

## INTRODUCTION

Starting from the basic premises, needs, and wishes to accept to live in harmony with the environment, defined and generally accepted as “the development towards fulfilling the needs of today, but without jeopardizing the opportunities for future generations to satisfy their needs,” and in accordance with the fact that the total development is happening within the space that it is confided in, the municipality of Koceljeva adopted the decision on the creation of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

At the same time when we started developing the ideas about the methods and the beginning of the work on strategic documents, the SCTM invited the municipalities to apply for participation in a pilot project for the creation of the Sustainable Local Development Strategy that would be realized with the support of the government of Norway.

By applying and joining the group of six municipalities in the pilot project based on the methodology and the donations of the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, the municipality of Koceljeva entered the strategy development process with a lot of ambition and motivation.

The first step taken was the establishment of the Municipal Forum in the executive decision adopted by the President of the Municipality.

## PROFILE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOCELJEVA

The profile of the municipality has been created in order to present the area and the people affected by the strategy.

### **Location and Size**

The territory of the municipality of Koceljeva covers an area of 257 hectares. It is located in the Northwestern part of the Republic of Serbia, in the Podrinje-Kolubara region. In the North, it borders the municipalities Šabac and Vladimirci, in the East the municipality of Ub, in the South the municipalities Valjevo and Osečina, and in the West the municipality of Krupanj.

According to the census from 2002, the municipality of Koceljeva had 15,636 inhabitants, with a fairly uniform gender structure (there were 38 more men than women), and the average age was just above 40. The average age for men was 40.0 years, and for women 42.3. About 70% of the

inhabitants of the municipality live in rural areas of the municipality.

The fact remains that the total number of inhabitants has decreased by about 1000 or 6% over the last decade, and that the large cities are the main targets of migration mostly for the younger population.

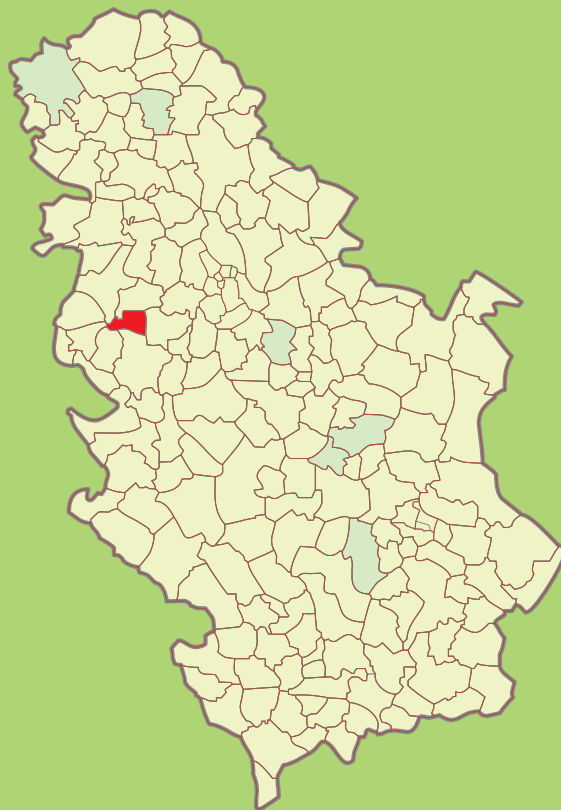
Christianity is the prevalent religion of the inhabitants of this municipality. Roma represent a minority community situated in two villages, and comprise a total of 5.5% of the population of the municipality of Koceljeva.

The creation of the profile of the municipality included collection and organization of data from all areas relevant to Koceljeva: in addition to general information and the geographic location, population, settlements and history, climate, geology, hydrology, economy and economic trends under the earlier and previous systems, available long-term capital, financial and human resources...

After reviewing the time period and the area in which we found ourselves, we wished for different and better relationships in this region, for rules to change, in order for the area to be populated by the same, but more content people. This is how we started to develop the vision and our imagination. In the beginning, this vision was based on flights of fancy, which was somewhat difficult to work with, but, with time, it was brought into a proper framework, and that was how we obtained the vision for our Koceljeva.

The obstacles for the vision to become reality are the problems in our community, and we invested great efforts into detecting the problems and their causes, origins, and possible methods for their solution, or at least mitigation. The vision and imagination of the Municipal Forum presented the following views of the future:

Koceljeva should be a place where everyone who arrives wishes to remain, and no one born in it should wish to leave.



An area of developed agriculture, renowned for its livestock, orchards, vegetables, and the trade in agricultural products.

Koceljeva – a modern local community, with developed infrastructure and rich sports, cultural, and tourist offers, which is preserving tradition and local customs.

Local administration should be responsible, swift, efficient, open, and services the citizens.

Educational and health care institutions should be harmonized with the needs of the citizens. The development of Koceljeva did not jeopardize the environment, the health of the population, or the total quality of life.

And the following sentence was adopted as the motto:

**KOCELJEVA IS WORTH LIVING IN!**



## THE SCOPE OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The decision on starting the work on the Sustainable Local Development Strategy of the municipality of Koceljeva defined the following fields of planning; workgroups were created for each field, consisting of the members of the Municipal Forum and the citizens interested for the specific issue:

- Spatial and urban planning
- Social development
- Economic development and employment
- Infrastructure
- Environmental protection

In order to assess the situation in the community, analyses of the situation in individual fields have been performed first, in order to present the current situation and review the trends and tendencies.

A SWOT analysis is unavoidable and required in situations like this, and it got its proper place within the methodology. Within each of the fields that we covered, we also identified priorities.

## STRATEGIC AND SPECIFIC GOALS

The strategic goals, measures, and activities defined various institutional instruments for the realization of the priority goals of the Sustainable Local Development Strategy for the municipality of Koceljeva.

### Infrastructure

#### STRATEGIC GOAL

- Providing adequate infrastructure on the territory of the municipality of Koceljeva

#### SPECIFIC GOAL 1

- Improve the surfaces of municipal roads and streets with modern road pavement

#### SPECIFIC GOAL 2

- Improving the power supply in the municipality of Koceljeva
- Create a system for collection, transfer, and purification of wastewaters
- Provide sufficient quantities of drinking water and make it available to the users

## Spatial and urban planning

### STRATEGIC GOAL

- Creation of the spatial plan of the municipality and the missing urban plans

### SPECIFIC GOAL 1

- Create a suitable information system about the land area

### SPECIFIC GOAL 2

- Improve the participation of the public in the procedures and adoption of urban plans

## Social development – Health care

### STRATEGIC GOAL

- Improve the health care opportunities for the population of the municipality

### SPECIFIC GOAL 1

- Raising the awareness of the population about the significance of healthy nutrition and healthy lifestyle, as a method to avoid the risks of chronic diseases

### SPECIFIC GOAL 2

- Raising the awareness of the public about addiction diseases

## Social development – Social care

### STRATEGIC GOAL

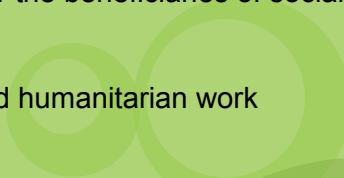
- Improving the quality of life for the beneficiaries of social care

### SPECIFIC GOAL 1

- Founding NGOs for social and humanitarian work

### SPECIFIC GOAL 2

- Creation of a local poverty reduction strategy



## **Social development - Education**

### **STRATEGIC GOAL**

- Improvement of the conditions in the educational system of the municipality

### **SPECIFIC GOAL 1**

- Finishing the construction of the gym in the primary school

### **SPECIFIC GOAL 2**

- Harmonize the planning of educational profiles in high-school education with the needs of the local community

## **Social development – Youth care**

### **STRATEGIC GOAL**

- Creating the conditions for youth to satisfy their needs and ambitions within the municipality of Koceljjeva

### **SPECIFIC GOAL 1**

- Creation of a Local Action Plan for children and youth

### **SPECIFIC GOAL 2**

- Improving cultural, entertainment, and sports programs for youth

## **Social development – Senior care and care for marginalized persons**

### **STRATEGIC GOAL**

- Support for senior citizens and marginalized groups

### **SPECIFIC GOAL 1**

- Organization and development of the program of home care and aid to senior citizens

### **SPECIFIC GOAL 2**

- Removal of physical barriers preventing the movement and access of disabled persons

## Economic development and employment

### STRATEGIC GOAL

- Creation of a strategic plan for the economic development of the municipality

### SPECIFIC GOAL 1

- Creation of the municipal Agriculture Development Program

### SPECIFIC GOAL 2

- Founding of the Office for Local Economic Development, as a common information desk for (future) entrepreneurs

## Environmental protection

### STRATEGIC GOAL

- Improving the quality of the environment in the municipality of Koceljeva

### SPECIFIC GOAL 1

- Introduce a system of integral management of solid utility waste on the territory of the municipality of Koceljeva

### SPECIFIC GOAL 2

- Create a local action plan for environmental protection



# INSTRUMENTS

## **Institutional Instruments**

The strategic goals, measures and activities have defined various institutional instruments for the realization of priority goals of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the municipality of Koceljeva.

- Establishment of the Forum for the Local Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Establishment of the Forum for the Local Action Plan for Children and Youth
- Establishment of the Municipal Forum for Agricultural Development
- Establishment of the Office for Local Economic Development
- Creation of the annual program for improvement of the power network
- Creation of the Study about the collection, transfer, and purification of waste waters
- Creation of the study of water supply in the municipality of Koceljeva
- Creation of the GIS program
- Creation of the common information system of the municipality
- Creation of the information plan for citizens through the information channels
- Creation of the Local Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Creation of the Local Action Plan for Children and Youth
- Creation of the Senior Support Program
- Creation of the Municipal Agricultural Development Program
- Creation of the municipal plan for solid utility waste management
- Creation of the Local Action Plan for Environmental Protection

## **Financial Instruments**

The implementation of the Sustainable Local Development Strategy will be financed from

- The budget of the municipality of Koceljeva, and
- From other sources.

The municipality of Koceljeva shall, at the proposal of the Council for Sustainable Development, provide the funds from the budget for 2008 for the financing of one segment of the activities from the action plan for the period 2008 – 2010, and then successively provide funding for each of the following years of implementation.

Other sources of financing are:

- The funds from the projects financed by international organizations and development agencies,
- The funds from the National Investment Plan,
- The funds from the pre-accession funds of the European Union,
- Credit lines with domestic and international financial institutions,
- The funds from the Municipal Development Fund.