



**ACHIEVE YOUR MISSION**

**THROUGH OUR SUCCESS**

**THE FOUNDATION  
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

**PRESENTS**

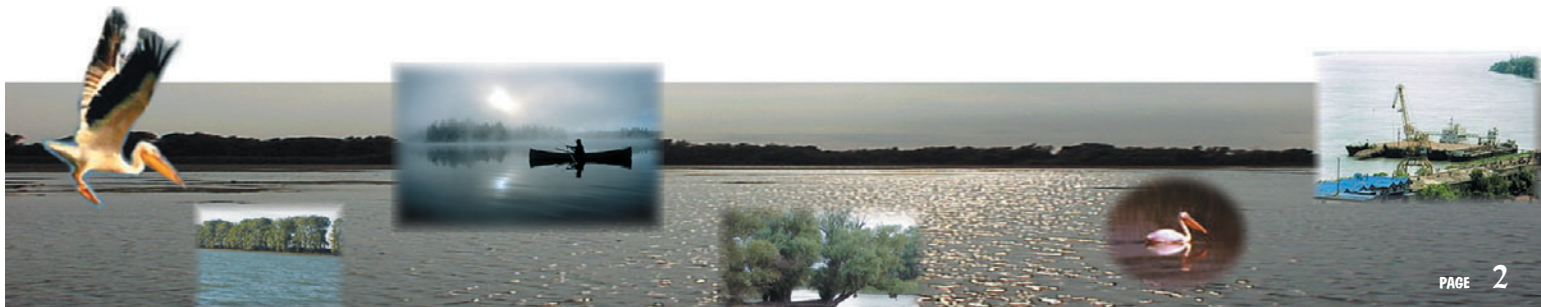
**SMALL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

**ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH**

**DANUBE RIVER INITIATIVE PROGRAM  
OF THE US AGENCY  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**1999 – 2002**





## GOALS

In October 1999 the United States Agency for International Development launched the Danube River Initiative Program (DRIP) in Bulgaria. The main objective of this complex program was to assist the Danube River communities in overcoming the consequences of the Kosovo crisis through creating opportunities for sustainable development. Within the mainframe of the program the Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR) initiated a small-infrastructure-project grants component in order to respond to major needs of the municipalities in that region.

## IMPACT

By implementing 25 small-scale local infrastructure projects in 2000 – 2002, FLGR helped improve the living environment, identify appropriate instruments for prioritizing local community initiatives, build the capacity of program beneficiaries, strengthen community spirit, create favorable environment for dialog and partnership between non-governmental organizations, businesses and local authorities in Danube River municipalities.

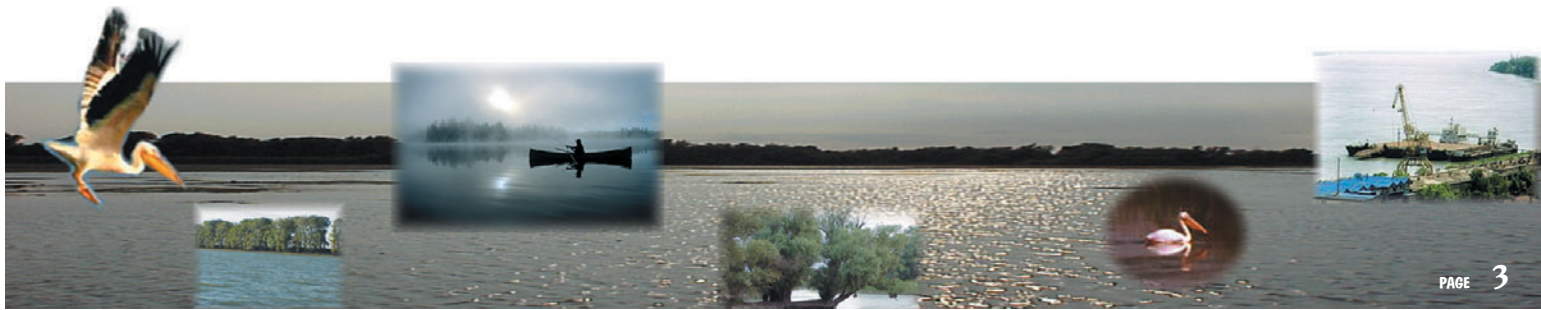
FLGR PRESENTS IN THIS BROCHURE THE OVERALL OUTPUT OF THIS KEY DRIP COMPONENT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION OF PROJECT SUMMARIES, THE COMPLETE LIST OF PROJECTS ALONG THREE CATEGORIES - PUBLIC FACILITIES, WATER SUPPLY AND, SEWERAGE SYSTEMS - AS WELL AS THE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CHART AND BUILT CAPACITY.

## ACCOMPLISHED RESULTS

- 805,000 USD of donor funds disbursed
- 140,000 USD of municipal funds contributed
- 28 towns and villages benefited
- 363 temporary jobs created
- 7,280 households benefited directly from infrastructure improvements
- 22% of project implementators were women
- 105 local government staff members gained experience in working with funds other than municipal budget
- 22 partnerships were established
- 53% of the workforce used in projects was local unemployed labor
- 12 minority communities were direct beneficiaries of the program

WE BELIEVE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THESE USAID-ASSISTED PROJECTS, IMPLEMENTED BY FLGR, WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE DONOR AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS TO ALLOCATE SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN BULGARIA, USING FLGR'S SOUND, WELL-ESTABLISHED AND RESULT-ORIENTED MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS.





**LIST OF ACCOMPLISHED PROJECTS:**

1. Tutrakan Municipality - *Hristo Botev Park*
2. Gulianci Municipality - *The Town Park*
3. Kozloduy Municipality - *Hristo Botev School Playground Construction*
4. Nikopol Municipality - *School Sports Playground*
5. Mizia Municipality - *Municipal Children Center*
6. Glavinitsa Municipality - *Marketplace*
7. Lom Municipality - *Sanitation of Illegal Dumps in Roma Neighborhood*
8. Tutrakan Municipality - *Public Works in Vazhodi Neighborhood*
9. Silistra Municipality - *Green Iztok*
10. Chuprene Municipality - *Infrastructure Improvement of Chuprene*
11. Knezha Municipality - *Vertical Plotting of Central Park in the Village of Brenitsa*
12. Chiprovtsi Municipality - *Cleaning of the Ogosta Riverbed and Building of Fortification Walls*
13. Borovo Municipality - *Fortification and Anti-Erosion Works in the Village of Obretenik*

Silistra - now and then



**SILISTRA MUNICIPALITY – “GREEN IZTOK” PROJECT**

The executed public works in one of Silistra’s largest neighborhoods „Iztok“ - created good opportunities for recreation of its residents. Through the project they acquired a reconstructed public area and facilities for outdoor activities that are especially appreciated by young families. The new ground has become a favorite place for all children. The project was accomplished in four months.

**Project profile**

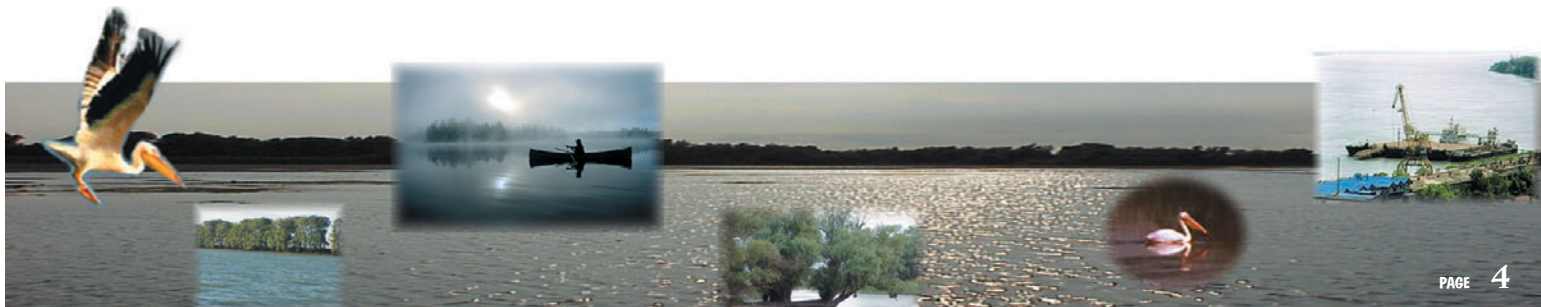
- 42,000 USD of donor funds used
- 1 big neighborhood benefited
- 26 temporary jobs created
- 2300 households live near the constructed area
- 35% of the workers came from locally unemployed

**GULYANTSI MUNICIPALITY – “THE TOWN PARK” PROJECT**

The town park was renovated through this project. Successful outputs include construction of pedestrian alleys, playground for children and a water fountain. Lights and benches have been installed in the park. The whole area has been planted with trees, shrubs and flowerbeds. The municipality demonstrated its strong commitment to further continue the development of this recreation area. People from the local community enthusiastically volunteered their time, efforts and labor. This was the first infrastructure project implemented by the Gulyantsi municipal administration.

**Project profile**

- 20,000 USD of donor funds used
- 135 households live in immediate proximity to the park
- 50 temporary jobs created
- 3500 people benefited
- 90% of the workers came from locally unemployed.
- 50% of the workers were representatives of the Roma minority



**LIST OF ACCOMPLISHED PROJECTS**

1. Novo selo Municipality - *Partial Reconstruction of Water Supply Network*
2. Vulchedrum Municipality - *Water Supply system in the Village of Bazovets*
3. Dimovo Municipality - *Reconstruction of Main Water-Supply Pipeline in the Village of Archar*
4. Gramada Municipality - *Additional Water Supply to Gara Sratsimir*
5. Krivodol Municipality - *High-Pressure Water Pipes from the Pump Station to the Main Reservoir (Gradeshnica)*
6. Alfatar Municipality - *Improvement of Infrastructure in Regions with Predominantly Minority Population*

**ALFATAR MUNICIPALITY - "IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN REGIONS WITH PREDOMINANTLY MINORITY POPULATION" PROJECT**

A major water-supply pipeline was reconstructed through the project. It solved the problem of three villages - Chukovets, Alekovo and Bistra - that had been regularly cut off from water supply during summertime before. The local population that benefited from this infrastructure improvement is ethnically diverse, representing the three main groups in Bulgaria - Bulgarians, Turks and Roma. The project was completed in five months.

**Project profile**

- 50,000 USD of donor funds used
- 3 villages benefited
- 10 temporary jobs created
- 3700 m of pipelines reconstructed
- 350 households acquired regular water supply
- 50% of the workers came from the locally unemployed

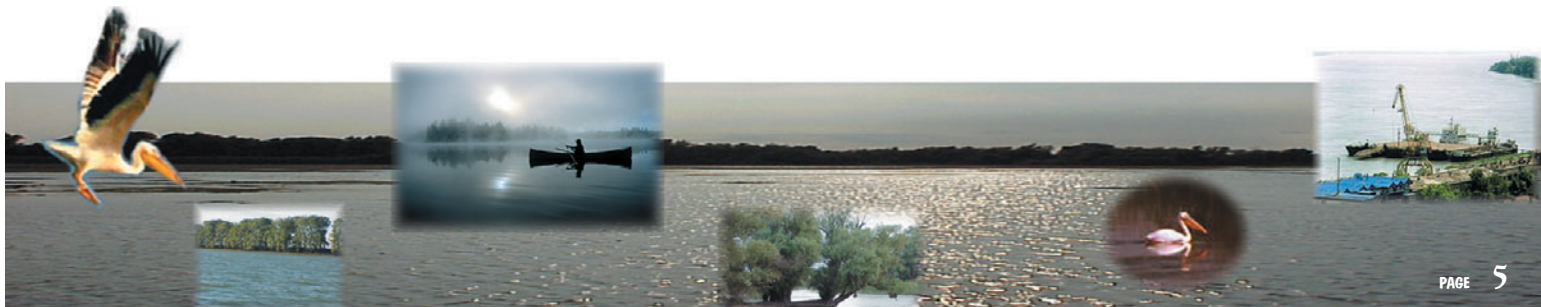
**KRIVODOL MUNICIPALITY – "HIGH-PRESSURE WATER PIPES FROM THE PUMP STATION TO THE MAIN RESERVOIR (GRADESHNICA)" PROJECT**

The project aimed at reconstructing a main water-supply pipeline. Three villages - Gradeshnica, Lesura and Furen - had experienced for many years irregular water supply, because of the deteriorated state of the pipelines constructed over 40 years ago. Despite its relatively small scale, the project addressed very urgent needs of the local community. It was completed in two months.

**Project profile**

- 18,000 USD of donor funds used
- 3 villages benefited
- 16 temporary jobs created
- 320 m of pipelines reconstructed
- 500 households acquired regular water supply
- 32% of the workers came from the locally unemployed





**LIST OF ACCOMPLISHED PROJECTS**

1. Belene Municipality - *Sewerage and Reconstruction of Alexander Stamboliiski Street*
2. Oriahovo Municipality - *Providing Sewerage in Roma Neighborhoods*
3. Iskar Municipality - *Rain-Water Sewerage System in Roma Neighborhood in the Village of Dolni Lukovit*
4. Yakimovo Municipality - *Reconstruction and Cleaning of Part of Sewerage System*
5. Biala Slatina Municipality - *Improvement of the Living Conditions in the Roma Neighborhood*
6. Sitovo Municipality - *New Sewerage System in the Village of Sitovo (branch 1)*



**ORIAHOVO MUNICIPALITY – “PROVIDING SEWERAGE IN ROMA NEIGHBORHOODS” PROJECT**

Sewerage was constructed along the „Totleben“ and „Raina Knyaginya“ streets in two Roma neighborhoods in the town of Oriahovo. That improved the living environment and hygiene for the local Roma population. The project minimized the risk of renewed landslide activity in the lower part of „Totleben“ street, caused by occasional flooding. Local residents actively contributed to the construction process by building themselves the sections connecting their homes with the main conduit.

**Project profile**

- 48,000 USD of donor funds used
- 700 households benefited
- 15 temporary jobs created
- 623 m of sewerage pipelines constructed
- 2 Roma neighborhoods benefited
- 40% of the workers came from the locally unemployed

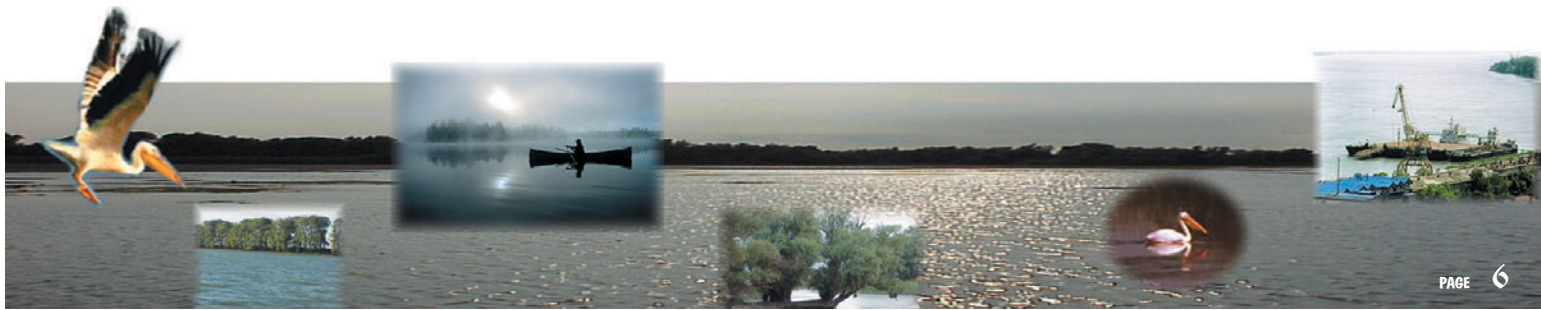
**BIALA SLATINA MUNICIPALITY – “IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE ROMA NEIGHBORHOOD” PROJECT**

The project aimed at constructing the first and main branch of a sewerage system in the Roma neighborhood of the town of Biala Slatina. The most important project outcomes include: decreased risk of spreading contagious diseases, better hygiene and healthy environment for living and raising children in the neighborhood. The project was completed in four months.

**Project profile**

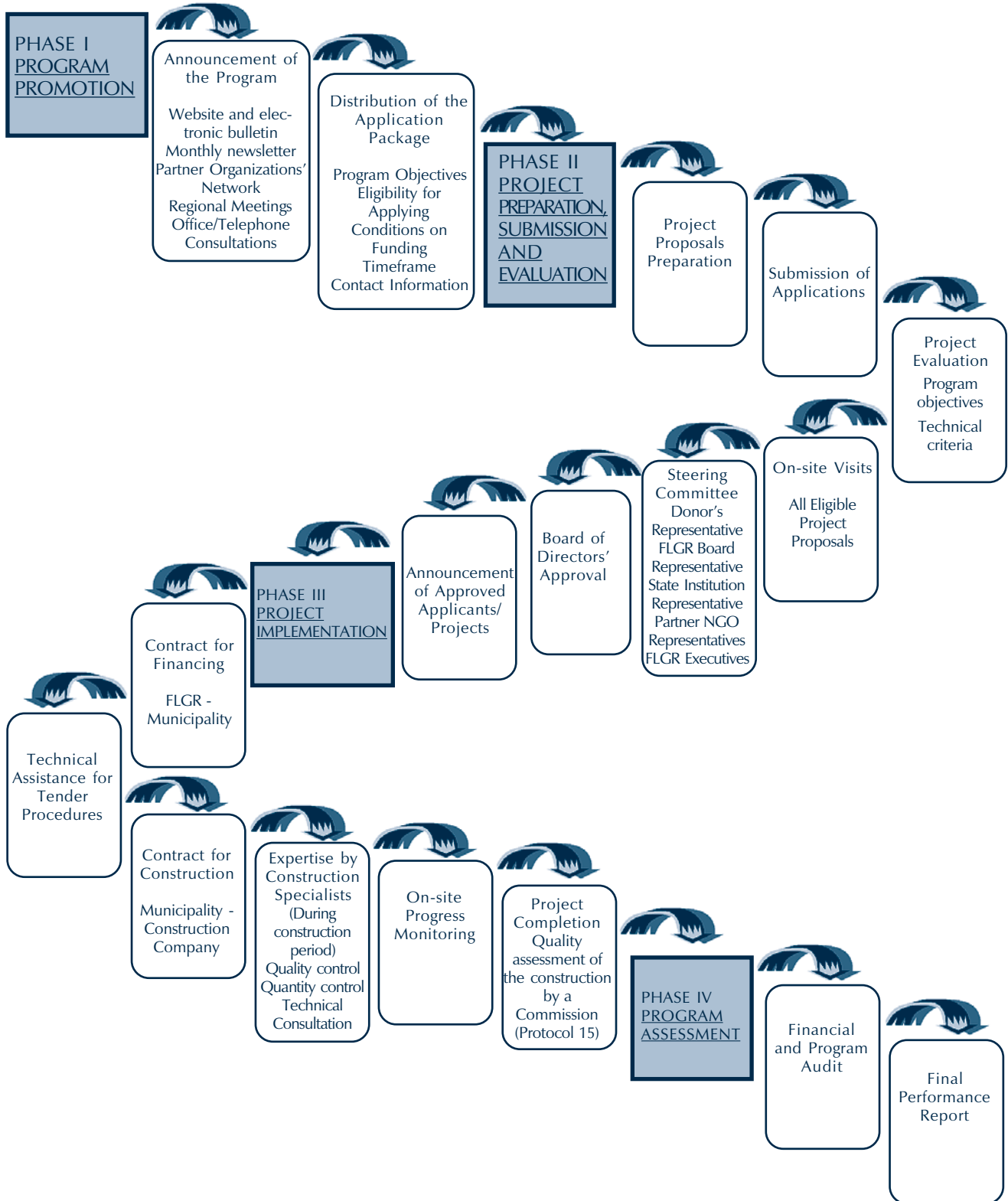
- 50,000 USD of donor funds used
- 1 Roma neighborhood benefited
- 12 temporary jobs created
- 273 m of sewerage pipelines constructed
- 60 households connected to the system
- 75% of the workers came from the locally unemployed

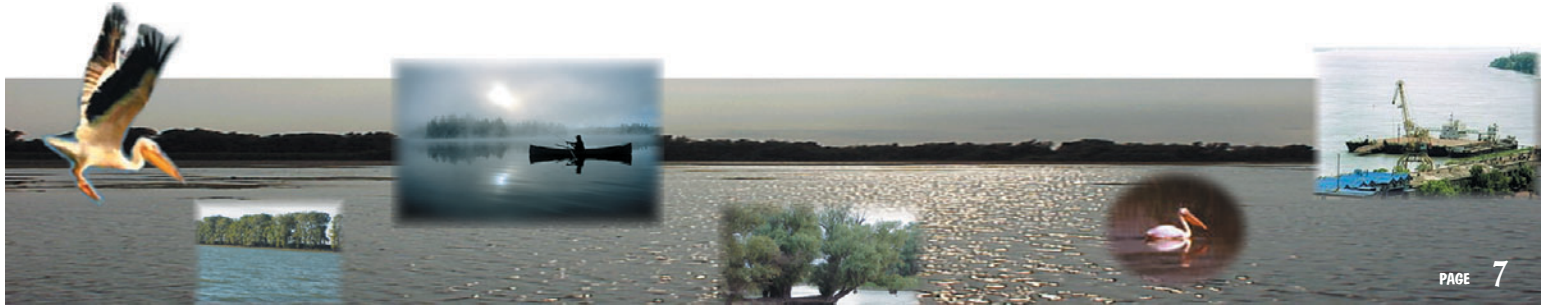




## FLGR'S PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SCHEME

DANUBE RIVER INITIATIVE PROGRAM 1999 - 2002: MANAGEMENT SCHEME





## PARTNERS' CAPACITY

By the delivered technical assistance throughout project implementation FLGR strengthened key capacities and skills of participating local governments. This includes improved expertise of municipal staff to conduct bidding and contracting procedures for construction companies in compliance with transparency rules and donor requirements. In addition, the local administrators gained experience in financial management of projects co-financed by foreign agencies and learned to work with internationally accepted principles in dealing with grant funds. At the completion of the program *local government leaders and staff in small communities are able to:*

- *define priorities through participatory approaches*
- *draft and submit competitive project proposals*
- *ensure open and transparent subcontracting procedures*
- *appraise and manage community driven projects*



## FLGR ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

During USAID's Danube River Initiative Program implementation the team of the Foundation for Local Government Reform gained specific three-year experience in managing grants for small-scale municipal infrastructure projects. FLGR has well-established assistance delivery mechanisms and successful methods in working with various partners including municipal administrations, local construction experts, construction companies, NGOs and community leaders. We have acquired practical expertise in identifying local needs and creating opportunities for reaching consensus between local authorities and immediate project beneficiaries. In 40% of the accomplished DRIP infrastructure projects FLGR solved problems of Roma and Turkish minority communities and achieved their own involvement.

Overall, *we have extended our capabilities to:*

- *design programs addressing outstanding local needs;*
- *conduct transparent and competitive project selection procedures;*
- *deliver well-targeted financial and technical assistance to beneficiaries;*
- *ensure community involvement in project implementation.*

FLGR possesses an unblemished track record of sound financial management of donor resources. This has been certified by three external annual audits, conducted by Deloitte & Touche and KPMG. Audit reports conclude that FLGR's procedures concerning money transactions, accounting practices and financial reporting strictly meet international accounting standards and donor specific requirements.



FLGR Grants Team:

Zdravko Sechkov  
[zsechkov@flgr.bg](mailto:zsechkov@flgr.bg)  
 Todor Mladenov  
[tmladenov@flgr.bg](mailto:tmladenov@flgr.bg)  
 Andrey Goranov  
[agoranov@flgr.bg](mailto:agoranov@flgr.bg)  
 Peter Tchesnovsky  
[ptchesnovsky@flgr.bg](mailto:ptchesnovsky@flgr.bg)