



MUNICIPALITY OF SVISHTOV

BULGARIA

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAMME OF MUNICIPALITY OF SVISTOV

Among the projects of Municipality of Svishtov related to citizens' participation with best results and sustainability is the **Local Initiatives Programme**.

Information about the programme:

The Local Initiatives Programme of Municipality of Svishtov is prepared by the municipal administration with assistance of experts of Local Government Initiative of U.S. Agency for international development. It supports the implementation of projects and initiatives of the local civic society, in co-operation with the local administration and partners from the municipality, aiming to increase the participation of the local society in making the town and villages nice and good place for living.

The funds for implementation of the projects was provided by the municipal budget, after a decision of the local Municipal council, that in the Name-list of the objects for building was included budget item "Co-funding of projects for programmes of the Municipality".

During the preparation stage for implementation of the Programme in the autumn of 2002 was received more than 35 project proposals, which apply for funding in 2003.

During 2003 were submitted new project proposals, as their total number exceeded 55. Eight projects of them were funded, which had total amount of 34 200 levs. The funded objects were: one sports playground, five children playgrounds, one site between apartment blocks and one project for restoration of information boards at the streets and setting up boards with map of the town. The half of the approved projects was implemented in villages of the municipality.

In the summer of 2004, at the adoption of the excess sum of the budget, from the municipal funds was ensured 15 000 levs for the programme.

Projects for funding from the Programme can be submitted by village mayors, schools, companies, institutions funded by the municipal budget, non-governmental organisations and initiative groups of residents.

The funding is up to 2 000 levs, as there is requirement for own and partners' contribution of at least 30% of the project budget.

The fields of activities of the projects can be: rehabilitation and reconstruction of municipal roads, streets and pavements; protection and regeneration of the environment; reconstruction of the housing estates; education and culture; sport and tourism; water supply and sewerage systems; and integration of people with disabilities.

The duration of the projects is up to 2 months.

The deadline for applying is current, during the whole year.

The projects are to be submitted at the Centre for administrative services for the citizens in the municipal administration or can be send to the mail address of the Municipality.

The application form can be received from section "Integration" of Municipal administration or can be downloaded from electronic address of the Municipality: www.svishtov.bg, from the division "e-Municipality".

The projects are reviewed and evaluated by Governing committee, which determines the necessity for their implementation, their significance, as well as whether the requested information is filled in the application form. The Governing committee is consisting of municipal employees and municipal councillors.

The idea of the leadership of the Municipality of Svishtov is Local Initiatives Programme to become practice and for it to be ensured funding in every municipal budget for the coming years.

Acquired knowledge, experience and skills during the implementation of Local Initiatives Programme

The implementation of the programme gives opportunity to citizens to participate directly in resolving problems, related mainly with the good urban planning and development and improving the living environment in the municipality.

Its implementation is contributing for establishment of sustainable partnership between the local authority and the civic sector.

In practice, it is achieving double effect - the local authority is becoming more open and ready to receive opinions and proposals of the citizens, from one side, and also, the citizens are beginning to be more responsible and engaged, from another side.

Local Initiatives Programme is an innovative approach for participation of the citizens in resolving local problems. It became very popular among the society in the municipality.

The programme was one of the leading proposals, which in 2003 Municipality of Svishtov was applying with, in a nation-wide competition for innovative practices in the Bulgarian municipalities and was rewarded with the honourable fourth position.

In 2004 Conrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany rewarded Municipality of Svishtov for the participation in the competition for innovations in the Bulgarian municipalities, where again leading proposal was Local Initiatives Programme.

Idea for Common Joint Project

The idea of Municipality of Svishtov for common joint project is further development of the Local Initiatives Programme, which is implementing by the Municipality.

Such project can be implemented by any local authority, as for this purpose will be attracted additional funds from outside the municipal budget.

The range of the project can be extended with realisation of an annual conference, dedicated on the partnership between the local authority and the civic sector, where to be presented the good practices, implemented during the respective year in the municipalities.

Project title:

"Sustainable models of partnership between local authority and civic sector"

Main purposes:

- improving the dialogue between local authority and civic sector;
- encouraging the civic sector in the governance of the municipality;
- achieving sustainable partnership between local authority and civic sector;
- promoting the principles of democratic development in the governance.

Estimated results:

- the dialogue between local authority and civic sector will be improved;
- citizens will be provided with opportunity for direct participation in the governance;
- the principles for democratic development in the governance will be promoted;
- sustainable partnership between local authority and civic sector will be achieved;
- the local authorities and the citizens, who participate in the project will be able to exchange experience and successful practices.

Project duration:

The term of the project is **one year**.

During the first six months in the municipalities will be conducted preparation and implementation of the small projects, initiated and realised by the civic sector, in partnership with the local authority.

During the second six months will be conducted preparation and implementation of the conference, dedicated to the partnership between the local authority and the civic sector.

Project expenditures:

For every municipality participant in the project are planned financial resources of 100 000 levs:

- 35 000 levs will be provided by foreign donors;
- 35 000 levs for the project will be provided by the budget of municipality;
- 30 000 levs (or 30% co-funding) will be the total co-funding of authors of the small projects, which are applying for funding - as their own and their partners contribution.

It is necessary also to be planned funds for conducting the annual conference - these expenditures will be determined depending upon the number of participants in the project.

How the project idea contributes for implementation of Recommendation 19 (2001) and for the final report from the conference "Development of democratic society and leadership at local level" (Fuerteventura):

The project idea is contributing for implementation in practice of the recommendations in the two documents.

Achieving the purposes and the estimated results from the implementation of the project will contribute for strengthening the civic sector and its participation in local governance, as well as they will improve the dialogue between the local authorities and the citizens.

PROJECTS OF MUNICIPALITY OF SVISHTOV

Project name	Target group	Implementation term	Budget	Financial institution, programme	Implementing organisation
Centre for administrative services and information	Residents of the municipality	2000 - 2001	60 000 levs	Foundation for local government reform	Municipality of Svishtov
Capacity 21 - United Nations Development Programme	NGOs, civic participation, municipal administration	2001 - May 2003	80 000 levs	United Nations Development Programme	Municipality of Svishtov
Improving the soil's fertility	The business	2001 - October 2002	20 000 U.S. dollars	PLEDGE Programme, U.S. Department of labour	Municipality of Svishtov, Regional centre for small and medium-size enterprises
Public forum - Svishtov	Residents of the municipality	November 2002 - July 2004	260 000 levs	Swiss agency for development and co-operation, Municipality of Svishtov	Municipality of Svishtov
Local Initiatives Programme	Residents in the municipality	2003	34 200	Municipality of Svishtov	Municipality of Svishtov
Local Initiatives Programme	Residents in the municipality	2004	15 000	Municipality of Svishtov	Municipality of Svishtov