

PROGRAM LOCAL AGENDA 21 "SUSTAINABLE SOFIA"

General information

Based on a proposal of the Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration "ECOREGIONS" /ASDE/, Sofia Municipality has started a Program "Local Agenda 21-Sustainable Sofia". The Program was approved by the City Council on the 7th of November, 2001 and will be implemented in cooperation with ASDE and with the support and participation of the Ministry of Environment and Waters, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the state administration, UNDP, and other NGO's. A Bureau – "Sustainable Sofia 21" is established.

The main partner of Sofia Municipality in the LA 21 – ASDE, is created end of 1997, initiated by a PHARE project - Ecozone Sofia-East. The main goal is to support and participate in the formation of municipal and governmental sustainable development policy and related pilot projects.

Sofia Municipality and ASDE are collaborating with international partners as – the Bavarian Ministry of Regional Development and Environment, the European Academy for Urban Environment-Berlin, the city of Muenchen, the city of Berlin; the World bank; etc. Program "Local Agenda" is included in the preparation of the Master Plan of Sofia.

First stage of Local Agenda/LA/ 21 is the finished consultative process with the administrative bodies (including the 24 city-districts), the citizens and the business sector:

- Analysis of the actual sustainability in Sofia;
- Local targets for sustainable development;
- Matrix of indicators;
- Transparency in information and administrative activity for citizens;
- Consensus and public involvement for the in the municipal policy for sustainability;

- Mechanisms for management and support of the Program;

General success indicators.

1. Economic development.

Started actions:

- Preparation of a voluntary agreement with the business sector;
- Experimental project for energy efficiency in schools;
- Establishing a JSC with the Municipal Bank and RWE-Germany for Energy Efficiency;
- Establishing ECOZONE INC, by the members of ASDE, for support of the pilot projects;

2. Social development

Started actions:

- Actions with local administration for transparency in decision making process;
- Eco-Media – radio discussions and TV reportage's;
- Support for the creation of a local NGO – "Gorubljanje 21";
- "Part- time" engagement for local unemployed people;
- Realized project for playgrounds, integrating healthy and handicapped children;
- Periodically organized "Eco-festival - Sofia-Mladost", close work with schools and youths;
- PR campaign for energy efficiency;
- Public inquiry campaign "Cities in Dialogue" with Berlin, Bratislava and other cities;
- participation in the Master Plan of Sofia and the Sofia Sustainable Strategy of the World Bank;

3. Environment protection

Started actions:

- Realization of the wastewater collector for Gorubljanje village;
- Saved river Iskar biotops;

- Bio diversity study for part of the river Iskar area– in partnership with the Bavarian Ministry of Regional Development and Waters;

- Master plan for Eco-village Gorubljanje -energy efficiency, RES, environment rehabilitation;
- Development of eco-cartography and geographical information system (GIS); using satellite imagery – in partnership with DLR – Germany;

4. Sustainability

- Future work for 2002-2003 is the elaboration of a Strategy for Sustainable Development and Action Plan – "Sustainable Sofia" - support of Word Bank Strategy and the Urban Master Plan of Sofia;
- Establishment of a E-government Working Group under the leadership of the Minister of State Administration; preparation of a pilot e-government projects for Sofia and Russe;
- Priority LA 21 initiatives for the districts – Mladost, Kremikovzy and Izgrev;



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