

**FORUM
PROCESS
PROGRAM DATA**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

PROGRAM DATA

FORUM PROCESS PUBLICATIONS

- 1 Donor's Brief
- 2 Initiator's Guide
- 3 Coordinator's Guide
- 4 Moderator's Guide
- 5 **Forum Program Data**
- 6 Forum Films

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FORUM PROCESS PROGRAM DATA

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The SDC Forum Program in Bulgaria 2000–2007

From the year 2000 onwards, in the reshaping of an on-going Community Development Program in Bulgaria, SDC applied the Forum approach for the first time. The aim was to contribute to a balanced decentralised development of the country. Forums at local level should be used to this effect.

The **scope of the Forums in the first Phase** of the program was exclusively community-oriented. In terms of **participants** a complete and as representative **coverage** of the community as possible was aimed at. It was left to the community to decide on **topics**. In practice, they were usually derived from surveys carried out by the municipality. Further, a complete range of Forum results was allowed, from direct actions to recommendations and concrete projects. From the outset, and in response to local conditions and interests, a **project fund** was put at the disposal of each Forum, subsequently financed jointly by the donor and the municipality hosting the Forum. Plans or project ideas could be developed and elaborated by Forum participants which – if approved by a program committee – were then implemented by the groups promoting the project. In a later step in Phase 2 of the program, each Forum in its own authority prioritised and decided on the funding of projects.

Phase 1 (2000–01) covered six municipalities in the central Bulgarian region of Stara Planina, five of which had previous long-standing cooperation with SDC in the framework of its Community Development Program. They all applied the same ‘community coverage-cum-project fund’- approach as described above.

Phase 2 (2002–04) expanded decision-making authority of the Forums, enhanced project fund contributions by the municipalities and by participants, provided a region-wide tendering process and put the selection process on a competitive basis. Phase 2 also moved its geographical coverage every six months, selecting batches of municipalities in different regions of the country. By autumn 2004, a total of 33 Forum municipalities were reached. The second Phase also introduced training courses for Forum moderators and coordinators. And it finally diversified the format of Forums eligible by allowing NGOs to become initiators of a Forum, whereas before this was restricted to municipalities.

Under Phase 2, Forum organization and project development became exclusive domains of two main program partners (Balkan Assist and Foundation of Local Government Reform). Both had to develop **training courses for particular groups** of Forum participants. In fact, to meet the needs for capacity building at the very basic level of process organisation, communication or project proposal writing and implementation, turned out to be a major task for the partner organizations. **Monitoring of Forum activity** was formalised and handled by the partners themselves. Only Forum impact assessment and the coaching of moderators remained the task of an outside **coaching group**, attached to SDC, the donor agency.

Finally, in **Phase 3 (2005-07)** two more partner organisations handling program activities were added (ASA and Industrieconsult), all Sofia-based. The program focused on institutional **capacity building with six Forum centres** placed across the country to ensure a sustained

Acronyms & Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|---|
| AEAF | Agency for Economic Forecast |
| ASA | Agency for Socioeconomic Analyses Ltd |
| BA | Balkan Assist Association |
| BGN | Bulgarian currency (Leva) |
| CHF | Swiss currency (Franc) |
| FLGR | Foundation for Local Government Reform |
| EU | European Union |
| LAG | Local Action Group |
| LEADER | Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l’Economie Rurale |
| NCF | National Culture Fund |
| NDP | National Development Plan |
| NGO | Non-government organization |
| NSRF | National Strategic Reference Framework |
| OP | Operational program |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |

application of the Forum approach in future. The aim was to ensure easy access to “professional Forum services” for would-be initiators throughout the country. The performance of these centres was assessed and certified by the program. The continued expansion of Forum activities and rising demand from related sectors in Bulgaria and from neighbouring countries implied a **continuation of training courses** for local Forum moderators and coordinators. **Instructors for such courses** were also **trained** in order to establish this key capacity in Bulgaria. In seven years, the Forum program trained 92 moderators and 57 coordinators, and six trainers – who meanwhile in turn have trained another 80 moderators outside the program.

Four Sofia-based organizations as program partners of SDC:

- Balkan Assist Association
- Foundation for Local Government Reform
- Agency for Socioeconomic Analyses Ltd
- Industrieconsult

Six Forum Centres established throughout the country offering professional Forum services:

- Business Center, Svishtov
- National Alliance for Volunteer Action, Plovdiv
- Regional Association of Municipalities “Trakya”, Stara Zagora
- NGO Club, Targovishte
- Znanie Association, Lovech
- Center for Sustainable Development, Teteven

During this last period of the program the Forum approach as such was **tested in various adaptations**. The possibilities of running Forums of smaller and of more complex coverage were explored, and topics, functions and procedures adapted. The use of the approach in the **challenges EU access is posing** to the country was particularly satisfactory. National development priorities were consolidated at government level with the help of the Forum.

The National Cultural Fund applied it to derive regional strategies and projects. The LEADER program also used it to establish Local Action Groups.

The last phase was to then take stock of the experience and report to all conceivable interested parties. From 2005 to 07, the number of Forums of community-type reached in the initial phases was almost doubled by the number of diversified and adapted Forums. Altogether some 66 Forums covering more than 100 municipalities – or the remarkable share of over 40% of all municipalities in the country – were implemented.

Summarizing a series of **internal and external assessments** of each major Forum type, validation and reporting on the Forum experience is found in this set of publications. The “Guides” address the main protagonists of the Forum process: the **initiator**, the **coordinator**, the **moderator** – each in regard to his/her particular function, not forgetting the **donor agencies** with their specific points of view. And some documentation on the **Program in figures** and views has been added in this last volume of the series.

Much of the reference material is available on the data bank of the program accessible under www.bgmoderators.org.

Summary Table 1 – Program Outcome and Volume

Forum program coverage 2000–07

| Forum processes | Municipalities | Participants (full-time) |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 66 | 107 | 3 775 |

Forum program results 2000–07

| Recommendations | Projects elaborated | Projects realised | Plans/Policies/Strategies | LAGs created |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 828 | 550 | 384 | 20 | 6 |

Forum related institutional capacity

| Trained Moderators | Trained Coordinators | Trainer persons | Certified centres |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 92 | 57 | 6 | 10 |

Forum program cost 2000–07

| Forum contribution of SDC | Forum contribution of Initiators/Project Partners |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 5 395 014 BGN | 5 567 660 BGN |
| SDC total program cost 2000–07 | |
| 7 100 000 CHF | |

Summary Table 2 – Forum Time Table

| | | PHASE 2 Year 2002-2004 | | | | PHASE 3 Year 2005-2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---------------------|
| | | Batch 1 | Batch 2 | Batch 3 | Batch 4 | Batch 5 | Batch 6 | Batch 7 | Batch 8 |
| 1 | COMMUNITY FORUMS Initiated by the Municipality | Aprilsy Gabrovo Sevlievo Televen Troyan Tryavna | Dryanovo Loveich Troyan Yablanitsa | Antonovo Pavlikeni Popovo Svishtov Targovishte | Novi Pazar Razgrad TsarKaloyan | | | | Dryanovo Tryavna |
| | | | | | | Bolyarovo Lom Plovdiv Belogradchik | Televen Chepelare Gurkovo Sofia-Iskar | Chirpan Targovishte Leinitisa Svishlov | Tvarditsa |
| | | | | | | Sofia-Izgrev Silistra | VelikoTarnovo | Razgrad Belene | Sofia Zona B5 |
| 3.1 | TOPICAL FORUMS Local or sub-local level | | | | | | | | |
| PHASE 2 – PHASE 3 Year 2004-2007 | | | | | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Round 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Round 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | BUDGET FORUMS | | Sevlievo Svishtov Troyan Tryavna | | Kazanluk Koprivshitsa | | | Peirich Knezha | |
| PHASE 1 Year 2000-2001 | | | | | | | | | |
| PHASE 3 Year 2006-2008 | | | | | | | | | |
| Batch D-1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Batch D-2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | TOPICAL FORUMS Regional level | Stara Planina Tourism Development Stara Planina Waste Management | | | | | | Siralzha- Bolyarovo Televen-Yablanitsa-Lukovit-Roman- Cherven Brag | |
| 4 | REGIONAL FORUMS | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | LEADER Forums | | | | Karlovo-Sopot Hisarya-Kaloyanovo-Saedinenie Panagyurishte-Srelichko-Lesichovo Brezovo-Bratya-Daskalovi-Rakovski | | | Antonovo-Omurtag Televen-Yablanitsa | |
| 4.2 | Cultural Forums | | | | Silistra-Tutrakan-Alfatar Smolyan-Zlategrad | | | Kotel-Elena Ivaylograd-Madzharovo Montana-Chiprovtsi | |
| 4.3 | Misia Forums | | | | | | | North Central and North Western planning regions of Bulgaria (8 districts included) | |
| 5 | NATIONAL FORUMS | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 | National Forum of Craftsmen | | | | June 2004 – March 2006 | | | | |
| 5.2 | Forum on Operational Priorities of the NDP | | | | March 2005 – December 2005 | | | | |
| 5.3 | Forum on Sustainable Spatial Planning | | | | April 2006 – November 2006 | | | | |

1 COMMUNITY FORUMS

1.1 Introduction

Coverage:

Usually the Community Forums cover the territory of the whole municipality (the central city/ town and its surrounding villages) with the population ranging between 6,000 – 60,000 inhabitants. If the Community Forum covers bigger territory then its representation is questionable. If the community is too small then insufficiently differentiated social and professional groups, weak civil society organizations and close family relations among participants may challenge and prevent objective discussions and decisions to be made. If the municipality is too big then the Forum could opt to cover only one district with focused discussion on the issues of concern for that specific area. There is an option of a joint approach where the Forum covers the whole municipality, but several of the sessions are done with participants from respective neighbourhoods focused on their specific needs; the latter can be followed by several sessions with representatives from the neighbourhood Forums so that joint analyses of the needs and decisions for interventions can be made.

Initiator:

In most cases the Initiator of the Forum is the Mayor of the municipality, supported by the Municipal Council (*Forum initiated by the municipality*). A local or regional NGO, with proven image and experience also might be the Forum Initiator (*Forum initiated by an NGO*). In all cases the Mayor and the Municipal Council have to agree in advance that they will support the Forum process with information and expertise, and in most cases their representatives will participate in the sessions and will respect the final results.

Forum topic:

The Forum topics are a very important prerequisite for the success of the Forum. The topic should be of concern and interest to a wide range of possible groups and should provide space for citizen participation and activities. The selection of the Forum topics could be done in two ways:

- *Forum participants decide about Forum topics*

At the first Forum session all participants discuss the main issues of concern to the community and proceed to select four or five of the most important of them. These are then discussed one by one at different sessions. This approach is appropriate when the Forum process takes place in a community with not so much experience in citizen participation processes. The topic selection by participants emphasizes the fact that the Forum process is transparent and is facilitated to reflect the needs of people, not of authorities.

- *The Forum topics are selected in advance*

The Forum topics could also be selected in advance based on a survey, focus groups' discussions, questionnaires or through other means of collecting information. The leading role is in the hands of the Initiator of the Forum process - municipal administration or an NGO. This approach is used in communities which already have some experience in citizen involvement in decision-making processes. The topics selected for the Forum usually relate to the top two issues mentioned in surveys.

Stakeholder groups:

Community Forums involve all relevant stakeholder groups (up to ten is manageable). When the Forum topics are pre-selected then the different stakeholders can decide if they are interested in participating in the discussions. It is important from the very beginning to get the commitment of all stakeholders to participate in all sessions, regardless of the topic discussed.

Number of sessions:

Community Forums have up to ten sessions, especially when the Forum needs time for the participants to select the topic. If the topics are selected on the grounds of a survey in advance then the number of sessions could be reduced to seven. There are cases with four to five sessions, with only one very specific Forum topic. Usually community Forums have two follow up sessions (six and twelve months after the end of the Forum).

Results:

Community Forums lead to several types of results:

Recommendations – They usually address the local, regional and national government and agencies to resolve an administrative problem or to improve the implementation of their responsibilities. Some recommendations are more innovative, stimulating government and agencies to improve and/or expand their services to citizens and businesses, encouraging partnerships between institutions, or focusing on the specific needs of disadvantaged groups.

Projects – Different project ideas resolving community issues are discussed during the Forum sessions. Some are approved by the Forum and are developed into project proposals by their respective working groups; these subsequently become prioritized for funding during the last session. The decision as to which projects are to be funded stays with the Forum participants. The funding is done within the Project fund assigned to the Forum at the beginning of the process (donor and local government resources).

Policy documents – Based on the discussions, in some cases policy documents are elaborated as a platform for future steps to be undertaken by local authorities and different stakeholders.


Community activities – During Forum discussions, participants could come up with an idea for an initiative which requires community mobilization rather than funding. Such initiatives could involve collective cleaning of the city and villages, promotional campaigns, or youth gatherings, and can be implemented immediately.

Newly established NGOs – There are cases when a working group developing and implementing a project registers legally as an NGO and continue their activities after the duration of the Forum project implementation.

1.2 FORUMS INITIATED BY THE MUNICIPALITY

A) Forum topics decided at the Forum


Forum Apriltsi Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Apriltsi | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Apriltsi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Internet Access Unemployment Tourism Ecology Privatization of forests Water sources Development of SME | SDC Forum Office Gabrovo  |
| Site: Apriltsi | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2000 – July 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 1 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 45 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism and Ecology, Water and Forests | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 6 # of projects implemented: 4 | # of recommendations: 59 # of recommendations implemented: 59 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | | |
| Project fund: | Donor: 41 271 BGN | Own contribution: 15 256 BGN |

Forum Apriltsi Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Internet Centre Apriltsi |
| Applicant | Apriltsi Municipality and Nison Consortium |
| Total Budget | 37 906 BGN |
| Summary | The Internet Centre Apriltsi is a result of a public-private partnership between Apriltsi Municipality and Nison Consortium. The Nison technical experts installed a radio-relation Internet that covers the whole territory of the municipality and nearby villages. |
| Project name | Folklore Festival Sparkles From the Past – 2001 |
| Applicant | Svetlina Chitalishte, Apriltsi |
| Total Budget | 5 320 BGN |
| Summary | Project activities include the organization of a regional Folklore festival, an exhibition of local crafts, paintings and applied arts. The project aims to revive the folklore traditions in Apriltsi and the region and to attract participants from all over Bulgaria. |
| Project name | Children's Playgrounds |
| Applicant | Apriltsi Municipality |
| Total Budget | 2 451 BGN |
| Summary | An attractive children's playground was designed to suit the surrounding natural landscape. The whole construction was designed and made by the well-known sculptor Alexander Ivanov from Lovech; it included a children's house, a climbing facility and a wooden slide. |
| Project name | Christmas Carnival – 2001 |
| Applicant | Tour Club Remark Association, Sofia |
| Total Budget | 10 850 BGN |
| Summary | The Carnival took place in Apriltsi, Troyan and Chiflik from 27 to 29 December 2001, offering a new attraction for locals and visitors to the region. The second such event was organized in June 2002 for the opening of the summer tourist season. |

Forum Gabrovo Data

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Gabrovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Gabrovo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Strategy for Sustainable Development Tourism Infrastructure Socially Weak People Youth, Sports Health, Preventive Medicine Cultural Heritage Education Unemployment Integration of NGOs in social life High Technology Center | SDC Forum Office Gabrovo  |
| Site: Apriltsi | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2000 – July 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 1 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 75 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Healthcare and Social Activities; Cultural Historical Heritage | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 7 | # of recommendations: 32 # of recommendations implemented: 30 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | | |
| Project fund: | Donor: 178 066 BGN | Own contribution: 63 885 BGN |


Forum Gabrovo Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Domestic Violence |
| Applicant | Zakrila Association, Gabrovo |
| Total Budget | 26 851 BGN |
| Summary | During the project implementation teams for short-term therapy, crisis consulting and group psychotherapy were trained. A phone hot-line was created, a set of information materials issued and a study about domestic violence conducted. The project team provided assistance to 124 women and children – victims of violence. Eleven women received crisis consulting while short-term therapy was given to eleven women in ten sessions. |
| Project name | Tourist Information Supply to Gabrovo Municipality |
| Applicant | Municipal Tourist Association, Gabrovo |
| Total Budget | 31 133 BGN |
| Summary | As a result of the project activities abundant data was collected about the natural, historical and cultural resources in 28 villages in the region of Gabrovo. A preliminary study about the existing potential of developing sustainable tourism in the area was completed; a photo-archive compiled; and nine information boards with the map of Gabrovo were installed in strategic places in the town. A web-site of Gabrovo was also launched. Promotion materials helped to improve the tourism image of Gabrovo. |
| Project name | A Complex Program For Early Registration Of Breast And Cervix Cancer |
| Applicant | Regional Union of Hospitals “Central Stara Planina” |
| Total Budget | 22 130 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims at enlarging the number of early registration of cervix and breast cancer cases among women in Gabrovo district. The project team issued information leaflets, brochures, posters and a Manual for GPs and nurses. 80 girls from the high school in Gabrovo were trained in cancer prophylactics and over 100 working women were involved in the information campaign within the project. |
| Project name | Youth Territory – Gabrovo |
| Applicant | IMKA Youth Christian Association, Gabrovo |
| Total Budget | 74 316 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project was to establish a youth area in the centre of the town. As a result, the implementation team of IMKA signed a 15-year Concession Contract with Gabrovo Municipality for using the park area where the new Complex was built. |
| Project name | Face to Face With Drugs |
| Applicant | Social Dialogue Association, Gabrovo |
| Total Budget | 50 622 BGN |
| Summary | Aiming to develop a model for preventive work with drug-addicts, seven training programs were designed within the program and tested in Gabrovo schools. Thirty-eight local experts were trained as well as 642 teachers and 30 student leaders. 8 000 pupils (7-11 years) were also informed about the consequences of drug-use. |

Forum Gabrovo Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Development of Municipal School Board |
| Applicant | Municipal School Board Association, Gabrovo |
| Total Budget | 18 145 BGN |
| Summary | Members of Municipal School Boards participated in different state and public bodies engaging in broad discussion about education. Consequently, the young association gained more public influence and support and Board members received training and became more active in the process of education management. |
| Project name | Virtual High-Tech Business Incubator |
| Applicant | Virtual High-Tech Business Incubator Association, Gabrovo |
| Total Budget | 26 910 BGN |
| Summary | The project conducted a public campaign to attract potential participants in specialized tests and registers for IT experts. Enlargement was planned for the Virtual High-Tech Business Incubator's web-site as well as for its conversion into a web-portal. Selection of young IT specialists in the field of web-design, software development and networking was also one of the project's activities. The strategic project idea was to help the young specialists to start their own business. |

Forum Sevlievo Data

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Sevlievo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Selievo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth, sports and leisure Integrative function of Tourism Culture Infrastructure and ecology Strategies and information systems Socially weak people and Health | SDC Forum Office Gabrovo  |
| Site: Apriltsi | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2000 – July 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 11 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 1 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 45 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Big Enterprises, International Projects | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 14 # of projects implemented: 9 | # of recommendations: 49 # of recommendations implemented: 59 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | | |
| Project fund: | Donor: 225 126 BGN | Own contribution: 165 006 BGN |


Forum Sevlievo Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Park for Family Sports and Recreation |
| Applicant | Sevlievo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 262 097 BGN |
| Summary | In order to restore the only town park in Sevlievo a fence of 800 meters was installed around the park area. Technical equipment for working in the park was provided. All instruments purchased are used not only in the park but also for the maintenance of other green areas in the town. Lots of spaces were cleaned and many facilities were built – sports grounds, children’s play-grounds, barbecue areas, benches, and open-air chess tables. The lighting and the water-supply system in the park zone were also repaired. |
| Project name | Mapping the Sewage System in Six Villages |
| Applicant | Sevlievo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 3 041 BGN |
| Summary | A project team was established involving experts to conduct a professional analysis of the sewage system in six villages. A project for a small waste-water treatment facility was developed as a pilot project in one of the vil-lages. The underground and mapping information gathered enlarged the database and provided conditions for drawing conceptual projects for reno-vation of the sewage system in the six villages. |
| Project name | Municipal School Board |
| Applicant | “Sevlievo – 21 Century” Business Association |
| Total Budget | 9 262 BGN |
| Summary | The project aimed at improving the quality of education in Sevlievo through better cooperation among relevant local participants in the decision-making process. |
| Project name | Establishment of a Complex Centre for Information and Services to Citizens |
| Applicant | Sevlievo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 24 651 BGN |
| Summary | A Complex Information and Service Centre was established in the Municipal Administration Building in Sevlievo. This improved the operation and the capacity of the local administration in offering services to the citizens. |
| Project name | Scouts – a Guarantee for Clean Rossitsa River |
| Applicant | Scouts Tourist Club, Gabrovo |
| Total Budget | 10 427 BGN |
| Summary | A group of students-scouts was formed for expeditions along the valley of Rossitsa river. Regional Inspection of Environment and Waters, Veliko Tarnovo, made analysis of the air and the waters of Rossitsa river and its tributaries and found the main sources of pollution. The scouts took photos, made video-films and gathered some typical and rare plants from the region which were then exhibited in Sevlievo and other towns. Three Eco-Patrol groups were formed to protect the river. |

Forum Sevlievo Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Agricultural Resources Register for the District of Sevlievo |
| Applicant | Sevlievo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 4 360 BGN |
| Summary | The project team gathered and summarized information about the vacant agricultural lands, premises and human resources in Sevlievo. The Register of Unused Agricultural Resources in Sevlievo was issued in 40 copies. The team organized discussions about land use and agricultural development in 23 villages of the region. The Register is publicly available at the Complex Centre for Information and Services. |
| Project name | Establishment of Agro-Business Centre in Sevlievo |
| Applicant | Agro-Business Centre Association, Sevlievo |
| Total Budget | 5 228 BGN |
| Summary | Agro-Business Centre Association was established in December 2001 and included 54 members from different communities within the municipality. With the support of Sevlievo Municipality the association was provided with a fully-equipped office that operated until May 2003. The Centre was co-organizer of different events (workshops and seminars). |
| Project name | Municipal Tourism Association and Information Office, Sevlievo |
| Applicant | Municipal Tourism Association, Sevlievo |
| Total Budget | 24 475 BGN |
| Summary | Aiming at sustainable development of tourism in Sevlievo, the Forum participants supported the idea of establishing a local NGO to coordinate the activities of entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the field of tourism. As a result, the Municipal Tourism Association, Sevlievo, was established by 12 physical and legal entities and the Tourism Information Centre became operational. A strategy for tourism development in the municipality was also elaborated. |
| Project name | Accessible Environment for Disabled People |
| Applicant | Sevlievo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 24 114 BGN |
| Summary | The main problems of disabled people in Sevlievo were defined and the institutions concerned were informed. The local media supported a public debate about accessible environment. Two metal platforms were installed to provide access to the municipal administration and hospital buildings. Three crossroads in the town were equipped with sound systems. |


Forum Teteven Data

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|--|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Teteven | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Teteven | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism • Small Business, Craftsmanship • Industry • Agriculture • Wood Management And Wood Processing • Infrastructure • Culture, Education And Healthcare | SDC Forum Office Gabrovo  |
| Site: Teteven | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2000 – July 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 1 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 57 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Big Enterprises, Citizens, Tourism and Ecology | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 14 # of projects implemented: 8 | # of recommendations: 25 # of recommendations implemented: 23 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | | |
| Project fund: | Donor: 164 849 BGN | Own contribution: 132 374 BGN |

Forum Teteven Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Teteven –Town of The Future |
| Applicant | Local Scouts Organization, Teteven |
| Total Budget | 12 001 BGN |
| Summary | The project team renovated the premises provided by the municipality for the local Scouts Club. Parents and children together cleaned and marked three eco-paths in Teteven neighbourhoods. The scouts installed information signs to the near peaks of Petrahilia, Ostrich and Cherven. The Local Tourist Office in Teteven prepared an information leaflet issued in 1000 copies. |
| Project name | Business Information Centre |
| Applicant | Association of Craftsmen, Traders and Entrepreneurs |
| Total Budget | 20 502 BGN |
| Summary | The project goal was to support the development of small business and crafts in Teteven region through the establishment of a Business Information Centre. The Centre would provide consultation and services to local entrepreneurs and craftsmen. |
| Project name | The Town Under The Sunny Stone |
| Applicant | Centre for Sustainable Development of Teteven Municipality |
| Total Budget | 16 530 BGN |
| Summary | With the aim to promote the region, a new website of Teteven was created. |
| Project name | Public Apiary |
| Applicant | Balkan Nectar Association |
| Total Budget | 7 900 BGN |
| Summary | The project idea was to establish a public apiary as a ground for training of unemployed, students and other interested people. Teteven municipality provided free land where the Public Apiary was established. |
| Project name | The House of Miracles |
| Applicant | Chance One Association |
| Total Budget | 110 645 BGN |
| Summary | Special interested groups were formed in the area of computing, painting, drama, aerobics, fashion etc. involving 268 pupils and students between the ages of 4 and 21. An old house was renovated and rooms for different activities were equipped. |
| Project name | Management of Municipal Property |
| Applicant | Centre for Sustainable Development of Teteven Municipality |
| Total Budget | 17 304 BGN |
| Summary | Within the project, information was collected about various municipal property types. A context evaluation and an analysis of a land-use management system were made. Municipal regulations were improved and some new good practices of municipal property management were introduced as a result of the project. |
| Project name | Community Centre for Sustainable Development |
| Applicant | Centre for Sustainable Development of Teteven Municipality |
| Total Budget | 72 306 BGN |
| Summary | The project aimed to establish and strengthen Teteven's Centre for Sustainable Development; recruiting staff, buying furniture and equipment, building capacity for rendering services were the project's key activities. |
| Project name | Citizen Initiative for Beautiful Teteven |
| Applicant | Centre for Sustainable Development of Teteven Municipality |
| Total Budget | 40 035 BGN |
| Summary | In pursuit of making Teteven an attractive place to visit and stay, six buildings as well as two blocks of flats were renovated. The citizens also decorated the facades along the main street with flowers while other activities to beautify the town were included in the project. |


Forum Troyan Data

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|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Troyan | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Troyan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth, sports and leisure Integrative function of Tourism Culture Infrastructure and ecology Strategies and information systems Socially weak people and Health | SDC Forum Office Gabrovo  |
| Site: Apriltsi | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2000 – July 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 1 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 67 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Citizens | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 8 # of projects implemented: 6 | # of recommendations: 14 # of recommendations implemented: 14 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | | |
| Project fund: | Donor: 204 194 BGN | Own contribution: 285 734 BGN |

Forum Troyan Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | ArtFest Centre |
| Applicant | Troyan Municipality |
| Total Budget | 165 928 BGN |
| Summary | The main objective was to improve the Art School's infrastructure and to create conditions for cultural activities and sports. The project included repairs to the Art School's gym thus turning it into a modern centre for culture and sports. |
| Project name | Mountain Centre Beklemeto |
| Applicant | Orienteering Club, Troyan |
| Total Budget | 56 471 BGN |
| Summary | The project objective was to establish an Independent Mountain Centre for Children, complying with modern requirements for sports, mountaineering and recreation. As a result the Orienteering Club organized summer and winter outdoor activities and training for young people. |
| Project name | Man and Mountain |
| Applicant | Planintsi Cinema Club |
| Total Budget | 18 999 BGN |
| Summary | The project supported the development and sustainability of Planintsi Cinema Club. Three documentary films were made about local nature, crafts and interesting people living in the mountains. |
| Project name | Charshiyata Ethnographic Trade Complex |
| Applicant | Troyan Municipality |
| Total Budget | 201 206 BGN |
| Summary | As a result of the project urban plans, conceptual designs, technical and investment documentation for the construction of Ethnographic Trade Complex in the centre of Troyan were prepared. |
| Project name | "Balkan Paths" Festivities |
| Applicant | Bulgarka Association, Troyan |
| Total Budget | 10 000 BGN |
| Summary | Instead of holding a series of separate events, the municipal administration and local NGOs launched the organization of a large International Festival, thereby uniting the collaboration of different cultural institutions. Within the Balkan Path Festivities 30 artists from Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Armenia and Japan took part in the International Plain-air Art Ceramics. The Center of Troyan became a known scene for folk songs and dances from different countries and various parts of Bulgaria. |
| Project name | Ecological Centre in Cherni Osam Museum |
| Applicant | Cherni Osam Natural Science Museum |
| Total Budget | 37 270 BGN |
| Summary | The project's objective was to build a specialized unit at the Natural Science Museum aiming to attract new visitors interested in nature conservation. New technical equipment was provided by the project such as a microscope, digital camera and PH-meter. |

Forum Tryavna Data

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Tryavna | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Tryavna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and family environment • Youth • Sustainable economic development • Tourism • Tourism: Reconstruction of an old street • Culture • Health: Completion of hospital • Sports and tourism • Water | SDC Forum Office Gabrovo  |
| Site: Tryavna | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2000 – July 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 1 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 55 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Big Enterprises, Citizens, Tourism and Ecology | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 6 | # of recommendations: 20 # of recommendations implemented: 19 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | | |
| Project fund: | Donor: 132 878 BGN | Own contribution: 285 734 BGN |


Forum Tryavna Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Municipal Student Parliament |
| Applicant | Citizen Activity Association, Tryavna |
| Total Budget | 10 259 BGN |
| Summary | The project aimed at meeting the needs and requirements of young people in Tryavna through the establishment of a Municipal School Parliament. Training for the participants was organized within the projects and contacts were established with other youth structures from Bulgaria. |
| Project name | Pavement of the Old Street in Tryavna's City Centre |
| Applicant | Tryavna Municipality |
| Total Budget | 91 103 BGN |
| Summary | Improving the appearance of the old main street by renovating the pavement, all underground communications, and by cleaning the sewage system, was prioritized in this project. |
| Project name | Internet Center in the Chitalishte |
| Applicant | P. Slaveikov Chitalishte, Tryavna |
| Total Budget | 44 627 BGN |
| Summary | The project established a Cultural and Information Centre with an Internet Club in P. Slaveikov Chitalishte. In addition to Internet access other new services were offered such as language and computer courses and training in accounting. |
| Project name | Area Around Tryavna |
| Applicant | Planinets Tourist Association |
| Total Budget | 10 137 BGN |
| Summary | The project team involved local people and institutions in refurbishing eight fountains in the outskirts of Tryavna, most of them situated along the tourist paths in the mountains. The area around the fountains was cleaned and restored. Local mountaineers and ecologists organized voluntary cleaning activities. |
| Project name | Children's Playground and Botanic Garden |
| Applicant | Tryavna Municipality |
| Total Budget | 22 448 BGN |
| Summary | The project objective was to enliven the environment in one of the new residential areas of Tryavna. |
| Project name | Living River |
| Applicant | Bedek Hunting and Fishing Union |
| Total Budget | 8 528 BGN |
| Summary | Following the Forum methodology, efforts of the local community were united in preparing a Conceptual Project "Living River" pertaining to the rehabilitation of the Tryavna river basin. |

1.2 FORUMS INITIATED BY THE MUNICIPALITY (cont.)

B) Forum topics selected in advance on survey basis

Forum Lovech Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Lovech | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Lovech | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens' initiatives for improving the living environment Initiatives stimulating small and medium business |  |
| Site: Tryavna | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: June 2002 – June 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: March and November 2003 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 93 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: healthcare and social activities, citizens | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 16 # of projects implemented: 10 | # of recommendations: 32 # of recommendations implemented: 31 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 5 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 100 000 BGN | Initiator: 100 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 30% | Average project funding Initiator: 30% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |


Forum Lovech Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Nature is our world |
| Applicant | Association "Orienteering Club" |
| Total budget | 10 000 BGN |
| Summary | In this project various educational activities were organized to encourage young people to enjoy, respect and protect nature; they included outdoor sports (sports orientation), drawing of topographic maps and the organization of diverse ecological, outdoor simulation exercises. Through such activities, promotion of ecological culture and youth's active civic role in the protection of the environment was envisioned. |
| Project name | Tracks from the past |
| Applicant | Historical Museum of Lovech |
| Total budget | 33 601 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to make the internal exhibition room of the museum a suitable place for presenting exhibits recording culture and history. Specific objective of the project is to lay the foundation for providing regular courses in national geography, history and arts. |
| Project name | Youth Centre - Lovech |
| Applicant | Association "21 Century Eco Mission" |
| Total budget | 56 684 BGN |
| Summary | The municipality's need for a common place where young people can meet, socialize and engage in extra-curricular educational activities, such as the use of new information and communication technologies or specialized interests, was met through the creation of a local youth centre. The centre's activities were managed by a local association but housed within the premises of Municipal buildings. |
| Project name | The Municipality is What We All Are |
| Applicant | Association "Knowledge" |
| Total budget | 43 995 BGN |
| Summary | Building a model for the optimal utilization of human resources for the purposes of sustainable development of villages. Priorities for the sustainable development of six villages were identified and incorporated into municipal and regional strategic development plans. |
| Project name | Neighbourhood Councils – "A way to achieve sustainable civic initiatives" |
| Applicant | "Community Fund for Development" Foundation |
| Total budget | 16 707 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to establish a sustainable partnership among citizens and local authorities to solve common problems in the form of neighbourhood councils registered as civic associations. The aim was to encourage citizens to actively participate in the process of improving living and environmental conditions within their communities. |

Forum Lovech Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Dikisana neighbourhood's dream for gardens |
| Applicant | Foundation "Skribitour" |
| Total budget | 18 507 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to beautify Dikisana neighbourhood and to provide opportunities for residents of all ages for socializing, sport and recreation. |
| Project name | Natural Beauty of Lovech – Our Care and Responsibility |
| Applicant | Tourist Association "Stratash" |
| Total budget | 90 939 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to provide a healthy way of living of young people through the promotion and safe practice of all outdoor sports in nature such as alpinism, speleology, rock-climbing, and mountain-biking. For that purpose a 200 sq.m. artificial climbing wall will be placed in the city centre. |
| Project name | Computer centre for training and qualification to the Technical college of Lovech |
| Applicant | Foundation "Skribitour" |
| Total budget | 49 202 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to enhance the quality, effectiveness and appeal of existing educational and training programs and thereby attain sustainable student achievements: all residents in the region regardless of their age, social status and ethnic origin will be targeted in this project. |
| Project name | Constructing Three Multifunctional Playgrounds |
| Applicant | Municipality of Lovech |
| Total budget | 165 708 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to renovate an existing playground and to construct two more playgrounds in the most inhabited areas of the city. The aim is to make these playgrounds nice places for sport, recreation and socializing |
| Project name | Lovech – The Place You Must See |
| Applicant | Association "Tourism Council" |
| Total budget | 20 029 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to develop strategic marketing and promotional tourism activities in Lovech municipality with the aim of attracting more tourists in the region. The quality of tourist products will be enhanced through qualified training of employees working in the tourism sector. |

Forum Troyan Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Troyan | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Troyan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Free time, young people, sports, tourism |  |
| Site: Troyan | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: June 2002 – June 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: February and November 2003 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 95 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: citizens, social activities, tourism | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 8 | # of recommendations: 44 # of recommendations implemented: 40 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 500 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 90 000 BGN | Initiator: 80 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 30% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 45% |


Forum Troyan Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Sound recording in the Chitalishte hall and the city square |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte "Nauka" (Chitalishte means a Community Arts Center) |
| Total Budget | 36 164 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to improve the sound recording system of the only multifunctional hall in the city and to install an appropriate sound recording system on the city square for open-air events. |
| Project name | Sparks from an Extinct Hearth |
| Applicant | Museum of National Crafts and Fine Arts |
| Total Budget | 126 747 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project was to renovate the unique National Crafts and Fine Arts Museum. 10 exhibition halls and a souvenir stall have been renovated; 150 photos and 206 light fittings were replaced with new ones and a new multifunctional hall of 40 seats has been constructed. |
| Project name | Library for All, Information of All |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte "Science" |
| Total Budget | 65 100 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to renovate the library and transform it into: 1) a centre for culture and information; 2) a place for socialization and development of artistic skills; 3) an arena for popularization and dissemination of the national and world cultural heritage |
| Project name | "Kapincho" Park – Centre for Sport, Tourism and Cultural Amusements |
| Applicant | Tourist Association "Ambaritza" |
| Total Budget | 100 300 BGN |
| Summary | Improving the infrastructure and adjoining parts of the "N.Gabarski" tourist house located in the most picturesque area of the "Kapincho" park in order to make it suitable for year-round operation form the basis for this project. Given that the N.Gabarski House is a popular destination for organized Schools in Nature, many students will benefit from its new comforts. |
| Project name | Nature Protection Centre in the Open |
| Applicant | Foundation "Natural Science Museum – Cherni Osam", the village of Cherni Osam, municipality of Troyan |
| Total Budget | 14 419 BGN |
| Summary | In the grounds of the Natural Science Museum in the Cherni Osam village a full-scale model of the Central Balkan National Park will be designed and installed. Through the project, interactive displays will enable museum visitors to get in touch with wild nature without damaging it and conservation practices will be promoted. |

Forum Troyan Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Children's Artistic Centre "House of Shoshko" |
| Applicant | Association "Committee for Twinning and Eurointegration" |
| Total Budget | 83 187 BGN |
| Summary | Providing creative alternatives for young people aged 3-18 on how to spend their spare time is envisioned in this project. Teaching them new cultural and artistic skills, equipping the astronomy laboratory and observatory, the electronics cabinet, the children's Euroclub and the "Young Reporter" club with new apparatus and materials will be among the project's core activities. For that purpose the House of Shoshko has also been renovated and transformed into a children's artistic centre. |
| Project name | Student Municipal Parliament |
| Applicant | Municipality of Troyan together with a group of students aged 13-19 |
| Total Budget | 29 381 BGN |
| Summary | Part-time employment for young people aged 13-19 will be provided through the establishment of a student municipal parliament where young people gather and discuss topics of their interest. |
| Project name | Establishment of a Modern Arts Centre in the "House of Seriak" gallery |
| Applicant | Association of the Troyan Artists |
| Total Budget | 30 575 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to support and maintain the only gallery in Troyan through its modernization and public promotion, and by transforming it into a cultural, informational and trade centre for arts. Developing a database of artists' dossiers will be another activity in its continued maintenance. |

Forum Dryanovo Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Dryanovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Dryanovo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people – alternatives, free time, culture, sports, tourism • Infrastructure, environment, employment programs |  |
| Site: Dryanovo | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: June 2002 – June 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: January and September 2004 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 72 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Healthcare and Social Activities, Environment | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 14 # of projects implemented: 9 | # of recommendations: 16 # of recommendations implemented: 15 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 3 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 105 000 BGN | Initiator: 25 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 15% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |


Forum Dryanovo Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Tourist Information – A Guarantee for the Development of Tourist Business in the Municipality of Dryanovo |
| Applicant | Tourist Council Association |
| Total Budget | 14 714 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to strengthen tourist attractiveness of Dryanovo, to raise the revenue from local tourist activities as well as to enhance employment in the tourism sector. This will be achieved through the design and fixing of posters and the introduction of a card-index reference system of the guesthouses. |
| Project name | The Planet of Monkeys |
| Applicant | Basketball Club "Lokomotiv" |
| Total Budget | 30 888 BGN |
| Summary | A multifunctional playground in "Aprilzi" neighbourhood to provide residents with opportunities for sport and recreation in their spare time will be built by the project. Access to and facilities at the playground will be adapted to the needs of people with physical disabilities. |
| Project name | Sport for Health |
| Applicant | The board of trustees to the primary school "SS Cyril and Methodius" |
| Total Budget | 27 014 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to improve learning and practicing methods in physical education classes by motivating students who are resistant to physical activities and integrating those belonging to different ethnic groups. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of Sanitary Facilities at the "Maxim Raikovich" Secondary School |
| Applicant | The Board of Trustees of the "Maxim Raikovich" Secondary School |
| Total Budget | 35 657 BGN |
| Summary | Efforts to prevent and diminish the spread of epidemics and kidney diseases will be supported by educating students about healthy habit formation and by upgrading the school's sanitary facilities to comply with modern hygienic standards. |
| Project name | City Surrounding Areas – Zones for Efficient Recreation in the Thick of the Wood |
| Applicant | Sport club for orienteering "Bacho Kiro 94" |
| Total Budget | 8 145 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to encourage more people to engage in recreational activities in the woods surrounding their respective city. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of the "Vavedenie Bogorodichno" Church |
| Applicant | The Bishopric of Veliko Tarnovo, the city of Dryanovo |
| Total Budget | 95 144 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to reactivate the church "Vavedenie Bogorodichno" and transform it into a spiritual centre for the residents of Dryanovo. A Sunday school will be established. |

Forum Dryanovo Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Youth in Defence of Human Rights |
| Applicant | Association "Youth Community For Civic Alternatives" |
| Total Budget | 18 641 BGN |
| Summary | The Association "Youth Community For Civic Alternatives" sought to establish a youth council which will improve citizen participation and responsible behaviour of young people in the promotion of human rights. Organization of specialized training courses and various contest events took place. |
| Project name | Accessible City Environment for People with Poor Eyesight from "Uspeh" Neighbourhood |
| Applicant | Regional Organization of the Sightless People, the city of Dryanovo |
| Total Budget | 21 000 BGN |
| Summary | The road surface and the pavements in the "Uspeh" neighbourhood is improved to meet the needs of people with poor eyesight. |
| Project name | Establishment of a Cultural and Educational Centre "Dryanovo in the New Century" |
| Applicant | National chitalishte "Razvitie" |
| Total Budget | 63 979 BGN |
| Summary | As a result of the project a small cinema hall was built so that local people could become familiar with European and foreign cinema and culture. The project also contributed to the construction of the cultural and educational centre. |


Forum Yablanitsa Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Yablanitsa | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Yablanitsa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure and environment Employment and development of local business |  |
| Site: Yablanitsa | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: June 2002 – June 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: February and October 2004 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 49 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Social Activities | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 3 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 4 | # of recommendations: 36 # of recommendations implemented: 4 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 3 500 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 80 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 50% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Yablanitsa Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Tourist routes - Dragoitza |
| Applicant | Tourist Association "Dragoiza" |
| Total Budget | 3 936 BGN |
| Summary | Access to the natural sights of the local foothill "Dragoiza" is improved by putting up signposts and benches along the route. In addition a water source and a biking trail have been set up. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of a Theatre Hall in chitalishte "Nauka" |
| Applicant | National chitalishte "Nauka" |
| Total Budget | 20 121 BGN |
| Summary | To make the theatre hall an attractive place for visitors where they can enjoy performances, this project included a stage lighting system and an appropriate sound recording system; hall chairs were also repaired. |
| Project name | Establishing a Customer Service and Information Centre |
| Applicant | Municipality of Yablanitsa |
| Total Budget | 36 219 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to improve the quality of and citizens' access to municipal administrative services. The existing municipal office has been renovated, the computer network has been cabled and extended and the staff has been trained on how to operate the new software. |
| Project name | Beautifying the City Centre of Yablanitsa |
| Applicant | Municipality of Yablanitsa |
| Total Budget | 134 596 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to make the city centre accessible and safe by planting new grass plots, fixing public lighting, and transforming a public parking area into a place for recreation, social and cultural events. |

Forum Targovishte Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Targovishte | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Targovishte | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development of the municipal economy Create opportunities for the development and realization of young people |  |
| Site: Targovishte | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: December 2002 – December 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: April 2004 and October 2004 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 65 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: state institutions and public organizations, media | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 2 # of projects proposed: 11 # of projects implemented: 9 | # of recommendations: 20 # of recommendations implemented: 15 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 5 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 160 000 BGN | Initiator: 50 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |


Forum Targovishte Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Come and See the Beautiful and Eco-friendly Nature of Targovishte |
| Applicant | Association "Inteleco" |
| Total Budget | 19 663 BGN |
| Summary | Stimulating the commitment of the citizens and young people of Targovishte to issues of ecological importance and cultivation of natural and historical resources was the focus of this project. This has been achieved by building an eco-trail in the area of "Parka". |
| Project name | Improving Conditions for Visitors at the Mountain Hostel "Mladost" |
| Applicant | Nikola Simov Ltd. |
| Total Budget | 84 874 BGN |
| Summary | To attract more tourists to visit the beautiful nature of the Targovishte mountain, more pleasant accommodation conditions at the local mountain hostel were created. |
| Project name | Because Tomorrow Never Dies |
| Applicant | Club of the NGOs, the city of Targovishte |
| Total Budget | 28 638 BGN |
| Summary | The city of Targovishte and its Club of NGOs wanted to see more young people participating in community initiatives. The project created employment opportunities for young people and offered activities which would enhance their knowledge of civic education, health prevention and eco-culture. |
| Project name | Hip-hop Culture as a Means of Communication and Sport |
| Applicant | Child Care Complex of Targovishte |
| Total Budget | 13 122 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to establish a network of hip-hop performers with the aim to fill up young people's spare time as well as to promote aerosol painting by young people as an art. As a result, the fourth national break dance contest was organized by the project, attracting the participation of 16 dance groups and 50 graffiti painters from all over the country. |
| Project name | The "Krumovo Lale" Castle – An Attractive and Accessible Beauty Spot |
| Applicant | Municipality of Targovishte |
| Total Budget | 60 924 BGN |
| Summary | The historical monument (the castle of "Krumovo Lale") was made an attractive tourist destination by setting up the infrastructure needed in terms of information boards, benches and other facilities and through the maintenance of archaeological excavations. A student contest on "Castles and the big European battles" has been organized and it launched the official opening of the castle. |

Forum Targovishte Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | The Mission of the Chitalishte – To Serve Residents from the Settlements |
| Applicant | Municipal Chitalishten Council |
| Total Budget | 69 588 BGN |
| Summary | This project aspired to develop means of social inclusion of people from remote areas in the region of Targovishte, to reduce the unemployment level, to provide updated business information for small enterprises and to introduce a practical model for generation of agricultural revenue. |
| Project name | Establishment of a Municipal Tourist Advisory Council |
| Applicant | Municipality of Targovishte |
| Total Budget | 21 188 BGN |
| Summary | As a result of the project and in an effort to improve local tourism, better collaboration and pooling of efforts among representatives and operators in the city's tourism sector was achieved. The development of various support products was also secured. |
| Project name | Chances for Worthy Living |
| Applicant | Municipality of Targovishte |
| Total Budget | 47 008 BGN |
| Summary | In efforts to better accommodate local people with physical disabilities, the project provided for the creation of an easy access to the administrative buildings by fixing appropriate platforms. |
| Project name | Do the Young People from Targovishte have a Future in the City? |
| Applicant | Club of the NGOs, the city of Targovishte |
| Total Budget | 19 232 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to keep the young people in the city and create favourable conditions for their professional development. Establishing a career centre, setting up a specialized database of professional opportunities for young people and conducting regular meetings to discuss their issues of importance and concern are among the proposed activities. |

Forum Svishtov Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Svishtov | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Svishtov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing traditions in the area of education, sports and tourism To improve the social, economic and communication infrastructure |  |
| Site: Svishtov | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: December 2002 – December 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: April 2004 and November 2004 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 54 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism and environment | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 4 # of projects proposed: 16 # of projects implemented: 12 | # of recommendations: 14 # of recommendations implemented: 13 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 180 000 BGN | Initiator: 80 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |


Forum Svishtov Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Municipal Education Forum “21 century School” |
| Applicant | Youth Educational Centre “Shtastliveza” |
| Total Budget | 24 635 BGN |
| Summary | The project is to support community efforts in improving the quality of education by using the principles of consensual identification and prioritization of challenges/ key issues in the education sector, applying problem-solving methods at different levels and provoking active school participation in all activities. |
| Project name | Centre for Psychological Consultation and Therapy “Otvorena Vrat@” |
| Applicant | Municipality of Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 34 149 BGN |
| Summary | This project focused on promoting tolerance in relations between citizens and in providing expert support in the treatment of ill-health. For that purpose the cabinet for psychological consultation has been renovated and specialized training courses in individual and adult psychology attended by people of different ages have been organized. |
| Project name | Promotion and Beautification of the Grounds of the “Aleko Konstantinov” House-museum in the City of Svishtov |
| Applicant | Historical Museum of Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 25 178 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to make the house-museum a safe, attractive and accessible place for visitors through improvements to the adjoining infrastructure: the building of new alleys and fences, grass plots and fixing energy efficient lighting will be undertaken. |
| Project name | Preservation of Unique Documents in the chitalishte “Elenka and Kiril Avramovi” Library, the city of Svishtov |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte “Elenka and Kiril Avramovi” |
| Total Budget | 23 640 BGN |
| Summary | In efforts to preserve the library and to provide secure public access to unique documents, the latter will be digitalized, catalogues will be made, a reading room built and training on how to work with microfilms and other computer facilities will be organized. |
| Project name | Information Supply for the Villages within the Municipality of Svishtov |
| Applicant | Business Center “Svishtov” |
| Total Budget | 65 000 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to improve administrative services in the villages and settlements providing “on the spot” services for its residents. Specialized training courses for the administrative staff of the villages will also be conducted. The working conditions in 15 have been improved and internet connection has been installed. |
| Project name | Institutional Capacity Building and Development of the Tourist Council in Svishtov |
| Applicant | Tourist Council of Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 64 391 BGN |
| Summary | The focus of this project is to build capacity and improve services offered by the Tourist Council; developing integrated local tourist products, a database of the tourist sites and publishing a book “Svishtov – the city of the first things” are some of the project’s activities. |

Forum Svishtov Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Let's Open our Doors to the World |
| Applicant | State City Library |
| Total Budget | 7 852 BGN |
| Summary | This project supports citizen participation in community initiatives by providing opportunities for information choices. For that purpose the library stock has been digitalized and specialized user-friendly equipment has been installed for readers and visitors. |
| Project name | Investment for Health |
| Applicant | Svishtov City Hospital |
| Total Budget | 30 571 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to create conditions for the prevention and early diagnosis of cardio-vascular diseases for residents from the city and surrounding areas. |
| Project name | Municipal Sport Contest "Puls" |
| Applicant | Physical Culture Department to the Municipality of Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 51 101 BGN |
| Summary | In this project it is planned to develop sports skills and good attitudes among young people as well as to improve sport facilities in the villages and settlements. |
| Project name | Media and Citizens are Combining Efforts for a Better Living Environment |
| Applicant | Association "Earth forever" |
| Total Budget | 8 235 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to enhance knowledge among the residents about issues and the problems related to their living environment. |
| Project name | The rural fountains – spiritual and natural (re)source of worth |
| Applicant | Association "Earth forever" |
| Total Budget | 34 330 BGN |
| Summary | The project's concrete goals are to: 1) renovate 25 fountains in 9 settlements on the territory of Svishtov municipality; 2) improve the quality of the water and raise its capacity; 3) develop the living environment in the region. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of Bus Stops in Villages |
| Applicant | Business Centre of Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 50 241 BGN |
| Summary | The aim of this project is to partially improve the adjoining infrastructure of village centres in all 15 villages and to renew villages' bus stops. |


Forum Popovo Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Popovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Popovo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivate young people to stay in the small town Infrastructure and environment |  |
| Site: Popovo | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: December 2002 – December 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: May 2004 and October 2004 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 54 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Healthcare, Social Activities, Tourism | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 4 # of projects proposed: 13 # of projects implemented: 6 | # of recommendations: 9 # of recommendations implemented: 8 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 500 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 160 000 BGN | Initiator: 70 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 35% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Popovo Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | In order to stay on... |
| Applicant | NGO "Born in 20th century" |
| Total Budget | 45 933 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to support the young population in acquiring relevant skills for working in the third sector and by establishing the first Youth Centre of its kind in the city of Popovo. |
| Project name | Creation of conditions for labour and professional development of the young population in Popovo. Establishment of Information and Training Centre |
| Applicant | Association "Alternative Popovo – 21 century" |
| Total Budget | 49 761 BGN |
| Summary | Through the project, solid links between employers and prospective young employees will be established. This is to determine whether the professional training of young people corresponds to employers' actual needs. Licensing a training centre promoting the principles of self-employment is envisaged. |
| Project name | Constructive and Architectural Renovation of the Bridge on the South part of the City Square |
| Applicant | Municipality of Popovo |
| Total Budget | 180 925 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to: 1) improve the access of local people to the south part of the city square implementing necessary constructive works; 2) planting grass plots in the area around the bridge; 3) construct a recreation and trade area with pavilions around the bridge. |
| Project name | Construction of a laundry in the city hospital of Popovo |
| Applicant | Community Committee of the Red Cross, the city of Popovo |
| Total Budget | 72 920 BGN |
| Summary | This project focuses on meeting the needs of the city hospital for laundry facilities. |
| Project name | Improving the road surface of the alleys and the recreation places in the city park |
| Applicant | Cultural Association "Popovo 21 century" |
| Total Budget | 48 705 BGN |
| Summary | This project aims to improve the adjoining infrastructure of the city park, reconstructing the park's only fountain, renewing its benches, and improving the road surface and sport facilities in the park. |
| Project name | Sports Complex "Arena" |
| Applicant | Association "Volleyball Club – Popovo" |
| Total Budget | 85 836 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to construct a new sports ground for beach volleyball and tennis. |

Forum Pavlikeni Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Pavlikeni | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Pavlikeni | • Sustainable economic development |  |
| Site: Pavlikeni | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: December 2002 – December 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: May 2004 and November 2004 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 54 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Healthcare, Tourism, Ecology | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 2 # of projects proposed: 10 # of projects implemented: 9 | # of recommendations: 18 # of recommendations implemented: 14 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 91 541 BGN | Initiator: 26 151 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 15% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |


Forum Pavlikeni Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Open Air Training and Tourism – A Good Alternative for Youth |
| Applicant | Club “Bacho Kiro” – Organization of the Bulgarian Scouts |
| Total Budget | 29 923 BGN |
| Summary | The formal and informal training of young people is supported by building educational, ecological and historical routes. |
| | |
| Project name | Youth Centre of Culture and Information |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte “Bratstvo” |
| Total Budget | 39 226 BGN |
| Summary | In order to better engage young people in community initiatives, a model of a youth community policy and renovation of the Youth Centre of Culture and Information offices will be completed in this project. |
| | |
| Project name | Business Forum 2004 |
| Applicant | Municipality of Pavlikeni |
| Total Budget | 11 614 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to compare and promote best practices and products of local companies. |
| | |
| Project name | Information Bureau for People with Disabilities |
| Applicant | Municipality of Pavlikeni |
| Total Budget | 12 725 BGN |
| Summary | Through this project the Municipality of Pavlikeni will establish a service centre for people with disabilities which offers professional consultations and supports their social integration. |
| | |
| Project name | First Steps for Alternative Tourism in Pavlikeni |
| Applicant | Council for alternative tourism |
| Total Budget | 16 322 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to build the capacity of the Council for Alternative Tourism and establish an Information Centre attached to the Council. |
| | |
| Project name | Antique Ceramics Centre – the city of Pavlikeni – Restored Antiquity |
| Applicant | Municipality of Pavlikeni |
| Total Budget | 45 455 BGN |
| Summary | With the aim to develop the cultural and historical heritage of Pavlikeni as a resource for sustainable development, the restoration of the antique ceramic centre, its antique kilns and artifacts has been supported and the adjoining infrastructure has been improved as part of the project. |
| | |
| Project name | Youth Area for Recreation and Sport |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of the Secondary School “Bacho Kiro” |
| Total Budget | 12 131 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to strengthen the partnership between civic organizations, youth, local authorities and entrepreneurs in renovating the Youth park. |
| | |

Forum Pavlikeni Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Consultative and Intermediary Bureau for Social Support and Services |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte “Zora-1887”, the village of Gorna Lipniza |
| Total Budget | 10 274 BGN |
| Summary | Administrative and information services in the village of Gorna Lipniza will be introduced |
| | |
| Project name | Better Living Environment – Training and Practice |
| Applicant | Ecological Association of Pavlikeni |
| Total Budget | 30 549 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to build the capacity of the Ecological Association for the purposes of improving the quality and the parameters of the environmental and city area through active participation in the municipal and community policy development process. |

Forum Antonovo Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Antonovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Antonovo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development and infrastructure Healthcare, education, young people and culture |  |
| Site: Antonovo | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: December 2002 – December 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: April 2004 and October 2004 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 57 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Healthcare | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 13 # of projects implemented: 13 | # of recommendations: 56 # of recommendations implemented: 40 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 3 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 130 000 BGN | Initiator: 28 600 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |


Forum Antonovo Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Beautifying the city central area of Antonovo |
| Applicant | Association "Antonovo-2000" |
| Total Budget | 29 988 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to make the city centre attractive for entrepreneurs and business initiatives. |
| Project name | The school – a place for children |
| Applicant | Board of trustees of the Primary School "SS Cyril and Methodius" |
| Total Budget | 29 705 BGN |
| Summary | The outdoor area of the local primary school complex will be improved. |
| Project name | Institutionalization of a Youth NGO |
| Applicant | Association "Board of Trustees United Kindergarten – Pavel Milanov" |
| Total Budget | 10 675 BGN |
| Summary | This project plans to stimulate the development of democratic and civic behaviour among young people by creating a non-governmental youth organization. |
| Project name | The Municipality of Antonovo – untilled virgin soil for alternative tourism |
| Applicant | Municipality of Antonovo |
| Total Budget | 20 462 BGN |
| Summary | The promotion of alternative tourism in Antonovo municipality will be met by first developing a strategy for alternative tourism and by mobilizing local people of the small villages to actively participate in the promotional activities. |
| Project name | Establishment of Local TV Channel in the City of Antonovo |
| Applicant | Association "Antonovo-2000" |
| Total Budget | 23 816 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to improve the public information supply activities and facilities in the city by acquiring the necessary TV equipment. |
| Project name | Open-air sports complex in the city of Antonovo |
| Applicant | Football Club "Tuzlushka Slava" |
| Total Budget | 39 264 BGN |
| Summary | By renovating and improving the facilities of a local sports complex, the project aims to stimulate local people to practice sport regularly and thereby promote healthy living. |
| Project name | The libraries in the Municipality of Antonovo – centres of literature and modern source of information |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte "Hristo Botev" |
| Total Budget | 14 617 BGN |
| Summary | This project will contribute to the updating of library stocks in the city of Antonovo and six surrounding villages. |

Forum Antonovo Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Renewing the Sound Recording Equipment in the National chitalishte "Hristo Botev" |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte "Hristo Botev" |
| Total Budget | 18 200 BGN |
| Summary | Modernizing the local library and making it a pleasant public place for education, socialization and entertainment will be achieved in this project. |
| Project name | The church – a spiritual temple of Christianity |
| Applicant | Association "Antonovo-2000" |
| Total Budget | 3 225 BGN |
| Summary | Association "Antonovo-2000" chose to revive the old church and religious traditions by delivering specialized lectures to local people on issues of humanity, morality and faith. |
| Project name | Playgrounds for children |
| Applicant | Association "Antonovo-2000" |
| Total Budget | 18 613 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to unite the civic, business and local government's efforts to improve areas for children in the villages of Antovono municipality. |
| Project name | Incubator for Small and Medium Agricultural Business |
| Applicant | Association "Antonovo-2000" |
| Total Budget | 23 067 BGN |
| Summary | In an effort to support the development of agricultural business in Antonovo municipality, an incubator for small and medium agricultural business, a credit cooperation structure and specialized training courses will be established. |
| Project name | The city of Antonovo – past, present and future |
| Applicant | Association "Antonovo-2000" |
| Total Budget | 21 101 BGN |
| Summary | The cultural and historical heritage of Antonovo will be promoted through the development and publishing of a first book on local heritage named "Memory of Tuzluka" as well as other promotional materials. |
| Project name | Developing a Board of Trustees for the United Kindergartens "P.Milanov" |
| Applicant | Association Board of Trustees to the United Kindergartens "P.Milanov" |
| Total Budget | 14 518 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to: 1) institutionalize the Board of Trustees; 2) modernize the school environment and 3) improve the quality of education. |

Forum Razgrad Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 3 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Razgrad | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Razgrad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development and infrastructure Healthcare, education, young people and culture |  |
| Site: Razgrad | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: July 2003 – July 2004 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: February and September 2005 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 73 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Entrepreneurs, Tourism | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 3 # of projects proposed: 11 # of projects implemented: 9 | # of recommendations: 18 # of recommendations implemented: 18 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 180 000 BGN | Initiator: 80 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 35% |


Forum Razgrad Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Playground for Sports and Recreation |
| Applicant | Chitalishte "Probuda", the village of Strajets |
| Total Budget | 13 757 BGN |
| Summary | A playground for sports and recreation will be built to support the teaching of physical education. |
| Project name | Youth TV Program "Hello to you" |
| Applicant | Consultative Club for Civic Education |
| Total Budget | 47 707 BGN |
| Summary | Through the production of a local Youth TV program, the goal of the project is to make residents hear the voice of youth. |
| Project name | Centre for Women's Health and Prevention |
| Applicant | Women's Federation |
| Total Budget | 26 000 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to enhance awareness concerning women's health issues in the region by establishing a Centre for Women's Health and Prevention. Various educational, regular monitoring and prevention activities related to the most common spread of women's diseases will be organized. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of an Indoor Swimming Pool |
| Applicant | Municipality of Razgrad |
| Total Budget | 64 522 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to renovate and operationally restore the only indoor swimming pool in the city of Razgrad. |
| Project name | Centre for Youth Events |
| Applicant | Municipal Enterprise "Canteen Maintenance and Recreation" |
| Total Budget | 43 102 BGN |
| Summary | This project plans to transform the school canteen and the Youth club "Zaio Baio" into an attractive centre for youth events. |
| Project name | Access for People with Physical Disabilities |
| Applicant | Municipality of Razgrad |
| Total Budget | 91 942 BGN |
| Summary | The Municipality of Razgrad will adapt the city's "Alexander Stamboliiski" boulevard to meet the needs of easy access and movement for people with physical disabilities. |
| Project name | Traditions and Tourism |
| Applicant | Chitalishte "Samoobrazovanie" |
| Total Budget | 42 660 BGN |
| Summary | As a result of this project the Ethnographic museum in the village of Pobit Kamak will be built. |

Forum Razgrad Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | ABAGAR 2004 |
| Applicant | Vocational School of Economy |
| Total Budget | 14 236 BGN |
| Summary | Local students will be engaged to create an e-catalogue of old manuscripts (from 1930 onwards) collected at the Vocational School of Economy. |
| Project name | Citizen and Community Partners for Improving the Living Environment in "Orel" Neighbourhood |
| Applicant | Municipality of Razgrad |
| Total Budget | 68 104 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to improve the infrastructure of existing space between two house buildings by constructing a multifunctional complex including sports ground, playground, alleys and recreational areas. |


Forum Novi Pazar Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 3 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Novi Pazar | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Novi Pazar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to make the young people stay in the town Prerequisites for investments Agriculture Business administration, work force, social activities |  |
| Site: Novi Pazar | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: July 2003 – July 2004 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: March and September 2005 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 73 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 6 | # of recommendations: 61 # of recommendations implemented: 59 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 120 000 BGN | Initiator: 25 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 35% |

Forum Novi Pazar Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Sport and Health |
| Applicant | Roma Women's Association Haiachi |
| Total Budget | 13 355 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to integrate the sport and cultural spirit of children from different ethnic groups. |
| Project name | City Park |
| Applicant | Municipality of Novi Pazar |
| Total Budget | 67 335 BGN |
| Summary | Renovating the city park with new features and transforming it into an attractive place for recreation and leisure. |
| Project name | TV Program "The Hour of Novi Pazar" – From and for the Residents of Novi Pazar |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte "Hristo Botev" |
| Total Budget | 54 565 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to create a local TV program with the aim of keeping residents posted about the latest news and events in the city. |
| Project name | Installing Waterproof Isolation in the Sports Hall |
| Applicant | Municipality of Novi Pazar |
| Total Budget | 54 928 BGN |
| Summary | The project is to improve the conditions for local practicing of sports by installing waterproof isolation in the Sports Hall building. |
| Project name | Give a Chance |
| Applicant | Association "Business Centre – Novi Pazar" |
| Total Budget | 19 645 BGN |
| Summary | As part of this project various activities will be organized to enhance the employment competitiveness of people with physical disabilities. |
| Project name | Information and Service Centre |
| Applicant | Municipality of Novi Pazar |
| Total Budget | 71 133 BGN |
| Summary | This project will improve the quality of municipal administrative services by equipping and upgrading the existing municipal Information and Service centre. |


Forum Tsar Kaloyan Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 3 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Tsar Kaloyan | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Tsar Kaloyan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and culture Infrastructure |  |
| Site: Tsar Kaloyan | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: July 2003 – July 2004 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: March and November 2005 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 45 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Citizens | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 3 # of projects proposed: 8 # of projects implemented: 7 | # of recommendations: 6 # of recommendations implemented: 6 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 3 500 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 110 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 15% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Tsar Kaloyan Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Partnership and Integration of Schools in the Tsar Kaloyan Municipality |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of the "Hristo Botev" Secondary School |
| Total Budget | 58 987 BGN |
| Summary | Improving the quality of the educational process by upgrading technical and computer facilities/equipment and acquiring modern training aids in the Secondary School "Hristo Botev". |
| Project name | Complex of Information and Culture |
| Applicant | National Chitalishte "Saznai Sebe si" |
| Total Budget | 55 388 BGN |
| Summary | By improving the infrastructure of the Complex of Information and Culture this project aims to raise awareness and knowledge about the world and develop modern culture among the residents. |
| Project name | Carefree Childhood |
| Applicant | Chitalishte "Obrazovanie" |
| Total Budget | 12 245 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to diversify opportunities for children's outdoor activities through the organization of various outdoor games and motivating parents to take part in the construction of a playground. |
| Project name | Restoration and Modernization of Sports Sites |
| Applicant | Municipality of Tsar Kaloyan |
| Total Budget | 25 579 BGN |
| Summary | By renovating the city stadium, the goal of the project is to create favourable conditions for developing a sports culture among local residents. |
| Project name | Together for the Benefit of Children |
| Applicant | NGO "Positsia" |
| Total Budget | 9 904 BGN |
| Summary | The construction of a playground for children living in a remote neighbourhood is planned in this project. |
| Project name | Beautifying the City Centre |
| Applicant | Municipality of Tsar Kaloyan |
| Total Budget | 54 546 BGN |
| Summary | As a result of this project, a new green square in the city centre enveloping the municipal building will be completed. |
| Project name | A Challenge |
| Applicant | NGO "Positsia" |
| Total Budget | 7 261 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to promote and strengthen the voluntary participation of young people in the "teacher's hour" classes. |


Forum Dryanovo Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 8 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Dryanovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Dryanovo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the living environment in Dryanovo Municipality |  |
| Site: Dryanovo | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: November 2006 – June 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 7 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: September 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 75 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 8 # of projects implemented: 8 | # of recommendations: 15 # of recommendations implemented: 15 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 40 000 BGN | Initiator: 15 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 50% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Dryanovo Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Help for Talented Children of Dryanovo |
| Applicant | Razvitie Cultural Centre (Chitalishte) |
| Total Budget | 16 340 BGN |
| Summary | The Razvitie Cultural Centre's (Chitalishte) project will improve the conditions for training and rehearsing in the School of Arts at the Chitalishte; five study rooms and two rehearsal halls will be repaired and upgraded. |
| Project name | Dryanovo Training Centre |
| Applicant | Association School Board of Trustees of Racho Stoyanov Professional School of Economics, Dryanovo |
| Total Budget | 17 876 BGN |
| Summary | Targeting young people, through the organization of various educational simulation programs/activities on business and entrepreneur skills, the new centre aims to provide training for 700 students and jobless people per year. |
| Project name | Let's Make Learning Easier |
| Applicant | Association School Board of Trustees of Detelina |
| Total Budget | 5 037 BGN |
| Summary | The project supports the development of new learning processes for children through the application of innovative individual and group learning methods leading to concentration, development of logic, memory and imagination. |
| Project name | Provision of Equal Access to Public Services to the Dryanovo Municipality settlements |
| Applicant | Municipality of Dryanovo |
| Total Budget | 8 307 BGN |
| Summary | Ensuring equal access to public services in two settlements of Dryanovo Municipality through the necessary technologies and training of municipal officers in service provision is provided. |
| Project name | Sources of Water - Our Salvation |
| Applicant | Cultural Club of Pensioners in the Village of Gostilitsa |
| Total Budget | 6 500 BGN |
| Summary | The project envisages repairs and beautification of nine public wells and fountains in the area. |
| Project name | Establishment of School Information and Entertainment Centre |
| Applicant | School Board of Trustees of Maxim Raikovitch High School, Dryanovo |
| Total Budget | 10 485 BGN |
| Summary | The project envisages creating an Information and Entertainment Centre in Maxim Raikovitch High School, Dryanovo. The centre will provide young people with access to modern information and communication technologies; it will improve communication and team building skills among students; and it will provide entertainment thus making school a desired place. |
| Project name | Fitness Centre Dryanovo |
| Applicant | Municipality of Dryanovo |
| Total Budget | 8 500 BGN |
| Summary | In an effort to promote fitness and well-being of young people, the project will contribute additional gym equipment to the community fitness centre. |
| Project name | Bulgarians Youth Survival Club |
| Applicant | Batcho Kiro Tourist Association, Dryanovo |
| Total Budget | 12 400 BGN |
| Summary | The project envisages the establishment of a Youth Survival Club. The activities of the Club include: courses in Bulgarian history and traditions; development of mountain survival skills; initial training in speleology, topography, mountain orienteering, climbing. |

Forum Tryavna Data


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 8 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Tryavna | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Tryavna | • Developing Tryavna Municipality as an attractive place to live, work and visit |  |
| Site: Tryavna | Support offices: Forum Office (Balkan Assist) and Project Office (FLGR) | |
| Duration of session cycle: November 2006 – June 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 7 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: September 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism, Physically Disabled People, Craftsmen | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 3 # of projects proposed: 6 # of projects implemented: 4 | # of recommendations: 7 # of recommendations implemented: 7 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 4 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 40 000 BGN | Initiator: 10 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 50% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Tryavna Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Information Centre - Virtual Market |
| Applicant | Centre for Social Rehabilitation and Integration |
| Total Budget | 29 160 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to socially integrate physically disabled and jobless citizens by: improving the communication between handicapped people and potential employers; providing consultation and information about the labour market; enhancing the mobility of disabled people and access to public services through the construction of a lifting platform in a building where a number of state and municipal institutions are located. |
| Project name | Open-air Stage |
| Applicant | Pencho Slaveikov Cultural Centre (Chitalishte) |
| Total Budget | 23 521 BGN |
| Summary | The project will build an Open Air Stage with modern sound and lighting equipment, for presenting various cultural performances by local and guest artists. |
| Project name | Tourist Marketing Research |
| Applicant | Association for Cultural and Economic Revival of Tryavna |
| Total Budget | 7 215 BGN |
| Summary | The project envisages conducting market research to discover: what kinds of people, for what purpose and for how long do they visit Tryavna? The research will identify the potential tourist and support the development of local tourist business and its market-driven effectiveness. |
| Project name | The World of the Tryavnian - Customs, Crafts, Spiritual life |
| Applicant | St. Haralampus Association |
| Total Budget | 5 766 BGN |
| Summary | Development of a Website presented in an attractive 3D mode featuring the main cultural/ tourist sites in Tryavna is envisaged. |

1.3 INITIATED BY AN NGO
(Neighbourhood Forums, Forum addressing the need of a social group)

Forum Bolyarovo Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 4 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Bolyarovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Association of Municipalities "Trakia", Stara Zagora | Improve the living environment in Bolyarovo Municipality |  |
| Site: Bolyarovo | Support offices: Consortium BA / FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: April – October 2004 | | |
| Number of sessions: 7 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: July and December 2005 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism, Physically Disabled People, Craftsmen | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 2 # of projects proposed: 14 # of projects implemented: 7 | # of recommendations: 5 # of recommendations implemented: 5 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 16 380 BGN | Initiator: 4 725 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 80 000 BGN | Initiator: 25 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Bolyarovo Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | From tradition to the present day |
| Applicant | Association "Civic initiatives for local development" |
| Total Budget | 15 436 BGN |
| Summary | The picturesque "Barata" site in the city of Bolyarovo was restored in order to turn it into a recreation area and an attractive tourist destination. |
| Project name | The park – attraction for our city |
| Applicant | Municipal school and kindergarten board in Bolyarovo municipality |
| Total Budget | 60 643 BGN |
| Summary | A beautiful natural area was prepared for recreational, sport, cultural and educational activities in order to provide a safe environment and cosy play areas for children, to improve the ecological environment and to engage young people in its preservation. |
| Project name | Children's playgrounds in Bolyarovo Municipality |
| Applicant | "Bolyarovo" Non-governmental Youth Organization |
| Total Budget | 25 704 BGN |
| Summary | This project aimed to provide safe conditions for children's games that take place in the city of Bolyarovo and the village of Popovo and to eliminate the social inequalities between both settlements and the bigger towns in the region. |
| Project name | Computer training – Connection to the world |
| Applicant | Municipal school and kindergarten board in Bolyarovo municipality |
| Total Budget | 14 760 BGN |
| Summary | As part of this project, a second computer hall in the administrative building of Bolyarovo municipality was built and equipped with updated modern computer systems and an energy efficient electrical system. |
| Project name | Equal start for all students at the beginning of the school year |
| Applicant | Municipal school and kindergarten board in Bolyarovo municipality |
| Total Budget | 11 641 BGN |
| Summary | Improving reading skills, organizing relevant educational and promotional activities as well as instituting a support mechanism for annual purchases of books for needy students was central to this project. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of the roof of the "St. Georgi Pobedonosec" Church, Voden village |
| Applicant | "Ana Maymunova" Community Centre, Voden village |
| Total Budget | 30 910 BGN |
| Summary | Through the Forum process, members of the Ana Maymunova Community Centre decided to renovate their local church's roof, to cultivate the unique architecture of the building and to promote it as a site of Christian heritage. |
| Project name | Establishing pensioner's club in Bolyarovo town |
| Applicant | Youth NGO "Bolyarovo" |
| Total Budget | 10 506 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to establish a pensioners' club in the city of Bolyarovo and to create favourable conditions for its proper functioning. |


Forum Lom Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 4 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Lom | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Partnership for Sustainable Development of Lom Foundation | United for Clean Environment | Partnership for Sustainable Development of Lom Foundation |
| Site: Lom | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2004 – March 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 8 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: December 2005 and June 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Citizens | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 11 # of projects implemented: 8 | # of recommendations: 23 # of recommendations implemented: 18 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 700 BGN | Initiator: 7 556 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 120 000 BGN | Initiator: 30 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 35% |

Forum Lom Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Restoration of green areas, reconstruction of fountains and location of an eco-area in the vocational school of Lom |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees, Vocational school "Niden Gerov" |
| Total Budget | 16 009 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to renovate the green areas in the grounds of Lom's vocational school and make the students' environment more pleasant during their school time. |
| Project name | The old clean fountain keeps the spirit of ancient traditions |
| Applicant | Association "Djan" |
| Total Budget | 6 810 BGN |
| Summary | Members of the Association Djan decided to clean up the illegal rubbish dump located in the town's water-supply zone as well as to reconstruct and beautify the old fountain located on "Otec Paisii" street. |
| Project name | Cleaning and beautifying the area in front of the railway and bus station of Lom |
| Applicant | Centre for Youth Initiatives |
| Total Budget | 67 996 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to provide favourable conditions for young people and social recreation by cleaning an area of 270 hectares in front of the railway and bus station of Lom. Establishing a functioning garbage-collecting system in the area was also an important part of the project. |
| Project name | Removing the illegal rubbish-dump and establishing "Eremiya Bulgarov" complex – Lom |
| Applicant | Lom municipality |
| Total Budget | 20 218 BGN |
| Summary | Through this project, various community activities for the preservation of an eco-friendly environment in the city of Lom were supported. |
| Project name | Establishment of a place for recreation and visitation |
| Applicant | City hospital "St. Nikolay Chudotvoret's" |
| Total Budget | 4 856 BGN |
| Summary | The "St. Nikolay Chudotvoret's" city hospital with an approximate capacity of 136 adults' and 23 children's daily visits needed a more welcoming and pleasant visiting area. |
| Project name | Children's and sports playground in "Momin brod" neighbourhood |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of the "Viktoria Pishurka" Kindergarten |
| Total Budget | 32 408 BGN |
| Summary | The Board of Trustees of the "Viktoria Pishurka" Kindergarten collaborated on a project to construct a multifunctional playground in an old school yard in the "Momin brod" neighbourhood, and to make it an amusing, safe place for sport and recreational activities for local children and youth. |
| Project name | Reconstruction and beautification of an alley on "Slavianska" Street |
| Applicant | Lom municipality |
| Total Budget | 49 646 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project aimed to improve conditions for social life on the city's main street by reconstructing an alley of 135m length and 2m width and transforming it into an attractive place for residents and visitors. |
| Project name | Construction of an irrigation system with own water-source around the green area of "Dunavska" Street |
| Applicant | Foundation "Women for Lom" |
| Total Budget | 30 849 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to provide conditions for optimal maintenance of the existing and the newly-planted flowers in the city centre. |


Forum Severen District, Plovdiv Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 4 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Severen District, Plovdiv | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| National Alliance for Volunteer Action, Plovdiv | Improvement of living and environmental conditions |  |
| Site: Plovdiv | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: April – October 2004 | | |
| Number of sessions: 7 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: December 2005 and June 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 76 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality (District Administration) Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Neighbourhood Communities and Building Managers | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 7 | # of recommendations: 24 # of recommendations implemented: 21 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 21 400 BGN | Initiator: 10 440 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 90 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Severen District, Plovdiv Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Let's celebrate together – Open-air performance stage in "Ribnitsa" park |
| Applicant | "Plovdiv 2007" Association |
| Total Budget | 64 755 BGN |
| Summary | Popularizing the activities of all cultural institutions, amateur teams, local associations and unions in the Severen District and thereby promoting ethnic tolerance was the objective of this citizen-driven project. |
| Project name | "We want health – We engage in sports" – reviving sports activities in Severen district |
| Applicant | Civic Association "For all of us" |
| Total Budget | 38 270 BGN |
| Summary | Implemented in the Severen District, this project aimed to attract more people to promote sports activities and the sports culture in their spare time as well as to also establish an effective partnership between the municipality and the community on issues of sport. |
| Project name | A recreation area around Maritsa river – north-west |
| Applicant | Association "Karshiyaka neighbourhood council of the active citizens" |
| Total Budget | 22 681 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project was to establish a recreation area for children, adults and people with physical disabilities in close proximity to their houses. |
| Project name | Let's protect the children |
| Applicant | Association "Ethno-Forum Europe" |
| Total Budget | 7 680 BGN |
| Summary | Uniting the efforts of NGOs, school administrations, school board of trustees and parents, the "Let's Protect the Children" project organized a number of courses and information campaigns to promote the prevention of violence to children and violence among youth. |
| Project name | Information bulletin "From us to us" |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of the "Nikola Vaptsarov" Secondary School |
| Total Budget | 8 102 BGN |
| Summary | To develop, publish and disseminate a targeted local information bulletin through which citizens from different social groups, municipal authorities, members of the business sector in the Severen district and NGOs are engaged and collaborate together on relevant community issues was the aim of this project. |
| Project name | Children's Training Centre for safe road behaviour |
| Applicant | Regional administration "Severen" – Plovdiv municipality |
| Total Budget | 36 182 BGN |
| Summary | As many children walk to school and play near or on local roads, the municipality organized an educational program to protect children and their health by improving knowledge, skills and developing safer on-road habits. |
| Project name | Accessible and protected zone for getting about |
| Applicant | NGO "Union of disabled people – Plovdiv Association" |
| Total Budget | 14 942 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to make the city surroundings accessible for people with disabilities. |


Forum Belogradchik Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 4 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Severen District, Plovdiv | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Environmental Center, Sofia | Forum in Belogradchik Municipality |  |
| Site: Belogradchik | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2004 – July 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 10 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: February and September 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 51 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Hotel and Restaurant Owners, Tourism and Environment | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 11 # of projects implemented: 7 | # of recommendations: 10 # of recommendations implemented: 7 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 25 927 BGN | Initiator: 9 430 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 100 000 BGN | Initiator: 25 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 35% |

Forum Belogradchik Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Belogradchik – nature and traditions |
| Applicant | Information business centre for regional development |
| Total Budget | 45 514 BGN |
| Summary | By consolidating and integrating information about existing regional natural and historical resources, the project aimed to develop a sustainable local tourism product called “Belogradchik – nature and traditions”. |
| Project name | “With a map and compass along the Belogradchik rocks” |
| Applicant | Tourist association “Belogradchik rocks” |
| Total Budget | 23 251 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to diversify tourist services in the city by organizing annual contests on orientation (e.g. map reading, use of a compass) in nature. |
| Project name | Modernization of the sports complex “Hristo Botev” |
| Applicant | “Grad” Volleyball club |
| Total Budget | 41 027 BGN |
| Summary | With the objective to improve conditions for young people’s sports activities, the project enabled a local volleyball club, “Grad”, to participate in the National Volleyball Championships for the first time in its history. |
| Project name | The world of rocks |
| Applicant | Belogradchik Association of the Environmentalists |
| Total Budget | 25 863 BGN |
| Summary | This project focused on developing regional tourism by improving promotion of natural beauty in the region in a more efficient and eco-friendly way in compliance with the principles of sustainable development. |
| Project name | Opulence and mystery of the Magura cave |
| Applicant | Belogradchik municipality |
| Total Budget | 33 000 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to transform the Magura cave and the Rabisha village into an attractive and inviting tourist destination. |
| Project name | “Lily” – the city’s singing fountain |
| Applicant | Information Business Center for Regional Development |
| Total Budget | 32 853 BGN |
| Summary | This project supported the construction of an attractive city fountain including a cascade of water geysers, adorning lights and sound effects, as well as to beautify the area surrounding the fountain. |
| Project name | Talking waste basket “Robby” |
| Applicant | Information Business Center for Regional Development |
| Total Budget | 7 080 BGN |
| Summary | To further strengthen the eco-culture of the residents, this creative project constructed three educational talking waste baskets – one in the primary school “Vasil Levski”, another in the secondary school “Hristo Botev” and the third on the city square – which taught by passers/children to keep their neighbourhoods clean. |


Forum Teteven Data

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|---|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 5 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Teteven | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Center for Sustainable Development of Teteven Municipality | Transform tourism into a profitable industry in the municipality |  |
| Site: Teteven | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: December 2004 – September 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 7 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: March and October 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 56 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Hotel-keepers, Restaurant-keepers, Craftsmen and entrepreneurs | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 7 # of projects implemented: 6 | # of recommendations: 22 # of recommendations implemented: 19 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 18 500 BGN | Initiator: 8 680 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 100 000 BGN | Initiator: 30 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 15% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Teteven Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Construction and Repair of the Infrastructure on the “The Dangerous Tooth” Route |
| Applicant | Teteven Municipality |
| Total Budget | 26 477 BGN |
| Summary | This project aimed to diversify the tourist products in Teteven by developing print materials and optimizing information on opportunities for hiking tourism at the municipal center. |
| Project name | Our Enlightenment |
| Applicant | “Saglasie” Chitalishte (Community Centre) |
| Total Budget | 40 000 BGN |
| Summary | Project implementation will ensure the establishment of an original and unique tourist attraction with innovative activities: developing church and religious artefacts, tourism and improving conditions for tourists’ visits to the area. |
| Project name | The Crafts – A Bridge Between Past and Future |
| Applicant | Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs’ Association |
| Total Budget | 35 539 BGN |
| Summary | The project’s main objective is to improve local craftsmen’s skills as well as to create conditions for more attractive and modern presentation of crafts for tourists, and to provide opportunities for tourists’ own interactive and creative involvement in the elaboration of products. |
| Project name | Folklore Tour |
| Applicant | Centre for Sustainable Development of Teteven Municipality |
| Total Budget | 63 572 BGN |
| Summary | Giving prominence to the strong local folklore traditions, the project elaborated six folklore attractions for tourists in the villages within Teteven municipality. Repair and construction of infrastructure for these attractions as well as unification of local cultural institutions, craftsmen and entrepreneurs for attractive presentation of their products is also envisaged under the project. |
| Project name | Walking Along the Vassilevska Mountain |
| Applicant | “Nature – Ribaritsa” Association |
| Total Budget | 23 991 BGN |
| Summary | The project’s goal is to promote and popularize selected villages thus raising their competitiveness in the tourist market. Raising the quality of the proposed routes and development of tourism by rational usage of promotional information about local natural attractions are also envisaged under the project. |
| Project name | Workshop on Wheels |
| Applicant | Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs’ Association |
| Total Budget | 30 354 BGN |
| Summary | Implementation of this project ensures the creation of a new tourist product, which contributes to the prolongation of tourists’ stay in the region and which becomes a feature for attracting new tourists. |


Forum Chepelare Data

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| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 5 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Chepelare | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| NGO Center, Chepelare | Improving the living environment and the recreation opportunities in the municipality of Chepelare |  |
| Site: Chepelare | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: December 2004 – July 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 8 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: February and September 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 48 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Forest owners | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 5 | # of recommendations: 4 # of recommendations implemented: 3 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 12 470 BGN | Initiator: 8 030 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 100 000 BGN | Initiator: 30 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Chepelare Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | New Vision of the City Centre in Chepelare |
| Applicant | "Center of the NGOs – Chepelare" Association |
| Total Budget | 32 511 BGN |
| Summary | Renewed image of the town's centre and its transformation into an attractive place for socializing and for the preservation of local traditions in order to develop tourism as a municipal priority was a project proposed by the above Chepelare association. |
| Project name | Warmth for the Culture and Traditions of Chepelare |
| Applicant | "Rodopska iskra" Chitalishte (Community Centre) |
| Total Budget | 65 660 BGN |
| Summary | This project's goal is to ensure quality performances of local amateur teams and groups, as well as to improve their working environment and cultural events in Chepelare all the year round. |
| Project name | Lighting and Scenery for Performances in the Town of Chepelare |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees at "Vassil Dechev" School |
| Total Budget | 26 399 BGN |
| Summary | Preserving school traditions and establishing a better environment for the improvement of students' skills in performing arts was central to this project. |
| Project name | Tourism Promotion in Chepelare Municipality |
| Applicant | Association of Hotel-Keepers, Restaurant-Keepers and Tradesmen |
| Total Budget | 19 020 BGN |
| Summary | The main project objective is to develop local tourism and raise people's awareness at local level, as well as to attract potential tourists from the whole country and abroad. |
| Project name | Tourist Information Center – Chepelare |
| Applicant | Association of Hotel and Restaurant Owners and Tradesmen |
| Total Budget | 66 899 BGN |
| Summary | Project implementation creates conditions for improved awareness about available tourist services by refurbishing and appropriately equipping a tourist information centre. For tourists' convenience, information boards at the town's entrance and exit have been installed. |

Forum Gurkovo Data

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|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 5 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Gurkovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Association of Municipalities "Trakia", Stara Zagora | The Gourkovo Municipality – an attractive place for the young people |  |
| Site: Gurkovo | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: October 2004 – July 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 7 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: January and June 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 56 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality (District Administration) Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Forests | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 3 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 7 | # of recommendations: 4 # of recommendations implemented: 4 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 13 480 BGN | Initiator: 3 745 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 80 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Gurkovo Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Establishing School Electronic Library |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of "Hristo Smirnenki" Secondary School |
| Total Budget | 21 079 BGN |
| Summary | Creating a technologically-friendly learning environment and the adoption of innovative educational methods, particularly electronic education for children, was a priority for this pilot project in "Hristo Smirnenki" Secondary School. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of the Park in the Town of Gurkovo |
| Applicant | Gurkovo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 25 997 BGN |
| Summary | This project proposed to transform the town park into a nice place for children, adults and the town's visitors. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of the area in front of the Konare Mayoralty |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees at "Nedelcho Popov" Chitalishte (Community centre) |
| Total Budget | 14 720 BGN |
| Summary | As a result of this project, the building and premises in front of the Konare village administration would be urbanized and renovated in order to make it look more presentable and nice in a European way. |
| Project name | Planting and Urbanization of the School Yard of "SS Cyril and Methodius" Primary School |
| Applicant | Gurkovo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 19 331 BGN |
| Summary | The project's main objective is to pave, replant and urbanize the school yard in front of the school in order to provide good and safe conditions for students' games and outdoor activities. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of the Gym in "Hristo Smirnenki" Secondary School in the Town of Gurkovo |
| Applicant | Gurkovo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 36 375 BGN |
| Summary | As part of this project, the Gurkovo Municipality ensured the refurbishment of a heating system in the gym of the Hristo Smirnenki Secondary School. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of the Town Stadium in the Town of Gurkovo |
| Applicant | Gurkovo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 24 726 BGN |
| Summary | With the intention to promote various competitive sports events for youth in the town of Gurkovo, reconstruction of the town's stadium was a key priority. |
| Project name | Creating Places for Recreation Along Lazova River |
| Applicant | "Lazovo" Association for Ecological and Sustainable Tourism |
| Total Budget | 16 372 BGN |
| Summary | In the form of this project, the "Lazovo" Association for Ecological and Sustainable Tourism proposed to create a green, clean and comfortable recreational place along the Lazova river, a favourite local area for children, adults and town's visitors. |


Forum Iskar District, Sofia Data

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| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 5 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Iskar District, Sofia | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Georgy Minchev Chitalishte | Living environment and leisure time opportunities for young people based on existing youth facilities | Georgy Minchev Chitalishte |
| Site: Iskar District, Sofia | | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR |
| Duration of session cycle: November 2004 – April 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: January 2006, no second follow-up session | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 61 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality (District Administration) Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Students, Citizens | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 5 # of projects implemented: 5 | # of recommendations: 4 # of recommendations implemented: 4 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 7 800 BGN | Initiator: 2 350 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 8 000 BGN | Initiator: 3 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 35% |

Forum Iskar District, Sofia Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Student's internet "Alphabet" |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of "Nikola Belovezhdov" 108 Secondary School |
| Total Budget | 4 550 BGN |
| Summary | The project's goal is to develop a system for collecting, processing and disseminating student-friendly information related to the students' intellectual and emotional development. |
| Project name | Aikido Training for Improvement of the Physical Health of Students |
| Applicant | "Druzhba – Sofia" Civic Association |
| Total Budget | 3 637 BGN |
| Summary | Introduction of Aikido courses for young people. |
| Project name | Internet Opportunities for Accelerated Out-of-School Preparation in "Chernorizets Hrabar 163" Primary School |
| Applicant | "Druzhba – Sofia" Civic Association |
| Total Budget | 4 164 BGN |
| Summary | Expanding opportunities through on-line contact, the project proposed the creation of a web-site for the "Chernorizets Hrabar 163" primary school. Various points of interesting information about the school, its activities and students will be gathered and consolidated as a result. |
| Project name | Let's Make Something Out of Nothing |
| Applicant | "Druzhba – Sofia" Civic Association |
| Total Budget | 5 511 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to reconstruct and improve the park in "Druzhba 1" neighbourhood, transforming it into a little oasis with the help of volunteers from the neighbourhood. |
| Project name | Reconstruction and Improvement of the Inter-Block Area Next to Block 270, "Druzhba 2". |
| Applicant | "Druzhba – Sofia" Civic Association |
| Total Budget | 1 655 BGN |
| Summary | As part of this project the garden and the open-air kindergarten next to block 270 in Druzhba 2 neighbourhood will be transformed into an attractive place for children and their companions. |


Forum Chirpan Data

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|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 6 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Community Forum Chirpan | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Association of Municipalities "Trakia", Stara Zagora | Effective utilization of the Cultural and Historical Heritage of Chirpan |  |
| Site: Chirpan | Support offices: Foundation for Local Government Reform | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2005 – March 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 7 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 5 | # of recommendations: 7 # of recommendations implemented: 7 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 11 000 BGN | Initiator: 3 900 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 35% |

Forum Chirpan Projects

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|--------------|--|
| Project name | Develop Tourist Potential of the Municipality Through Preservation of Ancient Beauty of Karasura |
| Applicant | Chirpan Municipality |
| Total Budget | 20 628 BGN |
| Summary | The main project goal is to improve the tourist potential of Chirpan Municipality through the restoration and conservation of a section in the Karasura Archaeological Complex. |
| Project name | The Church – Guardian of Spiritual Values and Christian Faith |
| Applicant | Chirpan Municipality |
| Total Budget | 14 182 BGN |
| Summary | Preservation of the <i>Voznesenie Gospodne</i> Church in Zetjovo village, which stood up to the reverses of fortune during its long history to ensure faith and support in difficult times. Project activities include repair of the church's roof, entrance and its holy spring. |
| Project name | To Continue the Spirit of Valko and Caba Ivan, Two Writers of Bulgarian National Revival, in the Preservation of One of the Divine Christian Homes |
| Applicant | Chirpan Municipality |
| Total Budget | 27 490 BGN |
| Summary | Main project goal is to improve the cultural heritage of Chirpan Municipality through the preservation of the most ancient <i>Vavedenie Bogorodichno</i> church in Chirpan. |
| Project name | Preservation of Cultural Heritage of St. Atanasii Monastery, Zlatna Livada Village |
| Applicant | Chirpan Municipality |
| Total Budget | 24 919 BGN |
| Summary | The cultural heritage of <i>St. Atanasii</i> Monastery, Zlatna Livada Village will be protected and preserved through the following infrastructure improvements: Installation of wooden benches and signboards; Holy spring shelter fortification; Construction of a bridge and steps with railings; Installation of two arbours as well as a pedestal for making fire for boiling mutton; River dykes; Fortification of paths and pavement. |
| Project name | To Provide Opportunities for Performance of Cultural Events in Chirpan Municipality: Establishing City Exhibition Hall Georgi Danchov Zographina |
| Applicant | Chirpan Municipality |
| Total Budget | 44 803 BGN |
| Summary | Through the renovation of its historic city centre premises and the construction of a new City Exhibition Hall called <i>Georgi Danchov Zographina</i> , the Chirpan Municipality intends to promote its local cultural heritage. |


Forum Targovishte Zapad 2 and 3 Data

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| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 6 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum, Zapad 2 and Zapad 3, Targovishte | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| NGO Club, Targovishte | Improve the living conditions in Zapad 2 and Zapad 3 neighbourhoods |  |
| Site: Targovishte | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2005 – March 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2006 and April 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Citizens from both neighbourhoods | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 7 # of projects implemented: 6 | # of recommendations: 5 # of recommendations implemented: 3 |
| Other outcome(s): Two new NGOs; 3 leaflets; 20 000 BGN were provided from the municipal budget for citizen initiatives | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 10 500 BGN | Initiator: 7 900 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 18 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 35% |

Forum Targovishte Zapad 2 and 3 Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | For more clean air and less noise |
| Applicant | 18 590 BGN |
| Total Budget | Targovishte Center for Regional Development |
| Summary | Afforestation in the school yard to keep the noise from a busy street; training of the students in ecological aspects |
| Project name | To live in a better environment |
| Applicant | Spiritual Balance Association |
| Total Budget | 39 105 BGN |
| Summary | Improvement of the living environment in Zapad 2 residential area. Creation of new walking paths, playgrounds and sport grounds. |
| Project name | Tomorrow – Is in your hands |
| Applicant | Cultural House Napredak |
| Total Budget | 5 001 BGN |
| Summary | Development of a more efficient support system for small local projects through funds provided by the municipal budget. |
| Project name | Motivation of young people in Zapad quarter to care for area around the blocks |
| Applicant | Centre for Children Activities |
| Total Budget | 13 552 BGN |
| Summary | This project's concrete results include: the inauguration of a youth club in the Zapad residential area; creation of a data base and designated area with info-boards for local young people; the organization of various training courses and events for young people. |
| Project name | Active house managers – a beautiful quarter |
| Applicant | Protection, Love and Faith Association |
| Total Budget | 7 949 BGN |
| Summary | Training programs for house managers, the inauguration of two local associations in Zapad 2 and Zapad 3 neighbourhoods, and motivational activities to engage people to care for their residential area. |
| Project name | Construction of playgrounds and rest areas in Zapad 3 quarter |
| Applicant | Targovishte Children Association |
| Total Budget | 54 236 BGN |
| Summary | A series of practical activities such as cleaning of the area, construction of walking paths, installation info-boards, building of a street playground for ball games and football ground are to be implemented. |


Forum Letnitsa Data

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| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 6 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Community Forum Letnitsa | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Znanie Association, Lovech | Self-development of young people in the small municipality |  |
| Site: Letnitsa | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2005 – February 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 9 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: September 2006 – May 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 65 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: citizens and social institutions | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 8 # of projects implemented: 8 | # of recommendations: 9 # of recommendations implemented: 9 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 10 500 BGN | Initiator: 4 465 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 18 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Letnitsa Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Monthly info bulletin |
| Applicant | Letnitsa Municipality |
| Total Budget | 11 223 BGN |
| Summary | Training of the local team and printing of 12 new edition issues of the Letnitsa bulletin will be undertaken in this project. |
| Project name | The qualification – Chance for the young people |
| Applicant | European Club Letnitsa Association |
| Total Budget | 6 486 BGN |
| Summary | Organizing training courses for young people in Computing, English and Work Motivation. |
| Project name | The young people – Our invaluable treasure |
| Applicant | Letnitsa municipality |
| Total Budget | 33 910 BGN |
| Summary | Developing a plan for the reconstruction of a hall and the creation of a youth centre/café, TV-hall and tennis-hall, as well as the plan's implementation are the basis for this project. |
| Project name | The young people play sports in the school |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of the Bacho Kiro School |
| Total Budget | 23 070 BGN |
| Summary | Reconstruction of school playgrounds for football, basketball and the organization of related sports competitions. |
| Project name | The history of Letnitsa municipality – Pride and responsibility of the young people |
| Applicant | Cultural House Nikola Vaptsarov |
| Total Budget | 14 397 BGN |
| Summary | This project aims to engage and train youth as well as to prepare relevant educational material for the study of historical remains from Second Bulgarian state and the Isihastic centre near Krushuna. |
| Project name | Sports – A better alternative |
| Applicant | Letnitsa Municipality |
| Total Budget | 20 862 BGN |
| Summary | Turning a communal hall into a fitness centre for the local youth is a key priority for this project. |
| Project name | The children are our treasure – Children's playgrounds in the villages |
| Applicant | Letnitsa Municipality |
| Total Budget | 8 436 BGN |
| Summary | Completing the construction of playgrounds for children in three local villages. |


Forum Svishtov Data

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|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 6 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Neighbourhood Forum Svishtov | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Business Center, Svishtov | Improvement of the living conditions in the Himik, Dunav and Rila residential districts in Svishtov |  |
| Site: Svishtov | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: November 2005 – March 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 8 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: September 2006 – March 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Citizens from the three neighbourhoods, Media, Ecology | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 16 # of projects implemented: 9 | # of recommendations: 34 # of recommendations implemented: 24 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 10 440 BGN | Initiator: 5 180 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 25% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Svishtov Districts Projects

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Green hope for Svishtov |
| Applicant | School Board of Trustees of the Professional Light Industry School in Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 27 258 BGN |
| Summary | The project focuses on the completion of various light construction works in the school grounds and Svishtov residential area; new benches, gardens, and places for garbage disposal will be built. |
| Project name | The school yard – My green world in harmony |
| Applicant | School board of trustees of Dimitar Blagoev school |
| Total Budget | 13 771 BGN |
| Summary | Re-planting of the school yard; the construction of greenhouse as a recreation area for children; and various training courses on how to care for plants, trees and natural surroundings will be organized as part of this project. |
| Project name | A Green Break |
| Applicant | School board of trustees of Aleko Konstantinov school, Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 3 583 BGN |
| Summary | Reconstruction of school yard, building of new benches and an alpinum. |
| Project name | A Danube View Resting Area |
| Applicant | Svishtov municipality |
| Total Budget | 7 816 BGN |
| Summary | This project aims to clean an existing area on the bank of Danube and to convert it into a local park. |
| Project name | Children's playground in Rila quarter |
| Applicant | European Danube South Association, Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 4 223 BGN |
| Summary | Repairs and the construction of new children's facilities on the playground are envisioned in this project. |
| Project name | Two oases for us |
| Applicant | Balkan Youth Forum Association, Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 12 058 BGN |
| Summary | Reconstruction of two small children's playgrounds, the building of new fences and facilities were proposed in this project. |
| Project name | Sports playground at Radoslavov school |
| Applicant | School Board of Trustees of the Tsvetan Radoslavov School |
| Total Budget | 17 005 BGN |
| Summary | Renovations of the school grounds will include a new basketball court and football grounds; competitions in these sports between schools will subsequently be organized and promoted. |
| Project name | Children's playground at Dunav quarter block 4 a,b,v, |
| Applicant | Regional Center of SMEs - Svishtov |
| Total Budget | 10 966 BGN |
| Summary | Repairs and construction of new facilities on a children's playground in a local residential area will be undertaken. |
| Project name | Open-air stage in Kaleto park |
| Applicant | Svishtov municipality |
| Total Budget | 56 527 BGN |
| Summary | Project activities include: the cleaning and reforestation of the park, as well as the construction of new facilities, seats, stage and lighting for open-air events. These new improvements are also to encourage the organization of new open-air events. |

Forum Tvarditsa Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 7 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Community Forum Tvarditsa | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Association of Municipalities "Trakia", Stara Zagora | Effective Use of Local Resources for the Transformation of Tvarditsa Municipality into an Attractive Rural Area |  |
| Site: Tvarditsa | Support offices: FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: May – December 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: September 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects implemented: 5 | # of recommendations: 5 # of recommendations implemented: 5 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 10 500 BGN | Initiator: 3 010 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 32% | Average project funding Initiator and Project partners: 68% | |

Forum Tvarditsa Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Computer Education – Chance for Young People from Neofit Rilski Secondary School, Tvarditsa |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees at Neofit Rilski Secondary School, Tvarditsa |
| Total Budget | 17 788 BGN |
| Summary | The project is to improve students' computer skills through the purchase of ten new computers, one of which will be used as a server, and a printer, a white board and twelve chairs. Students will be also trained in web-site development. |
| Project name | Administrative Distance Service Provision to Villages Within Tvarditsa Municipality |
| Applicant | Tvarditsa Municipality |
| Total Budget | 43 483 BGN |
| Summary | The main project goal is to provide the citizens of Tvarditsa Municipality with equal access to administrative services offered by the Municipality. Based on this six administrative offices are created in the corresponding villages in Tvarditsa Municipality and connected with the Municipal Citizen Service Centre through Internet. Thus documents and information will be exchanged between the Municipal Administrative Centre and the outlets. |
| Project name | Eco-Corner Central – a Children's Playground |
| Applicant | Prosveta Chitalishte, Village of Sborishte |
| Total Budget | 10 892 BGN |
| Summary | The main project goal is to build a children's playground in the village centre, where more than 210 children aging from three to ten years will be able to play outdoors safely. |
| Project name | Diversifying Tourism Infrastructure Through Construction of Eco-Routes on the Territory of Tvarditsa Municipality |
| Applicant | Tvarditsa Municipality |
| Total Budget | 15 040 BGN |
| Summary | The current project goal is to create conditions for effective use of natural heritage within the Municipality such as vital eco-zones with rich and varied flora and fauna; complementary improvements to the eco-tourism infrastructure and suitable promotional activities will be made. In the long-term, the project aims to preserve the natural balance and at the same time establish prerequisites for economic stimulation in the Municipality. As a result of the project, two eco-routes will be constructed. |
| Project name | Municipal Tourist Info Centre Establishment |
| Applicant | Tvarditsa Municipality |
| Total Budget | 31 497 BGN |
| Summary | The project is to establish and equip a Municipal Tourist Info Centre through which the natural heritage of the Balkan Mountains in the region of Elena and Tvarditsa will be promoted. Reconstruction and equipment of a municipal building for purposes of a tourist info centre is envisaged. |



2 BUDGET FORUMS

2.1 Introduction

Several years ago, “Citizens” and “Municipal budgets” were incompatible and even mutually contrary notions for Bulgarian legislation and public life. In 2003, a new Municipal Budget Law was adopted. Under this new law, public discussion and deliberation on the draft budget became obligatory and crucial for the approval of municipal budgets by City Councils. This new development lifted the curtain for Bulgarian citizens to the inexplicable world of municipal accounting, budgeting, planning, and funding issues. Nonetheless, a lot of things were made clear, understood, and learned, as part of this new process.


The practice in over ten Bulgarian municipalities has shown that the Forum approach is an appropriate format for discussing draft municipal budgets with the public. Its design enables representatives of all the different stakeholders to actively listen, discuss, and give recommendations on how to effectively plan for and implement the budgets. It also provides monitoring opportunities for the implementation of recommendations made, thereby ensuring openness in the process. The applied success of the method is demonstrated by the fact that most of the ten municipalities continued using it after the project was completed and Balkan Assist Association exited from its supporting role.

The Budget Forum holds a preliminary session to introduce citizens to the process of municipal financial management and “interprets” the budget terminology into user-friendly and understandable language. The three consequent sessions provide time for a detailed explanation of the budget’s major parts, including income, expenditure, and investments. This encourages the representatives of the various social groups to make suggestions, and express their commitment for partnership and their level of engagement. In addition, the four sessions give four occasions for media coverage – a fact which is not to be underrated.

The Forum experience demonstrates that budgetary matters and language can be understood by citizens. The process engenders accountability, transparency, and trust in the local government.

2.2 Implemented Budget Forums


FORUM Sevlievo Data

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Sevlievo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Sevlievo | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Sevlievo | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2004 – March 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 65 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism , Infrastructure | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 12 # of projects included in the budget: 10 | # of recommendations: 4 # of recommendations implemented: 3 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the budget elaboration; Sustainability – following the first Forum exercise the process is now established on an annual basis | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 40% | Average project funding Project partners: 20% |

Forum Sevlievo Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Renovation of a sports playground |
| Applicant | A group from the neighbourhood |
| Total Budget | 6 000 BGN |
| Summary | By engaging people of the neighbourhood in the fundraising, the reconstruction of old sports facilities, including a fenced enclosure around the sports ground, is envisaged in this project. |


Forum Troyan Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Troyan | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Troyan | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Troyan | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2004 – March 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism , Infrastructure | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 4 # of projects proposed: 5 # of projects included in the budget: 5 | # of recommendations: 2 # of recommendations implemented: 2 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the budget elaboration; Sustainability – following the first Forum exercise the process is now established on an annual basis | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 40% | Average project funding Project partners: 20% |

Forum Troyan Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Three concrete project objectives were identified: Reconstruction of a sports ground in the Troyan residential area far from the city centre Construction of a traffic safety training field at a local schoolyard Two playgrounds in two of the villages |
| Applicant | A group from the neighbourhood, the school Board of Trustees, and their two corresponding villages. |
| Total Budget | 26 000 BGN |
| Summary | Small infrastructure projects of significance for young people and the community with the aim to demonstrate and improve fundraising capacities from local sources. |


FORUM Svishtov Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Svishtov | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Svishtov | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Svishtov | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2004 – March 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 51 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism , Infrastructure | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects included in the budget: 1 | # of recommendations: 4 # of recommendations implemented: 3 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the process of budget elaboration | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 40% | Average project funding Project partners: 20% |

Forum Svishtov Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Improve lighting in the "A. Sakelarievich" high school |
| Applicant | The school Board of Trustees |
| Total Budget | 8 000 BGN |
| Summary | Replace the existing electric lighting in the classrooms with new, energy-saving lamps with the aim to improve energy efficiency and studying conditions for students. |


FORUM Tryavna Data

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Tryavna | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Tryavna | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Tryavna | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2004 – March 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 55 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture | |
| | Other groups: Tourism , Infrastructure | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 10 # of projects included in the budget: 2 | # of recommendations: 3 # of recommendations implemented: 2 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the process of budget elaboration | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 40% | Average project funding Project partners: 20% |


Forum Tryavna Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | For the Small Step Out |
| Applicant | Centre for social rehabilitation and integration – Tryavna |
| Total Budget | 2700 BGN |
| Summary | Through this project disabled people unable to leave their homes will be supported for social contacts and community integration |

Forum Koprivshitsa Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Koprivshitsa | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Koprivshitsa | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Koprivshitsa | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2005 – March 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 25 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Healthcare and Social Activities, Town Infrastructure | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 5 # of projects included in the budget: 4 | # of recommendations: 4 # of recommendations implemented: 2 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the process of budget elaboration | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 40% | Average project funding Project partners: 20% |


Forum Kazanluk Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Kazanluk | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Kazanluk | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Kazanluk | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2005 – March 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 40 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Healthcare and social activities | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 6 # of projects included in the budget: 6 | # of recommendations: 5 # of recommendations implemented: 4 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the budget elaboration; Sustainability – following the first Forum exercise the process is now established on an annual basis | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 40% | Average project funding Project partners: 20% |


Forum Kazanluk Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Construction of a skateboard playground |
| Applicant | Youth organization |
| Total Budget | 46 000 BGN |
| Summary | The construction of a big sports ground equipped with skateboard facilities close to the town stadium. The project intends to provide young people of Kazanluk with a good place to spend their free time as well as for outdoor sports. |

Forum Petrich Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 3 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Petrich | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Petrich | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Petrich | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2006 – March 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 45 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism , Infrastructure | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 4 # of projects included in the budget: 1 | # of recommendations: 3 # of recommendations implemented: 1 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the process of budget elaboration | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: | Initiator: N |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

Forum Knezha Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1, Round 3 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Knezha | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Knezha | Citizen participation in municipal budget management |  |
| Site: Knezha | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: September 2006 – March 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism , Infrastructure | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 13 # of projects included in the budget: 5 | # of recommendations: 5 # of recommendations implemented: 4 |
| Other outcome(s): Improved citizen participation in the process of budget elaboration | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 9 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 2 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 40% | Average project funding Project partners: 20% |

Forum Knezha Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Construction of a Chapel |
| Applicant | A community group |
| Total Budget | 10 000 |
| Summary | The community's objective is to construct a chapel in Knezha. |



3 TOPICAL FORUMS

3.1 Introduction

Topical Forums are derived from a clear-cut issue to be discussed, or then the Forum fulfills a particular function within a more comprehensive process – whereby the range and content of the discussion is pre-determined e.g. by an overall development plan established at a different level. This is in contrast to “Community Forums” where participants first go through the process of finding their own common issues for discussion, unruffled by overall considerations.


In line with their purpose, topical Forums would not aim at full representation of socio-economic stakeholders, but convene groups of specialists, professionals and direct beneficiaries. Forum results also can differ. They might consist in advice and recommendations within a planning process, or in the formulation of rules of conduct for stakeholders, in an institutional set-up and process organisation, or in project preparation for outside financing. Typical community projects might still occur, yet it is in this group that private sector orientation can be properly reflected.

In the Bulgarian program topical Forums occurred at various levels: sub-municipal, municipal and at regional level. One example was a Forum on agricultural technological innovation in a municipality; others were on regional issues (waste disposal; tourism quality standards). Often enough the Forums were initiated and called by specialist institutions or then by technical branches of administration. Requirements on moderators and coordinators were more demanding than usual, as a certain professional familiarity with the special topic was required.

In a way, all the subsequent groups in this brochure refer to “topical Forums”. Yet some of these topics linked to LEADER; Culture Fund; Nation-level issues (see Section 4 and 5 below) were explored and tested within the program to quite some extent, each showing its own characteristic. A separate presentation seemed therefore appropriate.

3.2 Topical Forums conducted at municipal or sub-municipal level


Forum Silistra Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 4 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Silistra | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Silistra | Possibilities for growing traditional fruit plants and introduction of alternative fruit plants in Silistra Municipality |  |
| Site: Silistra | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: April 2004 – January 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 8 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2005 and June 2006 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 65 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Seed Producers and Processors, Small Agriculture Producers | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 6 # of projects included in the budget: 5 | # of recommendations: 3 # of recommendations implemented: 2 |
| Other outcome(s): | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 28 345 BGN | Initiator: 8 550 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 12 500 BGN | Initiator: 2 500 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 40% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 40% |

Forum Silistra Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Developing and Publishing a Fruit Species Catalogue |
| Applicant | Agency for Economic Development and Investments, the city of Silistra |
| Total Budget | 3 800 BGN |
| Summary | This project will enhance local farmers' knowledge of and competence with regard to fruit-growing practices. |
| Project name | Soil and Climatic Research and Thematic Large-scale Mapping of the Territory of Silistra Municipality |
| Applicant | Municipality of Silistra |
| Total Budget | 26 640 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to develop a land-use structure for transition to fruit-growing practices and elaborate a corresponding municipal strategy. |
| Project name | Specialized Information Supply of Fruit-growing Practice in the Region of Silistra |
| Applicant | Association for Cross-border Cooperation and Development "Dunavska Dobrudja" |
| Total Budget | 6 752 BGN |
| Summary | With fruit-growing being an important economic activity in the region of Silistra, providing equal access to information, training and funding on fruit-growing methods/ practices, latest technologies, and EU compliance standards will be made available by the Association to all those interested. |
| Project name | Restoration of an Arable Agricultural Plot Owned by the Primary School "Hristo Botev", the village of Aidemir |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees of the Primary School "Hristo Botev" |
| Total Budget | 3 566 BGN |
| Summary | This project aims to support the school in the construction of appropriate infrastructure for the land on its premises and restoring new farming activities. |
| Project name | Developing a Strategy for Fruit-growing and Related to it Manufacturing Industry |
| Applicant | Municipality of Silistra |
| Total Budget | 5 500 BGN |
| Summary | The goal of the project is to attract more investments in the fields of fruit-growing and local manufacturing industries. |


Forum Veliko Tarnovo Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2, Batch 5 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Veliko Tarnovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Saints Kozma and Damian Foundation, Veliko Tarnovo | Improving the psychic health in the municipality of Veliko Turnovo |  |
| Site: Veliko Tarnovo | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: October 2004 – June 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: No follow-up sessions | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 45 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Regional Institutions, Healthcare, Service Users, Social Users, Social Institutions and Psychological Dispensary | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 0 # of projects included in the budget: 1 | # of recommendations: – # of recommendations implemented: – |
| Other outcome(s): Elaborated a strategy for improving mental health support structures in Veliko Tarnovo Municipality | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 14 495 BGN | Initiator: 6 290 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: | Initiator: |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

Forum Veliko Tarnovo Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Improving the mental health assistance on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo municipality |
| Applicant | "St. Kozma and Damian" Foundation |
| Total Budget | 20 785 BGN |
| Summary | The project provides an opportunity for representatives of local civil society to participate in a public discussion on the theme of "Improving mental health support structures in the area of Veliko Tarnovo municipality" and in the elaboration of a strategy for its implementation. As a result, an information system for citizens about mental health, the kinds of treatment and how to receive them will be created. |


Forum Razgrad Data

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 7 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Razgrad | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipality of Razgrad | Integrative planning and preparation of projects for the Regional Development Operational Program 2007–2013 |  |
| Site: Razgrad | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2006 – February 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism, Architectural Circles | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 3 # of projects included in the budget: 3 | # of recommendations: – # of recommendations implemented: – |
| Other outcome(s): Gaining familiarity with the Regional Development Operational Program (2007–2013); prepare pre-project surveys | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 15 500 BGN | Initiator: 4 500 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 2 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 50% | Average project funding Initiator: 20% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Razgrad Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Public Works and Access Improvement in the Orel Residential Area |
| Applicant | Razgrad Municipality |
| Total Budget | 38 200 BGN |
| Summary | Elaboration of quality technical documentation for a sizable investment project involving public works and improvement of access in the Orel Residential Area. |
| Project name | Improving Outdoor Living Conditions in Razgrad's Wider Downtown Area |
| Applicant | Razgrad Municipality |
| Total Budget | 37 310 BGN |
| Summary | Conceptual and working projects for improving outdoor living conditions in Razgrad's wider downtown area will be developed as part of this project. |
| Project name | Comprehensive Design of Public Works for Internal Neighbourhood Spaces in Areas outside Razgrad's Downtown – Targeting the Abritus; Vasil Levski Ludogorie; Maystor Manol; Mladi Semeystva; Number 54 and 179 Neighbourhoods |
| Applicant | Razgrad Municipality |
| Total Budget | 38 290 BGN |
| Summary | Through this project the Razgrad Municipality aims to elaborate a comprehensive public works plan for investment projects for the development of internal neighbourhood spaces in the areas outside Razgrad's downtown area. |


Forum Belene Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 7 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Belene | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Business Center, Svishtov | Improvement of the quality of life in Belene Municipality – Priority 3 in the National Strategic Plan for Development of Rural Areas |  |
| Site: Belene | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2006 – January 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 55 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 11 # of projects included in the budget: 6 | # of recommendations: – # of recommendations implemented: – |
| Other outcome(s): Get familiar with the National Strategic Rural Development Plan | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 10 490 BGN | Initiator: 13 950 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 45% | Average project funding Initiator: 15% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |


Forum Belene Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Sing, Danube, Dance |
| Applicant | Chitalishte "Hristo Botev", Belene |
| Total Budget | 27 350 BGN |
| Summary | The project will contribute to popularizing local traditions and customs. Activities: conducting folklore review, making a film and publishing a "Sing, Danube, dance" collection. |
| Project name | We, the reading people |
| Applicant | Chitalishte "Hristo Botev", Belene |
| Total Budget | 8 000 BGN |
| Summary | The project objective is to improve the quality of life by enriching the library stock to better inform citizens and to make them more sociable. |
| Project name | Happy childhood |
| Applicant | Belene municipality |
| Total Budget | 27 703 BGN |
| Summary | The main objective is to establish conditions for active and safe leisure time for children. Five open-air playgrounds will be constructed or reconstructed. |
| Project name | A modern village |
| Applicant | Belene Municipality |
| Total Budget | 20 561 BGN |
| Summary | Provide Internet access and improve the provision of administrative services to people from small settlements in Belene municipality. |
| Project name | Belene Municipality – popular and capable |
| Applicant | Belene municipality |
| Total Budget | 5 785 BGN |
| Summary | Create and publish information brochures for Belene Municipality. |
| Project name | New life for the village museum |
| Applicant | Chitalishte Vidolina, Dekov village |
| Total Budget | 14 217 BGN |
| Summary | The main objective of the project is to contribute to the preservation of the region's cultural heritage. Activities include: the repair of Museum premises, restoration of some exhibits, enriching the collections and arrangement of events in the newly renovated environment. |
| Project name | Supportive environment to provide effective integrated education for children with specific educational needs |
| Applicant | Vasil Levski Primary School Board |
| Total Budget | 13 951 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to provide direct and indirect support to disabled people in Belene. One proposed activity is to build up specialized studies for them. |

Forum Izgrev District of Sofia Data


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum in Izgrev District of Sofia | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Sustainable Development and Eurointegration Association, Sofia and Izgrev district administration | Citizen Initiatives for Improving the condition of the green areas and the in-between block spaces in Izgrev district, Sofia |  |
| Site: Izgrev district | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: March – December 2003 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 0 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 80 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality (regional administration) Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Citizens, Healthcare, Municipal and state institutions, Environmentalists | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 1 # of projects proposed: 13 # of projects included in the budget: 5 | # of recommendations: 5 # of recommendations implemented: 4 |
| Other outcome(s): Creation of local NGO "Community Forum Izgrev" | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 13 380 BGN | Initiator: 8 250 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 15 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

Forum in the Zone B5 of Sofia Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum in the Zone B5 residential area | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| "Sofena" Sofia Agency for energy efficiency in partnership with Sofia municipality and Vazrazhdane district | Optimization of the Environment and the Conditions in the Public Buildings within Zone B5 on the Basis of Local Energy Resources and Energy-Efficiency Technologies |  |
| Site: Zone B5 residential area, Vazrazhdane district | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: March 2007 – November 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 0 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 40 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: People living, studying and working in the neighbourhood, experts in the area of energy efficiency media, ecology and environment | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: # of projects proposed: # of projects included in the budget: | # of recommendations: # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): A Project for energy efficiency developed – to be financed by EU funds | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 000 BGN | Initiator: 10 800 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 19 950 BGN | Initiator: |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

3.3 Topical Forums conducted at regional level


Forum Stara Planina Tourism Development Data

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Regional Forum on Tourism Development in Central Stara Planina | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Tourism Association Stara Planina | Tourism development in Central Stara Planina |  |
| Site: Slivek 1 session and Sevlievo 1 session | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: February – June 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 2 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 0 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: Recommendations for improvement of the tourist services and development of common projects on regional level |
| # of participants: 50 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism experts and other professionals | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 2 # of projects included in the budget: 1 | # of recommendations: 3 # of recommendations implemented: 2 |
| Other outcome(s): The regional project "Quality mark of tourist services" is sustainable – it is realized every year since 2002 with own funds of RTA Stara Planina | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 17 965 BGN | Initiator: – BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 18 271 BGN | Initiator: 5 482 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |


Forum Stara Planina Tourism Development Projects

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Project name | Quality mark of tourist services |
| Applicant name | Regional Tourist Association Stara Planina |
| Total Budget | BGN 23 753 |
| Summary | <p>Analyses of the tourism services were made. Local business was actively involved in the competitions Quality Mark and The Best Tourist Place. Thirty-nine tourist places have been awarded the Quality Mark for the services they render. Local tourism managers became interested and were willing to improve their professional performance. A Tourist Services Quality Guide, issued in 500 copies, has been introduced by the entrepreneurs. Fourteen leading travel journalists visited the region and numerous articles were published in the national media about its tourist potential. This fact has resulted in an increase of tourism in Central Stara Planina.</p> <p>Activities initiated by the project have been continued sustainably for several years now. The Association was awarded the annual prize of The Best Tourist Place for the fifth time in 2006. Journalist tours organized every year help to boost the image of Central Stara Planina as a tourist destination. The system of voluntarily certifying the tourist services has been adopted by other organizations, thus stimulating creative competition in the sphere.</p> |


Forum Stara Planina Waste Management Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Regional Forum on Waste Management in Central Stara Planina | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Association of Municipalities Central Stara Planina | Improvement of the Waste Management |  |
| Site: Gabrovo | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2001 | | |
| Number of sessions: 1 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 0 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: Recommendations for improvement of the Waste Management on regional level |
| # of participants: 35 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Experts in waste management | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: # of projects proposed: # of projects included in the budget: | # of recommendations: 10 # of recommendations implemented: 7 |
| Other outcome(s): Exchange of information between municipalities and regional level; comparison with foreign waste management practice | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 3 000 BGN | Initiator: |
| Project fund: | Donor: | Initiator: |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

Forum Teteven/ Yablanitsa/ Lukovit/ Roman and Cherven Briag Data

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 8 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Teteven/ Yablanitsa/ Lukovit/ Roman and Cherven Briag | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Center for Sustainable Development of Teteven Municipality | Make agreement about positioning of solid-waste depot |  |
| Site: The municipality Teteven, Yablanitsa, Lucovit, Roman and Cherven Briag | Support offices: Consortium BA/ FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2007 – December 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2008 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: Making agreement and building of depot |
| # of participants: 47 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Citizens of this region | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: # of projects proposed: # of projects included in the budget: | # of recommendations: 5 # of recommendations implemented: 3 |
| Other outcome(s): Elaborate working project for building solid-waste depot | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 13 122 BGN | Initiator: 4 750 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: | Initiator: |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

Forum Straldzha / Bolyarovo Data

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 7 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Straldzha / Bolyarovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Straldzha Municipality; Bolyarovo Municipality | Establishing a Partnership Between Bolyarovo and Straldzha Municipalities for Solving Similar Prob- lems Through Small-Scale Investments |  |
| Site: Straldzha / Bolyarovo | Support offices: FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: June 2006 – March 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: 0 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Bolyarovo and Straldzha Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 60–70 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Municipal Council; Citizens | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 4 # of projects included in the budget: 4 | # of recommendations: 0 # of recommendations implemented: 0 |
| Other outcome(s): Become familiar with the Regional Development Operational Program (2007–2013); prepare Integrated Plan and Project Pipeline under Operation 4.3, Priority 4 | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 15 000 BGN | Initiator: (in-kind contribution of both Municipalities) |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: (10 000 BGN Stral- dzha Municipality and 10 000 BGN Bolyarovo Municipality) |
| Average project funding Donor: 48% | Average project funding Initiator: 11/11% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Straldzha / Bolyarovo Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Local Roads Design |
| Applicant | Bolyarovo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 33 259 BGN |
| Summary | Improved conditions for citizens' transport in Bolyarovo and Straldzha municipalities through the development of technical projects for reconstruction and recovery of local roads. Projects for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the IV class roads – Dabovo – Stefan Karadjovo villages, Bolyarovo municipality and Tamarino – Irechekovo villages, Straldzha municipalities will be prioritized. |
| Project name | Energy Efficiency Improvement of Public Buildings - Technical Project Design |
| Applicant | Straldzha Municipality |
| Total Budget | 25 470 BGN |
| Summary | This project proposed to design plans for technical projects for reconstruction of public buildings in Straldzha and Bolyarovo municipalities, namely: Reconstruction of the building of the All-day Kindergarten in Bolyarovo into a Centre for Social Services and Rehabilitation; the building of Straldzha municipality – Stage II; and the building of "SS Kiril and Metodii" Primary school in the Zimnitsa village, Straldzha Municipality. |
| Project name | Construction of Sport Facilities in Bolyarovo and Straldzha Municipalities |
| Applicant | Bolyarovo Municipality |
| Total Budget | 19 365 BGN |
| Summary | Through construction of open-air playground in Straldzha Municipality and a rehabilitation centre in Bolyarovo Municipality the project aims to improve conditions for community sports and recreation in both municipalities. |
| Project name | Public Works of the downtown area and public places in the settlements of the Municipality of Straldzha and Municipality of Bolyarovo |
| Applicant | Straldzha Municipality |
| Total Budget | 35 424 BGN |
| Summary | The project's objective is to improve the general appeal of Straldzha and Bolyarovo Municipalities through public works in the downtown area of the Municipality of Straldzha and the public places of the main villages in the Municipality of Bolyarovo – Voden, Popovo and Golyamo Krushevo.. |

4 REGIONAL FORUMS

4.1 Introduction

Coverage:

Regional Forums generally cover the territory of more than one municipality (a central city/town and surrounding villages). To ensure financial and procedural effectiveness (travel costs, communications, coordination), and if diverse stakeholder groups intend to be engaged in the Forum process, the participation of maximum three municipalities is advised. When a Regional Forum aims to focus on very specific issues such as innovations, then only certain professional groups and government representatives are involved to allow for broader geographic coverage.

Initiator:

In most cases the Initiators of regional Forums are the mayors of respective municipalities, supported by the municipal councils. An NGO or a company with proven profile and experience in the area of the Forum topic could also be the Forum Initiator. However, in all cases, mayors and municipal councils need to agree in advance that they will support the Forum process with relevant information and expertise. In practice, their representatives tend to participate in the sessions and they do respect the final results.

Forum themes:

Usually Regional Forums are focused only on one topic; in fact, all Forums in this section show the characteristics of “topical Forums”. (See Introduction to section 3. They are presented separately as the structure in each group reflects specific requirements of the context within which the Forums operate.) Bulgaria’s accession to the EU and the utilization of the European funds stimulate the proc-

ess of inter-municipal cooperation in Bulgaria. Participatory processes covering a territory of several municipalities can also be a requirement to obtain national funds for specific themes or projects, such as in the case of the National Culture Fund (NCF).

LEADER Forums – In the implementation of the European agricultural policy, the LEADER approach promotes bottom-up planning and support for community and business initiatives in the development of rural areas. The Forum approach perfectly matches the EU requirement for a participatory process in the elaboration of Local Development Strategies (LDS) and the establishment of an organizational structure for its implementation through a Local Action Group (LAG). Forum discussions are accompanied by the national program for rural development which sets the framework for financial assistance, and development of the LDS and LAG. The Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is an active promoter of LEADER Forums with its representatives often supporting the Forum sessions with expertise.

Cultural Forums – These Forums are focused on opportunities to use the cultural heritage as a means for regional development. The Forum process is supported with expertise from the National Culture Fund and Ministry of Culture.

Mizia Forums – This type of Forum – named after the initiating Regional Association for Innovation and Development – is focused on improving linkages between research institutions, businesses and administration in two adjacent planning regions and the encouragement of economic and technological innovations – all comprised in a Regional Innovation

Strategy to be established by the Forum as a part of EU regional development policy.

Stakeholder groups:

While community Forums are open to all social and professional groups and citizens, the **regional Forums** are more “expert-oriented”. Most of the participants are representatives of institutions and special professional interests associations. In **LEADER Forums** participating stakeholder groups mostly include the potential beneficiaries of the National Program for Rural Development and future implementers of the LDS. In addition to Forum sessions, meetings and focus groups in the villages are organized to identify the needs and potential for project implementation within the respective settlements. Forum participants in **Cultural Forums** are mainly from cultural and educational institutions, tourist businesses, folklore groups, youth, local and regional authorities, whilst in **Mizia Forum** participants are from educational institutions, businesses, local and regional authorities and institutions involved in technological innovations.

Number of sessions: Rather focused in their themes, regional Forums usually have four to five sessions and one follow-up session six to eight months after the end of the Forum.

Results:

Usually, **regional Forums** are focused on development of policies, strategies, programs and not so much on projects. They are mainly a tool for participatory planning. Some Forum types are bound to produce particular results such as the adoption of a Local Development Strategy and the creation of a Local Action Group in **LEADER Forums**. In some cases, the LEADER Forums have a small project fund to support a limited number of projects, following all EU requirements. This project facility is provided mainly for the LAG to gain some expe-


rience in the promotion, selection and monitoring of projects.

Accordingly, Forum results of **Cultural Forums** include the formulation of a regional program for using cultural heritage as a means for development and several concrete start-up projects which begin implementing the regional program.

For **Mizia Forums**, finally, reaching a consensus on the strategic goals, priorities and actions of the Regional Innovation Strategy in the Mizia Region is the Forum result.

4.2 Implemented LEADER Forums


Forum Karlovo / Sopot Data

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Diversified Forum | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Karlovo / Sopot | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| ASA | LEADER |  |
| Site: Karlovo and Sopot | Support offices: ASA | |
| Duration of session cycle: February – July 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: General assemblies of LAG, 2006–2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50–60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 4 # of projects proposed: 7 # of projects included in the budget: 4 | # of recommendations: # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): Registered LAG, Developed Local Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 12 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 30 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 66% | Average project funding Initiator: 0% | Average project funding Project partners: 34% |

Forum Karlovo / Sopot Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Establishment of a Museum Collection of Mummer and Carnival Costumes |
| Applicant | Informal group of citizens for the establishment of museum collection of mummer costumes |
| Total Budget | 7 210 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to build a Museum of authentic mummer and carnival costumes; pictures and video materials tracing the history of mummer ensembles in the Municipality of Karlovo will be produced. |
| Project name | Traditions and Customs – Bridge Between Generations and Nations |
| Applicant | Association "CRAFTSMAN" Sopot |
| Total Budget | 20 969 BGN |
| Summary | In an effort to promote local cultural heritage, the project proposes a comprehensive set of activities: Install a permanent ethnographic exhibition featuring popular customs of the region dating back to 17th and up to the 19th Century; Organize live demonstrations involving local craftsmen; Form a youth ensemble for the demonstration of traditional rituals and ceremonies; Reconstruction of Budina house, a cultural monument; Launch of an Internet web site for the Centre for Old Crafts; Feature the Centre for Old Crafts as a tourist destination and as a local attraction in the Program of the Tourist Information Centre at the Municipality of Sopot. |
| Project name | Through Tradition to Preserve and Rehabilitate the Bania Resort |
| Applicant | People's Library club "SS Kiril and Metodij" – Bania |
| Total Budget | 7 150 BGN |
| Summary | This project aims to preserve and promote the living cultural heritage which determines the cultural and historical identity of the Bania village. The main activities pursued by the project are research, collection of historical information as well as the design of promotional materials and their diffusion. |
| Project name | Spot for demonstration of traditional dishes and local crafts |
| Applicant | Informal group Kalofer with leader Boriana Rumenova Ivanova |
| Total Budget | 6 310 BGN |
| Summary | Identification and development of a suitable place for cooking demonstrations of traditional dishes and local (Kalofer lace) crafts will assist in advancing rural and eco tourism in the Karlovo-Sopot region as well as its enjoyment by local population. |

Forum Hisar / Kaloyanovo / Saedinenie Data

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Diversified Forum | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Hisar / Kaloyanovo / Saedinenie | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| ASA | LEADER |  |
| Site: Kaloyanovo, Hisar, Saedinenie | Support offices: ASA | |
| Duration of session cycle: February – July 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: General assemblies of LAG, 2006–2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50–60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 8 # of projects proposed: 8 # of projects included in the budget: 8 | # of recommendations: # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): Registered LAG, Developed Local Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 12 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 30 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 55% | Average project funding Initiator: 0% | Average project funding Project partners: 45% |


Forum Hisar / Kaloyanovo / Saedinenie Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Exhibition of Local Producers in the Municipalities of Hisar, Kaloyanovo, Saedinenie |
| Applicant | People's library club "Ivan Vazov" – Hisar |
| Total Budget | 12 411 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to establish an ongoing exhibition promoting the products of agricultural producers and small businesses from the municipalities of Hisar, Kaloyanovo and Saedinenie. The exhibition targeted potential direct consumers (hotel-keepers, restaurant managers and guests of the resort) of featured products and thereby increasing the marketing skills and means of expanding sales opportunities for local producers. |
| Project name | Reconstruction of Existing Greenhouses for Vegetable-Growing |
| Applicant | Elenka Bogdanova – agricultural producer |
| Total Budget | 4 000 BGN |
| Summary | With the interest to create better conditions for higher yields of early vegetables, numerous activities such as the reconstruction of existing greenhouses and their covering with durable polyethylene were undertaken in this project. |
| Project name | Improvements to Local Bread-making and Production of Baked Goods |
| Applicant | Single-owned company "Buket 2000" – Georgi Chaushev |
| Total Budget | 5 000 BGN |
| Summary | Increasing the local production and quality of bread and baked goods in compliance with EU requirements was the key objective in this project. |
| Project name | Introduction of Drop Irrigation in the Greenhouse Vegetable Production |
| Applicant | Georgi Kirilov Koshnicharski – agricultural producer |
| Total Budget | 4 000 BGN |
| Summary | The aim of this project is to improve the quality of early vegetable production through the introduction of a drop-irrigation system and thereby to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of local irrigation methods and resources. |
| Project name | Growing Elite Sorts of Early Vegetables |
| Applicant | Ivan Lazarov Bekirski – agricultural producer |
| Total Budget | 4 000 BGN |
| Summary | The project proposes to improve the competitiveness of products at the vegetable market by introducing new elite seed varieties of tomatoes and cucumbers and improving greenhouse equipment. |
| Project name | Production of Early Potatoes in greenhouses |
| Applicant | Maria Stoianova Prazova – agricultural producer |
| Total Budget | 3 500 BGN |
| Summary | Adopting an innovative and market-driven approach, this project plans to improve the production of an elite early variety of potatoes, by increasing yields with better quality and therefore the potential for gaining higher profits. |

Forum Hisar / Kaloyanovo / Saedinenie Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Creation of Perennial Plants |
| Applicant | Todor Salutski – agricultural producer |
| Total Budget | 10 832 BGN |
| Summary | The project's objective is to develop a private orchard which will grow perennial plants – morello trees – on an area of 21.5 decares. |
| Project name | Planting of a Plum Tree Garden |
| Applicant | Agricultural Cooperative for Production and Services – ACPS "APRILTSI" Hisaria |
| Total Budget | 9 876 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to develop a plum orchard which includes the preparation of terrain, buying of trees and planting them. The new plum tree garden is situated on the area of Kluvchevi livadi and it will enhance the activities of an existing agricultural cooperative. |


Forum Panagurishte / Strelcha / Lesichovo Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Diversified Forum | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Panagurishte / Strelcha / Lesichovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| ASA | LEADER |  |
| Site: Panagurishte, Strelcha, Lesichovo | Support offices: ASA | |
| Duration of session cycle: February – July 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: General assemblies of LAG, 2006–2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50–60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 5 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects included in the budget: 5 | # of recommendations: # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): Registered LAG, Developed Local Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 12 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 30 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 75% | Average project funding Initiator: 0% | Average project funding Project partners: 25% |

Forum Panagurishte / Strelcha / Lesichovo Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | "Todorov Day" the Way We Do It – With Hope for the Future |
| Applicant | Library club "Probuda" – village Bania, Municipality of Panagurishte |
| Total Budget | 5 013 BGN |
| Summary | The main objective of the project is to broaden the potential for tourism development in the region. By organizing a Todorov Day, the promotion of the Bania village as tourist destination will increase through: a demonstration of horseback riding as a potential tourist activity in the Bania village; raising young people's interest in horseback riding as well as in regional culture and traditions; and presentation of other tourism and entertainment options in Bania and the region. |
| Project name | From the Land to the People – With Song Towards Eternity |
| Applicant | Library club "Vasil Levski", village Elshitsa, Municipality of Panagurishte |
| Total Budget | 9 500 BGN |
| Summary | Main objective of the project is to contribute to the development of villages in the municipalities of Panagurishte, Strelcha and Lesichovo. Better advertising of local tourist attractions and general development of regional tourism in rural areas will be undertaken in this project. The main activities will include organizing a folklore festival and a 'best home video' regional competition (in the three municipalities) |
| Project name | Kalugerovo – Past, Present and Future |
| Applicant | Initiative group "Kalugerovo" |
| Total Budget | 4 952 BGN |
| Summary | The project objective is to support the development of tourism in the Municipality of Lesichovo and at the Kalugerovo monastery "St. Nikola" in the form of preparing appealing promotional materials and exploring the possibilities of featuring Kalugerovo as the Bulgarian "Euro village". Advertising products will include historical facts, information about local cultural heritage and traditions in the region. |
| Project name | Advertising a Regional Tourist Product – Municipalities of Panagurishte, Strelcha, Lesichovo |
| Applicant | Association of the private entrepreneurs in Panagurishte |
| Total Budget | 9 380 BGN |
| Summary | This project aims to prepare preliminary information bulletins and a set of advertising products such as posters, brochures, flyers, multimedia products, a promotional video clip, and a website for regional tourism attractions. |
| Project name | Advertising Tourism – Municipality of Strelcha |
| Applicant | School Board of Trustees "Znanie", "P. Hilendarski" Elementary School, Strelcha |
| Total Budget | 11 209 BGN |
| Summary | Comprehensive advertisement of tourist attractions through a Tourist Information Bureau; production and installation of signposts, information boards and distribution of advertising brochures form the basis for this project. The School Board of Trustees will also support the formation of a children's folklore group and will advertise it widely in an attractive way as part of the local folklore heritage. |


Forum Brezovo / Bratia Daskalovi / Rakovski Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Diversified Forum | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Brezovo / Bratia Daskalovi / Rakovski | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| ASA | LEADER |  |
| Site: Brezovo / Bratia Daskalovi / Rakovski | Support offices: ASA | |
| Duration of session cycle: February – July 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: General assemblies of LAG, 2006–2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50–60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 5 # of projects proposed: 7 # of projects included in the budget: 5 | # of recommendations: # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): Registered LAG, Developed Local Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 12 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 30 000 BGN | Initiator: 0 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 52% | Average project funding Initiator: 0% | Average project funding Project partners: 48% |

Forum Brezovo / Bratia Daskalovi / Rakovski Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Buying Milking Machine for Cows |
| Applicant | Georgi Ivanov Rusinov – agricultural producer |
| Total Budget | 24 607 BGN |
| Summary | The present project envisages buying dairy farm equipment for breeding of 80 milking cows in the village Borets, Municipality of Brezovo, Plovdiv district, and with the goal to comply with European requirements for proper treatment of animals. |
| Project name | Provision of Social Services in the Cultural Sphere in Municipality of Bratia Daskalovi |
| Applicant | People's library club "Peicho Minev", village Bratia Daskalovi |
| Total Budget | 9 333 BGN |
| Summary | Concrete project activities envisaged are the following: - Development and enrichment of cultural life in the municipality - Preservation of customs and traditions characteristic for the region - Development and support of amateur artistic work - Cultivation and strengthening of cultural national identity |
| Project name | Support for the development of apiculture in municipality of Bratia Daskalovi |
| Applicant | Maria Stoianova Dimitrakieva – agricultural producer |
| Total Budget | 6 000 BGN |
| Summary | The project envisages the buying of queen-bees, hives and developing apiculture techniques to improve the gene fund of the local bee families by using tribal bee farms from other regions in Bulgaria and from abroad. |
| Project name | Establishing a Multifunctional Centre for Multicultural Cooperation, Information and Training |
| Applicant | Association "School Board of Trustees of "Hristo Smirnenski" Secondary School", Brezovo, Municipality of Brezovo |
| Total Budget | 5 420 BGN |
| Summary | Main objective of the project is to establish a multifunctional hall for multicultural dialogue, cooperation and exchange of information. The hall will be situated in "Hristo Smirnenski" Secondary School, Brezovo. |
| Project name | The dancing ensemble in school – symbol and tradition |
| Applicant | School board of trustees "Hristo Botev" – Rakovski |
| Total Budget | 12 446 BGN |
| Summary | The School Board of Trustees in Hristo Botev proposes to promote extracurricular activities by the reestablishment of a school folklore dancing ensemble. Concrete steps to achieve this will be: choreography of traditional folklore dances; improving conditions in the rehearsal hall (installation of a new music system, a dance studio 2.20 x 4 m mirror, recruitment of a qualified dance teacher and the purchase of 20 new traditional Thracian costumes (8 men's and 12 ladies'). |

Forum Teteven /Yablanitsa Data

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 7 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Teteven / Yablanitsa | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipalities of Teteven and Yablanitsa | LEADER |  |
| Site: Teteven and Yablanitsa | Support offices: FLGR | |
| Duration of session cycle: June 2006 – March 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: General assemblies of LAG, 2006–2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Teteven and Yablanitsa Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 70–80 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism; Forestry and Protected Areas; Spatial planning; Economy and Investments; Small and Medium-sized Enterprises | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 15 # of projects included in the budget: 10 | # of recommendations: # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): Become familiar with the Leader Approach; Establish Local Action Group Teteven/Yablanitsa; Elaborate Local Development Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 15 500 BGN | Initiator: (in-kind contribution of both Municipalities) |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: (9 000 BGN Teteven Municipality and 9 000 BGN Yablanitsa Municipality) |
| Average project funding Donor: 46% | Average project funding Initiator: 12/12% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |


Forum Teteven /Yablanitsa Projects

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | For TeYa |
| Applicant | LAG TeYa |
| Total Budget | 26 990 BGN |
| Summary | The project's main goal is the institutionalization of LAG Teteven – Yablanitsa; repairs to office premises and purchase of equipment needed are envisaged under the project. |
| Project name | For the Good Sake of Kids |
| Applicant | Association "Ravenstvo" |
| Total Budget | 14 535 BGN |
| Summary | This project proposed to improve conditions for integration and delivery of social services to disabled children and their families at the Teteven Day Centre. Project's planned activities include: the implementation of a broad municipality-wide information campaign about services offered by the Day Centre, relevant market research and purchase of a mini-bus for transportation of disabled children to the Day Centre. |
| Project name | Playground |
| Applicant | Kindergarten "Rayna Kniyaginia" |
| Total Budget | 8 127 BGN |
| Summary | Project activities include the reconstruction and repaving of the kindergarten's inner courtyard making it suitable for the installation of playground equipment. |
| Project name | Rest Area Along the Way to St. George's Monastery |
| Applicant | Mayorality of Malak Izvor |
| Total Budget | 8 098 BGN |
| Summary | Construction of a shelter type barbeque and a fountain are envisaged under the project An Eco-path to a Place called the Small Glass. |
| Project name | "Nice and Appealing Living Environment" – Flower Mosaic |
| Applicant | Centre for Sustainable Development of Municipality of Teteven |
| Total Budget | 22 785 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to improve living conditions in the settlements of the Municipalities Teteven and Yablanitsa through the planting of new grass plots and flowers at the entry and exit of park areas. These activities will be implemented through establishment of a local plant base for growing seedlings and training people in relevant skills. |
| Project name | Central area - Nice Place for Rest, Play and Information |
| Applicant | Mayorality of Cherni Vit |
| Total Budget | 10 020 BGN |
| Summary | Project activities include the construction of a small fountain for drinking water, playground area (with swings and painting boards) and places for flags. An attractive lighting will be assembled and flowers planted and reconstruction of the square pavement is also planned. |

Forum Teteven /Yablanitsad Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Public Works and Renovation of the Village Entrance and Exit points |
| Applicant | Mayorality, Oreshene Village |
| Total Budget | 5 228 BGN |
| Summary | The project will urbanize the entrance of the village which is located at an important crossroad in the region. Project activities include cleaning of the terrain, earth works, construction of a decorative faucet, installation of benches and tables, planting of suitable trees, electric power supply and lighting and construction of two billboards. |
| Project name | Renovation of the Local Church |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees at Church "St. Nikolay Mirlikliiski" – Batulci Village |
| Total Budget | 5 935 BGN |
| Summary | Improving the village's public image forms a part of the local development strategy following the principle of sustainable development. As a result the project activities include the installation of two memorial plaques at suitable places, reconstruction of the Church's façade, repair of the Church tower, roof, construction of a decorated faucet and outside electric lighting. |
| Project name | Establishing a Performance Facility and Recreation Area |
| Applicant | G. Benkovski High School |
| Total Budget | 4 427 BGN |
| Summary | The project's objective is to stimulate and diversify training and social services provided at Georgi Benkovki School in Teteven. Through this project an open-air amphitheatre in the schoolyard will be constructed. Project implementation will motivate teachers to hold celebrations, concerts as well as open discussions, seminars and workshops in the open-air. |
| Project name | Everyone has the Right to Work |
| Applicant | VIT AS Ltd. |
| Total Budget | 14 098 BGN |
| Summary | The project focuses on improving the working conditions and creating new jobs in the shoe industry by VIT – AS Plc. Repairs to working premises and offices, construction of a steam power installation, selection and training of future employees are envisaged under the project. |

Forum Antonovo/ Omurtag Data


| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 7 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Antonovo / Omurtag | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| National Alliance for Volunteer Action, Plovdiv | LEADER |  |
| Site: Antonovo and Omurtag | Support offices: Balkan Assist Association | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2006 – February 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 6 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Antonovo and Omurtag Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 70 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism; Forestry and Protected Areas; Spatial planning; Economy and Investments; Small and Medium-sized Enterprises | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 8 # of projects included in the budget: 5 | # of recommendations: # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): Become familiar with the Leader Approach; Establish Local Action Group Antonovo / Omurtag; Elaborate Local Development Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 15 500 BGN | Initiator: 4 250 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN | Initiator: 20 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 50% | Average project funding Initiator: 10/10% | Average project funding Project partners: 30% |

Forum Antonovo/ Omurtag Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | For communication in our European future |
| Applicant | School Board at "SS Kiril and Metodi" Secondary School, Antonovo |
| Total Budget | 24 955 BGN |
| Summary | The objective of this project is to increase the opportunities for learning foreign languages locally, thus to better equip local premises and provide organized English courses. |
| Project name | Nature – A home for us all |
| Applicant | Youth Community for Initiatives Association, Antonovo |
| Total Budget | 20 770 BGN |
| Summary | Create a comprehensive system for ecological and agro-education and test it. |
| Project name | To colour the white |
| Applicant | Antonovo and Omurtag Municipalities |
| Total Budget | 14 688 BGN |
| Summary | Through this project, the Antonovo and Omurtag Municipalities elaborate a tourism development strategy; produce an advertising/promotional film about local tourist attractions; and collect and systemize information about landmarks in both municipalities. |
| Project name | Memories, dreams and adventures |
| Applicant | Centre for Youth Initiatives Foundation, Antonovo |
| Total Budget | 27 084 BGN |
| Summary | Improve the park areas in Antonovo and Omurtag and create better rest/recreational conditions for local citizens and guests. |
| Project name | Local Action Group |
| Applicant | Antonovo and Omurtag Municipalities |
| Total Budget | 34 050 |
| Summary | Establish and register Local Action Group and support its first activities through the provision of office space, communications, and relevant training. |

4.3 Implemented Cultural Forums


Forum Silistra / Tutrakan / Alfatar Data

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|---|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch 7 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Silistra / Tutrakan / Alfatar | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipalities of Silistra, Tutrakan and Alfatar | Cultural Heritage as a Factor for Sustainable Development of the Region |  |
| Site: Silistra, Tutrakan and Alfatar | Support offices: FLGR in partnership with National Culture Fund | |
| Duration of session cycle: November 2005 – October 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: September 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 44 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism, Cultural policy; Cultural heritage; Chitalishta; Artists | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 9 # of projects included in the budget: 6 | # of recommendations: 1 # of recommendations implemented: 1 |
| Other outcome(s): Regional Cultural Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 570 BGN – SDC | Initiator: (in-kind contribution of both Municipalities) |
| Project fund: | Donor: 30 000 BGN – SDC; 25 000 BGN – NFC | Initiator: 4 000 BGN per Municipality – total of 12 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: 42/30% | Average project funding Initiator: 6/6/6% | Average project funding Project partners: 10% |

Forum Silistra / Tutrakan / Alfatar Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Preliminary Design of a Floating Mill |
| Applicant | Historical Museum – Tutrakan |
| Total Budget | 6 760 BGN |
| Summary | The project envisages the technical development plan for a floating mill. Apart from this a small-scale model of the floating mill will be constructed. |
| Project name | Legitimation of Cultural and Historical Heritage |
| Applicant | Regional Museum of History – Silistra |
| Total Budget | 27 660 BGN |
| Summary | Research, processing of information, popularization and promotion of cultural monuments and natural landmarks in the Silistra region are envisaged under the project. Separate guides for the Municipalities of Silistra, Tutrakan and Alfatar as well as promotional CDs will be developed under the project. Information boards will also be installed. |
| Project name | Regional Observatory for Innovative Practices |
| Applicant | Chitalishte Yordan Yovkov – Alfatar |
| Total Budget | 15 634 BGN |
| Summary | The main project goal is to preserve the authentic songs and dances performed by folk ensembles on the territory of Silistra, Tutrakan and Alfatar Municipalities. DVD and brochure will be developed under the project. |
| Project name | Historical Memory |
| Applicant | Regional Library Partenii Pavlovich - Silistra |
| Total Budget | 22 390 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to fill in a documentary gap in the history of Silistra and Dobrudzha during the Romanian rule period (1913-1940). Missing documents will be researched at relevant Romanian institutions, copied, micro-filmed and presented to the community. |
| Project name | European Standards |
| Applicant | Municipality of Alfatar |
| Total Budget | 876 BGN |
| Summary | Training courses introducing new European standards in tourism will be conducted by representatives from the European Cultural Tourist Route Association. |
| Project name | School for young guides |
| Applicant | Regional Museum of History - Silistra |
| Total Budget | 9 808 BGN |
| Summary | Students with good foreign language skills will get a nine-month training to improve their knowledge in local history and to acquire practical tourist guide skills. Relevant promotional materials will be published as well. |


Forum Smolyan / Zlatograd Data

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch D1-1 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Smolyan / Zlatograd | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipalities of Smolyan and Zlatograd | Cultural Heritage as a Factor for Sustainable Development of the Region |  |
| Site: Smolyan and Zlatograd | Support offices: FLGR in partnership with National Culture Fund | |
| Duration of session cycle: November 2005 – July 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: July 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 55 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism, Chitalishta | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 12 # of projects included in the budget: 4 | # of recommendations: 3 # of recommendations implemented: 3 |
| Other outcome(s): Regional Cultural Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 20 570 BGN – SDC | Initiator: (in-kind contribution of both Municipalities) |
| Project fund: | Donor: 30 000 BGN – SDC; 25 000 BGN – NFC | Initiator: 7 000 BGN – Smolyan Municipality; 6 000 BGN – Zlatograd Municipality |
| Average project funding Donor: 42/34% | Average project funding Initiator: 8/6% | Average project funding Project partners: 10% |

Forum Smolyan / Zlatograd Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Regional Cultural Heritage Catalogue: Region of Smolyan movable cultural items |
| Applicant | Regional Museum of History - Smolyan |
| Total Budget | 21 074 BGN |
| Summary | Publication of a Regional Cultural Heritage Catalogue in the region of Smolyan is envisaged under the project. Selected movable cultural items from the corresponding museums in the region will be presented in the Catalogue. |
| Project name | Public access to two archaeological sites: Kaleto (fort, near Smolyan) and Belite Kamani (ancient spiritual area, near Zlatograd) - 1st stage |
| Applicant | Zlatograd Municipality |
| Total Budget | 43 521 BGN |
| Summary | The main project goal is to provide public/tourist access to the two archaeological sites: Kaleto (fortress, near Smolyan) and Belite Kamani (ancient spiritual area, near Zlatograd). During the project's first stage, opportunities for their inclusion on tourist routes will be provided. Construction of tourist infrastructure such as shelters, bi-lingual information boards etc. is envisaged under the project. |
| Project name | Celebrating Delio Voivoda: scene recreation of his heroic death and relighting the "flame of immortality" |
| Applicant | Association Delio Voivoda - Zlatograd |
| Total Budget | 33 011 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims at enriching the Delio Voivoda celebrations with two new elements: the scene recreation of his heroic death and the relighting of the "flame of immortality". As a result of project implementation a more comprehensive and attractive cultural product will be developed. Project activities include the purchase of stage props, costumes, accessories and scenario/script development. |
| Project name | Graphic logo of the Forum "Rhodopes - The voice of time" |
| Applicant | Municipality of Smolyan |
| Total Budget | 2 050 BGN |
| Summary | The main project goal is to elaborate a unique logo of the Forum "Rhodopes – The Voice of Time" which will mark all products developed or implemented during the Forum process, thus ensuring the sustainability of Forum results. |


Forum Kotel / Elena Data

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch D2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Kotel / Elena | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipalities of Kotel and Elena | Cultural Heritage as a Factor for Sustainable Development of the Region |  |
| Site: Kotel and Elena | Support offices: FLGR in partnership with National Culture Fund | |
| Duration of session cycle: January – May 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 60–70 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Local Tourist Organizations; Crafts and Applied Arts; Chitalishta; Traditions and Folklore | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 4 # of projects included in the budget: 4 | # of recommendations: 3 # of recommendations implemented: 3 |
| Other outcome(s): Regional Cultural Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 23 120 BGN – SDC | Initiator: (in-kind contribution of both Municipalities) |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN – SDC; 20 000 BGN – NFC | Initiator: 10 000 BGN – Kotel Municipality; 10 000 BGN – Elena Municipality |
| Average project funding Donor: 56/16% | Average project funding Initiator: 9/9% | Average project funding Project partners: 10% |

Forum Kotel / Elena Projects

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Project name | Sheep Trail Cultural Route |
| Applicant | Kotel Municipality |
| Total Budget | 96 901 BGN |
| Summary | The cultural route "On the road of sheep" will provide tourists with a clear picture of local residents' means of living in Kotel and Elena – i.e. sheep-breeding and its rituals, religious holidays, shepherds' tools, music and instruments. This cultural presentation will take place in the Kiorpeev's house in Kotel and the Museum Complex "Daskalolivniza" in Elena. The project aims to preserve the cultural and historical heritage of Elena and Kotel which also forms one of the goals in the Strategy for Regional Policy Development, developed by the regional Elena-Kotel Forum. |
| Project name | Open Workshops |
| Applicant | Municipal Children's Complex, Elena |
| Total Budget | 16 532 BGN |
| Summary | The main goal of the project is to contribute to the conservation of the entire cultural heritage of Elena and Kotel by providing opportunities for young people to master wood-carving and pottery crafts. 60 students from both towns will be trained: 40 in wood-carving and 20 in pottery. |
| Project name | Elena and Kotel Municipalities – Cultural Joint Promotional Development Guide |
| Applicant | Elena Municipality |
| Total Budget | 12 738 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims to develop a joint systematic and detailed product for the entire cultural heritage of Elena and Kotel. This product will provide comprehensive tourist information such as location and times for cultural and informative trips. Through this Guide, the cultural heritage of the region will be advertised to national and foreign tourists. The Guide will be translated into three languages – German, French and English. |
| Project name | Establishing a Network Aiming at Exploring, Describing and Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Ethnic Groups on the Territories of Elena and Kotel Municipalities |
| Applicant | Saglasie – Napredak Chitalishte, Kotel |
| Total Budget | 29 120 BGN |
| Summary | Project activities include research of revived cultural heritage of local ethnic groups in both municipalities and a public presentation of their most attractive elements. Collection of research conducted and a DVD are also envisaged under the project. |

Forum Ivailovgrad / Madzharovo Data

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch D2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Ivailovgrad / Madzharovo | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipalities of Ivailovgrad and Madzharovo | Cultural Heritage as a Factor for Sustainable Development of the Region |  |
| Site: Ivailovgrad and Madzharovo | Support offices: FLGR in partnership with National Culture Fund | |
| Duration of session cycle: January – May 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 50–60 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism; Crafts and Artists; Chitalishta | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 11 # of projects included in the budget: 8 | # of recommendations: 0 # of recommendations implemented: 0 |
| Other outcome(s): Regional Cultural Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 23 120 BGN – SDC | Initiator: (in-kind contribution of both Municipalities) |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN – SDC; 20 000 BGN – NFC | Initiator: Initiator 10 000 BGN – Ivailovgrad Municipality; 10 000 BGN – Madzharovo Municipality |
| Average project funding Donor: 57/17% | Average project funding Initiator: 8/8% | Average project funding Project partners: 10% |


Forum Ivailovgrad / Madzharovo Projects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Project name | Joint Attractive Tourist Product Development on the Territory of Ivailovgrad and Madzharovo Municipalities |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees at D. Madzharov Secondary School |
| Total Budget | 28 002 BGN |
| Summary | The project aims at creating an integrated tourist product in the region Madzharovo-Ivailovgrad. The project anticipates the development of five tourist routes that include unique archaeological sites. Advertising materials, tourist maps and a website (also translated into English) will be developed. |
| Project name | Attractive Cultural Product The Majic Open- Air Performances Development and Promotion |
| Applicant | Probuda Chitalishte, Ivailovgrad |
| Total Budget | 16 021 BGN |
| Summary | Developing and publicly presenting - before tourists and guests - a cultural product, performed by amateurs from the two primary schools in Madzharovo and Ivailovgrad in the ruins of architectural monuments is envisioned by this project. It will combine history, legends, colours, music, dances and fiction. |
| Project name | Regional Thracian Youth Excursion Ivailovgrad - Madzharovo |
| Applicant | N. Vaptsarov Chitalishte, Madzharovo |
| Total Budget | 18 697 BGN |
| Summary | The main goal of the project is to preserve and popularize among young people the historic truth about Thracian events which occurred in the region in 1913. Creative educational activities such as the development of a regional tourist route for an annual youth march, on the road of the refugee column from Fere to the right bank of Arda, will bring attention to existing research, historical monuments and archaeological sights in the region. Municipalities of Ivailovgrad and Madzharovo, regional Thracian organizations as well as the newly founded Thracian Youth Organization, will approach relevant institutions to officially include Thracian ruins in future history textbooks. |
| Project name | Our Arda River - Creating Prerequisites for Tourism Development Along the Arda River |
| Applicant | Local Action Group - Madzharovo |
| Total Budget | 15 868 BGN |
| Summary | The Arda river passes through Municipalities Ivailovgrad and Madzharovo and makes a beautiful landscape that remains hidden from tourists travelling on the main road network in the area. This project will build two quays to attract tourists interested in rowing at the Ivailovgrad dam, and also activate a future water transport road/tourist route between the two municipalities. The two quays will be established near the village Borislavtzi and at the dam wall of Ivailovgrad and will provide temporary employment for eight persons. |

Forum Ivailovgrad / Madzharovo Projects (cont.)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Project name | Guide School for Young People |
| Applicant | Board of Trustees at Hristo Botev Secondary School, Ivailovgrad |
| Total Budget | 9 706 BGN |
| Summary | In an effort to popularize regional cultural heritage, the project plans to establish a school for young guides for young people and students from the municipalities of Ivailovgrad and Madzharovo. |
| Project name | Demo Workshops Vital Traditions |
| Applicant | Probuda Chitalishte, Ivailovgrad |
| Total Budget | 12 960 BGN |
| Summary | The main goal of this project is to preserve, popularize and develop local arts and crafts as a part of cultural heritage through more attractive tourist activities in the form of demonstration workshops. Four workshops will be created under the project. The demonstration workshops will be a perfect illustration of what the two primary schools do in the sphere of national and local crafts. |
| Project name | Live Heritage Along the Arda River to the Aegean Sea |
| Applicant | Probuda Chitalishte, Ivailovgrad |
| Total Budget | 13 111 BGN |
| Summary | This project focuses on popularizing the local folklore heritage as an important cultural product by organizing a Regional Folklore Festival "Living Heritage from Arda to the Aegean Sea" in Municipalities Madzharovo and Ivailovgrad. Cooperation from Greek and Turkish municipalities for future cultural exchange of amateur groups in the "Autumn Fair" in Ivailovgrad and "Day of Madzharovo" will be established. |
| Project name | Establishing Exhibition Centres of the Family Memory |
| Applicant | Probuda Chitalishte, Ivailovgrad |
| Total Budget | 7 133 BGN |
| Summary | The main project goal is to make a regional tourist product by establishing permanent exhibitions that visually present and document the life of the Bulgarian refugees from Asia Minor in Ivailovgrad and from the Borislavtzi village. Research, processing, and classification of literature, documents, and photos connected to the subject as well as collecting objects from the beginning of the 20th century are envisaged under the project. |

Forum Montana / Chiprovtsi Data


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|--|---|--|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch D2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Montana / Chiprovtsi | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Municipalities of Montana and Chiprovtsi | Cultural Heritage as a Factor for Sustainable Development of the Region |  |
| Site: Montana and Chiprovtsi | Support offices: FLGR in partnership with National Culture Fund | |
| Duration of session cycle: January – May 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 5 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 60–70 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Tourism, Traditions and Folklore | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 0 # of projects proposed: 5 # of projects included in the budget: 2 | # of recommendations: 0 # of recommendations implemented: 0 |
| Other outcome(s): Regional Cultural Strategy | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 23 120 BGN – SDC | Initiator: (in-kind contribution of both Municipalities) |
| Project fund: | Donor: 60 000 BGN – SDC; 20 000 BGN – NFC | Initiator: 15 000 BGN – Montana Municipality; 5 000 BGN – Chiprovtsi Municipality |
| Average project funding Donor: 45/30% | Average project funding Initiator: 10/5% | Average project funding Project partners: 10% |

Forum Montana / Chiprovtsi Projects

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|--------------|---|
| Project name | Socialization of Cultural Monuments in Montana-Chiprovtsi Region (Ancient Fortress and Gushovski Monastery) |
| Applicant | Regional Museum of History - Montana at Municipality of Montana |
| Total Budget | 105 670 BGN |
| Summary | The main goal of the project is to make Montana – Chiprovtsi region an attractive cultural and tourist destination by providing means of living for the local population and by making the cultural heritage of the region a means for its stable development. The following activities are envisaged under the project: Activities to improve existing infrastructure and develop historical/ cultural sites according to the European requirements for adaptation of historic monuments for cultural and ecological tourism; Demonstration and popularization of regional cultural heritage through diverse marketing strategies: Internet advertising , electronic passport and a promotional brochure; Instruction of young guides: 30 students with good foreign language skills will improve their knowledge in local history and will learn practical guide's skills. |
| Project name | Balkan's Song and Ogosta's Story |
| Applicant | Chitalishte "Petar Bogdan" - Chiprovtsi |
| Total Budget | 8 235 BGN |
| Summary | The project's main goal is to preserve and popularize regional folklore. Folklore fair "The Balkan sings – Chiprovtsi 2007" will be organized to present the folklore material gathered. Best materials collected will be also put on the region's website for cultural heritage. Two concerts in cooperation with the Municipality of Montana will be held at the "Gushovski Monastery" and in the Dramatic Theatre "Dragomir Asenov", Montana. |

4.4 MIZIA Forum

Forum Mizia Data

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| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3, Batch D2 | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum Mizia | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Regional Association for Development and Innovation – Mizia | Reaching consensus in the process of developing a Regional Innovation Strategy |  |
| Site: North Central and North Western Planning Regions, Bulgaria | Support offices: Forum Office (Knowledge Association) | |
| Duration of session cycle: May 2006 – October 2007 | | |
| Number of sessions: 11 (8 regional and 3 interregional) | | |
| Follow-up sessions: October 2007 | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional North Central and North Western planning regions of Bulgaria National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 80–100 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipalities Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Academic and research institutions; regional authorities; business associations | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: 3 # of projects proposed: # of projects included in the budget: | # of recommendations: 3 # of recommendations implemented: |
| Other outcome(s): Reached consensus on the strategic goals, priorities and actions of the Regional Innovation Strategy of the Mizia Region | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 63 374 BGN | Initiator: 64 154 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: | Initiator: |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |



5 NATIONAL FORUMS


5.1 Introduction

Successful as they all were, Forum activities at national level brought along a different set of challenges. National Forums generally deal with matters of state relevance – development of a strategy, a new policy, or a legal framework. The Forum process here plays an ancillary role, or at least a more restricted one than in other contexts; it covers only a part of the long process which such large issues usually require. Whatever the concrete outcomes to emerge out of the Forum process at this level, their legwork will be assumed by those responsible in another politically defined setting. This could include a lower level of government (regional, municipal), government departments with specific policy/administrative competence, or other non-state protagonists. A legal framework concerning, for example, a country-wide vocational education and training system, may indeed gain from a Forum debate involving a wide range of concerned stakeholders. But at the end of the day, the proposal will have to be formally processed by Government and Parliamentary authorities.


To ensure the success of Forums at this level, special arrangements are needed, because in a national context initiators find themselves at eye level with stakeholders and therefore need to actively participate in the Forum. Yet concurrently they need to play their political role very correctly and in a transparent way. Further it is indicated to specify in advance which outside expertise would be brought in during the discourse, because often enough any contribution from third parties is considered manipulative. Setting clear time-lines beforehand, for policy level decision of relevance in the process or for the ending of the Forum intervention, is also useful. Often, new participants appear during the process claiming a re-start of the process, and in other cases, some of them find it advantageous to extend the Forum cycle in order to delay the taking over of tasks and responsibilities delegated to them by the political institutions in charge.

5.2 Implemented National Forums


Forum on National Priorities Data

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| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum on National Priorities | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| Agency for Economic Analyses and Forecasts (AEAF) | Reaching consensus on the Operational Programmes Priorities of the National Development Plan of Bulgaria |  |
| Site: Sofia | Support offices: | |
| Duration of session cycle: March 2005 – December 2005 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 100 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality (Associations of Municipalities) Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: 7 leading ministries responsible for Operational Programmes (Ministries of Labour and Social Policy, Agriculture, Regional Development, Economy, Transport, Environment and Waters, State Administration) | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: # of projects proposed: # of projects included in the budget: | # of recommendations: 15 # of recommendations implemented: 15 |
| Other outcome(s): Reached consensus on the priorities of the Operational Programs in the National Development Plan | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 171 866 BGN | Initiator: 56 200 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: | Initiator: |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

Forum of Craftsmen Data

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|--|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: Phase 3 | | |
| Name of the Forum: National Forum of Craftsmen | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| National Chamber of Skilled Crafts (NCSC) | Enhance the competitive power of craft enterprises and the level of professional qualification by introducing a long-term professional training system, priorities of which have been identified on the basis of consensus among all stakeholders |  |
| Site: Sofia – National Forum sessions; Working Sessions and Roundtables held countrywide | Support offices: | |
| Duration of session cycle: June 2004 – March 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 3 National Forum Sessions; 10 Working sessions and Round tables | | |
| Follow-up sessions: | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Regional National | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 170 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Other groups: State institutions: Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Ministry of Economics National Chamber of Skilled Crafts National Crafts Branch Associations Regional Chambers of Skilled Crafts | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: # of projects proposed: # of projects included in the budget: | # of recommendations: 15 # of recommendations implemented: 15 |
| Other outcome(s): Development of a strategy introducing a long-term system of craft skills training | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: 94 478 BGN | Initiator: 102 170 BGN |
| Project fund: | Donor: | Initiator: |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

Forum on Sustainable Spatial Planning Data

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|---|--|---|
| Background by Forum type / Program Phase: | | |
| Name of the Forum: Forum on Sustainable Spatial Planning | | |
| Initiator: | Forum Topic: | Managing institution: |
| National Construction Supervision Directorate | Discussion on Sustainable Spatial Planning | ИНДУСТРИКОНСУЛТ INDUSTRIECONSULT  |
| Site: Sofia | Support offices: | |
| Duration of session cycle: April – November 2006 | | |
| Number of sessions: 4 | | |
| Follow-up sessions: | | |
| Type of Forum: | In geographic terms: | By results: |
| | Community District of a town Inter-municipal Indicate names Regional Characterize region National Other | Plan / Policy / Strategy Projects Recommendations Municipal Budget Other: |
| # of participants: 80 | | |
| # of stakeholders: | Municipality (National Association of Municipalities) Villages NGO Youth Business Cultural Institutions Educational institutions Sports Agriculture Other groups: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works; Construction Industry' Associations, Architects' Association, Municipal Architects, etc. | |
| Outcomes in projects and recommendations: | # of pilot projects: # of projects proposed: # of projects included in the budget: | # of recommendations: 27 # of recommendations implemented: 15 |
| Other outcome(s): Proposals for an amendment to the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) mainly regarding the position of the Chief Architect of the Municipality. Some recommendations were included in the last amendment of the SPA | | |
| Operational budget: | Donor: | Initiator: |
| Project fund: | Donor: 8 000 BGN | Initiator: 16 000 BGN |
| Average project funding Donor: | Average project funding Initiator: | Average project funding Project partners: |

