

LOCAL TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, EUROINTEGRATION (GLOBALISATION) AND CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN THE INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

The project addresses a region-wide environmental issues

- The environmental problems are a priority for the countries involved from the CEE and NIS region.
- The environment is the main focus of sustainability

Lessons learned

- ❖ 10 years after Rio this countries cannot report a significant progres for econmical, social and environmental sustainability.
- ❖ They are a great number of organizations, NGOs and institutions working on sustainability issues, focuses primarily on the environment. The crucial problem is that many of them work in isolation from each other. There are National Strategies for the Environment and many sectored programs, but not enough integrated and subordinated, without effective practical application
- ❖ The project takes into account the conclusions of the EC Regular Report and in particular the gaps of Bulgarian (Yugoslavia, Azerbaijan) process identified and will propose in advance implementation of solutions to the main weaknesses in the sustainability.
- ❖ Countries in transition and big cities/capitals/ have very similar problems in the environmental management (large resources consummation, past damages, old technologies, stagnation of production lack of waste and wastewater treatment facilities, etc). All this questions are focused in the urban environment or in the periphery of cities and there outlying areas.

- ❖ In the last years the citizens are very sensitive for environmental issues on the one hand, and of the other hand there is an deficit in the properly administrative management and transparency decision taking for environmental questions and sustainable development as whole
- ❖ The privatization process is effectively used as a tool to achieve compliance of industrial activities with the environmental legislation and standard.

Priority need: An integrated management and decision making process is needed. A first set of tools in this project proposal include characteristic maters for the partner cities:

- Baku/Sofia/Nis – tools for problem solution in local self management
- Baku – Cleanness in the city and the general business (psychological pollution, etc)
- Nis – Waste management and information, EIA, Environmental policy and participation
- Sofia – on the way of local Agenda 21, Alliance for sustainability (voluntary agreement between administration, business and citizens), pilot projects on environment and other sustainability issues in the Ecozone Sofia and its local model for sustainable development and eurointegration (LMSDE)
- Danish NGO – experience in citizens participation, local Agenda process and works in community governance

THE GOAL :

The road from Rio to Johannesburg is only one "Our common future is sustainable development on local, regional, national, global level"
Our answer to the process Rio+10 :

- 10 Steps to solve environmental problems on the local level with international support in network
- 10 Tools to assess application of Local Agenda 21 in urban environment

Strategic Objectives :

- Acceleration and strengthening the Accession Process in compliance with the European Union
- The Local Eurointegration /Accession Model – SOFIA is a complex one, but the main priorities are in the field of local implementation of EU – requirements, standards, legislation, environmental quality, etc.

The **wider objective** is to:

- Improve the CITIZENSHIPS, DEMOCRACY AND ACTUAL GOVERNANCE in the CEE and NIS countries
- Sustainable development tools in all fields of sustainability and specially for ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION;
- To achieve on INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT and transparency governance for democracy enforcement in wide region context

The **specific objective** is to define and implement a strategic program and package of adequate steps for city region Sofia, Nis, Baku and to rise the political, environmental, economic and social standards closer to the requirements of European Union long before completion of the accession process and as a model case for Central and Eastern Europe and NIS

ACTIONS :

- Works on a short set of tools, as instrument for achieving integrated management for local sustainability and conditions for European integration (GIS- based Information system with public centre, local media and assurance of the citizens constitutional right for adequate information – Aarhus, etc)
- Verifying the mechanisms of implementation (by partnerships network in the Local Agenda 21, the Six Environmental Program, EC principles for Sustainable Regional Planning, the new Johannesburg's priorities.
- Monitoring of success by selected indicators (democracy, EEA procedure's , environmental corruption, etc)
- Specific project approach – by the integration between the key-

studies from the partners cities as a team work

Detailed Actions :

1. On the bases of short existing SWOT-analysis selection of priority fields of the cooperative project - environment and economic, self-governance and social. - 2 months
2. To choose of partner key studies as input (se flow chart) - 1 months
3. Creation of a short set of indicators for assesment and monitoring (identification of local indicators for sustainability, stress on environmental problems in the urban areas, etc) - 2 months
4. Defination of a short list of tools (Aarhus Convention, local legislation and regulations, etc.) - 2 months
5. Verification of indicators and tools in the three project regions - 3 months
6. Creation of the Frame for Alliance /Pact for suitability /– model Ekozone Sofia, Nis, Baku - 4 months

Detailed steps for the action can be :

- Selection of target groups and NGO with interest in environmental protection
- Participation in regional dialogues (working meeting/workshop/seminars/ on public participation) and sharing of knowledge and experience
- Produce, publish and disseminate relevant materials generated by the project

Time schedule - 14 months (see budget table)

RESULTS :

The results of the project must be in general:

- A joint **Strategy for Local Sustainable Eurointegration / Accession Process of the Regions Sofia; Nis, Baku;**
- **Local Action Plan** for the three Regions, including deficits for handling with strong public private partnership;
- Creation of a EU-sound **local legal & regulation base and mechanisms** for support of the accession and sustainable development process ;

- Demonstration of “good example-**Ecozone Sofia**”, (Nis, Baku) **case of local accession program** and local institution building;
- Improvement transparency and public control on legal transposition, project implementation and management as CEEC demo case and to fulfil the requirements of the EU criterion;

Expected final results :

- Strengthening civil socaety as activ actor in the sustainable development
- Better conditions for adequate institutional framework (commune, busines, etc)
- Determination indicators assessing sustainability primarily in urban environment
- Raising ecological benefits from plan and project realization
- Application Aarhus Convention Principles and new Johannesburg directives in practice
- Coordination between the municipality environmental policy with the economic and social sectors, the public
- To combine the interest between the inhabitants and business
- Adoption of foreign experience in adequate practices in decision making process
- Frame and tools for Alliance for local sustainability
- Creation NGO Network "4 + new 4 + new ?" countries/cities from Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Yugoslavia, Denmark

BUDGET :

Total Budget - 35 000 EUR, for 14 months duration, including :

- 2 000 EUR in kind from Sofia Municipality and the ASDE for rooms, overhead costs, meetings
- 33 000 EUR project budget from the REC-DANCEE for the detailed activities

ACTIVITIES	EUR
1. Use of existing SWOT-analysis for environment and economic, self-governance and social.	2000
2. Selection of priority fields of the cooperative project	2000
3. Choise and works on partner key studies as input (se flow chart)	2700
4. Creation of a short set of indicators for assesment and monitoring	2500
5. Selection of target groups and NGO with interest in environmental protection	2000
6. Definition of a short list of tools (Aarhus Convention, local legislation and regulations, etc.)	4700
7. Verification of indicators and tools in the three project regions	4700
8. Organization of project dialogues (working meeting/ workshop/ seminars/ on public participation) and sharing of knowledge and experience	2400
9. Creation of the Frame for Alliance /Pact for suitability /–model Ekozone Sofia, Nis, Baku	5000
10. Produce, publish and disseminate relevant materials for integrated environmental management, generated by the project	5000
Total	33 000

ROLE OF THE PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS

ASDE “Ecozone Sofia” – Leader

- Non-governmental organisation, co-ordinating body for building of a constructive citizen forum at the Agenda 21-Bureau, based on a constructive partnerships and consensus approach
- project leader, as member of the Sofia’s Agenda Bureau responsible for a successful Agenda process and the civil participation, for training and awareness

Sofia Municipality (some of the 24 Sofia municipal districts) – sustainable urban environment

- facilitate the dialog-platform for information and discussions; multiplication of the results

beneficent; examples for good / bad projects and practices ; conflicts; verification of best practices for implementation of different tools and project's measures

EPA – Nis, Yugoslavia

- key-study and experience sheering (waste management, business ships, training, etc)
- multiplication and verification of project outputs

CCI – Baku, Azerbaijan

- key-study and experience sheering (self governance, sustainable agriculture, city cleanness, etc)
- multiplication and verification of project outputs

An Danish NGO

- exchange and multiplication of Danish experience and good practice
- co-operative works and advising in the project and for the partners

Citizens and NGO(s)

- building of interested target groups and adequate participation on discussions and decisions
- constructive dialog ; consensus wiliness

Others co-partners – Ministries of Environment, other state institutions and national associations

- information source; logistical and methodological support