Peer to Peer with PROAKTIV & DELI

On January 31 New Social Initiative, with the support of EED, had a chance to travel to Niš, Serbia, meet and learn from local civil society organization PROAKTIV and their co-working space DELI.

PROAKTIV is a civil society organization based in Niš, Serbia with a mission to create a supportive, proactive environment through civic action. PROAKTIV has 5 core programs including EU Program, Decentralization, Economic Empowerment, Youth Program and Active Citizens Program. For years the organization worked on inspiring citizens to engage and hold local institutions and representative accountable, but also to think beyond politics and seek for ways to elevate themselves and the community. One way that PROAKTIV hands one weighted in on this was by establishing DELI (i.e. share), a coworking space open to creative individuals and groups. It is here were many now famous contemporary artists, photographers, programmers started their carrier.

During the visit, NSI spent the morning in the PROACTIVE office learning more about their work, programs, methods and ideas. NSI also introduced the host organization to our staff, portfolios, work and plans for the future. In the afternoon, NSI visited DELI where we had a chance to hear more about the space both from its hosts and the beneficiaries. A warm and welcoming co-working space which offers everything one needs to work and be creative, including mentoring and support, inspired NSI to open up to new approaches even more.

Fun fact: New Social Initiative first meet with PROAKTIV in 2017 while researching good practices on citizen participation. Their platform Moj Odbornik (i.e. my representative) was one of the inspirations for our e-municipality platforms. Motivated by what we saw and heard from this dynamic organization, we knew we had to come back and learn more about and from them.
NSI started the new year strong, working on elevating internal capacities and approaches. On February 1 and 2, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors Dina Milovanović led a two-day workshop for NSI staff on internal forms and evaluation, as part of preparations for the new NSI 2020 strategy.

On February 1 we had a chance to get familiar with the new administrative methods, including internal project tracking and reporting, monitoring and evaluating, as well as everyday paperwork.

On February 2 NSI leadership introduced a new 360-degree evaluation methodology tailored for NSI, which will allow both the management and the employees to provide feedback and utilize it to become more effective and acknowledging. NSI belief is that good management is inclusive, where everyone has a voice and work together toward organizational harmony.

On January 24, NSI staff participated in a tailor-made training on social media strategy. The training was tailor-made for NSI by UNIMIK and facilitated by Sanam Dolashi. Topic disused included development and selection of suitable texts and graphs or photos for social media posts, engagement of the public through social media, differences between social media platforms and their potentials, among others. The training enabled NSI to envision improvements for our social media profiles and general online presence.

Fun fact: NSI and UNMIK partnered in 2019 on developing a Trustbuilding platform, which follow actions, previously agreed at UNMIK organized Forum in 2018, needed to build a more peaceful and inclusive society and seeks to promote grassroots and civil society initiatives and efforts by international organizations, as well as institutional policies and actions to advance trust-building in Kosovo. What makes this platform different is that it is the only database that allows you to search for Kosovo-based initiatives all in one place, regardless of location, type of organization, or thematic focus.