the cities and municipalities where the projects have been implemented.

Employment is always accompanied by additional education through business and professional training, support from the local community and often the economic sector, which contributes to the best results and long-term sustainability.

ENECA is dedicated to fostering the potential of young people as an integral part of our mission for sustainable community development. Our commitment to youth involves providing comprehensive support to help them navigate their future paths successfully. Through initiatives such as our associated Job Info Center in Niš , we offer crucial career guidance and counseling services that empower young individuals to recognize their unique values, abilities, and interests, enabling them to make informed decisions about their educational journeys and future career choices. While creating employment opportunities, and educating young people on sustainable values and community strengthening as a vital component, our broader focus encompasses holistic personal and professional development, actively connecting youth with schools, the economy, and the civil sector to build a foundation for their success and contribute to a community.

The projects, implemented by ENECA, are based on the concept of sustainable development, taking care of the national and local strategies, as well as the international standards. Moreover, not only have we been trying to follow new mechanisms and trends, but we also anticipate and create them.

GOALS

- Promotion of local sustainable development
- Improving competitiveness in southern Serbia, at the national level and in Southeast Europe

ENECA
Nade Tomić 16/1, 18000 Niš
Tel/fax: +381 18 240 306, e-mail: office@eneca.org.rs , http://www.eneca.org.rs

- Rising the living standards of vulnerable groups and encourage their further business expansion and sustainable development
- Human capital development through adequate education and training
- Contribution to the realization of local sustainable development strategies
- Creation of networks amongst local institutions, organizations, entrepreneurs and companies in SEE with the aim of further economic growth and development
- Promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities
- Protection and improvement of environmental conditions and climate change through direct actions, education and advocacytheir

Since it's founding in 2005 until today, ENECA emphasis is placed on building their own capacity, forming an operational team, establishing cooperation with relevant institutions and individuals, media representation, public engagement and networking.

ENECA initiated and participated in significant projects aimed at improving socio-economic development in the region of southern Serbia, economic care for the most vulnerable, permanent business education of Entrepreneurs and SMESs from the region of southern Serbia, based on the experience we considered that the preconditions for creating our own work strategy based on professionalism, commitment, originality, innovation and reflect our ambitions to create a strong civil society organization are recognizable in the region and beyond.

Implemented joint projects with domestic and international non-governmental organizations, achieved cooperation with relevant institutions in the field of socio-economic development, significant media space, use of important EU and other funds - set us demanding goals, in terms of continuous improvement, both due to our own capacities and due to the needs of the community and the interests of the citizens. Our intention is to try to respond to the challenges that lie ahead, which is why it is important to properly set strategic goals that would be pursued in the coming period.

VISION

Our vision is an active, vital and democratic society with ENECA as a key organization in the field of socio-economic development and support for the development of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia.

MISSION

We strive to be the driving force of local sustainable development in the Republic of Serbia, to continuously and consistently monitor and respond to the needs of our environment and provide conditions for improving socio-economic development for all citizens while respecting basic human rights, civil society values, rule of law and democracy.

BASIC VALUES

Our core values are tolerance, solidarity, commitment, teamwork and collective responsibility, creating relationships and partnerships with others, objectivity and self-criticism, equality and equal opportunities, originality and innovation.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Association of Citizens "ENECA" Nis is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-governmental organization founded on April 5, 2005, with the adoption of the founding act and the Statute of the Association.
Overall objectives

1. Promotion and encouragement of local sustainable development
2. Employment and self-employment, development of entrepreneurship and SME sector as a stimulus to economic development
3. Raising the standard of living of vulnerable groups (refugees, internally displaced persons, minorities, domicile vulnerable population) through economic independence
4. Development of human capital and its adaptation to the needs of the labor market through adequate education and training
5. Connecting and networking local institutions, organizations, entrepreneurs and companies with the common goal of further economic growth and development
6. Promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities
7. Encouraging the development of cultural and environmental awareness of citizens
8. Supporting youth and young people

Specific objectives

- Supporting the development of social entrepreneurship and improving the quality of life of vulnerable categories
- Support for women's entrepreneurship
- Support for the establishment of an association of entrepreneurs
- Establishment of a Microcredit Fund to support the development of entrepreneurship under favorable conditions
- Promotion of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and cooperation in the implementation of CSR strategies
- Activation of cooperation with the media with the aim of promoting entrepreneurship and economic development through employment as well as developing citizens' awareness of the importance of social inclusion and the work of ENECA in Serbia
- Career guidance and counseling services that empower young individuals to recognize their unique values, abilities, and interests, enabling them to make informed decisions about their educational journeys and future career choices

SWOT ANALYSIS ENECA 2024

Strength	Weakness
• Human resources • Financial resources • Technical resources • Expertise and experience • Know-how • Positive reputation and recognition • Originality and innovation in project development and implementation • Designed long-term goals and programs • Organisational structure • Experience in the use of EU funds • Database of 2500 SMEE beneficiaries and clients in previosu programs • SeKO network membership • Acceptance and adherence to the principles of the Code of Ethics of Civil Society Organizations • Good relations and productive co-operation with most local self-governments in southern and eastern Serbia • Good cooperation with local/regional and national media • Strategic partnerships with International NGOs – CARE Germany • Great coopeation with international institution and organisation UNDP, UNOPS, USAID, SIDA, CARE, BMZ • Representative of ENECA is Vice President of NALED Executive Board (National Alliance for Local Economic Development • Member of AmCHAM	• Lack of business premises in ownership • Lack of Legal department, dependent of external experts
Opportunity	**Threat**
• Funds for OCD projects (EU, USAID, SIDA, UNDP, UNOPS,BOS)	• Reduction of the number of funds available for OCD project financing

ENECA
Nade Tomić 16/1, 18000 Niš
Tel/fax: +381 18 240 306, e-mail: office@eneca.org.rs , http://www.eneca.org.rs

• Cooperation with the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Sector	• Long-term consequences of COVID 19 pandemia • Changing political climate in Serbia • Non-transparent and unplanned spending of budget line 481 • Insufficient participation of citizens in the decision-making process

I Support to SMEE and business environment

Direct support to establishment, growth and development of SMEEs in Serbia, which is ENECA goal since its beginning, but with focus on innovation and digital transformation of private sector in order to raise their competitiveness. ENCA is also active player in creating positive business environment for SMEEs in line with EU Small Business Act (SBA) and participates in working groups of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy concerning fiscal and parafiscal charges and Flat rate tax regime.

II Support to process of EU Integration

Advocacy and support to process of EU integration of Serbia, through active participation as expert organization in key negotiation chapters (Chapter 8 – Competitiveness; Chapter 20 Industrial policies and entrepreneurship; Chapter 27 Environment and climate change) on national and local level (Government, Ministry for EU Integration, Economy, Finance and local authorities)

III Socio-economic development

By supporting the establishment / development of small family businesses, ENECA has enabled employment and job creation in the cities and municipalities where the projects have been implemented.
Employment is always accompanied by additional education through business and professional training, support from the local community and often the economic sector, which achieves the best results and long-term sustainability.
The projects implemented by ENECA are based on the concept of sustainable development, taking into account national and local strategies, as well as international standards, striving not only to monitor new mechanisms and trends, but also to anticipate and create them. The plan is to further develop programs of financial support to entrepreneurs and vulnerable categories of the population through various funds, associations, and support for social entrepreneurship, which would give our organization additional strength, and the target group a chance to realize their business ideas through various forms of support for entrepreneurship. and provide a secure and steady income for themselves and their families, as well as contribute to a sustainable business community.
The focus of the organization was placed on socio-economic development projects, with over 3000 small businesses in equipment, business and professional training, direct monitoring and consulting receiving support through direct assistance programs. Through a series of projects that we have implemented independently or in cooperation with local and international partners, continuous

improvement of acquired knowledge, as well as monitoring the socio-economic situation in Serbia and the region of Southeast Europe, ENECA has managed to maintain continuity in its work and remain focused on critical socio-economic issues present in the south of the country.

IV Environment and Climate Change

Since 2017 ENECA has been involved in Environment and Climate Change projects cooperating with UNDP Serbia. Main focus was on Circular Economy and green businesses but also through engagement of ENECA expert of Climate Smart Urban development projects. ENECA is also partner CLIMATE KIC and Climathon in 2018 and 2019. Also in current project with UNDP ENECA is focusing on sustainable agriculture and food production in rural areas of South Serbia.

V Support to youth

ENECA is dedicated to fostering the potential of young people as an integral part of our mission for sustainable community development. Our commitment to youth involves providing comprehensive support to help them navigate their future paths successfully. Through initiatives such as our associated Job Info Center in Niš , we offer crucial career guidance and counseling services that empower young individuals to recognize their unique values, abilities, and interests, enabling them to make informed decisions about their educational journeys and future career choices. While creating employment opportunities, and educating young people on sustainable values and community strengthening as a vital component, our broader focus encompasses holistic personal and professional development, actively connecting youth with schools, the economy, and the civil sector to build a foundation for their success and contribute to a community.

Vladan Risantijević
President of Managing Board

ENECA
Nade Tomić 16/1, 18000 Niš
Tel/fax: +381 18 240 306, e-mail: office@eneca.org.rs , http://www.eneca.org.rs

Active projects in 2024:

Pillar	Projects	Objectives	Start date	End date
I Support to SMEE and business environment	StarTech – as NALEDs partner (National alliance for local economic development) – financed by private sector in Serbia	Accelerating the growth of Serbian companies and the transformation of the traditional economy into a pre-digital, export-oriented economy based on knowledge and innovation	2020	2025
II Support to process of EU Integration	EU National Resource Centre for Civil Society Organizations in Serbia- financed by EU Delegation in Serbia	Supporting CSOs in Serbia through financing, mentoring, training and networking. ENECA provides both financial and mentoring support to youth-led informal groups. The organization also uses innovative participatory methodologies, such as design thinking competitions and forum theatre, to engage children and youth in exploring issues related to rights, identity, culture, and democracy	2023	2026
	Building Grassroots Support for Normalization process in Western Balkans –financed by International Republican Institute (USA)	Supporting youth, CSOs and business to normalize relations and develop action plans for cooperation in the Western Balkans	2023	2024
III Socio-economic development	New economic opportunities for returnees and vulnerable categories of citizens in southern and eastern Serbia - financed by German Ministry for Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Care Germany	The project contributes to the equal, socio-economic integration of vulnerable citizens and improves the general economic living conditions in the south and east of the Republic of Serbia.	2020	2024

ENECA
Nade Tomić 16/1, 18000 Niš
Tel/fax: +381 18 240 306, e-mail: office@eneca.org.rs , http://www.eneca.org.rs

IV Environment and climate change	Together for Environmental Protection Activity in Serbia- financed by USAID	Program “Hired by nature” that supports individuals, agricultural households and SMEEs in protected areas (PAs) to implement sustainable business models in the field of sustainable agriculture and tourism through grants, mentoring and trainings.	2022	2027
	Green Economy of Serbia- financed by GIZ	Analysis of potential for green transition of Serbia economy in 4 sectors : rubber and plastics, machinery, food and tourism and creation of Action Plan and Strategy	2024	2024
V Support to youth	Education to Employment – financed by Swiss Development Agency (SDC)	“Education 2 Employment” program is an eight-year partnership project of two governments - Switzerland and Serbia - designed to create preconditions for faster employment of young people. The goal is to achieve a better match between demand and job offers through the modernization of employment policies for young people, and vulnerable categories of citizens, and the development of specific competencies. The key resource of the project is ENECA's career center with its skilled educated psychologists. This center provides the development of career counselling and guidance services and the social inclusion of vulnerable categories. Until now more than 2000 youngsters went through our counselling and guidance services, and more than 40 youngsters are employed through Work Based Learning program. A central component of ENECA’s work is the operation of the Job Info Center in Niš, an accredited public adult education provider (JPOA) certified by the Serbian Qualifications Agency, which delivers structured career guidance and counseling services..	2022	2025

ENECA
Nade Tomić 16/1, 18000 Niš
Tel/fax: +381 18 240 306, e-mail: office@eneca.org.rs , http://www.eneca.org.rs