

Project:
Strengthening Civil Participation through the realization of Small Community Partnership Projects in the area of the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development

Partners:

Municipality of Gabrovo, Bulgaria
Municipality of Svishtov, Bulgaria
Municipality of Harmanli, Bulgaria

Goal:

Achievement of Sustainable Socio-economic development of the communities through direct involvement of citizens and citizens' formations in the networking between local authorities, NGOs and Business communities within the municipalities.

Specific objectives:

- To encourage and promote the pro-active citizens initiatives and their direct involvement in the existing networking between local authorities, NGOs and Business communities in order to achieve sustainable socio-economic development
- To strengthen the existing networking between local authorities, NGOs and Business communities through establishment/ multiplying Advisory Councils for Economic Development and Public Councils
- Development and support of small community projects in the area of urban development initiated by citizens and citizens formations based on the strategy for sustainable socio-economic development

Activities:

- A. Organization of two open Public Forums in both partner municipalities based on the main topics: 1/ "How to achieve sustainable socio-economic development in our community through the direct pro-active participation of our citizens – implementation of concrete citizens proposals in the area of urban development?!" and 2/ "Establishment of Public Council – a guarantee for efficient networking between the local authorities, NGOs , local businesses and citizens of the Community.";
- B. Development of a Communication Strategy between the Municipalities, NGOs, local businesses and citizens;
- C. Establishment of interactive networking between the Municipalities and citizens through implementation of an open Forum on the municipal web-sites and media;
- D. Creation of a bureau for citizens proposals and projects in the area of urban and socio-economic development within the Information Centers of the Municipalities;
- E. Establishment/multiplying of Advisory Council for ED;
- F. Open meetings with Advisory Council for ED;
- G. Establishment of a Public Councils for Small Community Partnership Projects in the area of the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development;
- H. Development of a procedure and criteria for evaluation and selection of citizens' proposals;

- I. Execution and funding the chosen projects with European funds, funds from the municipal budget (on that Project) and local business support;
- J. Monitoring and control on the executed projects;
- K. Development of a Strategy for collection and implementation of citizens' projects according to the main priorities of the Communities.

Timetable

Duration of the Project – eight months

Activity	1 st month	2 nd month	3 rd month	4 th month	5 th month	6 th month	7 th month	8 th month
A.	X		X					
B.			X	X	X	X	X	X
C.		X	X	X	X	X	X	ongoing
D.			X	X	X	X	X	ongoing
E.	X	X	X					
F.				X			X	ongoing
G.			X	X	X			
H.			X	X	X			
I.					X	X	X	ongoing
J.						X	X	ongoing
K.			X	X	X			

Strengths and contributions of the members:

- Existing teams of experts for urban and socio-economic development within the three Municipalities;
- Existing efficient networking between local authorities, NGOs and Business community within the three municipalities;
- Expert support of specialists from Economic Academy – Svishtov and Technical University – Gabrovo in the area of strategic planning;
- Strong and Pro-active NGOs;
- Good business climate and sustainable Business community within the three municipalities;
- Developed methodology and established Advisory Council for Economic Development in Gabrovo Municipality
- Developed Program for Local Initiatives in Svishtov Municipality
- Already existing Information centers in the three Municipalities;
- Already existing Business centers and citizen business associations in the three municipalities;
- Fundamental base and funds for the execution of the Project.

Budget outline

Activity	Gabrovo, EUR	Svishtov, EUR	Harmanli, EUR
Public Forums	2000	2000	2000
Interactive networking - Internet Forum,	1000	1000	1000

media contact, handouts			
Open Bureau for citizens proposals and projects	1000	1000	1000
Management and administrative costs	2000	500	500
Funds for small community partnership projects	20000	20000	20000
Totally	26000	24500	24500
Total amount of the Project			75000 EUR

Contribution:

10% contribution from the municipalities

10% contribution from local business communities

80% contribution from European funds

Total: 75 000 Euro

Required Management Staff:

- Project manager and coordinator - 1
- Experts – 3
- Technical assistants – 3
- Accountants – 3

Sustainability:

- During the project implementation a networking between local authorities, NGOs, local businesses and citizens will be established which will allow citizens to participate directly in the process of planning of sustainable socio-economic development;
- The citizens may increase their credibility in local governments issues in the area of urban and socio-economic development;
- More citizen small projects will be initiated and executed by the support of local authorities;
- The already developed strategy for collection and implementation of citizens projects will provide the project sustainability;
- The created Bureau for citizens proposals and projects in the area of urban and socio-economic development within the Information Centers of the Municipalities will continue collection of new project proposals;
- The three Municipalities will promote and multiply their experience to other potential partners within Bulgarian Municipalities and abroad;

Evaluation Criteria:

- Number of citizens and citizens formations involved in the Project;
- Number of executed small community projects;
- Shared experience and best practices in socio-economic development between the Municipalities;
- Number of successful public-private partnerships;

- Efficient networking between the local authorities, NGOs, local businesses and citizens;
- Established and working ACED;
- Established and working Public Council for Small Community Partnership Projects;

Reporting

- SWOT analysis for the future continuation and development of the Project
- Report to the Municipal Councils
- Report to ACED and business communities
- Reports to the donors
- Media campaign for promotion of the project results