



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on
Engagement:

From: October 2013

To: December 2016



I. Statement of Continued Support by the President

15 February 2017

To our stakeholders:

fea – Forestry and Environmental Action, is pleased to continue to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

This is our first COE – Communication on Engagement and it gives an overview of the activities and initiatives fea has taken since joining the UNGC in order to support and promote the UNGC and its Principles.

We commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Aida Brzina, President

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II. Description of Actions

fea is a non-governmental organization established in 2007 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since fea's inception, the guiding principle of our work has been to support authorities and communities, as well as the private sector, in the responsible use of natural resources in accordance with the legitimate demands of society.

After joining the UNGC, fea has provided practical and professional support for a number of initiatives in the field of sustainable development. We have prepared planning and implementing documents for several development initiatives focused on nature protection, local community development and private-public-civil partnership. In addition, fea worked on the preparation of Bosnian version of the ISO 26000:2014.

Considering the ongoing global and local challenges for environment and sustainable development, we at fea will continue to increase our capacities to tackle these challenges.

Activities

- Engaged with Global Compact Local Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2013

In order to actively participate in social responsible actions, fea joined Global Compact local network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was first step for acquiring and implementing social responsible practices in our work.

- Joined the UNGC, 2013

fea has joined the world's largest corporate responsibility initiative United Nations Global Compact, with the aim to support sustainable practices in private sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina and South East Europe.

- Participated in the International Business Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey, 2013

The IBF was created by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in order to raise awareness among enterprises regarding their impact in the field of sustainable development and poverty reduction. Topics included Social Entrepreneurship, Principles of CSR, etc.

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- Participated in the Panel Discussion on Corporate Philanthropy, 2013

The panel discussion included topics "Individual Philanthropy" and "Corporate Philanthropy" and gave an overview of the legal framework in the context of the above mentioned topics. Also, the session promoted partnership between private sector and the CSOs. This was an opportunity for networking with companies and CSOs and sharing ideas and experiences.

- Participated in the UN Global Compact annual Assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2013

The mission of the UNGC in BiH is to promote the UNGC and corporate social responsibility and monitor the progress of its members with regards to application of the ten principles. Members of the UNGC in BiH are companies, business associations, worker unions, NGOs, civil society organizations and academic institutions that are gathered around the same goal of promoting efforts to advance the application of the UNGC principles.

- Participated in the Corporate Social Responsibility Forum organized by USAID, 2014

In its effort to mitigate the challenges facing Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), USAID commemorated January as "Corporate Social Responsibility Is Just Good Business" month, and invited BiH companies to take responsibility for the welfare and development of their local communities. Socially conscious BiH companies also signed the "USAID Corporate Social Responsibility Commitment Book" to pledge specific actions that they will take to improve their communities in the coming year. fea's representatives participated in the public forum held in Sarajevo, and pledged our commitment to responsible way of doing business and everyday activities.

- Joined Technical Committee 55 for ISO 26000:2014, Social Responsibility, 2014

ISO 26000 provides guidance on how businesses and organizations can operate in a socially responsible way. It helps clarify what social responsibility is, helps businesses and organizations translate principles into effective actions and shares best practices relating to social responsibility, globally. Technical Committee 55 is one of the committees of the Institute for standardization of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized in order to prepare the Bosnian version of the standard and to monitor its implementation and revision. fea participated in all sessions that were organized by

the committee and gave its contribution. The standard was launched in December, 2014. Since then, fea has been working on its promotion.

- Participated in the program „Volunteer – Credit“ (Bosnian: “Volontiraj – kreditiraj”), 2014

The organisation “Infohouse Sarajevo” organised a project called “Volontiraj-kreditiraj” (Volunteer-Credit). The project was arranged in 20 Bosnia and Herzegovina cities under the name “Social Day” and enabled more than 2000 students from 100 Bosnian high schools to work one day in firms, institutions and NGOs. fea „employed” two students for one day which was the opportunity for them to make contacts and relations with potential future employers.

- Prepared a program for corporate volunteering based on the ISO 26000, 2014

fea developed a program for corporate volunteering with the main aim to serve as a guidance in developing the strategy for the companies in their socially responsible operations. The program offers concrete activities that companies could undertake and it gives an overview how to measure the impact of those actions. It is accompanied with the individual volunteering and the special attention is focused on the promotion of the partnership between private sector and CSOs. The Corporate Volunteering program hasn’t been launched yet. Currently, fea works on the improvement of the program and establishing the contacts with the interested companies.

- Developed and implemented a leadership program for youth “fea – Leadership Academy”, 2015

fea developed a program called “fea Leadership Academy” with the main to develop interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills in young people through education and lifelong learning.

- Participated in the UNDP session „IMAGINE 2030”, 2016

IMAGINE 2030 is an initiative of the UN team in Bosnia and Herzegovina, designed to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Global Agenda through the use of “strategic foresight” and the innovative and interactive SDG consultations tool. Through the process of imagining alternative and preferred futures with citizens throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, the goal was to create a sense of responsibility

towards Sustainable Development Goals, and encourage actions that will lead to changes through individual and collective engagements.



- fea's projects from 2013 to 2016

fea has implemented several projects during past three years in the fields of forestry, land degradation, protected areas and environmental protection. Each project included component of social responsibility in terms of labour, human rights, anti-corruption and environmental protection. Partners and donators we work with are well-known and recognized institutions whose operations rely on the principles of corporate responsibility. Our partners and clients were: United Nations Environment Program, Danish Forest Extension, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Ministry of Economy of the Sarajevo Canton, The Municipality Center Sarajevo, etc.

III. Measurement of Outcomes

Through its work fea encourages other NGOs and companies to join UN Global Compact and the local network in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We regularly inform the public about CSR policies and activities related to this topic. We became a member of a network consisted of 81 members, which is a great opportunity to share ideas and experiences.

We participated in 10+ conferences, seminars, workshops and meetings with topics related to the ten principles.

We have implemented 5+ projects which included component of social responsibility.

We assisted in the development of implementing documents (National Action Plans) in line with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy which resulted in improved planning and monitoring of UNCCD implementation at the national level in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and FYR Macedonia.

We assisted in the preparation, publishing and promotion of Bosnian version of ISO 26000:2014 Standard, first official guideline on the principles of social responsibility, recognizing social responsibility and engaging stakeholders, the core subjects and issues pertaining to social responsibility and on ways to integrate socially responsible behavior into the organization.

We have developed a Program for Corporate Volunteering which rely on the ten principles and the ISO 26000:2014.

Our projects gather around tens of NGOs, private sector representatives, academic institutions, government representatives and other stakeholders.

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