



**Foundation for Local
Government Reform**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Contact Information

Foundation for Local Government Reform

Yerusalim str., bl. 51

Office building, office 2

Mladost 1

1784 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel. (+ 359 2) 976 89 89

Fax: (+ 359 2) 976 89 30

flgr@flgr.bg

www.flgr.bg



Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR) is an independent professional resource centre, supporting local democracy.

Mission of the Foundation for Local Government Reform is to support local democracy and promote effective, partnership-based local development, based on democratic values, social inclusion and prosperity.

FLGR was established in May 1995.

FLGR has a 5-member Governing Body.

Objectives of FLGR:

- Short-term objectives: Investment in the social capital at local and regional level, increase of the capacity of citizens and NGOs to effectively participate in the decision making process, and local governance based on the 12 principles of good governance.
- Medium-term objectives: Support for effective, partnership-based local and regional development, based on democratic values, social inclusion and prosperity.
- Long-term objectives: Building of vibrant dynamic communities with strong participatory local self-government, with high standards of living, sustainable development and competitive local economy.

The main spheres of expertise of FLGR are:

- Training
- Participatory Local Governance
- Good Governance and Integrity
- Better Administrative Services
- Innovative Practices
- Increasing the capacity of the NGO sector
- Strategic planning

FLGR through study visits and exchanges supported the development of local democracy in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Georgia, Kosovo, Romania, Kaliningrad Region, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.

FLGR was part of the European network of local authorities for exchange of experiences LOGIN since its creation in 1999 until its closure at the end of 2011.

FLGR was part of the Mayors Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma Inclusion Network (MERI) 2013 - 2014.

FLGR is a founding member of Donor Fund Bulgaria.

FLGR Governing Body

Lachezar Rosenov, Mayor, Municipality of Dobrich (1995 - 2003), Chair of the Board

Deni Kamenov, Mayor, Municipality of Vidin (1991 - 1995), Vice-Chair of the Board

Ginka Kapitanova, Mayor, Municipality of Zlatograd (1991 - 1995), Executive Director of FLGR (1995 - 2007), Board Member

Roumen Draganov, Director, Institute for Analyses and Assessments in Tourism, Board Member

Zdravko Sechkov, Executive Director of FLGR, Board Member

The Team of FLGR

Zdravko Sechkov, Executive Director of FLGR

Gergana Stavreva, expert

Alexander Mihailov, expert

Rositsa Raycheva, expert

Demir Deyanov, expert

Elvira Koleva, accountant

FLGR has established a countrywide network of external experts.



INFORMATION RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Over the years FLGR developed effective and recognizable communication channels to communicate with customers and partners:

>> Website of FLGR

www.flgr.bg

The site is actively used, news are published and databases are updated.

Project Outline

Фондация за реформа в местното самоуправление

е-Седмичник | Финансиране | Обучение | Дискусионен форум

ENGLISH

Начало

За нас

Проекти

Издания

ФРМС Консулт

Център за обучение

Онлайн Библиотека

Иновационни практики

Законодателство

Контакт с общините

ДИСТАНЦИОННО ОБУЧЕНИЕ

Връзки

Начало

Е-Седмичник 21/2016

Излезе Е-Седмичник 21/2016

цялата статия...

НПО мрежа

ФРМС се включи в НПО мрежата за анализ на обществени рискове

цялата статия...

Форум „Река Марица като фактор за развитието на Южен централен район“

Покана за Регионален Обществен форум за Южен централен район, 3 февруари 2016 г.

цялата статия...

Имате ли представа какво е ТПТИ (ТТИР)?

Общо гласували: 6

Архив анкети

Да 16.7%

Донякъде 50.0%

Никаква 33.3%

21 години ФРМС

MUNICIPALS БЛОГ

MERI България

ВИЖ ВСИЧКИ НОВИНИ

>> FLGR E-Weekly

E-Weekly is issued since the end of 2001.

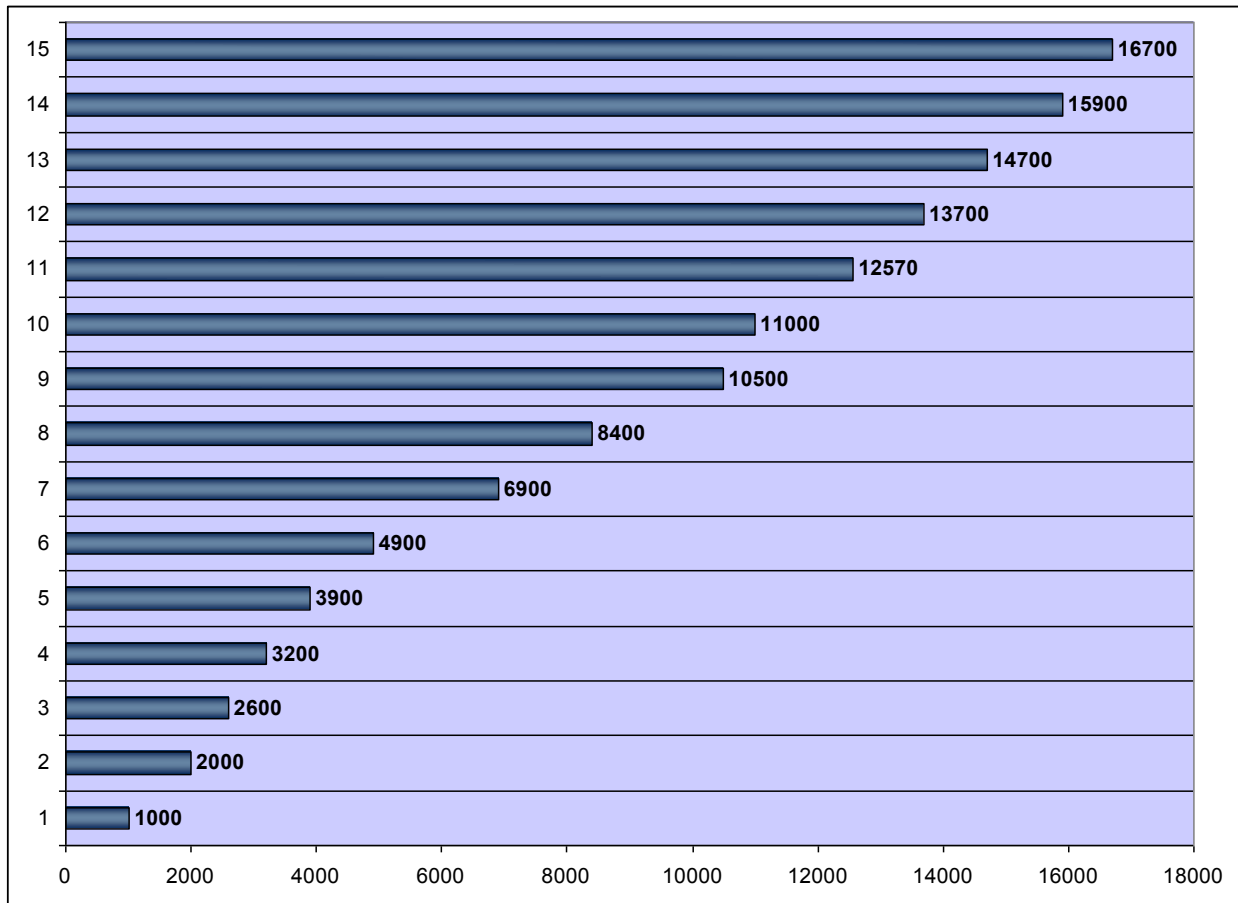
FLGR's E-Weekly in 2015 had 47 issues and presented to its subscribers:

- 683 funding opportunities and competitions;
- 374 training opportunities and internships.

FLGR enables subscribers to publish for free announcements about their initiatives and many NGOs, municipalities, community centers, schools and others sent for publishing and disseminating news on their undertakings.

Subscribers of the FLGR e-weekly increased from 15,985 at the end of 2014 to 16,700 at the end of 2015.

FLGR e-weekly Subscribers 2001 - 2015



>> Online Library

- Online library for 2015 provided access to 56 new publications in electronic form in Bulgarian and English.

The greatest interest provoked publications on topics of Civic education; Good governance; European Integration; Economic development; Social activities.

>> Online database of innovative practices



18th year in a row FLGR consistently promotes, collects, publishes and widely disseminates innovative practices that foster ingenuity and exchange of experience among Bulgarian local governments and NGOs through its project "Innovative Practices in Bulgaria". Launched in September 1998, the project creates a sustainable model for the collection and dissemination of innovative practices in local government.

Since the end of 2001 FLGR awarded local governments for being innovative in different thematic areas, in the period of 2002 – 2009 – with the annual award "Innovative Municipality".

Online database of good practices in 2015 was enriched with 101 new practices.

The total number of published good practices since 1998, reached 1443.

PROMOTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT



In November 2014 FLGR in cooperation with Mysya Regional Association for Development and Innovation started work on the project „Promoting citizen participation in the formulation and implementation of policies for regional and local development”, financed by the NGO Programme in Bulgaria under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2009-2014.

In 2015, the work on project continued.

The objective of the project is to ensure the effective involvement of citizens and their organizations in the process of formulation and implementation of policies for regional and local development.

Specific objective of the project is to improve citizen capacity and create well functioning forms for real participation of citizens and their organizations in the process.

In the framework of the project were elaborated:

- Analysis of stakeholders in the process of formation and implementation of policies for regional and local development;

- Review and analysis of the legislative policy framework for regional and local development with a focus on problem areas that restrict the participation of citizens in the process;
- Review and analysis of the gathered and summarized primary information on citizen participation in the process of formulation and implementation of policies for regional and local development.

In the framework of the project were developed and discussed in public consultations recommendations for legislative and institutional changes with the objective to create a mechanism for citizen participation in the policy for regional and local development, as well as the very mechanism for civil participation in policies for regional and local development .



Prepared and conducted were 8 trainings for decision-makers in public administration and civil society NGOs representatives on "Participation of citizens in the process of formulating and implementing policies for regional and local development" in Varna, Plovdiv, Burgas, Sofia, etc.

The contribution of FLGR to the project was based on the expert work of the organization in formulating the policies for local and regional development, and its longstanding cooperation with regional and local authorities and NGOs.

FLGR activities supported the project in the following areas:

- Elaboration of Analysis of stakeholders in the process of formation and implementation of policies for regional and local development;
- Elaboration of Review and analysis of the legislative policy framework for regional and local development with a focus on problem areas that restrict the participation of citizens in the process;
- Preparation the conditions to collect, summarize and evaluate primary information on obstacles to citizens and their organizations to participate in policies for regional and local development by poll-depth interviews and focus groups.

In 2016 the elaborated mechanism for citizen participation in the formulation and implementation of policies for regional and local development will be pilotly tested.

STUDY VISIT

In the period 13 - 19 April 2015 FLGR carried out study visit for representatives of municipalities, civil society organizations, government officials from the Kyrgyz Republic in Bulgaria.

The visit was realized in the framework of the project "Partnership of non-governmental organizations and local authorities in addressing priority issues of local communities" in the framework of the initiative of the German Society for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ) to support civil society through support of civil society organizations in the implementation of local development projects in rural, mountainous and remote areas of Kyrgyzstan.

The goal of the study visit was to acquaint representatives from Kyrgyz municipalities, civil society organizations, government officials and development project team with Bulgarian experience in social services and particularly in the involvement of NGO sector in provision of municipal social services.

Guests from Kyrgyzstan had meetings with officials and experts from the Council of Ministers, National Association of Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, municipalities of Veliko Tarnovo, Mezdra, Dolna Banya and Sofia. The guests got acquainted with the main trends in the provision of social services in Bulgaria and with concrete social initiatives, centers and enterprises on spot, the work of the Foundation "Institute for social services in the community," Foundation "Lale", National Network of Children and Association "Aegida".

In their journey through Bulgaria participants in the delegation from Kyrgyzstan got not only comprehensive professional information, but also knowledge of the history and development of Bulgaria.

The study visit for representatives of municipalities, civil society organizations, government officials and development project team from Kyrgyz Republic in Bulgaria was a valuable experience for the Foundation for Local Government Reform and is a solid prerequisite for future contacts and joint projects.

RE-START PROGRAMME: COMPUTERS FOR INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN SMALL SETTLEMENTS



In 2015, for the third consecutive year FLGR provided logistical support to the initiative of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Swiss Embassy in Sofia - Program Re-Start, phases 7 and 8, to provide computers and office equipment to organizations and institutions from small settlements in the country.

In response to the stated needs to 27 Bulgarian organizations and institutions were provided 261 workstations, laptops, printers and servers.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Associations approved to participate in the Public Council of the Commission for interaction with NGOs and citizens' complaints to the 43rd National Assembly, in the area of competence "Development of Local Communities", including FLGR, chose as their representative to the Public Council Zdravko Sechkov, FLGR Executive Director.
- FLGR in 2015 continued its partnership with the University of National and World Economy - Sofia, incl. enabling students' internships and meeting with visiting interns from partner universities in the US.
- For consecutive year FLGR partnered Via Expo in conducting 4 specialized conferences:



- On Energy Efficiency
- On Waste management and recycling
- On Smart Cities
- On Disasters and Accidents

■ Human of the Year 2015

www.humanoftheyear.org

“Human of the Year” is an annual award recognizing contribution to human rights in Bulgaria.

The award was initiated by the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee in 2008 and since then FLGR acts as a media partner of the BHC.



- Municipalities, cultural centers, NGOs etc. publish on their websites and in their publications information from the section "Financing and Training Opportunities " of FLGR e-weekly - for ex. National Network of Children, Ethnicities and others.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In 2015, team of FLGR participated in elaboration of:

- Decentralization Strategy for the period 2016-2025, and the Programme for the implementation of the Decentralization Strategy 2016-2019;
- Upgrade, update and maintenance of the specialized software of the register for agglomerations under the Protection the environment from noise, pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 of Ordinance №3 of 25.04.2006. Maintenance and content of the records of agglomerations, major roads, railways and airports in the country;
- Assessing the impact of proposed changes to the Regional Development Act;
- Annual Report to assess the relevance, effectiveness, coherence and complementarity of the program "Promotion of fresh cherries in Third Countries (Russia and Norway)", with other promotional initiatives;

- Annual report with recommendations for ongoing optimization of promotional activities under the program "Promotion of fresh cherries in Third Countries (Russia and Norway)".



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