



**IPA CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME  
CCI 2007CB16IPO007**



# **COMPENDIUM** under the **SECOND CALL**



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Dear friends,

It is a great pleasure for us to present the second edition of the catalogue with projects financed by the IPA Cross-border Programme 2007 - 2013.

This catalogue provides an insight into the projects approved for funding under the second Call for Proposals and how they contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion of both border regions. The projects are jointly prepared and implemented by Bulgarian and Macedonian partners with a view to provide adequate solution to common problems of the border area. Traditional neighbourly partnerships established as a result of already successfully implemented cross-border projects under the previous call, and the new opportunities that the second call provided is a good basis on which we could contribute to further development. The programme has gained a lot of interest in applications by institutions and organizations in the region.

During the programming period 2007 - 2013 experience gained in cross-border cooperation shows growth in the capacity of re-

gional and local authorities in development and implementation of joint projects. Projects, although relatively small in size of the financing proved to be valuable for the development of sustainable economic and cultural relations on both sides of the border.

The purpose of this catalogue is not only to showcase current projects, but also to help regional and local authorities in both countries capitalise on already-existing exchange of good practices.

In conclusion we would like to declare our readiness to continue working for building up the cooperation between regional and local organizations in the border region in order to achieve the overall strategic goal of the programme - strengthening the territorial cohesion of the Bulgarian-Macedonian cross-border region, competitiveness and sustainable development.

Enjoy your reading!

IPA CBC Programme team



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## CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Cross-border programme between Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is financed by the „European Territorial Cooperation“ objective through the Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA) and co-financed by the state budgets of both partnering countries. The total budget of the Programme for the period 2007 - 2013 is 19 944 697 Euro, and 17 950 228 Euro are used for financing projects under a single set of rules and common approach based on mutual benefit for participants from both sides of the border. Thus the Instrument for Pre-accession assistance encourages cooperation, economic integration and convergence between the EU and candidate countries.

Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme for the period 2007 - 2013 was prepared as a result of coordinated efforts of relevant national institutions and a wide range of stakeholders at local, regional and national level, and was approved by the European Commission on 14 December 2007.

The eligible area of the Programme covers a territory of 18 736 sq. km with total population of 1 065 605 people. The overall borderline length is 165 km.

The border area of Bulgaria comprises the districts of Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil (NUTS III), covering 9 501 sq. km (8.6% of the total country territory) and with population of 486 291 people (6.3% of the total country population). It consists of 23 municipalities (NUTS IV) and 462 settlements:

- District of Blagoevgrad: 14 municipalities - Bansko, Belica, Blagoevgrad, Gotce Delchev, Garmen, Kresna, Petrich, Razlog, Sandanski, Satovcha, Simitli, Strumiani, Hadjidimovo, Yakoruda;
- District of Kyustendil: 9 municipalities - Bobovdol, Boboshevo, Dupnitsa, Kocherinovo, Kyustendil, Nevestino, Rila, Sapareva Banya, Trekliano.

The border area of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia comprises the North-East, the East and the South-East NUTS III sta-

tistical regions covering 9 235 sq. km (35,9 % of the total country territory) and with population of 579 314 people (28.6 % of the total country population). It consists of 27 municipalities (NUTS IV), including 641 settlements:

- North-East region: 6 municipalities - Kratovo, Kriva Palanka, Rankovce, Kumanovo, Lipkovo and Staro Nagoricane;
- East region: 11 municipalities - Berovo, Pehcevo, Vinica, Kocani, Cesinovo - Oblesevo, Zrnovci, Probistip, Stip, Karbinci, Delcevo, Makedonska Kamenica;
- South-East region: 10 municipalities - Valandovo, Gevgelija, Bogdanci, Dojran, Radovis, Konce, Strumica, Bosilovo, Vasilevo and Novo Selo.





## PRIORITY AXES OF THE PROGRAMME

### PRIORITY AXIS 1

#### ***Economic development and social cohesion***

The objective of this priority axis is to increase the competitiveness and economic growth in the border region, employment growth, economic and social integration of the region, including:

- development of economically competitive region through innovation and cooperation across the border;
- promotion of entrepreneurship;
- promotion the economy based on knowledge and social entrepreneurship;
- promotion of networking and clustering;
- increase of employment.

#### ***Spheres of Intervention:***

- 1.1 Economic Development
- 1.2 Social Cohesion
- 1.3 Project preparation



### PRIORITY AXIS 2

#### ***Improvement the quality of life***

The objective of this priority axis is to create conditions for protection and use of natural and cultural resources through:

- development of tourism based on natural and cultural resources;
- biodiversity conservation;
- cross-border cultural cooperation.

#### ***Spheres of Intervention:***

- 2.1 Utilisation of eco resources
- 2.2 Utilisation of cultural resources



### PRIORITY AXIS 3

#### ***Technical assistance***

Technical assistance goal is to ensure effective programme management and information flow in order to be achieved the programme objectives.



## RESULTS

During this programming period 2007 - 2013, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance brought new challenges to the management structures and to the project beneficiaries, who had to change-over to the new criteria for shared management and joint actions. The implementing structures and the management and control system established for the purpose of the current programme are fully operational with the necessary capacity.

Three open calls for proposals were launched under the period 2007 - 2013 which attracted a total of 310 applications. This figure is a positive sign for the dynamics of the bilateral collaboration between the two neighbouring countries and show intensity of cooperation at stage of preparation of project proposals. At the same time, the big number of common project proposals demonstrates good will and increased interest in launching common cross-border initiatives contributing to the sustainable development of the region.

As a result of selection procedures, contracts for implementation of 98 projects were signed, each involving 2 or more project partners from both countries. These projects are jointly implemented by 223 entities (municipalities, district administrations, non-profit organisations, cultural and educational institutions, etc.) The financed projects cover variety of thematic issues including improving small-scale public infrastructure, protecting the environment, investing in education and knowledge sharing, strengthening research and innovation, enhancing cultural exchange, promoting local and regional governance, etc. Projects under the programme are relatively small in budget but create valuable cross-border partnership, influence territorial cohesion, contribute for sharing the European values and integration.



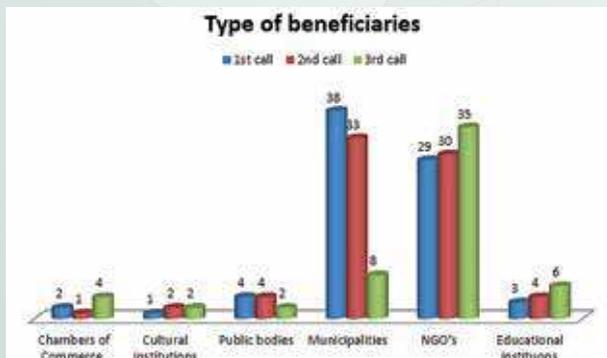


## BENEFICIARIES

Variety of regional and local entities (municipalities, district administrations, NGO's, cultural and educational institutions, associations and business support organizations, etc.) had directly benefited by the IPA Cross-border Programme through participation in projects.

Citizens and governments of the two countries also benefited from the results of the Programme. Indirectly, the inhabitants of the cross-border region benefited from the Programme through the direct investments in the region and the joint use of infrastructure, enhanced cooperation activities in sectors as culture, tourism and education.

The Programme contributes also for the progressive alignment of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with the standards and policies of the European Union with a view to the forthcoming membership. As regards the direct advantages for the partnering candidate-country (in light of EU accession), the Programme facilitates the transition to the EU practices on a multi-level basis (becoming more familiar with the use of the instruments in place for implementing mainstream EU interventions, the transfer of know-how between Programme implementing structures, etc.).



Info day for potential beneficiaries



Working meeting with beneficiaries in JTS Kyustendil



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION  
Projects under Priority axis 1

**PROJECT TITLE**

Sharing of experience and information in wine production industry - a way for cross-border economic development - Cross-border wine production

**AXIS**

Axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.1 Economic Development

**LEAD PARTNER**

Association Regional Center of Cooperation SPECTAR - Kriva Palanka

**PARTNER 2**

Eurointegra Association - Kresna - Sandanski branch

**PARTNER 3**

Union of enologists in Bulgaria - Blagoevgrad branch

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

99 945, 73 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project Strategy is based on strengths of the sector and aims at improvement of coordination between viticulture and wine production through establishment of Macedonian enologists' Association and exchange of important and appropriate information. Coordination between Bulgarian and Macedonian stakeholders was improved and thus a better condition for observation of EU regulations in wine sector was developed. Elaborated training methodologies, materials, presentations and manual on EU regulations affected positively the problems with sectors' links with science and increased the skilled labour. The mapping and database developed under the project directly supported further joint efforts for linkage and information sharing of all stakeholders.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Agribusiness without borders - AWB

**AXIS**

Priority axis 1: Economic  
Development and Social  
Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.1 Economic Development

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Sandanski

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Novo Selo

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

497 378.00 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The strategy of project „Agribusiness Without Borders” takes advantage of cross-border partnership in addressing the needs and reducing weaknesses of all citizens and farmers. The project was divided into 2 parts. First part included investment - partial repair and modernization of commercial areas -markets in Sandanski and Novo Selo. The second part included common agribusiness activities: forums for the exchange of experiences and educational meetings. Investment measures were implemented during the first year as the agribusiness events followed in the second. The public and media were informed about the activities during the all period of implementation of the project.



**PROJECT TITLE**

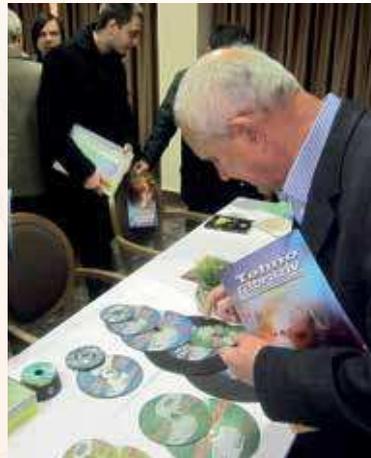
Business has no borders - BNB

**AXIS**

Priority axis 1: Economic  
Development and Social  
Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.1 Economic Development

**LEAD PARTNER**

Bulgarian Management Association -  
Blagoevgrad

**PARTNER 2**

RCC Spectar - Kriva Palanka

**PARTNER 3**

Stratos Foundation - Simitli

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

94 273,49 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is addressed to integrated research, analysis and preparation of a strategy for integrated cross-border economic development. It is designed to help local authorities, NGOs supporting businesses, investors and finance providers to adjust their policies and plans to meet the needs of entrepreneurs and small businesses in the area. Two study visits in Bulgaria and Macedonia and conference on entrepreneurship and business opportunities had helped to be established a number of cross-border partnerships, exchange information on business opportunities, best practices and know-how among entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises and farmers from both sides of the border.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Networking and transfer of knowledge for sustainable economic tourism development - NET-TOUR

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.1 Economic Development

**LEAD PARTNER**

Foundation for Local and IT development - Gevgelija

**PARTNER 2**

Business Incubator Gotse Delchev, Entrepreneurship Promotion Center (BI-GD)

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

97 014, 29 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project has supported and encouraged the cooperation between small and medium enterprises in Bulgaria and Macedonia in the field of tourism in the border region of Gevgelija - Gotse Delchev. Capacities and skills of the workforce in the tourism sector have increased through training organized by both parties with the participation of small and medium enterprises from both countries. Based on the previous experience partners found new opportunities for development in the period of economic crisis and developed of common database of SMEs in the tourism and other sectors. Created web portal for integrated tourism offer together with joint tour packages and promo materials were distributed in the cross-border region as an attractive destination.



**PROJECT TITLE**

e-Commerce in support of exports from the cross-border region  
 Strumica - Kyustendil - e-Export

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 1: Economic  
 Development and Social  
 Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.1 Economic Development

**LEAD PARTNER**

Center for development and promotion  
 Promo Idea - Strumica

**PARTNER 2**

National Association of Small and Medium  
 Business – NASMB - Kyustendil

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

97 324, 30 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Projects aims at access to markets with better-prepared analysis of export potential, export guide, database and B2B portal. Training and in-home consultations helped SMEs to design and develop the right product and to improve the distribution and promotion (focused on internet marketing and sales), while the database, B2B electronic web portal, B2B meetings and Fair View support their export promotions. The development of successful export requires close cooperation between SMEs, municipalities and state institutions. Project activities are related to networking, information sharing and establishment of partnerships between export-oriented small and medium enterprises supported to promote exports from the border region of Strumica - Kyustendil.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Forms of Cooperation among craftsmen nad SME's for joint participation in local cultural and economic events in Municplaities Kustendil, Strumica and Kriva Palanka

**AXIS**

Axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.1 Economic Development

**LEAD PARTNER**

Foundation for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises - Strumica

**PARTNER 2**

Regional Chamber of Skilled Crafts - Kyustendil

**PARTNER 3**

Agency for Regional Development, Kriva Palanka

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

97 528, 08 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project aims at establishing forms of communication among associations (project partners) that will lead to specific forms of cooperation among craftsmen and SME's. Project strategy was survey of craftsmen' and Small and Medium Entrepreneurs' opinion about potential to expand cross-border participation in the regional events. The training create a model of communication and cooperation between partners and directly beneficiaries (craftsmen and SM Entrepreneurs) in order to be designed and produced innovative products and forms for joint participation.



**PROJECT TITLE**

European Knowledge and Qualification Network in the Cross-Border Region -  
 EKQ NET IN CBR BG-MK

**AXIS**

Priority axis 1: Economic  
 Development and Social  
 Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**LEAD PARTNER**

Social Integration and Mutual Aid Association -  
 Zhabokrat

**PARTNER 2**

Association Alpha Club To Survive - Branch  
 Blagoevgrad

**PARTNER 3**

Municipality of Gevgelija

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

99 959, 31 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project aims at achieving balanced and sustainable development in the cross-border region of integrated interaction of different factors, like physical infrastructure, providers of educational services, civil society structures, etc., and active inclusion of labour force. Project partnership is based on the synergy of partners previous experience and specific expertise. Project partners Municipality of Gevgelija experienced in improving infrastructure and cross-border cooperation, the project partner Social Integration and Mutual Aid Association - Zhabokrat has VET centre and is licensed to provide training and social services - training and support of children, partner project Association Alpha Club To Survive - Branch Blagoevgrad has experience in professional training and overcoming the negative effects of various social factors in transition to a market economy. The project promotes a new approach to cross-border human resource development and collaboration tool EKQ Net and medium-term strategic plan provides long-lasting effects. <http://www.ekqnet.com/>



**PROJECT TITLE**

Social cohesion through investments in Human resources

**AXIS**

Priority axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION****LEAD PARTNER**

Alliance for regional and civil initiatives (ARCI) - Branch Blagoevgrad

**PARTNER 2**

Foundation for small and medium enterprises development - Kumanovo

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

77 433, 68 EUR



The aim at development of human resources through training and cooperation among institutions and organizations, acquiring knowledge mobility and employability in the region including vulnerable groups. The project encourages the search for work and gaining new qualifications. Continuous integration of unemployed in the labour market and improve the ratio between demand and supply of labor can be achieved through the mediation work and vocational training. Both partners combine the advantages of implementation, Lead partner has significant experience in providing training and cooperation with relevant institutions and project partner working with small and medium enterprises and vulnerable groups.



**PROJECT TITLE**

NETworking for Efficient and Sustainable Civil Society across the Border - NetWESS

**AXIS**

Priority axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**LEAD PARTNER**

European Institute - branch Blagoevgrad

**PARTNER 2**

Center for Intercultural Dialogue - Kumanovo

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

94 420, 00 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project focuses on networking and cooperation among the existing civil society sector in the cross-border cooperation area and NGOs operating in various sectors of economic activity (most are active in the field of education, ecology, tourism, social inclusion). This contributes to efforts of civil society activity for sustainable regional development and planning, business support and employment needs. The project strategy combines research activities to outline the current profile of the civil society sector (also with the help of municipalities), capacity-building and networking activities, and awareness rising and promotion of knowledge. Info web portal was created to support the CBC initiatives of an informal network.



**PROJECT TITLE**

All children learn together - Cross border network of inclusive schools - TOGETHER

**AXIS**

Priority axis 1: Economic  
Development and Social  
Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**LEAD PARTNER**

Centre for Development of the Third North-East  
Planning Region - Kumanovo

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Dupnica

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

498 896, 59 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Strategic goal of the project is to influence directly on social exclusion of persons with disabilities and their poor economic position and thus, in long terms, to reduce the level of unemployment of this vulnerable group. The project undertakes activities that facilitate social inclusion of persons with disabilities through direct contact with citizens and students, and all stake holders. Long term cooperation between teachers in the border region is provided through the establishment of the traditional annual staff meetings. Through the construction of appropriate infrastructure the project improves conditions for stay of children with disabilities in the schools, which provides opportunities for their school inclusion. The established network contributes to better utilization of existing rehabilitation centres.



**PROJECT TITLE**

To keep the youth in the cross border region - new - Y4Y

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 1: Economic  
Development and Social  
Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Staro Nagoricane

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Rila

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

466 350, 51 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at creating sustainable environment to attract the young people to stay and live in the cross border region. Old unused municipal buildings were reconstructed into Youth Training Centers and Labor Market Analysis (LMA). As a result of 40 youth from municipalities of Staro Nagoricane and Rila had passed Job Related Training and received retraining Certificate. Several companies from the municipalities signed Letter of Confirmation and accept retrained youth on practice with potential of permanent employment. Also, two Y4Y NGOs were established as future manager organizations of the Training centers.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Improvement of the quality and access to social services in the municipalities of Strumyani and Karbinci - S. - C.A.R.E.

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTEREST**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Strumyani

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Karbinci

**DURATION**

18 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

499 452, 37 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project envisages the establishment of new social services within the communities - Protected House for elderly people with mental disabilities in the village of Razdol (Strumyani) and a kindergarten with ability to welcome children with special needs in the village of Tarinci (Karbinci). These old people need professional rehabilitation and contacts with each other to overcome isolation were included in everyday life of the community. Children with special needs that cannot be fulfilled in a regular kindergarten as a result of the project were included in the education system. Established centres contribute to social inclusion of those disadvantaged groups as for the exchange of knowledge between professionals in the social sphere of the border region.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Hand in hand: little Bulgarians and Macedonians

**AXIS**

Axis 1: Economic Development  
and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Vasilevo

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Strumyani

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

492 565, 26 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The implementation of this project led to organized pre-school education of the under school age children and improved conditions for raising and education of children from both cross-border municipalities. Investment activities are related to construction of building for kindergarden in village of Vasilevo and local team heating installation in the kindergardens in the villages Mikrevo, Ilindenci and Strumiani. Preconditions for improved and equal opportunities for professional realization of the parents; transfer and exchange of good pedagogical practices, establishment of long term partner relations between the people from the two cross-border municipalities.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Sustainable economic development through improvement of the social infrastructure in cross-border region Garmen – Bosilovo

**AXIS**

Axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

1.2 Social Cohesion

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Bosilovo

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Garmen

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

304 552, 54 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project's aims at bringing together ideas and young people from both sides to work for the sustainable development of the border region. This objective was achieved by reconstruction of two cultural centers for meetings and cultural exchanges between young people from Bosilovo and Garmen. Project activities are related to creation of a strategy for development of youth creativity, constructive and social skills of the young people, search of distinguished persons from the history of both municipalities and conservation of local customs and traditions of Bosilovo and Garmen with the idea of creation a shared memory.



IMPROVEMENT THE QUALITY OF LIFE  
Projects under Priority axis 2



**PROJECT TITLE**

Nature for people and people for nature - NPPN

**AXIS**

Priority axis 2: Improvement  
the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1 Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Directorate of Rila Monastery Nature park - Rila

**PARTNER 2**

Environmental association Planetum - Strumica

**DURATION**

18 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

77 159, 84 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Sharing of knowledge from the region of Rila (where sustainable tourism is well-developed) to the region of Strumica, offers the innovative opportunity to transfer best practices and lessons learned regarding sustainable forms of tourism into Macedonian counterparts. Providing theoretical and practical training helps strengthening human resources in the Strumica region and development of eco-tourism based on the principles of sustainable development, particularly of rural areas where the most of the natural resources are. The trained staff will share knowledge on environment protection, sustainable utilization of natural resources and economic benefits to local people. Furthermore, the project ensures creating a network and establishing cooperation between various departments on both sides of the border through a solid basis for implementing further activities and regional plans for environment management.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Promoting and preserving the biodiversity of Maleshevska Mountain - MALESH

**AXIS**

Priority axis 2: Improvement  
the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1 Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Association Business Information and Consulting  
Center - Sandanski

**PARTNER 2**

Centre for Development of the East planning  
region

**DURATION**

18 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

99 953, 79 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project has created mechanisms to provide more information and increased awareness of the natural resources of Malesh mountain region in order to promote and provide adequate funds for its preservation. At this regard, in Bulgaria and Macedonia was established common web-based platform with detailed information on the biodiversity of the region and its promotion, as well as comprehensive info-guide of different plants and animal species of the mountain was released. Various networking and joint events established cross-border partnership network, gathered various stakeholders (environmental associations, NGOs, SMEs, etc.) to solve common environmental problems in the region. Last but not least the implementation of the project contributed to increasing the awareness of young people about conservation of biological, cultural and historical identity of the region.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Restoration of Nature for Good Quality of Life - RoNGoL

**AXIS**

Priority axis 2: Improvement  
the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1 Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Berovo

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Sandanski

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

494 199, 96 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project addresses the needs of the local population, building on the strengths and overcoming the weaknesses on the basis of the municipal strategic documents. It reflects the vision of the two municipalities to improve the quality of life on their territory through development and preservation of the environment. Project aims at providing healthy way of life and favourable conditions for recreation and entertainment of the residents and visitors with modern infrastructure and European quality of life. Thus, by improving the facilities around the rivers the project contributes to making Berovo and Sandanski more attractive locations for residents and visitors likewise.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Bike Lanes for Citizens and Visitors to Kyustendil and Kriva Palanka

**AXIS**

Priority axis 2: Improvement  
the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1 Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Kyustendil

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Kriva Palanka

**DURATION**

18 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

495 357, 68 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project is the second step in the process of city cycle network building after the first bike lane constructed in Kyustendil back in 2007. The project aims at improvement of the environment and quality of life of the residents and guests of the cross border area Kyustendil - Kriva Palanka through expansion of mutual cooperation and effective use of existing natural eco resources. The main results are construction of bike lanes in the two towns, elaboration of a joint research study on the protection of specific natural resources, conducting of joint workshop and establishing network of work links.



**PROJECT TITLE**

## Sustainable Tourism and Ecology Promotion Under Partnership - STEP UP

**AXIS**

Axis 2: Improvement  
the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1. Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Razlog, Bulgaria

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Gevgelija

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

499 873, 91 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at creation of preconditions for development of alternative forms of tourism in the target regions by taking advantage of the rich natural heritage. The main activity in the project is construction of two eco-paths in the Municipalities of Gevgelija and Razlog. The places where the eco-paths were built are chosen because of their location allowing a picturesque view over the regions. In Razlog it is the locality „Golak” and in Gevgelija - it is Vardarski rid - a famous archaeological site surrounded by beautiful nature. Also an advertisement and awareness raising campaign was organized to promote the new tourist places and increase ecological awareness.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Improvement quality and accessibility to natural attractions in the Municipality of Belitsa and Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica - NATTRA

**AXIS**

Axis 2: Improvement the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1. Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Belitsa

**DURATION**

22 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

497 984, 32 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project promotes touristic values of the Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica and Municipality Belitsa like regions with similar geographical characteristics.

Investment activities are related to improvement of road infrastructure to a natural tourist sites in Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica and reconstruction of the museum and construction of small tourist infrastructure in the surrounding mountains in Belitsa Municipality. Project envisages exchange of experience, know-how and best practices in local tourism development, promotion of the tourist opportunities and facilitating cross border utilization of natural tourist locations in both municipalities.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Savoring Unique Nature - Bicycle tourism in support of Nature - SUN

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 2. Improvement  
the Quality of Life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1. Utiltization of eco  
resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Association Center for Rural  
Development Bujrum -  
Kumanovo

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION****PARTNER 2**

European Integration Agency -  
Branch Kyustendil

**PARTNER 3**

Association Business Information and Consulting  
Centre - Sandanski

**PARTNER 4**

„We the Women Movement” Asociacion -  
Blagoevgrad

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

98 964.00 EUR



Implementation of the project meets the needs of target groups for creation of the appropriate conditions for sports and tourism in living environment. Promotion of cycling as the opportunity for entertainment and sport among the young generation had a positive effect as building awareness of healthy lifestyle and reduction of aggression in everyday life. Project also reinforced the idea of protecting the environment through various initiatives and the creation of network of public-private partnerships. Promotion and creation of opportunities for bicycle tours help the sustainable economic development of the area and improve the quality of life in the cross-border region.



**PROJECT TITLE**

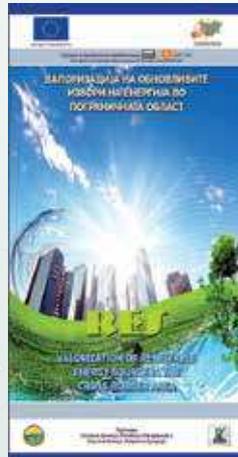
Valorization of Renewable Energy Sources in the Cross-Border Area - RES

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 2. Improvement  
the Quality of Life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1. Utilization of eco  
resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Zrnovci

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Belitsa

**DURATION**

18 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

94 499, 79 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project increases environmental awareness in the region through sustainable and environmentally friendly use of renewable energy sources. It gave a detailed and clearer picture of the potential of renewable energy sources in the region through assessment of municipalities' territory and preparation of feasibility study that revealed investment projects and their potential for reducing emissions. Portfolio was prepared to be presented to investors, in order to improve opportunities for sustainable investment in the field of environmental protection. Collected data from the assessment served for preparation of innovative GIS tool for demonstration of various types of renewable energy sources and their characteristics. Awareness campaign and seminars on advantages of green energy and its positive impact on the environment were presented to interested parties and general public.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Efficient usage of solar energy for better future - SP-FUTURE

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 2. Improvement  
the Quality of Life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1. Utilization of eco  
resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Centre for development of the  
South-East planning region -  
Strumica

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Strumica

**PARTNER 3**

Association of South- Western municipalities -  
Blagoevgrad

**PARTNER 4**

Municipality of Petrich

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

432 392.40 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project focused on identified target groups motivated to contribute to protecting the environment, but they need a positive example and a role-model project. Thus, two schools in both municipalities were equipped with photovoltaic panels to harness and use sunlight as energy - Elementary school „Sando Masev” Strumica and primary school „Anton Popov” Petrich. Investments being made in the project is expected to save 40% of the used electricity. Using the technology teachers who participated in the project through joint training of students, field visits, workshops, games and other tools encouraged friendly attitude towards nature and economic savings in formal education.



**PROJECT TITLE**

A cross-border approach to tourism development based on water resources

**AXIS**

Axis 2: Improvement the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1 Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality of Lipkovo

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Satovcha.

**DURATION**

18 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

491 875, 16 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is related to construction of a local asphalted road to the lake valley of Lipkovska Brana and improvement the environmental surrounding of River of Bistrica established the precondition for eco water based tourism in partner municipalities. Educating local population about the touristic opportunities of the areas and the touristic benefits supported establishment of ecotourism initiatives by development of strategic local documents and products. Choosing and arranging locations for sport fishing, horizon point views, providing mountain and tracking paths are some of the tourist products that were developed as a cross-border joint tourist product. The sustainability was secured by establishing a joint cross-border stakeholders tourism network and supported by MoU between two municipalities.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Traditional knowledge for sustainability - a cross-border network for utilization and protection of wild and cultivated plant diversity of East Macedonia and South-West Bulgaria

**AXIS**

Axis 2: Improvement the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1 Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Agricultural Association Machinery Ring - Probishtip

**PARTNER 2**

„European institute” Foundation - branch Blagoevgrad

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

88 525, 68 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project strategy has three main pillars:

**Inventory:** The border area is rich in plant resources used by the local communities for centuries. Due to various reasons the knowledge about this is scarce and scattered. Therefore, the project was start with a survey of local practices for plant uses. A data base was initiated and maintained after the end of the project. **Training:** A 3-day training was organized for the target groups and the seminar was used to discuss the approaches how to further study, utilize and protect the local practices for sustainable use of plant resources. A Manual for studying local practices in the CBC area was prepared. **Promotion:** The utilization of local knowledge for sustainable local growth is a relatively new topic and needs promotion so that the messages can reach wide audience. Several channels were used: printed leaflets and booklets, internet site of the project, a cross-border fest, FAM tour for journalists and a press conference.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Joint Applicable Research for Natural Recourses Preservation and Environmental Protection in the Cross border Region within the municipalities of Pehchevo and Simitli

**AXIS**

Axis 2: Improvement the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1 Utilization of eco resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality Pehchevo

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality Simitli

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

99 294, 74 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project solves the problem of target partners by introducing modern information technologies and innovative methods in the field of GIS and remote sensing combined with ground-based field observations. This contributes to faster integration of the region to the standards of European regions and helps to uncover the natural potential of the area. The project establish new administrative relations between the municipalities of Pehchevo and Simitli and joint GIS database that is used, updated and maintained in long term not only by the municipalities, but also from various local stakeholders (individuals and authorities).



**PROJECT TITLE**

Better life for children in cross border region - Life for child

**AXIS**

Priority Axis 2. Improvement  
the Quality of Life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.1. Utilizations of eco  
resources

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION****LEAD PARTNER**

Kinder Garden „Detelina” - Gotse Delchev

**PARTNER 2**

Primary Municipal School Vanco Prke - Delchevo

**PARTNER 3**

Municipality of Gotse Delchev

**DURATION**

24 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

458 507, 84 EUR



This project demonstrates the possibilities to reduce air pollution by using diesel fuel for heating, minimize energy costs, improving conditions for children and use of solar collectors for heating water. Activities are mainly related to reconstruction of the buildings from both sides in compliance with energy safety requirements - kinder garden „Detelina” Gotse Delchev and Primary school „Vanco Prke” Delchevo, workshops for the effectiveness of energy-saving measures and promotion of energy efficiency measures. Cross-border results from this project are cleaner environment, cleaner air, social cohesion between institutions which work with children and students, a better learning environment, enhancing quality of life in the cross-border region.





### PROJECT TITLE

Digital Culture for Regional Cohesion: An innovative data base for raising the awareness in the cross-border area on the regional and European dimension of culture and its better joint utilization - Digital Culture for Regional Cohesion

### AXIS

Priority axis 2: Improvement the quality of life

### AREA OF INTERVENTION

2.2 Utilization of cultural resources



### LEAD PARTNER

No Frontiers 21 Century Association - Kyustendil

### PARTNER 2

Assembly of Associations for Technical Culture - National Technique of Strumica

### DURATION

12 months

### TOTAL BUDGET

99 533, 83 EUR

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION



This is a pilot and demonstration project, which created a model for digitalization of different categories of cultural resources. His results in the future will serve as an example of how the popularity of cultural resources can be increased by presenting in an attractive way through innovative approaches and using new technologies. The target area was the entire cross-border region in collected 400 different types of objects on both sides of the border. All are digitized and displayed as 3D images, virtual tours, digital library etc. The database was placed on the website of the project. Digital culture raised under platform for e-Learning and training for making a video film. The model was continuous promoted through media with promo demonstrations, catalogs, mini cards and flyers.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Together in the traditions and future - TOGETHER

**AXIS**

Priority axis 2: Improvement  
the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.2 Utilization of cultural  
resources

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION****LEAD PARTNER**

Secondary school „St.St. Cyril and Methodius”,  
Kyustendil

**PARTNER 2**

Municipal Elementary School „Nikola Karev”,  
Probistip

**PARTNER 3**

„Bratstvo 1869” community centre, Kyustendil

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

97 869, 26 EUR



Project aims at establishing better conditions for creative appearance of young people in the system of extra-social activities and including maximal number of students in them directed towards research common cultural tradition, artefacts, their collection and creation of new ones. Cooperation between participants from two countries have a significant contribution in increasing opportunities for enrichment of social competences, creativity and goodwill towards common solution of cases. Provision of innovation's educational technologies with appropriate technical sources, increase the interest of students towards the set activities and make preconditions not only for effective implementation of the project but continuing of the activities in the future.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Cultural Heritage of Our Ancestors – Spiritual Mainstay of Our Common European Future

**AXIS**

Priority axis 2: Improvement  
 the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.2 Utilization of cultural  
 resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Regional History Museum „Academician Yordan  
 Ivanov” - Kyustendil

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Kriva Palanka

**DURATION**

15 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

97 156, 38 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The main project goal is to give opportunity of participants in the project cultural events (cultural and folk groups, individual performers, artists, craftsmen to present their gifts) to establish new cross-border contacts, partnerships, initiatives and know-how exchange. The local population from the beneficiary municipalities get familiar with the cultural heritage of their neighbour. The youth enriched their knowledge about sharing cultural values and live heritage - rites, folklore, legends, authentic crafts, traditional dishes. Tourists from both countries and from abroad received information on unique, unknown up to now monuments and are motivated to visit them.



**PROJECT TITLE**

Mapping of cultural heritage in the municipalities of Strumyani and Karbincii and stimulation of the development cultural tourism through integrated tourist products - C.U.L.T

**AXIS**

Priority axis 2: Improvement  
the quality of life

**AREA OF INTERVENTION**

2.2 Utilization of cultural  
resources

**LEAD PARTNER**

Association „In Focus”, Strumyani

**PARTNER 2**

Municipality of Karbinci

**DURATION**

12 months

**TOTAL BUDGET**

99 995, 53 EUR

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is addressed to detailed studying of historical, cultural and anthropogenic sources and establishment of database of cultural sites with tourist potential. It studies the current situation of cultural and historic sites and supports the beneficiaries with the development at two models (one for each municipality) for management of the most important cultural sites in a sustainable manner (including improvement of the tourist infrastructure of the selected tourism sites). Based on the studied resources the project partners developed joint cultural tourism route and proposes an integrated tourism product for the municipalities of Strumyani and Karbinci. The tourism product was promoted to the general public across the border. The project raises the capacity of the local communities in the tourism sector and in applying of models for preservation of the heritage and it transformation into tourist sites.





### PROJECT TITLE

Cultural tourism - bridge between the population in the cross-border region of Garmen and Bosilovo

### AXIS

Priority Axis 2 Improvement the Quality of Life

### AREA OF INTERVENTION

2.2 Utilization of cultural resources



### LEAD PARTNER

Municipality of Garmen

### PARTNER 2

Municipality of Bosilovo

### DURATION

24 months

### TOTAL BUDGET

196 194, 28 EUR

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION



This project mainly oriented to the cultural heritage preservation, as well as demonstration of typical traditional and cultural vision of both target villages as a part of the cross-border region. The cultural centers in Bosilovo and Garmen renovated under the project are examples for sustainable cultural tourism development with providing huge range of tourist products and services. Creation of new jobs opportunities enhanced local community, NGO's, even students to participate in the future work of the centres and to develop and implement more joint project within the border region. The built network with inclusion of range number of stakeholders ensures sustainability and development of the both centres.





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