

ASSOCIATION FOR NATURE, ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

sunce

Work report

January 1st, 2020 - December 31st,
2020





Association for Nature, Environment and
Sustainable Development Sunce
Obala hrvatskog narodnog preporoda 7/III • 21000 Split, Croatia
Giro account: 2407 0001 1005 7092 5 • IBAN: HR46 2407 0001 1005
7092 5 • PIN: 17644269011
Tel: +38521360779 • Mob: +3853607790 • Zeleni telefon:
072/1233456
E-mail: info@sunce-st.org

Under the provisions of the Article 41. of the Statute of The Association for the Protection of Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development Sunce (CLASS: UP/I-230-02/15-01/1016, REG. NUMBER: 2181-06-16-10-SG, February 15th, 2016.), the Work Report for 2020 was adopted at the session of the Assembly held on June 10th, 2021.

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Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development *Sunce*

(Abbreviated name: Association Sunce Split)

Obala hrvatskog narodnog preporoda 7/III, HR – 21000 Split

YEAR OF FOUNDATION

1998.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS

309

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

27

VISION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Preserved nature and the environment are fundamental values of the society in which we approach through the application of the sustainable development.

1. SUMMARY

2020 was a year of adjustment and change. The COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of the organization's work, as seen and explained further in the report. The pandemic has directed us towards new methods and ways of working and acting. Namely, we had to adapt many activities and projects so that they could be implemented at all. The Association was expected to have a high level of creativity, readiness for new challenges, learning and constant change, as well as stable and responsible team. Furthermore, the pandemic accelerated the already started adjustment to online and out-of-office work, but also contributed to further reorganization and improvement of the organization. We will continue to use the knowledge, skills and experience we have gained once the crisis is over.

With the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, part of the activities is focused on informing about the importance of looking at this crisis from the prism of environmental impact. We put the emphasis on raising awareness of how the limitless and uncontrolled use of flora and fauna and natural resources causes many negatives, and ultimately disasters, some of which manifest themselves as pandemics, global threats to human health. Behaviour change, the drive for sustainability, including environmental sustainability, is necessary in individuals and at all levels of society. In the midst of a lockdown, we launched a free certification campaign within the Dalmatia Green project in order to encourage renters to operate in an environmentally responsible manner and thus jointly contribute to the preservation of the environment and natural resources. We were also aware of the negative impact of the implementation of all measures to prevent the spread of the virus on the environment. We saw the crisis as an opportunity for changes towards a more environmentally responsible, more solidary society and we participated in the Croatian initiatives' networks of environmental associations, the Green Forum as well as other national and international environmental organizations.

Due to wide range of activities of the Association Sunce, it is difficult to single out one success of a particular program area without looking at the others. A significant achievement in 2020 is the Association's participation in advocacy activities. We have ensured the impact on public policies that are directly related to environmental protection, such as the Waste Act, or those that should also cover the area of environmental protection and nature conservation, such as the development of local plans and the national development plan. We have prepared an expert background and a complaint to the European Commission regarding the exemption that Croatia received for the continued use of coastal tugs without prior implementation of the assessment of the acceptability of the project for the ecological network. We talk about fishing gear that has an impact on the Posidonia meadows, one of the most endangered habitats in the Mediterranean and a priority habitat for protection within the ecological network. Within the Department of Environmental Rights, we continued to operate the Green Phone on a regular basis despite the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the greatest achievement within the Nature Conservation Program, we would like to point out the adoption of the Ordinance on fishing in protected areas, special habitats and areas with special fishing regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture, which regulates permitted fishing gear in these areas and established new no-take zones. This Ordinance was adopted on November 13th, 2020, after nine years of advocacy in which we actively participated. Furthermore, we would like to highlight the successful implementation of several services, including the development of management plans for Natura 2000 and protected areas from Group 5, which is being implemented for the first time in a consortium, in cooperation with the private sector, SAFEGE d.o.o. and the BIOM Association. Management plans, within this service, are developed with the active participation of all stakeholders.

Significant success was also achieved by the service *Implementation of measure 3.3.3. Collect waste at sea through diving actions and trawling from the Program of measures for protection and management of the marine environment and coastal area of the Republic of Croatia* (abbreviated name: Marine Waste Cleaning Actions 2020) which was successfully implemented despite numerous challenges imposed by the COVID-19 crisis. A total of 21 cleaning actions were organized and 4900 kg of waste was collected. Based on the experience of implementing cleaning actions, as well as the legislative framework in the Republic of Croatia, we have developed a *Protocol for the implementation of actions for cleaning waste from the sea* as a document or guideline for all future actions. Furthermore, marine research activities have been expanded to monitor coralligenous and periscopes, Posidonia has been successfully transplanted within the Interreg project and continuity of Posidonia and marine waste monitoring with services and projects has been ensured.

Within the Environmental Protection Program during 2020, several projects were implemented aimed at reducing pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, including the Adriatic, with plastic. We have established cooperation with several local communities: the city of Dubrovnik, Trogir, Stari Grad and Dugi Otok with the aim to reduce the use of disposable plastics and improving the management of plastic waste as well as the waste in general. Despite the epidemiological measures' limitations, the traditional public events of the Association, Earth Day and the Split Bicycle Tour were successfully held. All these activities were carried out in close cooperation with international ESS volunteers as well as local Association's volunteers. In addition to working directly with volunteers, work on the development of volunteering continued with the service for the Mljet National Park, where we developed volunteering programs and strengthened the capacity of employees of this public institution, continuing to encourage the development of volunteering in protected areas.

We carried out programs of socially useful learning within the Department of Education and Public Informing and the project *Practical-Active-Together-Interdisciplinary! - Service learning programs for the environment and sustainable development* have encouraged volunteering, active civic engagement and employment in civil society organizations for environmental protection. At the University of Split, awareness has been strengthened in the importance and role of socially useful learning in strengthening civic engagement and in student education. The university's *SEA-EU* project at the University encouraged the establishment of the DKU Centre. Cooperation has been established with new educational staff and for the first time the verification of the educational program of the Association has been initiated by the Agency for Science and Education.

In 2020, expired the mandate of the members of the Management Board and the Executive Director, so the processes of selecting new members for the management and executive function of the Association were carried out. A new cycle of strategic planning has also begun, as the existing Strategic Plan covered the period from 2016 to 2020. Strategic planning is co-financed with the National Foundation for Civil Society Development. The trend of annual growth in the number of employees continued, so that the number of full-time employees in 2020 increased to 15, compared to 11 employees in 2018 and 14.7 employees in 2019.

2020 was the last year of institutional support from the National Foundation for Civil Society Development. This support, in the last three years, has once again given elan to the organizational development of the Association. Thus, during 2020, despite all the limitations, we managed to adopt the Financial Plan for 2021 and provide funds for the work of the entire team of the Association in 2021.

The previously mentioned services contributed to the strengthening of professional capacities and references of the Association Sunce, supported the financial sustainability of the organization and at the same time contributed to the fulfilment of the Strategic Plan of the Association.

Namely, the providing of services is a significant part of the total revenue of the Association, i.e., 22.37% in 2020, which is another increase compared to 2019. Revenue generated in 2020 also represents the largest amount of revenue from the provision of services through all actions of the Association Sunce.

The provision of services has improved coping with the challenges associated with the growing need to secure pre-financing and higher co-financing amounts, as well as with the administrative burdens of individual European projects.

The chapters below provide an overview of program activities and activities related to organizational development in 2020. We regularly publish more detailed information on the implemented activities on the official website of the Association (www.sunce-st.org) and the official Facebook page, but also on web and Facebook pages created within individual projects.

2. PROJECTS AND SERVICES BY PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENTS

2.1. Nature Conservation Program

- Project LIFE Artina – Seabird Conservation Network in the Adriatic ([link](#))
- Project Adriatic Seabird Guardians
- Project Innovative Exploitation of Adriatic Reefs in Order to Strengthen Blue Economy – ADRIREEF ([link](#))
- Project Transforming Mediterranean Small Scale Fisheries ([link](#))
- Project SUSHI DROP – Sustainable fiSHeries wIth DROnes data Processing ([link](#))
- Project SASPAS – Safe Anchoring and Seagrass Protection in the Adriatic Sea ([link](#))
- Project FAIRSEA – Fisheries in the Adriatic Region – a Shared Ecosystem Approach ([link](#))

- Service Designing and leading the implementation of volunteer programs for the Mljet National Park ([link](#))
- Service Development of management plans for Natura 2000 ecological network areas and protected areas from Group 5 ([link](#))
- Service Determining the condition of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in the area of the ecological network HR4000007 Badija i otoci oko Korčule and HR3000431 Akvatorij J od uvale Pržina i S od uvale Bilin žal uz poluotok Ražnjić te u uvali Polačište.
- Service Monitoring the condition of periscopes and taking tissue samples for histological analysis on the parasite *Haplosporidium pinae* around the Lastovo Islands Nature Park
- Service Implementation of the measure 3.3.3. Collect waste at sea through diving actions and trawling from the Program of measures for protection and management of the marine environment and the coastal area of the Republic of Croatia (abbreviated name: Marine waste cleaning actions 2020)

2.2. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program

- Project Plastic Smart Cities Croatia – Dubrovnik ([link](#))
- Project Plastic Smart Cities Croatia – Trogir ([link](#))
- Project For Plastic-Free Islands ([link](#))
- Project BE ACTIVE - RE (BI) CYCLE
- Project Dalmatia Green ([link](#))
- Project CirkTurizam – circular for sustainable tourism
- Service for the implementation of educational and informative activities within the project Waste is not garbage! KK.06.3.1.07.0011 for the City of Split ([link](#))
- Service Concept and content development: leaflet for all citizens, leaflets and stickers for tourists, brochure for women and pensioners, posters for all citizens - Ekozeko project and an islet for the municipality of Šolta
- Other activities: Cooperation with Zagreb Brewery and Split bicycle tour

2.3. Department of Environmental Law

- Project Green telephone ([link](#))
- Project JEDRO – Public policies for sustainable social development: water, energy, waste ([link](#))
- Project Sinjaj for Split ([link](#))
- Legal disputes of the Association: Lećevice Waste Management Center, Lučino Razdolje Waste Management Center, Embankment of the beaches Tri mosta and Gustirna luka in Supetar on island Brač, Ferry port Perna, Wind farm Senj, DC8 road, Landscaping of Benačica beach in Bol and Complaint fisheries.

2.4. Department of Education and Public Informing

- Project Practical-Active-Together-Interdisciplinary! – Service learning programs for the environment and sustainable development ([link](#))
- Project Solidarity for Green Dalmatia
- Project Solidarity for Green Dalmatia 2020
- Sustainable Student Companies in Croatian High Schools – Green Enterprises Promote Entrepreneurial Thinking and Actions Among Young People in Croatia ([link](#))
- Service Education of educators in the field of sustainable development, environmental protection, and waste sorting for DV Blato, Korčula
- Service Educational workshop for children and organization of competitions in schools - Eco bunny and islet project for the municipality of Šolta
- Other activities: Developing capacities together: European CSO – university network for global learning on migration, security, and sustainable development in an interdependent world: InterCap, SEA-EU Split University, Social Innovators, Celebrating Earth Day, Development of a program for the education of preschool teachers.

2.4. Financial report

Revenues of the Association in 2020	Amounts of revenues in HRK	Amounts of revenues in EUR
foreign sources (foreign governments and international organizations)	480.514 HRK	63.813 EUR
foreign sources (EU funds)	1.822.271 HRK	242.002 EUR
budget, state	39.464 HRK	5.241 EUR
budget, local	6.000 HRK	797 EUR
the budget of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development	236.776 HRK	31.444 EUR
own revenues generated by performing permitted activities	849.763 HRK	112.850 EUR
donations from the business sector of the Republic of Croatia	221.757 HRK	29.450 EUR
membership fees	3.028 HRK	402 EUR
donations of citizens of the Republic of Croatia	100 HRK	13 EUR
other (sales revenue, refunds, etc.)	139.789 HRK	18.564 EUR
Total realized revenues of the Association in 2020	3.799.462 HRK	504.576 EUR
Expenses of the Association in 2020	Amounts of expenses in HRK	Amounts of expenses in EUR
salaries, bonuses, and employee contributions	2.128.710 HRK	282.697 EUR
compensation of employees to cover the costs of business trips, workshops, seminars	161.500 HRK	21.448 EUR
fees for consultants and associates (foreign and domestic) and persons outside employment (fees, copyright, and service contracts + travel expenses)	136.778 HRK	18.164 EUR
costs of volunteers	63.622 HRK	8.449 EUR
expenses for services (rent, telephone, maintenance, etc.)	302.341 HRK	40.152 EUR
material costs	46.608 HRK	6.190 EUR
intellectual and personal services (contracts, bookkeeping service, student service, etc.)	263.956 HRK	35.054 EUR
other expenses (membership fees, donations, banking services, depreciation, etc.)	391.086 HRK	51.937 EUR
Total realized expenses of the Association in 2020	3.494.601 HRK	464.091 EUR

Full work report 2020 available in Croatian only – [HERE](#).