

The territory of **Foundation “Local action group – Western Stara Planina – Kopren-Midjur”** is situated in the northern Balkans and covers the territories of the municipalities of Chiprovtsi, Georgi Damyanovo, Chuprene, as well as 8 villages from the territories of the municipality of Berkovitsa. The territory is homogenous and covers 1044,86 sq.km. with population of about 11 000 residents.

The Foundation is a non-profit juridical person in public favor. It is governed by an assembly of 9 members and includes representatives of the civil sector (22,22%), the business (33,33%) and local authorities – the municipalities of Chiprovtsi, Chuprene, Georgi Damyanovo and Berkovitsa (44,44%).

The Foundation has a collective management body - „management board” – it is selected by the assembly.

A committee for selection and assessment of project implements the local development strategy. The technical team is managed by an executive director selected by the management board.

Main objective of the LAG: to overcome the economic crisis and depopulation of the territory by creating opportunities for successful economic development, getting the local people together for implementation of projects within the LEADER approach, providing social, ecological, healthy and economic benefits for the LAG population.

Specific objectives:

1. Support the modernization of production and introduction of innovations in the local farms.
2. Supporting agricultural entrepreneurs and producers.
3. Encouraging the development of non-agricultural micro enterprises and supporting existing micro enterprises.
4. Development of tourism infrastructure and visitor attractions.
5. Improving the access of population to social services and services connected with the leisure time and relaxation.
6. Improving the image and outlook of the settlements in the territory.
7. Preservation and renovation of cultural and natural heritage of the territory.
8. Encouraging the development of LAG and increase of level of information, skills and activeness of the local people for the purpose of involving them in the process of implementation of the strategy.

The territory is unique with its masterfully made carpets (by hand), as well as the kind of sheep (high mountain one), which is used for wool.

LAG web-site: <http://mig-zapadnastaraplanina.com/>

Web-site (in English) of one of the municipalities inside the LAG, where the most famous carpets come from: <http://www.chiprovtsi.bg/index.php>



