

PROJECT PROPOSAL:
SUSTAINABLE SOFIA
ACCESSION PROCESS

Basic Information

Title:

Sustainable Sofia – Local Accession Process - Institutional Building, Preparation and Implementation of Investment Projects

Sector:

Main: Support for Economic and Social Cohesion; Institutional Building on regional level, supporting integrated industrial restructuring and regional development program – environmental/transport infrastructure;

Objectives

Wider objectives

The overall objective is to introduce on local level the Copenhagen criteria, requires for Bulgaria as the candidate country: stability of institutions, functioning market economy, adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

To create the conditions for much easier integration through the adjustment of local administrative structures, so that European Community legislation transposed into national legislation is implemented effectively.

To implement the requirements for environmental protection, transparency of decision making process and public society participation in the environmental and infrastructure projects implementation.

Immediate Objectives:

The immediate objective of this project is to assist the Sofia Municipality, the Region Sofia (district administration) and the Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration, as a mandated body, in close co-operation with Bulgarian governmental institutions

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Waters, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and others) in:

- Elaboration and Starting the realisation of local legislative

strategy framework and implementation mechanisms and preparing detailed approximation measures related to:

- Local AGENDA 21 – Strategy for the realisation of the Local Model for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration (LMSDE).
- City Twinning for Municipal and Regional Sustainable Management and Legal Framework
- New Sofia City Master Plan – Base and Tool for Sustainable Urban Development and Strengthening Local Management and acceptance
- Sofia Specific Eurointegration and Sustainable Development Act – Local Regulations, Standards, Norms, Indicators;
- Sofia Action Plan with Pact for Sustainability

Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

According to the Accession Partnership the municipal sectors are a priority one and particular emphasis should be given to continuation of the transposition of framework legislation, preparation and implementation of detailed approximation programs and strengthening of implementation structures, particularly at the regional and communal level.

The project is a coordinated action based on a signed contract between:

- Sofia Municipality – local government;
- Region Sofia – national government representative;
- Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration (ASDE) – a NGO, acting as “mandated body”;

Supported by:

- Ministry of Environment and Waters;
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forest;
- Other national and regional institutions;

Project purpose:

- Developing structure and instruments which are needed for the appropriate and sustainable realisation of:
 - the regional development plan and the package of proposed environmental/transport projects;
 - harmonisation and implementation from EU legislation
- Involvement of Civil Society in the decision making process and the realisation of regional development plan and pilot projects;
- Transparency of management;
- EC approximation of local regulation and norms;
- Creation of better business climate for SME's;
- Improvement of environment conditions and decrease of pollution;
- and rehabilitation of derelict areas;
- Improvement of quality of life for large part of the population;
- Transfer of knowledge and good practice from EC;

Contribution to National Development Plan

Most of the investment projects are involved in the approved Region Sofia Development Plan and are part of the NDP

The project corresponds to the parts “Improvement of competitive power of Bulgarian economy” and “Business infrastructure”.

The project is in accordance with the District and Municipal Development Plans and corresponds to the following priorities: effective use of resources, increase the export, attraction of investors, equal development in the different parts of the district.

Sofia as crosspoint of main European corridors - 4, 8 plays important role for the stability and democratization in this part of the Balkan. All Projects below have they directly or indirectly impact for the successful elaboration and implementation of the Pact for Stability of the Balkan.

Description



Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration (ASDE)

Background and justification:

The project addresses a number of problems related to the sustainable development and administrative management and the transposition and implementation of specific EU directives and regulations at the working level of the community. A long-term assistance is needed for the adoption of EU standards and methods, preparation of implementing programmes, strengthening of the public administration and practical application of the Acquis in the field of the priority municipal sectors – information systems, technical infrastructure, green technologies, nature protection, urban planning and development etc. (commercial and non commercial projects and programs)

REGIONAL EUROINTEGRATION PROCESS AND LEGAL APPROXIMATION

Sub-project 01: City Twinning - Institutional strengthening at regional (state district) and local (municipal) level for implementation of relevant EU framework for local management of self government and for local sustainable urban and rural development

Regional Development and Environment - Technical infrastructure (in accordance with the NDP the regional district development plan and the new master plan for Sofia city)

Sub-project 02: - Packet of priority infrastructural projects (– to be group)
CIVIL SOCIETY

Sub-project 03: - Regional NGO-s network and association building as base for integrated decision-making
ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER

Sub-project 04: - Transparency privatisation process, Technological and innovation parks (according to the NDP and the DDP)

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Sub-project 05: - Establishment of regional information network with public centers for urban and rural sustainability, based on appropriate GIS and for promoting EU rules

Results:

The aspect results will be included as integrated part in:

- ❑ Local AGENDA 21 – Strategy for the realisation of the LMSDE
- ❑ Efficient works of the AGENDA Bureau at the Municipality
- ❑ City Twinning for Municipal and Regional Sustainable Management and Legal Framework
- ❑ New Sofia City Master Plan – Base and Tool for Sustainable Urban Development and Strengthening Local Management
- ❑ Sofia Specific Eurointegration and Sustainable Development Act – Local Regulations, Standards, Norms, Indicators;
- ❑ Sofia Action Plan with Pack for Sustainability

Activities:

Sub-project 01: City Twinning – Institutional strengthening at regional (states district) and local (municipal) level for implementation of relevant EU framework for sustainable urban and rural development

- Analysis and choice of the twinning needed municipal and states district sectors
- Assurance of long term and short time experts from the EU
- Cooperation with Bulgarian mandated bodies

Sub-project 02: - Packet of priority infrastructural projects (????– to be group and ranged)

- EIA Studies and approval
- Preparation from ToR and tender documents for EU acquisition
- Implementation and project realisation monitoring

Sub-project 03: - Regional NGO-s network and association building as base for integrated decision-making

- Building of target groups from the Agenda constancy process
- Creation of thematic NGO-s Associations, supporting the local authorities
- Assure access to democratic decision making process

Sub-project 04: - Transparency privatisation process, Technological and innovation parks (according to the NDP and the DDP)

- Profile description, ToR and tendering
- Claire strategically profile
- Joint ventures and other implementation tools
- Monitoring and verification of new technology transfer

Sub-project 05: - Establishment of regional information network with public centers for urban and rural sustainability, based on appropriate GIS and for promoting EU rules

- Enlargement of the remote sensing program as corrective for earth based cadastre
- Development and maintenance of whole GIS Data base for the Sofia region
- Public awareness and participation on the way toward sustainability

Institutional Framework

The Municipality of Sofia is currently structured in 10 central specialised Directorates and in 24 decentral city-districts. Co-ordinations framework is to make better.

The ASDE, like “mandated body “ will be the most important partner for the achievement of this project-packet

Sub-project 01: Institutional strengthening will be benefited for the whole municipal (district) administration, based on the **Scheme SM – Structure** below:

Sub-project 02: Infrastructure projects will be co-ordinated from Department 2 and 3 with the benefit for the whole region

Sub-project 03: NGO – network will be in charge of the ASDE with the corresponding municipal and states institutions and the civil society target groups

Sub-project 04: Technology transfer, innovations and . . . is a topic of the ASDE, Department 1 and 4 and the local business environment

Sub-project 05: Information centers networks, GIS and . . . will be co-ordinated from the Departments 6, 7, 8 and the ASDE, beneficent are the city administration and the civil society of Sofia



Implementation Arrangements

Implementing Agency

MoRDPW

PAO - Deputy Minister Hassan
Marem Hassan

17-19 Cyril and Methodius St

1202 Sofia

hasan@mrrb.government.bg

The Institution Building components of the sub-projects are proposed for twinning, implemented in the municipal administration and they partner organisations.

The most activities will be elaborated and co-ordinated by the ASDE as community based organisation with “mandated body” status

Twinning aspects:

All sub projects have a twinning component. The responsible persons for twinning at the Sofia Municipality are:

Mr. A. Djulgerov, Secretary and Mr.

B. Spirov – Deputy Mayor

Sofia 1000, 33, Moskovska Str.

For the ASDE contact persons are:

K. Milenov – Executive Director and
St. Daskalov- Program Manager

Boul. Sveto Preobrazenie 4, Mladost,
Sofia

Non-standard aspects:

Phare Twinning Program, landing on the community level, have to become support from the structural fund (ISPA, SAPARD), cohesion's funds, Balkan Pact for Stability and other IFI.

In this sense the Sofia Eurointegration program is open for enlargement and improvement. Here are listed only the first priority projects needed EU support.

Contracts:

For the non-commercial projects (sub-projects 1 and 3) counterparts are the Municipality and the ASDE

Sub projects 2, 4 and 5 have an Investment Support Component to. The Investment Support will be assured in the framework of EU and IFI acquisition.

Implementation Schedule

The duration of the activities to be provided within the projects is 24 calendar months for the twinning components. The implementation for the whole project packet and the

realization of the investment projects (infrastructure) will take 24 – 36 months more.

Implementation schedule is indicative as follows:

1. *Start of tendering March 2004*
2. *Start of twinning activity*
2.1. *Second quarter of 2004*
3. *Project Completion - Twinning*
Mai 2005
4. *Projects End – Invest End of*
2006

Equal Opportunity

For the Institutional Building Projects, the implementation of the sub-projects, and especially in terms of selections of experts and targeting of technical assistance, equals right for participation will be given to men and women, to governmental institutions and NGO, mandated bodies and business organisations.

Environment

The Municipality and the ASDE will assure in and Normal working environment and equipment.

Rates of return

Not applicable for the twinning and non-commercial projects type.

For the investment and commercial projects outside Phare, the return rates will be negotiated by the concrete financial condition of the institution.

Investment criteria

Not applicable for twinning and the twinning supported equipment and technical assistance. For the investment components the rules of international tendering and local requirements are valuable.

Conditionality and sequencing

The beneficiaries of the non-commercial projects stay the Sofia authorities (local and regional) and the civil society organisations. From the beneficiaries of the investment projects, the local business in the Techno- and Innovation Park have to involve in joint ventures the municipality and relevant NGO-s.

Implementation on the local level of the results from the current EU Twinning projects.

Examples: MoEW – twinning for packaging and packaging wastes (Directive 94/62/EC); twinning for

chemicals (five EC directives); MH – twinning on radiation; etc.

