

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS NETWORKS

Results and Achievements of the Projects Supported
by the Reform Fund linked to Civil Society Participation
and the Partnership Fund of the Bulgarian-Swiss
Cooperation Programme
(2012-2017)



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО



BALKAN INSTITUTE
FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL
POLICY



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО



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Introduction

This publication is a summary of the implementation results of two of the Thematic Funds of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme: the Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation and the Partnership Fund.

Sixty-six projects were supported in the period 2012–2017. They involved 79 Bulgarian non-governmental organizations and 4 institutions aided by 35 Swiss partner organizations. The support was focused on the development of the civil sector in Bulgaria with emphasis on social services provision and environmental protection, as well as on establishing new Bulgarian-Swiss partnerships and consolidating the existing ones and sharing of experience by the Swiss partners in support of the democratic changes in Bulgaria. Along with the achievement of their project specific objectives the organizations were also encouraged to invest in the enhancement of their own capacity for more active involvement in Bulgaria's socio-economic development by providing services of larger volumes and better quality, by communicating socially significant causes to the community and mobilizing civil support, by participating in policy formation and decision-making at central and local level and in advocacy activities. As we summarize the impact of the Swiss assistance as of the time of closing the two funds, we are pleased to recognize the contribution of the supported projects to the improved reputation of the organizations that have implemented them as manifested in an increased number of cooperation proposals, invitations for participation in expert task forces, invitations for involvement in events, awarded prizes, increased public and media interest.

The two funds were managed by the Swiss Intermediate Body: a consortium of two Swiss and one Bulgarian organizations: INNOVABRIDGE Foundation (Caslano, Switzerland), the NEOSYS AG consultancy, (Gerlafingen, Switzerland) and the Balkan Institute for Labour and Social Policy (Sofia, Bulgaria). The excellent partnership of the three organizations and the expert contribution of each of them to the preparation and implementation of the two funds contributed to the selection of quality projects, whose successful execution was a step in support of the major goal of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme: reducing the economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union.

Swiss Intermediate Body



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the National Coordination Unit (NCU) are the responsible agencies for implementing the Thematic Funds “Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation” and “Partnership Fund” according to the stipulations of the Framework Agreement on the Implementation of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme. They have mandated a Swiss Intermediate Body (SIB) to manage the two Thematic Funds. The SIB is a consortium of three organisations: INNOVABRIDGE Foundation (Caslano, Switzerland), leading partner in the consortium, NEOSYS AG (Gerlafingen, Switzerland) and the BALKAN INSTITUTE FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY (Sofia, Bulgaria).



INNOVABRIDGE Foundation

The leading partner in the Swiss Intermediate Body consortium – INNOVABRIDGE is a not-for-profit Swiss consulting foundation committed to innovative solutions in international development. INNOVABRIDGE originated from TULUM Ltd., an international development company with 15-year history and a rich project portfolio established by professionals with long-term experience in international development cooperation with countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and CIS. INNOVABRIDGE provides expertise and services in three thematic areas: Economic Development, Governance and Rule of Law and Environment & Sustainable Livelihoods.

On the basis of its excellent reputation and solid experience INNOVABRIDGE was entrusted by SDC to act as a leading partner of the Swiss Intermediate Body mandated to implement the Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation and the Partnership Fund of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme.



NEOSYS AG

NEOSYS AG is a Swiss consultancy company founded in 1986. NEOSYS offers a comprehensive range of services with focus on management systems and legal compliance, environmental protection, safety and security, social responsibility and risk management. The company works for different groups of clients such as UN and development organisations, public authorities, communities, private companies and NGOs in Switzerland and worldwide. Since the year 2000 NEOSYS has been strongly active in projects with international cooperation in Latin America, the Balkan Region, Northern Africa and Asia for various clients such as SECO, SDC, GTZ, UNIDO, ILO and UNEP. The company has worked on different intervention levels such as program identification and feasibility studies, program management, evaluation, capacity building and institutional development. NEOSYS AG contributes to the Swiss Intermediate Body its rich experience in project management, including strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation.



Balkan Institute for Labour and Social Policy

The Balkan Institute for Labour and Social Policy (BILSP) is a non-governmental, voluntary, independent, non-political and non-profit association established in the year 2001. BILSP works in priority areas such as EU funds management, other international donors' funds management, corporate social responsibility, life-long learning, labour market, human resources, industrial relations, social insurance and social protection, occupational safety and health, labour legislation, social policy, social entrepreneurship, vocational training. BILSP experts have considerable experience in managing and implementing the first grant schemes in Bulgaria funded by the European Union, the World Bank, UNDP and other international donors. Acting as a local partner within the SIB, the BILSP team provides to the Executing Agencies implementing projects under the Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation and the Partnership Fund its significant 15-year experience in project and grant scheme planning, management, monitoring and evaluation.



THEMATIC FUND
“REFORM FUND LINKED
TO CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION”

Thematic Fund “REFORM FUND LINKED TO CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION”

Legal grounds

The Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation (referred to as TF CSP) is implemented under the Thematic Fund Agreement for the Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (referred to as SDC) and the Monitoring of EU Funds Directorate of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, as the National Coordination Unit (referred to as NCU), and the Ministry of Justice, signed on 29 September 2011.

TF CSP is part of the Framework Agreement on the implementation of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities in the enlarged European Union signed by the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on 7 September 2010.

Implementing bodies

SDC and NCU are the responsible agencies for implementing the TF CSP. However, they have mandated a Swiss Intermediate Body (SIB) to manage the TF CSP. The SIB is a consortium of three organisations: INNOVABRIDGE Foundation, Caslano, Switzerland (a leading partner in the consortium), NEOSYS AG, Gerlafingen, Switzerland and the BALKAN INSTITUTE FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY (BILSP), Sofia, Bulgaria.

Objectives of TF CSP

- To promote civil society's participation as an important development actor in the social and environmental sectors;
- To further strengthen the NGO sector in Bulgaria

Specific objectives of the supported projects

- To enhance the capacity of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in pursuing their missions and implementing their activities by delivery of quality services, particularly in disadvantaged regions.
- To strengthen the abilities of the CSOs and their networks to communicate with citizens and mobilise civic support.
- To improve the legal and financial framework, including public financing, for organised civil society activities.
- To activate citizen participation in public decision- and policy- making at central and municipal level (advocacy and participatory processes, etc.).
- To increase the capacity of CSOs to monitor compliance of the public institutions with prevailing policy context

Grant beneficiaries

TF CSP is implemented by means of projects of NGOs operating in the fields of environmental protection and provision of community-based social services.

Funded projects

The Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation provides support to 23 projects focused on the provision of community-based social services with a total budget of BGN 3,470,718, receiving Swiss grant contribution in the amount of CHF 1,949,064, and 13 projects tackling environmental issues with a total budget of BGN 9 465 465 and Swiss grant contribution amounting to CHF 5,221,298. Twenty-seven of these projects are implemented in smaller towns and rural areas, and 21 projects impact larger cities and the capital city of Bulgaria: Sofia. The projects in the social domain are focused on child and elderly care, care for children with specific needs, improvement of the quality of the services provided. The environmental projects tackle the sustainable management of natural resources, environmental education and public awareness, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, improved access to environmental information. All projects are implemented in the period September 2012 ÷ October 2017.

The Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation supports an additional project aimed at providing for the visibility of the outcomes under both Thematic Funds and fostering networking among the supported NGOs. The project is implemented in the period December 2015 ÷ October 2017 and receives Swiss grant contribution in the amount of CHF 217,583.89.



THEMATIC FUND
“REFORM FUND LINKED
TO CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION”

Project retained in
the Framework Agreement

CSP FA 001 – For the Balkan and the People

BIOSELENA
FOUNDATION
OF ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE,
SOFIA

We facilitate the access of consumers to traditional food of high quality and ensure decent livelihood to the population of high nature value territories.



Bulgaria ranks second in the EU in high-level biodiversity and belongs to the group of states with the highest percentage of declared Natura 2000 areas. This rich heritage needs to be well preserved for both nature and people and the local communities need to make fair living from nature while preserving it in a sustainable way.

The project aims to foster local family business that is pro biodiversity orientated and situated in territories with high nature value (HNV), to provide support for agricultural producers to generate additional income based on production with added value, to raise the awareness of consumers for protection of territories with HNV through direct sales of quality products from small local family farms and to promote the “ecosystem services” or the awareness of the economic value of nature capital protection, to stimulate the public support for sustainable and rational utilization of the natural resource as a basis for a future greener economy.

During the process of transition to green economy the conformation of the economic development with nature protection is no longer at stake. Due to this the project focuses on raising the awareness of the economic benefits arising from the protection of the nature capital; on the support of family pro biodiversity business and job creation in depopulated rural areas; on the work to change policies and search for opportunities to apply the methods of sustainable development in other regions of the country.

Switzerland and Bulgaria have been cooperating successfully in the field of rural development and protection of HNV territories for the past 20 years. The pilot region of the project, Western and Central Stara Planina (Balkan Mountains) is characterized by extremely beautiful nature, but it faces serious challenges resulting from depopulation and lack of economic perspectives. “For the Balkan and the People” illustrates how one can earn money from protected nature through improved national legislation related to on-farm processing and direct sales of foods of animal origin, as well as to nature conservation.

Registration number of the project	CSP FA 001
Title of the project	For the Balkan and the People
Executive agency	BIOSELENA Foundation for Organic Agriculture
Partners	<p>Bulgarian partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Parks in Bulgaria • Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation • WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme Bulgaria • Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds • Executive Agency on Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding. <p>Swiss partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland • REDD – Network for Exchange and Sustainable Development • SVS / Bird Life Switzerland • SAVE Foundation.
Project Location	Nine Natura 2000 sites and three national/nature parks in Western and Central Stara Planina Mountain, including: North-West Bulgaria / Western Stara Planina (Natura 2000 sites: Zadapna Stara Planina i Predbalkan, Western Balkan, Dragoman, Ponor and Vrachanski Balkan); Central Stara Planina (Natura 2000 sites: Central Balkan, Centralen Balkan - buffer and Bulgarka); the municipalities of Chiprovtsi, Georgi Daminovo, Chuprene, Berkovitsa, Svoge, Godech, Vratsa, Karlovo, Troyan, Gabrovo, Tryavna and Kazanlak
Budget (BGN)	7,714,295.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	4,200,000.00
Cofinancing	12,32 %
Duration	60 Months
Period of Implementation	3 September 2012 - 2 September 2017

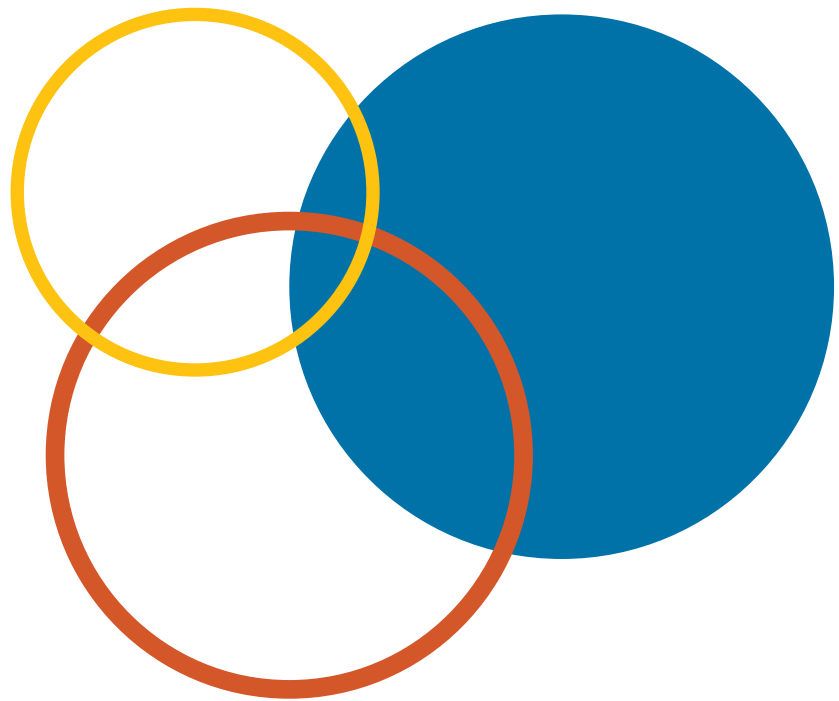
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THEMATIC FUND
“REFORM FUND LINKED
TO CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION”

Projects implemented under
the Block Grant Scheme



THEMATIC FUND
“REFORM FUND LINKED
TO CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION”

Projects implemented under
the Block Grant Scheme

Thematic Focus: Social projects

CSP 001 - Informational-Virtual and Audio-Informational Help at Social Service in the Community “Bureau for Social Services” – Mobile Form for Civil Participation of Disabled and Blind People with University and Secondary Education and the Unemployed to Improve Their Quality of Life in Times of Crisis

SOCIETY OF INVALIDS
AND BLIND PEOPLE
“AHURI”, SOFIA

„Change in the concept in civil society that people with disabilities are “unfit” for personal contribution in improving their quality of life. “



The main objective of project “Informational-Virtual and Audio-Informational Help at Social Service in the Community “Bureau for Social Services” – Mobile Form for Civil Participation of Disables and Blind People with University and Secondary Education and the Unemployed to Improve Their Quality of Life in Times of Crisis” is to achieve quality improvement in the capacity of the Society of invalids and blind people “Ahuri” to provide informational and consultancy support for people with disabilities. This goal was achieved through increasing the informational capacity of the Society and direct support for beneficiaries with disabilities.

The project created complementary information for people with visual and motor disabilities and ensured consultative assistance and stress prevention with the aim to increase the pool of information sources for blind people and other persons with disabilities. More than 200 audio hours of information sources were created along with 1800 translated pages of newly published sources after their selection and editing to convert them into models of visual products for use by blind people. Advisory help and individual work with people with disabilities were provided to improve the quality of life of blind people and persons with other disabilities by means of anti-stress measures and participation in exhibitions and group meetings, as well as by sharing best practices and experience with other similar organizations in two cities – Devin and Vidin. Exhibitions were organised at the Municipal Library in Sofia, at the National Museum of Earth and People and at the Representation of the European Commission including products by and for people with visual and physical problems.

The main impact of the project is the extension of the audio and text information sources

for blind people and other persons with disabilities as well as the practice of anti-stress measures for people with disabilities. The main project message is the need to change the concept in civil society that people with disabilities are “unfit” for personal contribution in improving their quality of life.

Registration number of the project	CSP 001
Title of the project	Informational-virtual and audio-informational help at social service in the community “Bureau for Social Services” – mobile form for civil participation of disabled and blind people with university and secondary education and the unemployed to improve their quality of life in times of crisis
Executive agency	Society of invalids and blind people “Ahuri”
Partners	-
Project Location	Sofia, with exchange of practical experience in other towns according to their interest
Budget (BGN)	33,518.10
Committed Grant(CHF)	18,900.00
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	18,423.08
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	18 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 31 January 2015

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CSP 008 - Advisory Center for Psycho-Social Prevention and Consolidation of Psychological Health of Children in Risk

“TOGETHER
IN EUROPE”
ASSOCIATION,
PAZARDZHİK

Development of a place where young people and their families can get help and advice on how to find the right way in a certain crisis situation. The help and activities which are being developed are valuable and important for the target groups. It is necessary that the community pays attention to the problems which young people face in our dynamic daily life and to children in risk who need to be supported and to share.



The main goal of the project is to develop and mobilize the social resources in the area of social services for children in risk in Pazardzhik municipality. The project seeks to mitigate the conditions of alienation, aggression and broken communication between parents and children and to prevent self-injuring and other destructive behavior of children.

The project achieved the aims of improved capacity of the “Together in Europe” Association, Pazardzhik in providing social services and widening the range of the social services offered for children at risk. The project impact is ensured through the developed methodology for services for children at risk and through the established consulting room for children at risk with almost 300 consultations, an emergency telephone line and an online discussion forum.

This project is about developing a place where young people and their families can get help and advice on how to find the right way in a certain crisis situation. Moreover, an important project message is the importance of community commitment to the problems of children at risk. The greater the number of the stakeholders and local communities involved, the more effective the support to children at risk. This is a real possibility for the Association to mobilize the civil society in Pazardzhik municipality for active participation in the process of deciding on policy-making on municipal level.

Registration number of the project	CSP 008
Title of the project	Advisory Center for Psycho-Social Prevention and Consolidation of Psychological Health of Children in Risk
Executive agency	"Together in Europe" Association, Pazardzhik
Partners	-
Project Location	Pazardzhik Municipality and Pazardzhik District
Budget (BGN)	77,95.52
Committed Grant (CHF)	43,958.25
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	41,194.92
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 31 August 2014

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CSP 012 - From Uncertainty – To Welfare

“OPPORTUNITY
AND PROTECTION”
ASSOCIATION,
HASKOVO

Our mission is to work
in partnership for the
well-being of children
and young people in
Haskovo region.



This project “From Uncertainty – to Welfare“ is about enhancing the institutional and financial capacity of the Opportunity and Protection Association” to provide services to children and families at risk in Haskovo region. This has been achieved by improving the quality of the services and by expanding the public support and the development basis of the organisation and of the territorial scope of the services. The main activities include analysis of the positive change and of the factors for achieving it (assessment of the efficiency/effectiveness of the services provided by the organization). The partnership network was developed and strengthened by organizing training seminars and workshops. Two public campaigns for new volunteers were organised to activate the participation of children and youth in the region.

The project includes organization of Family Group Conferences and of a Child Police Academy for over 300 children in the region. The main message of the project is that working partnerships improve the wellbeing of children and young people in Haskovo region.

Registration number of the project	CSP 012
Title of the project	From Uncertainty – to Welfare
Executive agency	“Opportunity and Protection” Association, Haskovo
Partners	-
Project Location	Haskovo region
Budget (BGN)	134,603.76
Committed Grant(CHF)	75,899.62
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	72,285.20
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	15 August 2013 - 14 August 2015

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CSP 021 - Partnership for Effective and Accessible Services Aiming at Prevention of Children Institutionalization

INTERNATIONAL
SOCIAL SERVICE-
BULGARIA
FOUNDATION,
VELIKO TARNOVO



Deinstitutionalization of child care services is possible when there is effective cooperation among institutions, availability of competent specialists with the appropriate knowledge and skills to make decisions in the best interest of the child, availability of accessible, effective and high-quality services supporting children and families and an active civil society which understands, protects and stands up for the children's right to grow up in a family environment and support for the family to achieve it.

The project aims to increase the effectiveness of prevention of institutionalization services by expanding the access and coverage and by improving the quality of services for children and families in the regions of Targovishte and Stara Zagora through setting up foster care teams, a Crisis Centre in Targovishte and expanding the spectrum of the domestic violence prevention services at the Crisis Centre in Stara Zagora. The project is implemented by a partnership involving ISS-Bulgaria, ISS-Switzerland, and Samaritans with the aim to support child care deinstitutionalization in the regions of Targovishte and Stara Zagora through augmentation of the effectiveness of the services that prevent placement of children in specialized institutions. The project also contributes to the achievement of the main objectives of TF CSP by increasing the capacity of the Bulgarian partners to: provide high quality social services; strengthen their ability to network; communicate with citizens; and mobilize civil support. The project envisages activities related to the capacity enhancement of the professionals who provide the services, of judges and social workers for application of the best interest of the child principle in the decision-making process. The project foresees the development of foster care guidelines and a package of training programs for judges and social workers.

Registration number of the project	CSP 021
Title of the project	Partnership for Effective and Accessible Services Aiming at Prevention of Children Institutionalization
Executive agency	International Social Service-Bulgaria Foundation, Veliko Tarnovo
Partners	Swiss Foundation of the International Social Service; "Samaritans" Association, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria
Project Location	Targovishte region – municipalities of Targovishte, Antonovo and Omurtag;
Budget (BGN)	Stara Zagora region – municipalities of Stara Zagora, Galabovo and Opan
Committed Grant(CHF)	407,521.36
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	229,586.62
Cofinancing	212,451.14
Duration	10,08%
Period of Implementation	24 Months 1 September 2013 - 31 August 2015

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CSP 031 - Change Through Participation

ASSOCIATION
"CLUB OF NON-
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS",
TARGOVISHTE

Civil society bodies
should continue their
apostolic work and
change for the better
the lives of the most
vulnerable part of our
society: **OUR CHILDREN!**



The project of the "Club of Non-government Organizations" Association builds upon and provides sustainability of the Club policies to apply in the region an innovative model of community-based social support for disabled children and their families in Targovishte and replicate it in 5 more municipalities, to expand the cooperation of the civil society for active participation in the preparation of the social policies on municipal and district level and foster the capacity of the Club for sustainable development in the long term.

For achieving these objectives we plan to realize a number of activities in all three strands, while relying on the experience, success and lessons learned from the activities of the Club and other NGOs so far. The Project was implemented with the active participation of all Club members and volunteers, as well as with the support of proactive local people. The result was improved quality and access to social services for more people, provision of good political and institutional environment for sustainable development of the civil society locally and nationally.

The project aims to develop the capacity and raise the motivation of the structures of the civil society for provision of more quality, efficient and accessible social services for children in risk groups living in the five municipalities of the district of Targovishte. This was achieved by identification, motivation and preparation of the representatives of the local communities for work with children and families, as well through application of good practices for civil participation in the elaboration of local policies in the social sphere.

Registration number of the project	CSP 031
Title of the project	Change through Participation
Executive agency	Association “Club of non-governmental organizations”, Targovishte
Partners	-
Project Location	District of Targovishte, Municipalities of: Antonovo, Omurtag, Opaka, Popovo and Targovishte
Budget (BGN)	145,406.15
Committed Grant(CHF)	81,990.81
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	80,686.77
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	30 Months
Period of Implementation	15 July 2013 - 15 January 2016

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CSP 032 - External / Self – Evaluation in Childcare and Family-Support Services as a Means of Capacity-Building

EQUILIBRIUM NGO,
RUSE

How can we assess the impact of our work on children?



The project “External / Self-Evaluation in Child-care and Family-Support Services as a Means of Capacity-Building” draws

on recent Bulgarian experience in piloting the evaluation tool that the project adapted. Two of the key consultants who took part in the STUDIO session, in the conference and in the monitoring of the evaluation activity were involved with this work. Two significant components of the project are: 1) A mechanism for networking of Centres of social support and 2) Notifying stakeholders in the deinstitutionalization programme of the project findings.

It is currently difficult for providers of childcare and family support services (and in particular for NGOs) to prove the quality of their work by using criteria that are useable by those service providers themselves (or by independent evaluators). The project provides an evaluation tool and makes it accessible to NGOs / municipal authorities that provide social services for children and families. The process will impact on both fair competition and public accountability. The ability of service providers to show compliance with the National Quality Benchmarks helps prevent excessive emphasis on price in the tendering process or the intrusion of political criteria. The project results will impact on the development of an improvement culture and pursuit of excellence; will equip regional teams with the ability to demonstrate performance evaluation techniques to peer organizations and the childcare communities in their regions. A significant component of the project is the development of a mechanism for the networking of Centres of social support to facilitate the exchange of know-how, the dissemination of best practice and the evolution of organizational standards on a basis independent from, but complementary to, the centralized assessment mechanism. The State Agency for Child Protection and the Ministry for Labour and Social Policy have been asked to formally validate the project findings by reviewing the regulation of service inspection. The initiative among CSSs – external or self-evaluation - relates to the pursuit of quality and preparedness for inspection.

Registration number of the project	CSP 032
Title of the project	External / Self – evaluation in Childcare and Family-Support Services as a means of Capacity-building
Executive agency	Equilibrium NGO
Partners	Open Society Club Rousse
Project Location	Shoumen and Targovishte districts (North-East region of Bulgaria); Veliko Tarnovo and Gabrovo districts (North-Central region); Plovdiv (South-Central region); Vidin and Montana (North-West region)
Budget (BGN)	79,889.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	44,972.29
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	42,944.04
Cofinancing	10.15%
Duration	22 Months
Period of Implementation	19 July 2013 - 18 May 2015

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CSP 034 - Family Action Support Programme (FASP)

FREE YOUTH CENTRE
ASSOCIATION,
VIDIN

Resolving of social
problems of street
children passes
through objective and
result-oriented support
for their families.



The Free Youth Centre (FYC), Vidin decided to design a new programme for work with families of street children – a parent support platform, on the basis of a new holistic, flexible and active approach, considering the specifics of the target group and the fact that North-Western Bulgaria is the poorest region in the European Union.

The approach combines a complex of interventions for the families for improving their health, economic, financial and educational conditions, and as result – their social status and in this way helps to prevent exploitation of child labour. The project activities, for example: mapping of existing resources, creation of small scale jobs, mediation tool, using of case management in the work with families of street children, can be seen as upgrade of the work with difficult target groups by social service providers in the region – mainly social NGOs, providing services for street children or other kinds of community-based support for people who are disadvantaged and at social risk. In this way the project indirectly supports the whole process of deinstitutionalization. The completed project was very helpful first of all to the Free Youth Centre's structure for work with street children, i.e. the Centre for Street Children, in providing a better and more sustainable social service. Dissemination of the project methodology, of its results and lessons learned was undertaken among the network of social services providers in the Bulgarian part of the Bulgaria-Serbia border region. The existing bodies will use available financial resources to apply new methodology and to provide more effective services. The project also has effects on a political level, because it involves in the process all important local stakeholders and in this way supports the future development of local strategies and plans for work with groups at risk. The project disseminates its results in a wide professional community which can exert influence on regional or even on national social policy; it supports NGOs to provide better and more effective community-based social services and thus it promotes the civil sector as an important factor in Bulgarian society.

Registration number of the project	CSP 034
Title of the project	Family Action Support Programme (FASP)
Executive agency	Free Youth Centre Association, Vidin
Partners	-
Project Location	Vidin district, Vidin municipality
Budget (BGN)	67,677.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	38,161.00
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	35 712,18
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	15 Months
Period of Implementation	01 September 2013 - 30 November 2014

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CSP 035 - Telecare Network for Support of People with Disabilities

INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNITY-BASED
SOCIAL SERVICES
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Telecare is a remote 24-hours service for support of people with disabilities in order to improve the living environment and independence at



their own homes. The development of Telecare in Bulgaria is subject of active partnership with NGOs and engagement of responsible institutions.

Telecare is a remote service with technical equipment at the home of users (people with disabilities, elderly people, etc.) which sends signals about risks (deterioration of health, falling, leaving of the home, etc.) to a Monitoring Center and from there the alert is transmitted to a relative or to a professional. The service achieves effects and quality when it is linked to other social and public services (care assistant, health services, housing, support in crises situation, etc.) and ensures not only overcoming the risk to the user, but also ongoing support to him. Telecare is a successful model for remote support by a multidisciplinary team and network of service providers.

The Project addresses the needs of people with disabilities and NGOs as organizations in their support: 1) Need of timely support for people with disabilities to deal with the risk; 2) Need of networking of NGOs for active participation in the social policy and for initiating new social services. In response, the project aims to strengthen the capacity of the Institute for Community-Based Social Services Foundation and 80 NGO networking for initiating Telecare service in Bulgaria, and to support 30 people with disabilities in Sofia Municipality through the service. The methodological and technical resources and products (methodology of Telecare, proposals for changes in legislation, equipment and software for the work with the users) is widely promoted through public events and a web section aimed at joint actions between NGOs and institutions. The project includes activities for active interaction of the Institute for Community-Based Social Services Foundation and NGOs with state and municipal administration for achieving sustainability and in particular for: 1) Research on the possibilities for providing Telecare as complementary service for people who use social security benefits or social services; 2) Preparation of legislative changes, which have to include Telecare as service in support of people with disabilities; 3) Analysis

of the possibilities of integrating Telecare as a service provided on local level. In addition, the results of the project are widely promoted in order to motivate the administration, with NGO support, to create flexible regulatory conditions for including Telecare in the basic social services package.

Registration number of the project	CSP 035
Title of the project	Telecare Network for Support of People with Disabilities
Executive agency	Institute for Community-Based Social Services Foundation, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	Sofia Municipality, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Vratsa and Plovdiv
Budget (BGN)	218,413.65
Committed Grant (CHF)	123,157.88
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	115,731.24
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	27 Months
Period of Implementation	15 July 2013 - 14 October 2015

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CSP 036 - MotivAction

ASSOCIATION
OF PARENTS OF
CHILDREN WITH
EPILEPSY, SOFIA

MotivAction aims
to achieve equal
opportunities for all and
relevant social care.



MotivAction is a project allowing all regional centers of the Association of Parents of Children with Epilepsy (APCE) to enhance their capacity to work in a network and to improve the results they achieve with epilepsy individuals. Its initial phase was devoted to the development of a common set of criteria for application of the “Case work” method integrated successfully in the central coordination unit in Sofia, as well as in some schools in the capital city. The integration of a web based software system for communication and report of the work conducted speeded up the process of gathering information as well as the exchange of opinions between the specialists. Moreover, the system made it possible to enhance the coordination functions of the central coordination unit and to enable it to better evaluate the effect of social services offered by the organization. Having gathered the information needed, APCE commenced a broader public discussion for promotion of the “Case work” methodology among other national representative organizations of people with disabilities. The completed project initiated the process of a broader application of the “Case work” methodology in the whole country. MotivAction will serve as a trigger for better coordination and evaluation of the processes on local level. It boosts up the confidence of regional workers and reduces the burden of the central coordination unit. That, in a sense, boosts the skills of the association to continue working while using the developed set of criteria together with the new software product. After the end of the project the Association of Parents of Children with Epilepsy is planning to work for the promotion of the “Case work” methodology in the National Council for People with Disabilities, under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria. The project team considers to invest further efforts into the methodology and its application within the NGO sector in the country by introducing it to all national representative NGOs as well as to social workers, psychologists and other specialists. The kick-off meeting of the project was only a starting point for that process, which will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people with disabilities in Bulgaria.

Registration number of the project	CSP 036
Title of the project	MotivAction
Executive agency	Association of Parents of Children with Epilepsy, Sofia
Partners	Regional Association of Psychologists in North-Eastern region - Targovishte
Project Location	Regions: Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Vratsa, Gabrovo, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Ruse, Sliven, Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo, Stara Zagora, Targovishte, Haskovo, Shumen; Dobrich, Plevan
Budget (BGN)	61,257.30
Committed Grant (CHF)	34,541.43
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	32,420.04
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	15 July 2013 - 14 July 2015

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CSP 052 - Contact Parent

ASSOCIATION
OF THE PATIENTS
WITH FACIAL
ANOMALIES AND
THEIR PARENTS -
ALA, PLOVDIV

Support for parents prevents the abandonment of children with facial anomalies and gives them the opportunity to develop as full-fledged citizens in society.



The “Parent Contact” is entirely focused on providing psychological support and information to families of children born with facial anomalies. It is based on the hard work of a network of trained volunteers throughout the country which, relying on their own experience as parents raising such children, understand the problems and fears of the new parents and provide them with the necessary information on issues related to the treatment and development of their children.

The purpose of this project of the ALA Association is to prevent the abandonment of children with facial anomalies by increasing the knowledge and skills of their volunteers. The volunteer parent contacts are trained and prepared to provide psychological support to new parents with similar problems. The specific objective of this project is to maintain, expand and build on the existing network of “Contact Parents” by giving support to the existing Parent Contact and training new parents.

Contact Parents are selected on the basis of their motivation to participate in the network as well as of the results from the training course and of an evaluation by a psychologist. They work together with a multidisciplinary team specialized in the treatment of facial anomalies. This contributes to the complex approach in overcoming the initial stress at birth and positively affects the decision that the child should not be abandoned.

The “Parent Contact” is an innovative practice in providing non-medical support for families of children with facial anomalies developed successfully in leading European countries (England, Scotland, Wales). The involvement of parents and volunteers as an additional element of the care provision helps improve the overall psycho-emotional state of the family, gives them confidence to deal with the problems. Sharing personal experience is extremely valuable in addressing everyday issues associated with the condition.

Registration number of the project	CSP 052
Title of the project	Contact Parent
Executive agency	Association of the Patients with Facial Anomalies and Their Parents - ALA, Plovdiv
Partners	-
Project Location	Part of the project activities are implemented in the town of Plovdiv and others throughout the country
Budget (BGN)	51,621.08
Committed Grant(CHF)	29,107.21
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	24,242.03
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	1 October 2013 - 30 September 2015

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CSP 058 - Establishing of Resource Center for Social Services for Children and Families in Razgrad District

“WOMAN ALLIANCE FOR INDEPENDENCE, ETHNICAL TOLERANCE AND ASSOCIATION” NGO, RAZGRAD

Social service workers have strong motivation for permanent improvement of their qualification in order to be adequate to the society needs.



In recent years, in connection with the reforms concerning child care, deinstitutionalization and the establishment of alternative community-based services in the country and particularly in Razgrad, a lot of new social services for children and families were created. The Regional Resource Center for support of the specialists occupied with the social services for children and families is envisaged to become a joint unit of specialists and trainers. The Center established by the “Woman Alliance for Independence, Ethnical Tolerance and Association” , Razgrad, first of all aims to support the development of other NGOs from the region concerning the possibility to develop social services, to act in partnership with local authorities, to be competitive and also to support the specialists from the existing and from the new services in different directions: researching their needs of qualification, searching assistance for qualified staff, raising the awareness about possibilities for trainings, conducting training and supervision and rendering methodological support. For this purpose the project team envisages to use the Association’s human capacity and to invite trainers from the country, considering the training needs of the social service providers.

The establishment of a Regional Resource Center for enhancing the capacity of the teams providing social services to children and families would not be able to accomplish its strategic goals without the initial support of the Razgrad Regional Administration, the “Social Welfare”Regional Head Office in Razgrad, the “Child Protection” departments in Razgrad, Isparih, Samuil, Kubrat, the local authorities represented by seven municipalities in Razgrad district: Razgrad, Isparih, Loznitsa, Tsar Kaloyan, Zavet, Kubrat and Samuil municipalities. Beyond the support of the specialists and the networking, the

project enhanced and affirmed the inter-municipal and cross-sectoral partnerships. The sustainability of the Regional Resource Center, Razgrad is guaranteed by the value of the trainings, which the teams of specialists, working in the sphere of social services for children and families conducted. The importance of a service, such as the Regional Resource Center, is associated with the demand for it and with the need for the relevant specialists to improve their knowledge and qualification, to learn how to become providers of social services for children and families, how to manage effectively and efficiently a social service in a situation of best involvement of the local resources. The project expands and reinforces the collaboration with the mayors of municipalities, directors of specialized institutions for children, experts, specialists in the sphere of social activities and citizens interested in the reforms of the social institutions for children and in resolving the problems of children and families.

Registration number of the project	CSP 058
Title of the project	Establishing of Resource Center for Social Services for Children and Families in Razgrad District
Executive agency	“Woman Alliance for Independence, Ethnical Tolerance and Association” NGO
Partners	-
Project Location	Razgrad district, including all municipalities: Razgrad, Tzar Kaloyan, Samuil, Kubrat, Zavet, Isperih and Loznitsa
Budget (BGN)	83,206.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	46,917.74
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	44,692.20
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	19 Months
Period of Implementation	10 July 2013 - 15 February 2015

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CSP 081 - Lend a Hand – Mobile Teams for Community Support of Children and Families

ASSOCIATION
SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES BULGARIA,
SOFIA

The development of Mobile Teams will allow for the provision of flexible mobile services for children and families at risk, with an opportunity for early intervention, which place the child in the center and meet their needs to the greatest extent.



The project „Lend a Hand - Mobile Teams for Community Support of Children and Families“helped the organization reach people in small, isolated and remote settlements where no social or basic services were available. By setting up four mobile teams covering 8 municipalities it provided social, educational and psychological support to the most deprived children and families.

Over 500 families received a wide range of services according to the individual characteristics of the children and the situation in the family. The psychological and pedagogical support and the speech therapy for the specific needs of the children were sought and accepted by the parents. The parents were supported through individual and group counseling, so that they could provide better care for their children, understand and respect their rights. Parents were also accompanied to various institutions, for example to the Social Assistance Directorate of the Municipal Administration to apply for municipal housing, for daycare, for social benefits, etc.

The project mobilized the community resources and raised the awareness and skills of people who desired to work as volunteers for supporting the children and families at risk. In addition, a work group of professionals experienced and interested in performing mobile social work was established and a proposal was developed for a national Standard for provision of the social service of “Mobile social service for children and families at risk“.

One of the successes of the project was the participation of two youths in the Pre-session Meeting of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, Switzerland on 8 October 2015 and their representation of the voice of Bulgarian youths concerning the rights of the child. The youths were accompanied by an expert from the National Network for Children Association who presented a complementary report to Bulgaria’s state report on child rights in the country, which aimed to complement the official state party report and provide information and input from the civil society.

Registration number of the project	CSP 081
Title of the project	Lend a Hand – Mobile Teams for Community Support of Children and Families
Executive agency	Association SOS Children’s Villages Bulgaria, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	The project is realized on the territory of 8 municipalities: Sofia Municipality, Kostinbrod, Bozhurishte, Elin Pelin; Radomir, Zemen, the village of Kovachevtsi in Pernik district, Veliko Tarnovo, the village of Ressen, the village of Tserova Kuriya, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Gabrovo, Tryavna, the village of Yavorets and Plachkovtsi.
Budget (BGN)	321,398.24
Committed Grant(CHF)	181,228.25
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	173,896.81
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	36 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 31 August 2016

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CSP 087 - For More and Better Quality Social Services

“CHOVEKOLUBIE”
ASSOCIATION,
PAZARDZHIK

From care by the
community for people
with mental health
problems to care by
the people with mental
health problems for
the community!



The project “For More and Better Quality Social Services” seeks to increase the capacity of the “Chovekolubie” Association to provide more and better social services. The target group of the project was people with mental health problems, professionals in the field of mental health and social services, supporters and sympathizers. The activities were implemented in the towns of Septemvri and Strelcha. A Mental Health Center was created in the town of Septemvri, which introduced the social service “Center for social rehabilitation and integration of people with mental health problems”. The building where the service was implemented, was repaired and furnished, and the service staff was provided with training. Along with the creation of the Mental Health Center in the town of Septemvri the “Chovekolubie” Association set up a “Club for Mental Health” in the town of Strelcha. It is housed in a room provided by the associated partner of the project, the Municipality of Strelcha. It serves as a venue of the club meetings. Club members, activists and supporters were trained in basic knowledge in the area of social and legislative activities.

The project also delivered additional furniture and equipment for the purposes of the “Chovekolubie” sheltered housing in Pazardjik, which created conditions for the placement of two other users of the service.

The project contributed to the empowerment of people with mental disabilities and enabled civil organizations dealing with their integration to be equal members of local communities. The main message of the project is migration “from community care for people with mental disabilities” to “care by people with mental health problems for the community”.

Registration number of the project	CSP 087
Title of the project	For More and Better Quality Social Services
Executive agency	“Chovekolubie” Association, Pazardzhik
Partners	-
Project Location	Pazardzhik Municipality, Septemvri Municipality and Strelcha Municipality
Budget (BGN)	162,178.13
Committed Grant(CHF)	91,448.10
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	91,108.38
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	10 July 2013 - 09 July 2014

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CSP 089 - Lesson: Strengthening the Organizational Capacity Development

„NATIONAL NETWORK FOR CHILDREN“ ASSOCIATION, SOFIA

United and developed civil society sector is one of the main factors to guarantee the rights and well-being of children in Bulgaria.



The main objective of the project is to enhance and develop the institutional capacity of the National Network for Children Association and its member organizations, working for the well-being of children, to be an effective tool for advocacy and monitoring of policies at local and national level and an engine of reform for social inclusion.

The Annual Report Card is one of the major instruments of the National Network for Children (NNC) for influencing the decisions of the Bulgarian government concerning the policies for children and families. This is a year-round process involving external experts and the respective institutions. Each year the National Network for Children is put before central government and the general public the most urgent issues in the following strategic areas : health, education, family, juvenile justice, children’s rights. For the first time they have also developed a report assessing the impact of the planned annual state budget to implement policies directly or indirectly related to children. The report was disseminated during the Final Conference and will be further improved as a second strong instrument for advocacy. The major success under the project activity of capacity building for sustainable and good governance was the strategic planning process which involved all member organizations and the result was the adoption of a new Strategy of the National Network for Children 2015 – 2020. All the trainings were based on the needs of the National Network for Children member organizations. A common priority area (local policies close to the family) was defined during the trainings and approved as a basis for the local campaigns. The local advocacy campaigns facilitated the interaction with local authorities and enabled the discussion of local problems. The results from the campaigns were presented during the Final Conference. An outcome of the workshops was the development of Regional Action Plans including measures for interaction and improvement of the cooperation with the local authorities.

The European Network Eurochild would like to develop such an important instrument as the Annual Report Card on European level as a result of the achievements of the National Network for Children on national level during the project implementation.

Registration number of the project	CSP 089
Title of the project	Lesson: Strengthening the Organizational Capacity Development
Executive agency	"National Network for Children" Association, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	Nation-wide
Budget (BGN)	133,956.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	75,534.37
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	73,051.04
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	26 Months
Period of Implementation	10 July 2013 - 9 September 2015

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CSP 106 - Improving Social Service Provision in Local Community for Early Intervention to Children with Mental Development Problems

CIVIL ASSOCIATION
„ALTERNATIVE 55“ ,
STARA ZAGORA

It is up to us all to ensure that children with disabilities will receive the necessary love, support and professional help in order to stay with their families and get opportunities for harmonious development and social inclusion!



In the past few years a significant growth in the number of children with disabilities has been reported by experts and scientists world-wide. Children with general development disorders, including various forms of autism, ADHD Attention Deficit with or without mental retardation are a substantial group. World practice shows that early diagnosis and rehabilitation for these groups of children is of crucial importance for their education and social integration and for the quality of their future life. The project aims to raise the tolerance and support of the local community to provide an effective community-based social service for children with mental problems in the smaller communities of the Stara Zagora region. During the implementation of the project activities the project team managed not only to establish and explore the partnership across different groups of interdisciplinary experts working with children with disabilities, local public authorities and the parents' community, but also to train and educate community-based groups to enhance the capacity for sustainable support to families and children with mental development problems. A questionnaire-based assessment of the quality of the training was conducted: the answers predominantly stated that the information was relevant and up-to-date, presented in an understandable way, and that it would have a direct impact on the performance of the participants. Possible topics for solving community problems through the development of small social projects were discussed. During the Regional conference "Social Services for Children in Smaller Communities : Problems, Challenges, Sustainable Development" a document was prepared with suggestions for sustainable development of social services for children based on the issues discussed and proposals made by the conference participants, collected through a special survey developed by the project team. Proposals were submitted to the Regional Administration of Stara Zagora as a civil society contribution to the development of the Regional Social Strategy 2016-2020.

Registration number of the project	CSP 106
Title of the project	Improving Social Service Provision in Local Community for Early Intervention to Children with Mental Development Problems
Executive agency	Civil Association "Alternative 55", Stara Zagora
Partners	-
Project Location	Stara Zagora district - Maglizh, Gurkovo, Nikolaevo, Opan and other small settlements in the region
Budget (BGN)	79,259.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	44,692.12
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	44,011.51
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 31 July 2015

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CSP 126 - Prepared Together for Disasters, Accidents and Crises (DAC)

BULGARIAN
RED CROSS
SOCIETY,
SOFIA



The lack of preparedness for response to disasters, accidents and crises (DAC)

leads to difficulties in emergency rescue activities, serious injuries and occasional cases of death, which could be avoided.

The experience from the disasters, accidents and crises in Bulgaria to date shows that there is a huge difference between the response to such situations by the trained and professionally prepared teams of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health and the Bulgarian Red Cross, on the one hand, and that of the local authorities, the spontaneous volunteers and the population, on the other hand. There is no established set of specific skills for working with the vulnerable groups of the population affected by the disasters, accidents and crises.

The project addresses the urgent needs of vulnerable groups during and immediately after disasters, accidents and crises, when the work of the social protection and social care systems is hindered or completely suspended. The project achieves this by preparing the vulnerable groups for response to DAC, strengthening interrelationships between stakeholders (in networks) and establishing trained human resources - volunteers.

The regions for project intervention were selected on the principle of least developed regions with a relatively large proportion of the population falling within the categories of vulnerable and socially disadvantaged citizens. These are the regions of Vidin, Montana and Pernik and according to the official statistics of the Agency for Social Assistance, socially vulnerable in these regions are: Vidin region – 9 156 people, Montana region – 11 716 people and Pernik region – 4 981 people. The lack of readiness of the vulnerable groups in Bulgaria for response to disasters, accidents and crises leads to difficulty in emergency rescue activities, serious injuries, and occasionally to cases of death, which could be avoided if the vulnerable groups have sufficient level of preparedness. The resulting negative impact from DAC affects the most vulnerable groups to a stronger degree, further limiting their access to needed social services.

The completed project is relevant to the Disaster Protection Law and in particular to its preventive measures, including: action planning, monitoring, analysis and assessment of the risks and the situations. This law envisages that the respective bodies responsible

for crisis management shall develop an annual plan and a plan for crisis management, plans and programs nationwide and local plans. Some of the project activities covered gaps related to national legislation, namely in the part regarding the immediate care for vulnerable groups in DAC, when the competent authorities are unable to assume their statutory duties of care for these groups of people. Right after the occurrence of DAC the voluntary support networks assume and perform their auxiliary role to the government and local authorities and take care of the immediate needs of the vulnerable population.

Registration number of the project	CSP 126
Title of the project	Prepared Together for Disasters, Accidents and Crises (DAC)
Executive agency	Bulgarian Red Cross Society, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	Vidin, Montana, Pernik, Sofia
Budget (BGN)	372,186.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	209,866.17
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	196,784.11
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	32 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 31 March 2016

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CSP 138 - Package of Integrative Services to Guarantee the Rights of Children Involved in Legal Proceedings

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
AND PRACTICES
INSTITUTE (SAPI),
SOFIA

Via the "Package of Integrative Services" project SAPI will appropate an innovative model which will contribute to the development of a child-friendly juvenile justice policy.



According to international standards, the juvenile justice needs to introduce the principle of guaranteeing the best interest of the child. In this respect the main impact of the project is a contribution to strengthening the role of the non-government sector in the process of reforming the system and applying the international standards on child-friendly justice. The project supports the state in finding mechanisms for the application of these standards through the establishment of the child hearing practice for children victims or witnesses of crime and piloting and approbation of a package of cross-sectoral (integrated) services to ensure the rights of children involved in legal proceedings.

As a result of the active work of the project management team and the team of CSSCF-Vidin regular monitoring committee meetings and working meetings with the responsible institutions: Child Protection Departments, judges, prosecutors and the Ministry of Interior, were held. Those entities were involved in multi-institutional cooperation to achieve the project goal: to protect the rights of children involved in legal proceedings. A network of professionals was established to guarantee the application of a uniform model of child-friendly justice and of an integrated approach to case work.

A Package of services to guarantee the rights of the child involved in legal proceedings was piloted for the first time in practice. It included: informing the child and the parents concerning the child's rights during his/her participation in legal proceedings; preparing the child to participate in legal proceedings as a part of the initial assessment, assistance for interviewing/interrogation in the „blue room“ according to the child friendly procedures and ensuring the interest of the child, advocacy and accompaniment of the child during the legal proceedings.

The work under this project was crucial for both the introduction of the integrated approach to children based on an individual assessment of their specific needs and its further replication on national level through additional funding provided by the SAPI and the EC.

Registration number of the project	CSP 138
Title of the project	Package of Integrative Services to Guarantee the Rights of Children Involved in Legal Proceedings
Executive agency	Social Activities and Practices Institute, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	Vidin district, Vidin Municipality
Budget (BGN)	71,820.50
Committed Grant (CHF)	40,497.74
Disbursed Grant (CHF):	39,217.98
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	18 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 28 February 2015

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CSP 139 – Poverty among Us – Development of Social Services

NATIONAL CATHOLIC
FEDERATION CARITAS
BULGARIA, SOFIA

We are doing a study of poverty in Bulgaria according to the experience of people in need, which will contribute to the improvement of social services on the basis of our 20-year experience as an organization working for

and lobbying in favor of the poorest people in the community. On a monthly basis 2807 people in need receive support from Caritas - Bulgaria.



The studies of National Catholic Federation Caritas Bulgaria show that the methods used for poverty monitoring in Bulgaria do not imply “hearing the voice” of the most vulnerable groups of people: the elderly, families with children at risk, people with disabilities, etc.

Other very important questions are: What are the needs of people living at risk of poverty? What has led to this situation? What and where exactly are the causes? What should be changed? What kind of preventive measures should be taken? They remain unanswered because of the lack of quality evaluation data and indicators.

The project of the National Catholic Federation Caritas Bulgaria, supported by its network structures (member organizations) and beneficiaries, aims to examine poverty in the country. The study and monitoring are realized mainly through the voice of those supported by the Caritas network because their social workers are the closest to the people in need. This enables the collection and continuous update of information for analysis and adequate advocacy activities.

It was important to create the methodology under this project and to use it in the future for monitoring and for observation activities on various social issues. Once created, the missing methodology for collecting and analyzing information about poverty in Bulgaria and the experience of the social workers of Caritas will enable the organisation to sustainably use it in the future. The information collected during the implementation of the project made it possible for Caritas Bulgaria to reflect the current situation of poverty in Bulgaria. The results of the study contributed significantly to the enhancement of their advocacy arguments and skills to the benefit of the poorest people at regional and national

level. The research and monitoring of poverty in Bulgaria will contribute to the building and strengthening of the Caritas network, because it also includes other civil society organizations with which Caritas works together on the issues of poverty. The completed project will also contribute to the advocacy actions of the civil society on behalf of people in need.

Registration number of the project	CSP 139
Title of the project	Poverty Among Us – Development of Social Services
Executive agency	National Catholic Federation Caritas Bulgaria, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	Nation-wide; North-Western region: Vratza; North-Eastern region: Ruse; South-Western region: Sofia; South-Central region: Rakovski; South-Eastern region: Bourgas.
Budget (BGN)	94,886.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	47,558.82
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	46,841.82
Cofinancing	20%
Duration	21 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 30 May 2015

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CSP 146 - Partnership in Strategies and Action

BULGARIAN
CENTER FOR
NOT-FOR-PROFIT
LAW FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Partnership for
active, independent
and sustainable civil
society organizations
in Bulgaria.



Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are undergoing difficult process of transition. Since Bulgaria joined the EU the funding environment for CSOs changed. The EU funding was re-directed through different ministries and its focus shifted from supporting CSO capacity, watchdog activities, etc. predominantly to service provision. CSOs in the social area obtain public funding through social contracting, but these resources are only for social services. This is a serious obstacle for the development and independence of CSOs and for their role in civic participation. In addition, since the adoption of the Law on Non-Profit Legal Entities in 2000 and its amendments in 2006, practically no legislative or strategic initiative benefitting the CSO sector has been undertaken by the Bulgarian government. Twice in this period there were unsuccessful attempts to eliminate tax benefits for donors to CSOs (in 2008 and 2009).

All of these are signs that Bulgarian CSOs have increasing difficulties in accessing decision-makers and making their voices heard. There is a need for alternative funding mechanisms to make sure that CSOs are a stable and independent partner to the state.

The project seeks to advance the cooperation between the state and the civil society organizations by guaranteeing this cooperation with relevant policies and transparent funding mechanism, as well as to improve the environment for CSOs and the implementation of the Strategy for Support of the Development of CSOs including the creation of a sustainable mechanism for state funding of CSOs. There is a need to promote the possibilities they bring to CSOs and to ensure that CSOs provide their critical feedback. Another important step is to support the competent state institutions in the implementation of the Strategy's specific measures based on mapping the needs and most pressing issues of CSOs. The funding mechanism itself is especially important for the purpose of social inclusion of vulnerable groups: it will provide more opportunities for advocacy and participation in the decision-making process. In order to make sure that the ideas and principles in these documents do not remain just on paper, there is a need to support their transparent, evidence-based and legitimate implementation. The project affects all Bulgarian CSOs. It ensures a coherent learning process aimed especially at social CSOs and based on analyses of needs and best working models with the purpose

of guaranteeing CSOs support and contribution to the implementation of the Strategy. The completed trainings increased the capacity of social CSOs for participation in decision-making and fundraising. The assessment of the Strategy implementation has provided to both CSOs and the Government a critical view of its successes and shortcomings as well as a recommendation for further improvements. The assessment methodology will be an important instrument for future evaluations of the State-CSOs partnership.

Registration number of the project	CSP 146
Title of the project	Partnership in Strategies and Action
Executive agency	Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law Foundation
Partners	Programme and Analytical Centre for European Law (PACEL)
Project Location	Nation-wide; the 6 planning regions in Bulgaria
Budget (BGN)	127,830.80
Committed Grant (CHF)	71,968.40
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	67,412.78
Cofinancing	10.14%
Duration	27 Months
Period of Implementation	1 October 2013 - 31 December 2015

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CSP 153 - Quality Standards and Monitoring Instruments for the Social Services for People with Disabilities

DE PASAREL
BULGARIA
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

The quality of social services is necessary in order to ensure development and better life for people with disabilities. Quality criteria for social services are the instrument for support and stimulation of this development.



The main problem addressed by the project is the need for improving the quality of the community-based social services for people with disabilities. The project is closing the gap between the abstract theoretical concepts of “human rights” and “quality of life” and the daily practice of social services provision.

The project analyzes the aspects of the quality of social services at 3 levels: from the perspective of the users, the service providers and the state institutions. The core project activities include organization of a round table conference “The quality of social services – formality, reality and challenge” and establishment of 3 consultative focus groups, each of which held 3 meetings in order to come up with concrete proposals and formulations. An internet debate forum (<http://www.depasarel.bg/forum/>) has been created under the project and different experts, service providers, users and the broad public can use it to share opinions and discuss the challenges and the experience gained in relation to the quality of life of people with disabilities. The project implementation facilitates the process of policy-making as an interactive activity involving all stakeholders. It is a powerful instrument for increasing the impact of civil society organizations, their advocacy and networking capacity. The project is in compliance with the initiatives related to the deinstitutionalization of children and the establishment of new community based services and to the implementation of the ratified UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The elaborated quality standards will supplement the initiative of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy for establishing a mechanism for monitoring the provision of social services with current focus on productivity of services.

Registration number of the project	CSP 153
Title of the project	Quality Standards and Monitoring Instruments for the Social Services for People with Disabilities
Executive agency	De Pasarel Bulgaria Foundation, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	Sofia
Budget (BGN)	69,570.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	39,228.75
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	37,592.54
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	18 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 1February 2015

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CSP 169 - Trauma Center for Children and Families

ANIMUS ASSOCIATION
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Please, provide HELP to
children and families -
victims of violence:
Trauma Center exists!



Children victims of violence have long and difficult recovery and often display deviant or self-destructive behavior. Some learn to use aggression as a social strategy to solve conflicts or manage overwhelming feelings, while others become victims themselves (school bullying, for example). Both groups face social exclusion if the trauma of the experienced violence remains untreated.

The project aims at ensuring the sustainable functioning of a specialized Trauma Center for work with children victims of violence and their families. The Trauma Center stands for a highly-specialized professional area offering support to the most complicated cases of children at risk – traumatized children, including children survivors of violence and children raised in residential care.

Successful trauma treatment enables people to find social fulfilment. Well-supported children and families are less likely to continue to use the resources of the social and healthcare systems in the future. The long-term objective of the project is to raise the prominence of the psychotherapeutic model of work developed by the Animus team within the community, so that it can be further applied as a sustainable service complementing the social and health services system in the Municipality of Sofia. The AAF efforts have been acknowledged and supported and the Center continues its operation by rendering integrated services: it provides services to children victims of violence and their families by establishing a specialized approach and programs bringing together good-quality legal, medical, psychological and social practices, child-friendly working procedures and favorable support environment. In order to develop an innovative working approach, Animus was licensed by the State Agency for Child Protection to deliver a new type of social service: Comprehensive social service for child victims of violence “Protection Zone – Child and Youth Advocacy Center”. This is a real success in achieving AAF’s commitments as an organization and the goals set in the project. This is also a step in fulfilling the mission of Animus Association Foundation to provide accessible psycho-therapy programs and services providing professional support to people in need. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for the Development and Pilot Implementation of a Model of Innovative Service for Children Victims and Witnesses of Violence was signed between UNICEF,

Animus Association Foundation and the Municipality of Sofia.

The lobbying efforts for the adoption of the already elaborated standards for services for victims of domestic violence continue. So far the larger lobby network, of which AAF is part, has achieved an important development on the issue. An inter-departmental group involving all ministries has been set up to discuss the legal reforms that need to be undertaken so that the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention for elimination of gender-based violence (the so called Istanbul Convention) can take place.

Registration number of the project	CSP 169
Title of the project	Trauma Center for Children and Families
Executive agency	Animus Association Foundation
Partners	-
Project Location	Sofia Municipality and Sofia district
Budget (BGN)	383,901.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	216,471.96
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	201,196.05
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	36 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 31 August 2016

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CSP 206 - Project for Development of New Social Services in the Caritas Ruse Network in North Bulgaria

RUSE CATHOLIC ORGANISATION „CARITAS“, RUSE

Children are the most important asset! Let us give them a chance for a happy future and an opportunity for a better quality life!



In the years of its existence Caritas Ruse has established informal civic structures, called parish organizations, in several settlements in North Bulgaria. These structures carry out organized social activities such as distribution of humanitarian aid, implementation of local initiatives and campaigns, actions in case of disasters, programs for work with children, etc. The Catholic Church has gratuitously provided them with small buildings and a symbolic budget in order to encourage them to be active and to seek collaboration with local institutions, representatives of other religions, professional associations and local authorities.

The completed project for development of new social services in the Caritas Ruse network in North Bulgaria succeeded in turning local initiatives pursued informally by volunteers in four settlements (Belene and Vratsa municipalities, the village of Malchika, Levski municipality and the village of Oresh, Svishtov municipality) in North Bulgaria into organized professional social services for children and juveniles, executed in accordance with the Bulgarian legislation. A valuable resource was the fact that Caritas Ruse has received a written recommendation by the State Agency for Child Protection to provide social services in the context of juvenile justice.

A positive effect of the project is the recognition of the services for social rehabilitation and integration of children and juveniles by the local authorities – all four centers contributed considerably to the cooperation of Caritas and the local social assistance bodies. The necessity to recruit different specialists was identified in advance according to the needs of each target group and the experts in each settlement. The newly created services were consistently presented to the local community in order to guarantee the equal access of all children and parents in need. Round tables were carried out once a year and the interested parties discussed current issues and the experience gained. As a result of that the new services became well known in the community. During the project implementation the social services provided support to children at risk and their families.

Registration number of the project	CSP 206
Title of the project	Project for Development of New Social Services in the Caritas Ruse Network in North Bulgaria
Executive agency	Ruse Catholic Organisation "Caritas"
Partners	-
Project Location	North Bulgaria: Belene Municipality; Vratsa Municipality; Levski Municipality, village of Malchika; Svichtov Municipality, village of Oresh
Budget (BGN)	261,050.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	145,563.87
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	133,638.50
Cofinancing	11%
Duration	36 Months
Period of Implementation	15 July 2013 - 14 July 2016

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CSP 226 - Building Capacity for the Future

CRIME PREVENTION
FUND – IGA
FOUNDATION,
PAZARDZHIK

Those who think about the future!

The project aims to improve IGA's capacity to deliver the 9 social services managed by the organization. This will be realized in three main directions: first, reviewing the practices of delivery, identifying needs and training staff to overcome these needs, while looking to improve the methodologies on the policy level; second, reviewing the scientific value of the data collected in the process of service delivery, developing a system of indicators to be monitored and data to be collected for research purposes and training staff to monitor and collect this information; and third, reviewing the level and quality of cooperation with relevant network partners and discussing and adopting improvements in the cooperation and networking process within the relevant networks.

The result was improved capacity of the organisation to maintain high level of the services provided across various regions. A comprehensive study was completed and a report was drawn up. Three new training curricula were prepared and 27 persons were trained: social services managers, social workers, psychologists. A report and a system of data and indicators were drawn up on the basis of the information collected during the service provision process to improve the organization's potential. A training curriculum was designed for staff members on how to collect information, monitor the indicators and interpret their performance in individual cases. Nine joint working meetings were organized to adopt improvements of the cooperation process with the network/system partners in each type of service managed by IGA



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУЖИЧЕСТВО

Thematic Fund (TF) "Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation" (CSP)

Проект
„Изграждане на капацитет за бъдещето“

Проектът се реализира с финансовата подкрепа на Конфедерация Швейцария чрез Фонд за реформи, свързани с участието на гражданското общество

ТЕЗИ, КОИТО МИСЛЯТ ЗА БЪДЕШЕТО!

- Подобрено капацитета на Фонд - ИГА да предоставя социални услуги на лица от уязвими групи;
- Подобрена способността на организацията за поддръжка на високо качество на предоставяване на услугите в различни региони;
- Подобрено потенциала на организацията за допълнително развитие на услугите;
- Подобрена способността за партниране при индивидуални случаи от мрежата и системата партньори, както и при такива от отдалечените региони.

ИГА Фонд за превенция на престъпността - ИГА

Registration number of the project	CSP 226
Title of the project	Building Capacity for the Future
Executive agency	Crime Prevention Fund – IGA Foundation, Pazardzhik
Partners	-
Project Location	the towns of Pazardzhik, Plovdiv and Peshtera
Budget (BGN)	35,574.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	20,045.90
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	17,075.72
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 31 August 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

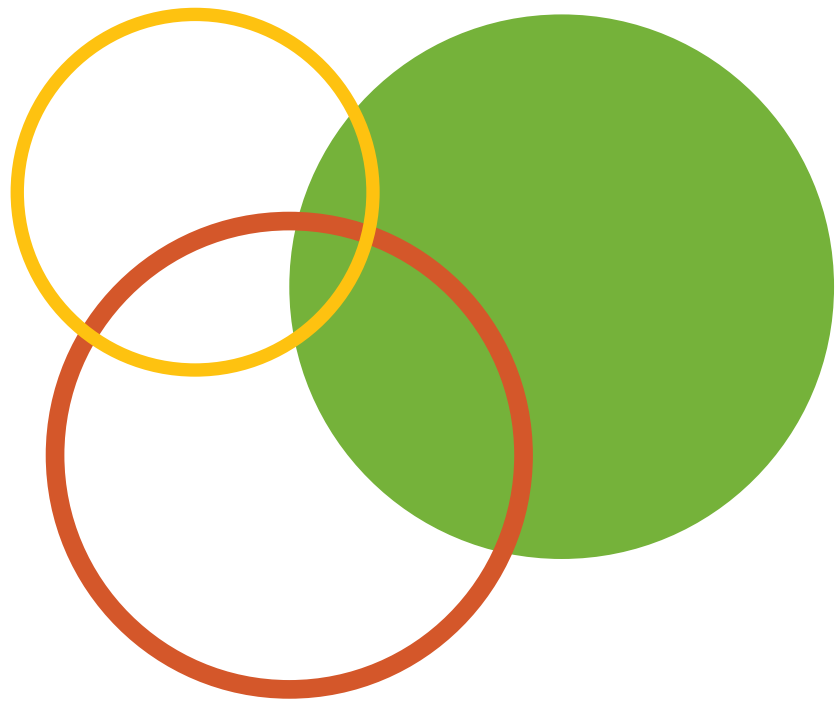
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THEMATIC FUND
“REFORM FUND LINKED
TO CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION”

Projects implemented under
the Block Grant Scheme

Thematic Focus: Environmental projects

CSP 063 - The Pontoon / Deck of the “Danube Club” – Laboratory and Classroom

DANUBE CLUB –
SILISTRA
ASSOCIATION,
SILISTRA

To be guards of our river: this is the goal of the public watchdog group, organized by Danube Club - Silistra. By defining and pursuing realistic environmental protection objectives, the residents of each region can contribute to keeping Bulgaria clean.



The project was aimed at improving of the capacity of the “Danube Club – Silistra” Association to act as public watchdog for the protection of water purity and biodiversity of the Danube in the region of the town of Silistra. For achieving such an effect the project included a series of well-structured activities implemented within a period of 18 months. The project included an advocacy campaign for public participation in policies for sustainable management of the coastal zone, for monitoring and evaluation of the water quality. En effort was made towards improving the access to public information about the quality of the Danube water near Silistra, from km. 374.5 to km. 380.0. With respect to ensuring continuity and sustainability of the results, young people were involved in environmental educational activities. Citizens were involved in the project through a variety of communication tools and public events. The symbolic centre of the project activities was the pontoon of the executing agency (EA) situated in the Danube, in Silistra.

The EA defines several positive effects from the project, expected to provide for its organizational sustainability. Thanks to the trainings as well as to the “Danube Forum” and the water sampling and testing activities, EA’s members gained the capacity to develop the methodology and provide three new services to offer to the citizens of Silistra, such as conducting of outdoor environmental trainings; applying a procedure for taking and examining river water samples, and analyzing the levels of chemical ingredients and developing a methodology for and conducting of advocacy campaigns.

Registration number of the project	CSP 063
Title of the project	The Pontoon / Deck of the „Danube Club“ – Laboratory and Classroom
Executive agency	Danube Club – Silistra Association
Partners	-
Project Location	The coastal zone of the Danube river in the region of the town of Silistra, from km 374.5 to km 380.0
Budget (BGN)	49,542.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	27,873.39
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	27,094.92
Cofinancing	10.2%
Duration	18 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 28 February 2015

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CSP 070 - Ombudsman of Nature

RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT
UNION
ASSOCIATION,
HASKOVO

Good decisions in favor of people and nature are taken when citizens are active in monitoring institutions.



The project increases the participation of citizens in environmental decision-making in the districts of Haskovo and Kardzhali and creates awareness of nature conservation with focus on young people. The project also enhances the capacity of the Reconstruction and Development Union to monitor the work of the institutions that take decisions concerning the environment.

The project was focused on the monitoring of the process of decision-making by the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water (RIEW) for the districts of Haskovo and Kardzhali and by the state forestry administrations in terms of the environmental impact assessment of investment intentions, plans and projects. The team of the executing agency (EA) was trained in overall knowledge of the environmental legislation. The decisions of the RIEW were monitored by an environmental expert on a regular basis and those of public interest were announced through the local and regional media. The project contributed to raising the awareness of the citizens on how to monitor and participate in the decision-making process of the regional environmental authorities in time, before the decisions are already taken and how to preserve biodiversity in urban environment. Special focus was put on the work with children: as they are involved in bird feeding and nature conservation events and activities, they learn to respect nature and become ambassadors of the idea of sustainable lifestyle which they often manage to very successfully transmit to their families.

Registration number of the project	CSP 070
Title of the project	Ombudsman of Nature
Executive agency	Reconstruction and Development Union Association, Haskovo
Partners	-
Project Location	The municipalities of Haskovo, Harmanli and Stambolovo, with impact on the territorial scope of Haskovo Regional Inspectorate on Environment and Water and Kardjali Regional Forestry Administration
Budget (BGN)	77,739.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	43,835.04
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	38 ,210.23
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	15 July 2013 - 14 July 2015

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CSP 114 - ZAEDNO – Community-Based Network of Organic Gardens of Learning in Bulgaria

ZAEDNO –
COMMUNICATION
FOR SUPPORT AND
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION, SOFIA

The organic gardens of learning are a wonderful instrument for cultivating skills for sustainable way of living with care for nature and for the future of our children. They

are an affordable and attractive approach towards developing harmonious environment and a community for integral learning through experience. All resources and materials developed under the project are available free of charge to everyone who is interested.



The “Organic Gardens of Learning” is an initiative in the field of education for children in kindergartens, initiated by Zaedno Foundation in the year 2011. In the period 2013-2014 the project continued to develop and expand the initiative by supporting the creation of new Organic Gardens of Learning across the country, by organizing interactive workshops for teachers, pedagogues, parents and citizens interested in the topic, by presenting new ethics and practices of sustainable way of living based on the Permaculture Design and bio-dynamic agriculture, and by supporting the formation of a community sharing resources, information and experience in creating educational organic gardens for children.

The project tackles environmental issues by making two important steps towards sustainable development: expanding of an excellent environmental education practice for creation of Organic Gardens of Learning and presenting for the first time in Bulgarian language the overall ethical system of the Permaculture : a system of principles and practices of sustainable living, which is new to Bulgaria and can be easily learned and applied in order to improve the living conditions and provide for the conservation of natural resources for generations to come. On the other hand, the project contributes to enhancing the capacity of the Zaedno Foundation in pursuing its mission by delivery of quality services and for strengthening the abilities to create networks and communicate with citizens and mobilise civic support. The project also builds local capacity by involving large numbers of participants in its Organic Gardens of Learning – not only children, but also enthusiastic parents and teachers, fascinated by the exercise in organic farming and the Permaculture philosophy.

Registration number of the project	CSP 114
Title of the project	Community-based Network of Organic Gardens of Learning in Bulgaria
Executive agency	ZAEDNO – Communication for Support and Development Foundation, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	National. The EA is based in Sofia. Project activities are implemented in the towns of Burgas, Varna, Vidin, Plovdiv, Veliko Tarnovo and Sliven
Budget (BGN)	63,017.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	35,533.49
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	34,740.00
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 31 July 2014

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CSP 121 - Eco-volunteers for the Protection of Via Pontica

YOUTH
INFORMATION
CENTRE
ASSOCIATION,
AYTOS

By protecting the
environment we protect
ourselves!



The Youth Information Centre Association unites environmentalists and ecologists devoted to nature and biodiversity preservation in the district of Bourgas. Bourgas Bay and the lakes located in it: Mandra, Poda, Vaya and Atanasovsko, are the preferred habitat of thousands of wild songbirds in the winter period of the year. The area is of international significance because of the ornithological diversity and constitutes an important element of the Via Pontica bird migration route. Unfortunately, Bourgas Bay is notorious for the poachers and the illegal trade with protected species. There are also pointless attacks of uninformed youngsters against beautifully-colored birds.

The project “Eco-volunteers for protection of Via Pontica” contributes to biodiversity preservation in the region of Bourgas through prevention against songbirds poaching and raising the awareness of the local community and, in particular, of schoolchildren on the issue. A solution of the problem was sought by establishing well-trained teams of volunteers and by performing regular monitoring of the areas where protected species reside. A partnership with the local authorities: municipality, police, and Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water, was established. An information campaign was conducted and it enhanced the intolerance of the local community to wild songbird poaching. Increasing the number of members, training and organizing teams of volunteers and improving the synergy between the local branches of the Youth Information Centre Association in the towns of Bourgas, Aytos, Sredets and Balgarovo was pursued through the project.

Registration number of the project	CSP 121
Title of the project	Eco-volunteers for the Protection of Via Pontica
Executive agency	Youth Information Centre Association, Aytos
Partners	Opportunities Without Borders Association, Sofia
Project Location	Burgas district, including the towns of Bourgas, Aytos, Balgarovo and Sredets and the Bourgas lakes of Mandra, Vaya, Poda and Atanassovsko
Budget (BGN)	57,892.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	32,643.82
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	31,200.64
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	15 July 2013 - 14 July 2014

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CSP 154 - For an Open (-air) Discussion: Citizens and Politicians in a Dialogue on Environmental Policies

SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATION PRACTICES ASSOCIATION, SOFIA

Feedback from citizens to rulers and transparency of environmental policies are the key elements of the sustainable development of the country.



By implementing the “For an open (-air) discussion: citizens and politicians in a dialogue on environmental policies” project the Executing Agency, Society for Investigation Practices, launched the “Green Laws” initiative. The initiative, which continues after the completion of the project, aims to provide long-term policy-making for sustainable management of natural resources and to encourage the participation of the civil society in the development of environmental law through innovative tools for monitoring and dialogue with legislators.

The project activities were designed to facilitate the informed debate between citizens and candidates and elected members of Parliament on the environmental policies of Bulgaria. Before the European parliamentary elections in 2014 public discussions were held among citizens, experts from environmental NGOs and politicians, thus shaping the positions on the environmental priorities of the political parties based on the programmes for the 2013 national elections and the priorities of the political parties represented at the 42nd National Assembly.

The “For an open (-air) discussion: citizens and politicians in a dialogue on environmental policies” project focused the work of the Executing Agency, the Society for Investigation Practices, on the development of the environmental legislation in Bulgaria, on monitoring the implementation of pre-election promises by the political parties represented in Parliament, and on facilitating the communication between citizens and lawmakers. Owing to the active advocacy efforts of the project team one such procedure was effectively terminated. Capacity for communication with legislators and adequate media coverage was built as well.

Registration number of the project	CSP 154
Title of the project	For an open (-air) Discussion: Citizens and Politicians in a Dialogue on Environmental Policies
Executive agency	Society for Investigation Practices Association, Sofia
Partners	Zelenika Foundation, Sofia
Project Location	Sofia
Budget (BGN)	74,608.98
Committed Grant (CHF)	42,070.10
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	41,363.08
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	14 Months
Period of Implementation	1 March 2014 - 30 April 2015

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CSP 155 - Building Capacity and New Models for Stakeholders Participation in the Management of Natura 2000 Protected Sites in Bulgaria

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (REC) FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE – BRANCH BULGARIA, SOFIA

Efficient civic participation related to the planning and management of nature is the first step towards establishing sustainable partnership with the state!



Natura 2000 is one of the EU tools for nature conservation and sustainable development on European and national level. The ecological network introduces the idea of nature conservation in all spheres of social and economic life and that of preservation of the traditional relationship between man and his environment. Unlike national parks and reserves, Natura 2000 sites include areas of diverse ownership and usage. The management of protected sites consists of implementation of maintenance and restoration measures for the species and their habitats, regulation of human activities, identification of zones of different modes of protection, etc. Management plans of the protected sites have been developed for the purpose of effective governance. The citizen participation in the management of the protected sites should take place predominantly at the planning stage, during the preparation of management plans, and subsequently in the course of their implementation in order to avoid conflicts among stakeholders.

The “Building capacity and new models for stakeholder participation in the management of Natura 2000 protected sites in Bulgaria” project contributes to the overcoming of the problems related to the management of Natura 2000 sites through the introduction and testing of mechanisms for stakeholder participation in the management of Natura 2000 protected sites. The project also contributes to the social and economic development of less favoured areas in Bulgaria by supporting the sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites.

Registration number of the project	CSP 155
Title of the project	Building Capacity and New Models for Stakeholder Participation in the Management of Natura 2000 Protected Sites in Bulgaria
Executive agency	Regional Environmental Center (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe, Branch Bulgaria, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	Western Stara Planina Mountain, Western Rhodopes Mountain, western slopes of Rila Mountain (Kocherinovo protected site)
Budget (BGN)	219,829.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	122,578.67
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	114,631.94
Cofinancing	11%
Duration	30 Months
Period of Implementation	10 July 2013 - 31 December 2015

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CSP 172 - Civil Society Participation for Sustainable Mountains

BALKANI
WILDLIFE
SOCIETY
ASSOCIATION,
SOFIA

ПРОЗРАЧНИ
ПЛАНИНИ

ГРАЖДАНСКО
УЧАСТИЕ ЗА
УСТОЙЧИВИ
ПЛАНИНИ

Individually
or together,
intentionally or
unintentionally, we
become part of the
everyday changes
in the environment.

We choose whether they will be for the better...

The project involves the civil society of the most vulnerable and poor regions in Bulgaria – the mountains, in discussions and initiatives towards sustainable development and nature protection in these regions. The territorial scope of the project includes parts of Southwest Bulgaria: mountain regions from the West Aegean River Basin (Struma and Mesta) and parts from the East Aegean River Basin (West Rhodope Mountain). These are regions where civil society's awareness about sustainable development is low. The development of strategic plans and other policy documents related to economic planning follows the top-down approach without any civil society participation and consideration of sustainable development principles. This is the main reason for the ongoing depopulation of the region and for local economic activities that destroy the regions' natural resources without bringing any added value for the local communities.

In order to overcome these problems the project partners: BALKANI Wildlife Society and the local partners Bikearea Association, Velingrad Branch and Fishermen Society Balkanka – 2009 initiated the establishment of a broad public network engaging both active citizens and experts at local and national level. Active discussions related to the development of plans, programs and projects in the field of forestry, water and territorial planning were organized. Opinions and civil proposals on important strategic documents were developed as a result of the discussions. The project included also advocacy campaigns and local civic support for the developed opinions and proposals.

Registration number of the project	CSP 172
Title of the project	Civil Society Participation for Sustainable Mountains
Executive agency	BALKANI Wildlife Society Association, Sofia
Partners	Bikearia Association, Velingrad; Balkanka 2009 Fishermen Assicoation, Blagoevgrad
Project Location	Mountains in Southwest Bulgaria; West and Middle Rhodopes, Pirin, Rila, Vitosha and west border mountains
Budget (BGN)	316,381.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	178,391.70
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	166,254.15
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	34 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 31 May 2016

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CSP 184 - Municipal Model for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Conservation and Sustainable Use with Participation of Civil Society Organisations, Local Communities and Media

INFORMATION
AND NATURE
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Civil society organisations have to be the driving force for the development of the regions through sustainable use



of the medicinal and aromatic plants resources. The latter can ensure the livelihood of more than a quarter of the local communities.

The region of Apriltsi, Lovech, Sevlievo and Troyan in Central Bulgaria is among the richest ones in medicinal plants valuable for the pharmaceutical, cosmetics and food industries not only in Bulgaria but in Europe and in the world as well. For that reason the region has been chosen by the experts of the Information and Nature Conservation Foundation for the implementation of the project. It developed a model for creation of livelihood for the local communities along with protection and proper use of the natural medicinal plant resources.

The project produced series of outputs. A standard format for the management and sustainable use of medicinal plants as part of the municipal plan for environmental protection was developed and made available for use nationwide. A model for regional assessment of the medicinal plant resources was developed. A resource information center was established to provide information and advice to stakeholders. A practical example of adding value through manufacture of products from local medicinal plant resources was developed and presented. The project team conducted a broad information campaign to popularize the rules and benefits of the sustainable use of medicinal plants at regional and national level. A series of workshops and trainings on the sustainable use of medicinal plants and the development of livelihood based on them were carried out. A regional “Task Force” group was formed by representatives of the NGOs and local communities in the project area to collect information and keep in touch with all local stakeholders and individuals interested in the sustainable use of medicinal plants. A proposal for

improvement of the Medicinal Plants Act and the related regulations was developed and submitted to the Parliament and the Ministry of Environment and Water. The project is an excellent example of a comprehensive coverage of the environmental problem in all its aspects.

Registration number of the project	CSP 184
Title of the project	Municipal Model for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Conservation and Sustainable Use with Participation of Civil Society Organisations, Local Communities and Media
Executive agency	Information and Nature Conservation Foundation, Sofia
Partners	-
Project Location	The Municipalities of Lovech, Apriltsi, Sevlievo and Troyan
Budget (BGN)	442,074.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	249,274.23
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	239,403.27
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	36 Months
Period of Implementation	15 September 2013 - 15 September 2016

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CSP 193 - Enhancing Capacity to Mobilize Civil Society in Rural Communities for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Services

EARTH FOREVER
FOUNDATION,
STARA ZAGORA

Civil society organisations have to actively cooperate with the institutions and the residents of the smaller towns and villages.



The water and sanitation sector in Bulgaria is in a process of intensive infrastructural development with respect to the requirements of a number of EU water directives. Investments in infrastructure exert a long-term effect on the livelihood of the local communities, on the development of all sectors, on the environment as a whole and on water resources in particular. The concerns of the Earth Forever Foundation are related to the solutions chosen in a top-down manner by the state while following the philosophy that one type of technology serves all communities regardless of the community specific needs, demands and resources. The foundation finds this approach unsuitable for small rural communities with very limited financial and human resources where the life of people is dependent on very limited water resources with vast seasonal variations and is vulnerable to climate change.

Based on the above considerations, the project is driven by the need to mobilize rural communities to make informed decisions and to address adequately immediate issues related to the efficient management of water resources vulnerable to vast seasonal fluctuations and climate change. An innovative broad bottom-up approach was applied by the foundation to raise the awareness of active community groups and mobilize rural communities in the project area to stand for their water and sanitation rights. Parallel to tackling these core issues the project also contributed to enhancing the organizational capacity of the foundation, to pursuing its mission to advocate for sustainable water and sanitation management and services.

Registration number of the project	CSP 193
Title of the project	Enhancing Capacity to Mobilize Civil Society in Rural Communities for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Services
Executive agency	Earth Forever Foundation, Stara Zagora
Partners	-
Project Location	Village of Dalboki (Stara Zagora Municipality), Village of Yagoda (Maglizh Municipality), Sarnevo village (Radnevo Municipality)
Budget (BGN)	112 ,756.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	63,279.24
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	62,196.95
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	36 Months
Period of Implementation	15 July 2013 - 14 July 2016

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CSP 197 - Environmental Education for Young People – a Bridge towards Sustainable Development of the Local Communities

YOUTH FORUM
21ST CENTURY
ASSOCIATION,
SOFIA

**Be ECOISTS! Give
example! Be responsible
and love nature!**



The project pursues enhancement of the awareness and understanding of young people of the advantages of non-formal education in the spheres of environment and sustainable development, as well as of the interrelation between these issues and young people's fundamental rights.

The project made a step towards fostering the participation of the civil society in the public agenda by establishing a community of active young people that watch, promote and participate in environmental education, sustainable development and active citizenship; participate in the discussions and decision making processes at a local level. As a result of the national information and education campaign carried out by means of a mobile information eco-centre "Friends of Nature" in 7 municipalities on the territory of Bulgaria: Sofia, Smolyan, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Yambol, Veliko Tarnovo and Gabrovo, over 5000 young people aged up to 35 were informed about the local, national and European policies in the field of environmental preservation and the possibilities for youth participation in the implementing of these policies. The initiative "72 hours of Actions for Sustainable Development" was carried out in the 7 municipalities involving the youth in contribution to the sustainable development of local communities.

Seven educational youth reality shows under the title "Environment and Sustainable Way of Living", were organized and conducted by/at the "Future Now" Community Centre in the village of Gudevitsa, a project partner. Enhancement of the organisational capacities of the EA, Youth Forum 21st Century, and of the partner, Future Now Community Centre, was achieved by acquiring new knowledge, skills and competences and by increasing the number of the volunteers and members of both organisations. A closing event: a discussion forum on the topic of "The Role of Young People in the Development of Environmental Education and in the Sustainable Development of the Local Communities in Bulgaria" was organized.

Registration number of the project	CSP 197
Title of the project	Environmental Education for Young People – a Bridge towards Sustainable Development of the Local Communities
Executive agency	Youth Forum 21st Century Association, Sofia
Partners	Future Now 2006 Community Center, Gudevitsa village
Project Location	7 Bulgarian municipalities: Smolyan, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Yambol, Veliko Tarnovo and Gabrovo
Budget (BGN)	87,323.46
Committed Grant (CHF)	46,120.97
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	42,574.27
Cofinancing	15.7%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 1 August 2015

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CSP 210 - Strengthening Civic Awareness and Participation on Climate Change Issues in Western Bulgarian Schools and Communities

BULGARIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION, SOFIA

The consequences of climate change are visible in Bulgaria. The responsible attitude is the only way for mitigating them.



“Citizens as agents of climate” is the new approach to climate action recommended by the European Environmental Agency. Understanding the direct relationship between individual actions and climate change is key to bringing citizens “on board” of the global climate agenda. Thus, it is essential to increase environmental literacy and expose the relevance of climate change to personal lifestyle through offering accessible and locally-relevant climate education and information in an engaging and action-provoking manner. Pursuing this objective the project applied innovative approaches in mobilising community participation in setting the local climate agenda on the basis of solid understanding of climate-related attitudes and practices (both positive & negative). Local youth has been considered as the key entry point to bringing about more climate-friendly attitudes and behaviours. Climate-positive action was stimulated in the framework of the project by training youth leaders and school teachers and by informing community members in the municipalities of Godech, Kresna, Simitli, Strumyani, Slivnitsa, Tran and Breznik about the opportunities for participation in shaping climate policies, in implementing good practices and conducting citizen climate monitoring. Grassroot initiatives benefited from the expertise (e.g. In water & waste management, energy efficiency, environmental laws, etc.) of the project partners: the Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (acting as an Executing Agency), the Bulgarian partner – Za Zemyata Environmental Association and the Swiss partner, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation. The cooperation with universities under the project links academic research and civil society environmental work improving respectively the practical and scientific aspects of both.

Registration number of the project	CSP 210
Title of the project	Strengthening Civic Awareness and Participation on Climate Change Issues in Western Bulgarian Schools and Communities
Executive agency	Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Za Zemiata Association, Sofia; HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Switzerland
Project Location	The municipalities of Godech, Breznik, Tran, Slivnitsa, Kresna, Strumyani, Simitli for the key project activities; Blagoevgrad, Vratza, Montana and Petrich as additional regions for education activities
Budget (BGN)	208,359.47
Committed Grant(CHF)	117,411.19
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	101,671.63
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	35 Months
Period of Implementation	6 January 2014 - 5 December 2016

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CSP 219 - People for Nature – Green Society in Action

GREEN BALKANS –
STARA ZAGORA,
WILDLIFE RESCUE
CENTRE, STARA
ZAGORA

The Green Idea is
typical for the well
developed societies
where one lives with a
thought for tomorrow.
FOR nature means
FOR the future - be part of it!



It is often said that Bulgaria's nature is unique, that its biological diversity is rich and still preserved, and Bulgarians should be proud of their natural heritage. On the other hand, however, in the 17-year history of the Wildlife Rescue Centre the organization has encountered numerous cases of brutal poaching, inadequacy and incompetence of the operators of the 112 emergency line when coordinating calls related to environmental violations and animals in distress, as well as insufficient knowledge and skills of particular state employees in cases of crimes against wildlife and insufficient or non-existing environmental awareness of children. On the other hand, the network of volunteers of the Rescue Centre in Bulgaria is absolutely insufficient to cover properly all incoming calls - 2500 and more. The project "People FOR nature – green society in action" addresses exactly the above mentioned problems through wider publicity of wildlife-related problems and efficient solutions resulting from broad public awareness, changes in legislation and increased capacity of various organizations and competent state institutions.

During the 26 months of work two planned and one extraordinary meetings of the institutions were organized. All meetings ended with "Wildlife First Aid" trainings provided by the WRBC veterinary team. All participants received first aid medication and consumables sets. Proposals for amendment of the Wildlife Rescue Centre Regulation and the Guidelines for action upon finding injured animals were adopted during the meetings and uploaded to the websites of the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water. The WRBC team worked on 10 cases of endangered species poaching and illegal trafficking in animals and took part in more than 6 illegal animal trafficking court cases as witness or observer. 15 zoos were visited as part of the project activities. Four of them: in Dobrich, Sofia, Lovech and Stara Zagora were chosen for establishing "information corners" in them, i.e. information boards installed in front of cages with disabled animals, some of them transferred after treatment at the Wildlife Rescue Centre.

During the project over 10 volunteer brigades were organized in the Rescue Center, thanks to which the Center acquired a completely new look. The WRBC was improved, it had more than 10,000 visitors, 90% of whom were children. All of them learned more about the organization's activities, but also how to live so that they do not disrupt the already fragile balance in nature. Discussions are being held on recycling, composting, cloth bags usage and energy saving and on how to do this at home. The Project Team organized 4 Green Olympics with over 150 students from Stara Zagora and Plovdiv University regarding the surrounding nature and human intervention and also held 4 "Wildlife First Aid" trainings at the Rescue Center.

Registration number of the project	CSP 219
Title of the project	People FOR nature – green society in action
Executive agency	Green Balkans – Stara Zagora, Wildlife Rescue Centre
Partners	-
Project Location	Stara Zagora
Budget (BGN)	112,164.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	63,155.19
Approved Grant (CHF)	59,763.60
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	26 Months
Period of Implementation	1 August 2013 - 30 September 2015

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THEMATIC FUND
“PARTNERSHIP FUND”

THEMATIC FUND “PARTNERSHIP FUND“

Legal grounds:

The Partnership Fund (referred to as TF PF) is implemented under the Thematic Fund Agreement for the Partnership Fund between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (referred to as SDC) and the Monitoring of EU Funds Directorate of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, as the National Coordination Unit (referred to as NCU), and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, signed on 11 November 2011.

TF PF is part of the Framework Agreement on the implementation of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme to reduce the economic and social disparities in the enlarged European Union, signed by the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on 7 September 2010.

Implementing bodies:

SDC and NCU are the responsible agencies for implementing the TF PF. However, they have mandated a Swiss Intermediate Body (SIB) to manage the TF PF. The SIB is a consortium of three organisations: INNOVABRIDGE Foundation, Caslano, Switzerland (a leading partner in the consortium), NEOSYS AG, Gerlafingen, Switzerland and the BALKAN INSTITUTE FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY (BILSP), Sofia, Bulgaria.

Objectives of TF PF:

The Partnership Fund promotes and/or enhances institutional partnerships between Bulgarian and Swiss partners in order to contribute to the strengthening of the capacities and structures of the Bulgarian institutional partners by drawing from the Swiss knowledge and know-how in addressing specific development challenges.

More specifically:

Within the overall goal of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Program to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged EU as well as between the dynamic urban centers and the structurally weaker peripheral regions of the country, the main objective of the Partnership Fund is to add value through establishing new or enhancing existing institutional partnerships between Swiss and Bulgarian partner institutions in order to contribute to the solution of specific development challenges.

The Swiss Contribution is an important element of the bilateral relations between Switzerland and Bulgaria. It enhances the bilateral relations in many aspects including the provision of opportunities to assert Swiss solidarity, establishment of Swiss-Bulgarian institutional partnerships, promotion of the Swiss presence and visibility as well as utilization of the Swiss knowledge and experience.

The supporting measures implemented through the PF pursue sustainable, economically and socially balanced development.

Grant beneficiaries:

TF PF is implemented through projects executed by NGOs, networks, associations, community centres (chitalishta) social partners, think tanks, local and national public institutions in the social sphere and in the areas of culture, education and territorial management.

Funded projects:

TF PEF provides support to 29 projects having total budget of BGN 6,127,824.35 and receiving Swiss grant amounting CHF 3,386,515.33. Twenty of these projects contribute to the establishment of new partnerships between Swiss and Bulgarian entities and 9 projects support existing partnerships. One project is implemented by the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, one project is implemented by a municipal authority and the remaining projects are implemented by NGOs. 21 projects impact the regional administrative centres and 8 projects contribute to the development of smaller towns and rural areas.

The thematic scope of the supported projects include direct democracy, addictions prevention, support to culture, community building, nature protection, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and business development, care for people and children with specific needs, etc.



THEMATIC FUND
“PARTNERSHIP FUND”

Project retained in the Framework agreement

PF FA 0001 - Promotion of Social Dialogue and Better Working Conditions for Employees

MINISTRY OF LABOUR
AND SOCIAL POLICY,
BULGARIA



The project “Promotion of Social Dialogue and Better Working Conditions for Employees” (2012-2015) is focused on the establishment of institutional partnerships aimed at improving the work-

ing conditions of employees by: 1) strengthening socially responsible behaviour of business organisations in connection with the Strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility 2009-2013 (Component 1; 2) elaboration of an information system about collective labour agreements by sector and relevant data on wages and on the implementation of the collective labour agreements (Component 2; 3) development of paritarian funds with special focus on vocational training, health and safety, and enforcement of collective agreements (Component 3).

Component 1 seeks to focus on raising the awareness, creation of friendly CSR environment and capacity building. Component 2 is aimed at elaborating an information system for collective labour disputes by sector, level and region and relevant data on mediation and arbitration as effective alternative collective labour dispute settlement tools, which is closely related to the main objective of the Project: promotion of social dialogue and better working conditions for employees. Component 3 focuses on raising the awareness of social partners on existing good practices and various instruments of bipartite dialogue and on the areas where it can play a leading role, as well as on the elaboration of the national concept of paritarian funds.

Under component 1 the assessment of the National CSR Action Plan was carried out but the other results regarding raising the awareness and creation of friendly environment for CSR were not achieved. An integrated system for information and analyses of collective labour agreements and collective labour disputes adequate to the needs of the social partners was developed and tested under Component 2; changes to the regulatory framework were elaborated together with the social partners and recommended in order to promote further a sustainable information and analysis system that will cover the processes of collective bargaining and collective labour dispute settlement; the project has also contributed to building greater trust and better cooperation between social partner organizations and the National Institute for Conciliation and Arbitration. Under Component 3 no notable achievements were made.

For the purpose of attaining better effectiveness and efficiency MLSP has decided to build upon the good results and to develop, on the basis of possible consensus between the experts of the social partners, recommendations for amendment of the Collective Labour Dispute Settlement Act regarding the right to strike and voluntary conciliation and arbitration procedures for collective labour dispute settlement.

Registration number of the project	PF FA 0001
Title of the project	Promotion of Social Dialogue and Better Working Conditions for Employees
Executive agency	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria
Partners	National Institute for Conciliation and Arbitration, Bulgaria; Solidar Suisse, Switzerland
Project Location	Sofia; Switzerland
Budget (BGN)	815,747
Committed Grant (CHF)	430,000
Cofinancing	15%
Duration	63 Months
Period of Implementation	3 September 2012 - 3 March 2016, extended to 2 December 2017

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THEMATIC FUND
“PARTNERSHIP FUND”

Projects Implemented
under the Block Grant Scheme

PF 001 - Enhancing the Use of Modern Direct Democracy Tools at Local Level through Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation

THE EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Is democracy without
civic participation
possible?

The project established BG-Swiss partnership bringing in the Swiss-based academic and practical experience of direct democracy and other tools to bear on the case of Bulgaria

as it embarked on its policy goal to promote the use of instruments of direct democracy at the local level. By a mix of academic/applied research and practical measures, which benefited all types of Bulgarian stakeholders, the partnership contributed to an intensive transfer of know-how and expertise in a very advanced Swiss area like direct democracy, as well as addressed the existing gaps in Bulgaria's capacities, regulatory framework and civil initiative with a focus on the local level thus helping bridge the discrepancies among different regions.

The efficient partnership between the European Institute Foundation and the Centre for Research on Direct Democracy, Aarau through a set of various activities (analysis, discussions, meetings, focus groups, trainings, and round tables), encouraged civil society structures and local authorities representatives to implement more actively the tools of direct democracy and civic participation to solve pressing public problems.

The investigative comparative analysis became the basis for subsequent preparation of the local discussions that had been finalized in the previous reporting period. All 14 local discussions included awareness-raising, promotion and publicity of the opportunities for direct civil participation and of the Swiss know-how and the contribution of the Programme. Both expert teams actively participated in the development of texts for the toolkit needed for the training workshops. The workshops cover topics such as procedures for initiation of a local referendum; explanation of the relevance of a local referendum; case studies and good Swiss examples. An important component in the strategy of transfer of Swiss know-how and expertise was the national round table discussion. It was focused on promoting the outcomes and the Handbook and provoked debates on referendum democracy and



lessons learnt both in Bulgaria and Switzerland. It was attended by a wider circle of the beneficiaries/participants, including high-ranking experts, academics and MPs. The project has made an important contribution to the raising of the awareness of local people about the benefits from being active and knowing how to achieve one's goals.

Registration number of the project	PF 001
Title of the project	Enhancing the Use of Modern Direct Democracy Tools at Local Level through Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation
Executive agency	The European Institute Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Centre for Research on Direct Democracy at the University of Zurich
Project Location	National scope
Budget (BGN)	371,913.58
Committed Grant(CHF)	209,712.56
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	203,466.22
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	23 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 31 August 2015

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PF 002 - Direct Democracy in Bulgaria: Opportunities and Challenges

INSTITUTE FOR
DIRECT DEMOCRACY
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Bulgarians need and desire direct democracy and its implementation should be more frequent and more effective.



The project aimed at encouraging citizens' direct participation in decision – and policy-making at the local and central level and at familiarizing them with the opportunities for effective citizen participation and application of the direct democracy principles in Bulgaria. This was done by means of an analysis and assessment of the condition of direct democracy in Bulgaria (legislative framework, practices, public attitudes, etc.), and by investigating the Swiss experience and traditions in this sphere. The project contributed to strengthening the partnership between Bulgaria and Switzerland, while the Bulgarian stakeholders benefited from learning about the Swiss know-how in resolving the specific challenges facing democratic development. The project contributed to the embracing of innovative approaches and sharing good practices in the implementation of specific benchmarks already applied and operating successfully in Switzerland and stimulated active discussions on direct democracy as a decision-making tool involving multiple stakeholders from the Government, the non-governmental sector and the general public in Bulgaria. The project laid the foundations for a healthier and more informed dialogue on the opportunities for referenda and other citizen initiatives in Bulgaria, as well as on the challenges that active citizens may encounter in their attempts to advance direct democracy in Bulgaria. It is expected that the people trained and the studies and analyses produced during the project should have an effect on the future direct democracy activities to be undertaken in different regions of Bulgaria.

Registration number of the project	PF 002
Title of the project	Direct Democracy in Bulgaria: Opportunities and Challenges
Executive agency	Institute for Direct Democracy Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (Switzerland); Association for Social Investigation and Applied Research Practices (Bulgaria)
Project Location	Nation-wide on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria
Budget (BGN)	125,383.50
Committed Grant(CHF)	70,700.55
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	62,995.41
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	15 Months
Period of Implementation	10 November 2013 - 9 May 2015

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PF 003 - Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation on Reducing Drug and HIV Problem in Prison

INITIATIVE
FOR HEALTH
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Imprisoned people are part of society. The mitigation of health risks in prisons improves the social and health-related well-being of the whole society.



The project united the efforts of five organizations – one Swiss NGO, two Bulgarian NGOs and two Bulgarian governmental institutions – Directorate “Execution of Punishments” at the Ministry of Justice and Sofia prison. Together they implemented activities aimed at improving the policy environment in the area of the criminal justice system and drug use in Bulgaria; increased the capacity of the Bulgarian professional staff in the NGOs and in the prison system; implemented a pilot model of social and health services for people using drugs in prison and in the post-prison period; and sustained the national and international cooperation between non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions in the areas of drug use and the criminal justice system.

The project sought to tackle an important and difficult development challenge: some neglected issues in regard to the penitentiary system including the problems of drug users, who make up a significant share of the prison population. The penitentiary professionals were made aware of the new trends in the drug use phenomenon and good conditions were created for the development of new policies in the system. This concerned in particular the “harm reduction” approach that had not been well known to the penitentiary system. The staff in the Sofia prison not only participated in training events, but was also directly involved in the specialized interventions for drug using prisoners. The model was presented in a series of events and also described in a book.

The efficient partnership between the Initiative for Health Foundation, Proekt Peperuda (Project Butterfly) Sofia, Bulgaria and Contact Netz, Switzerland, was aimed at improving the policy environment, health and rehabilitation services for drug users in the Bulgarian prison system, through intensive Swiss-Bulgarian cooperation on institutional and non-governmental level.

Registration number of the project	PF 003
Title of the project	Swiss-Bulgarian Partnership for Reducing the Problems with Drug Abuse and HIV in Prison
Executive agency	Initiative for Health Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Project Butterfly Sofia Association; Contact Netz Stiftung - Bern, Switzerland
Project Location	Sofia
Budget (BGN)	397,930.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	224,382.56
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	214,237.26
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	1 January 2014 - 31 December 2015

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PF 004 - Swiss-Bulgarian Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

CEED BULGARIA
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

The successful development of a new approach to the entrepreneurial culture and education in Bulgaria is critically important for our future and for the future of our children.



CEED realized a successful partnership with two Swiss organizations in the area of entrepreneurship. UZH Entrepreneurs provided valuable guidelines on the organization of 48-hour startup competitions for generating ideas, as well as for the establishment of business centers in our universities where students can receive information and can be encouraged to start their own businesses. This experience was transferred to several universities in Bulgaria, namely the University of National and World Economy Sofia, Gabrovo Technical University and Burgas Free University. The partners from the Swiss Entrepreneurship Institute (SIFE) developed a 6-module entrepreneurship program, adapted to the needs of the Bulgarian students from 10 CEED mentors. Following the training of the CEED experts in organizing startup competitions in Switzerland, two such very successful events were organized for young people with ideas in Gabrovo and Burgas with the participation of over 70 students and young people at the beginning of their career. More than 150 young people were invited to the events, mainly from the local universities, to work on their desire to create their own business. They explained their ideas and tried to develop them within 48 hours and then they presented the projects in front of a jury. After the winners were announced, CEED mentors conducted a 6-module entrepreneurship program for over 40 students in Gabrovo and Burgas within two 6-day trainings in those cities. The program is based on the Canvas business model and includes key moments for initiating a business, such as partners, resources, customers and the relationship with them, values, and activities like drafting a budget.

The project "Bulgarian-Swiss cooperation ecosystem" achieved considerable success and contributed to the increase in the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm of many young people throughout the country for starting their own business. By gaining valuable and innovative, for Bulgaria, theoretical expertise and practical know-how from a Swiss higher education institution and a modern Swiss university incubator, CEED Bulgaria has been able to start and further develop a new educational approach in Bulgarian universities by

creating conditions for entrepreneurial brainstorming during Startup tournaments and filling the gap of the much needed education in entrepreneurship. The project implementation has contributed to the sustainable solving of a major social (educational) problem of the Bulgarian universities, which is the most rigid, non-creative and non-practically oriented education in fundamental disciplines, resulting in the preference of students to seek further education abroad or to choose a different career path. Thus, regardless of their educational background, students possessing entrepreneurial spirit were given the chance to develop their idea and make the best of it in practice.

Registration number of the project	PF 004
Title of the project	Bulgarian-Swiss Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
Executing agency	CEED Bulgaria Foundation, Sofia
Partners	UZH Entrepreneurs; Swiss Institute for Entrepreneurship SIFE
Project location	the cities of Sofia, Burgas and Gabrovo
Budget (BGN)	127,956.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	72,151.12
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	70,302.46
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	14 Months
Period of implementation	16 September 2013 - 16 November 2014

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PF 009 - Partnership for Modern Rural Development

DEVETAKI
PLATEAU
ASSOCIATION,
LETNITSA

The local community is the foundation of development. The participation of the local population leads to the gathering and development of useful and practical ideas. Consensus, desire, partnership and support are needed for these to be turned into reality.

Сдружение "Деветашко плато" Devetaki Plateau Association
ИНФОРМАЦИОННО ТАБЛО INFORMATION BOARD

с. Горско Сливово * Gorsko Slivovo village
- пещера Гавришица * Gavriushitsa Cave
- към за отприч Чучура * Chuchura Site

с. Крушуня * Krushuna village
- Крушунска Водопад * Krushuna Waterfalls
- пещера Марагна * Maragna Cave
- Банярска пещера * Banarska Cave

с. Карпачево * Karpachevo village
- пещера Стълбица * Stalbitsa Cave
- Фитилска пещера * Fitilska Cave
- Етнопарк Крушуня * Krushuna Ethno Park
- Етнопаметник Карпачево * Karpachevo Ethno Monument
- пейзажен изглед Каньон * The Canyon view Point

с. Брестово * Brestovo village
- местностина Чукама * Chukama Place
- пещера Попова * Popova Cave

с. Деветаци * Devetaki village
- Деветашка пещера * Devetashka Cave

с. Кякриня * Kakrina village
- музей Кякринско камено * Kakrinsko Kameno Museum
- към за отприч Гаскалина извора * The Village Spring

с. Тепава * Tepava village
- колеларно място * View Point
- Илванска Врхушка * Ivanova Vrhushka

с. Агатово * Agatovo village
- местностина Бялокамъна * Beloto kamani Place

с. Крамолин * Kramolin village
- археологическо обектно място * Grand Archaeological Site

с. Чавдарци * Chavdartsii village
- Чавдарска пещера * Chavdartska Cave

Проект "Партньорство за модерно селско развитие" с подкрепата на Българо-Швейцарската програма за сътрудничество
Project "Building Bridges for innovative rural development" Supported by Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme

Devetaki Plateau Association is a bottom-up organization uniting 10 villages (Agatovo, Brestovo, Gorsko Slivovo, Devetaki, Kramolin, Krushuna, Kakrina, Karpachevo, Tepava, and Chavdartsii in the region of the Devetaki Plateau, Central North of Bulgaria, within the municipalities of Sevlievo, Lovech and Letnitsa) to work together for the development of the Devetaki Plateau. For 5 years its 141 members and partners have pooled their efforts to turn the region into a tourist destination. After a series of successive steps positive results are at hand. Tourism has become a development factor. However, better coordination is still required for such development.

The project supports the strengthening of the Devetaki Plateau Association which is a crucial factor in dealing with the challenge to boost the development of declining rural areas and address the lack of sources of income for the local people. This was achieved by transfer of know-how from AGRIDEA, an organization experienced in rural development. DPA conducted situational analysis which explored the development practices in similar Swiss regions and then brought the villages and municipalities together to conduct a structured discussion. The outcomes of the discussion were included in the Development Strategy of the Plateau. The vision and the goals, the long-term and short-term steps were identified and included in pilot projects. The partner AGRIDEA provided innovative methods and helped DPA build their capacity. The project achieved sustainable results which will be consolidated in the future very active work of the association with the local authorities and the Swiss partner.

Registration number of the project	PF 009
Title of the project	Partnership for Modern Rural Development
Executive agency	Devetaki Plateau Association, Letnitsa
Partners	Agridea, Switzerland
Project Location	The Devetaki Plateau region – ten villages: Agatovo, Brestovo, Gorsko Slivovo, Devetaki, Kramolin, Krushuna, Kakrina, Karpachevo, Tepava, and Charvdartsi; three municipalities: Letnitsa, Lovech and Sevlievo
Budget (BGN)	166,181.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	93,288.75
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	92,290.44
Cofinancing	10.4 %
Duration	17 Months
Period of Implementation	1 September 2013 - 28 February 2015

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PF 010 - Presenting Swiss Music and Other Aspects of the Modern Swiss Culture in Bulgaria

ARTTO SOFIA SINGS ASSOCIATION, SOFIA

To create and to perform non-commercial music in Bulgaria is NOT "mission impossible". This is proven by the full halls and the applause at the end!



The "Presenting Swiss Music and Other Aspects of the Modern Swiss Culture in Bulgaria" project addressed specifically the development challenge related to the support of music traditions and culture. It aimed to increase the capacity of the Bulgarian organization to implement projects by passing on the know-how of the Swiss partner in the field of modern management practices and creation of new performing art works in non-commercial musical genres. The target audience of the project were professional composers, educators and musicians from both countries and the general public of contemporary classical music.

The creation, stage production and promotion of new musical genres: chamber orchestras, chamber instrumental and vocal music by writing new musical works and their premiere performances in Bulgaria was carried out by a team which brought together professional Swiss and Bulgarian composers, lecturers and musicians. Interviews on Swiss historical music were conducted with leading speakers as part of the workshop on "Current practices in the management of the staging and performance of new non-commercial musical genres".

A book and a photo album containing the most important aspects of the project and musical scores, were published and distributed.

The Swiss "know-how" of writing new music in non-commercial genres was further promoted during the selection of musicians and soloists for the performance of the works during the concerts. The last concert held in the city of Sofia in the Concert Hall of the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" was attended by over 320 composers, the Management of the Academy of Music, professors and teachers, students, representatives of the music community and citizens. The musical circles qualified the event as "The event of the year".

Registration number of the project	PF 010
Title of the project	Presenting Swiss Music and Other Aspects of the Modern Swiss Culture in Bulgaria
Executing agency	ARTTO Sofia Sings Association, Sofia
Partners	Swiss-Bulgarian Association for Culture
Project location	The cities of Vidin, Dobrich, Blagoevgrad, Yambol, and Sofia
Budget (BGN)	151,589.36
Committed Grant (CHF)	
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	95,925.00
Cofinancing	84,754.13
Duration	10.04%
Period of implementation	14 Months
	1 September 2013 - 30 October 2014

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PF 011 – Healthy at Work: Transfer of Standards and Practices for Healthy Workplace

BULGARIAN-
ROMANIAN
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY, RUSE

Health is not everything, but without health, everything is nothing. (Schopenhauer, 1788-1860). Health is

a resource that we, in Bulgaria, should finally learn to respect and preserve.



The project built on the experience and expertise of Health Promotion Switzerland, adapted and implemented in Bulgaria the Swiss health management (HM) policies and methodologies and in particular the Friendly Workplace Label – a Swiss benchmark given to companies with significant results in health management and health protection at work. This was achieved through serious trainings, capacity building and a study tour of Bulgarian experts, training of trainers, a broad PR and communications campaign including promotional workshops, pilot testing of the label with Bulgarian companies and sustaining an international network in Health management.

The project supported the capacity of a social partner, namely the Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the prevention and management of health at work as a prerequisite for improving the health of employees thus contributing to improving the health of the nation. WHO states that the workplace has been established as one of the priority settings for health promotion into the 21st century, because it influences one's physical, mental, economic and social well-being and offers an ideal setting and infrastructure to support the promotion of the care for the health of a large audience. Workplace Health Management is not only a process of continuous improvement and health gain at the enterprise, but also a framework for involvement of various agencies in the community. It implies that enterprises and other organizations actively manage their health, environment and safety performance. Therefore, the project focused on the four key components of Workplace Health Management: 1) Occupational Health and Safety; 2) Workplace Health Promotion; 3) Social and lifestyle determinants of health, and 4) Environmental Health Management. By implementing the project activities and achieving the planned results BRCCI acquired the capacity to assist and support its members in providing better and healthier working conditions.

Registration number of the project	PF 011
Title of the project	Healthy at the Workplace: Transfer of Standards and Good Practices for a Healthy Work Environment
Executive agency	Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ruse
Partners	Health Promotion, Switzerland
Project Location	Main implementation in Ruse, Bulgaria and Bern, Switzerland; supporting activities in other cities
Budget (BGN)	152,479.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	85,635.10
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	72,754.64
Cofinancing	10.36%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	5 September 2013 - 4 September 2015

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PF 012 For the Development of Paragliding, Fly More

FLY
INDEPENDENT
ASSOCIATION,
SOFIA

The sky is for
everyone!
Paragliding is a
way to express
yourself and to get
to know Bulgaria.



The project developed and promoted paragliding in Bulgaria, presented the country as a unique and attractive destination for paragliding and ecotourism for visitors from all over the world by exchanging experience, acquiring of good practices and know-how. The active cooperation with the Swiss partner APPI (The Association of Paragliding Pilots and Instructors) increased the capacity of the association and helped build new and stable contacts with institutions, with the private sector and the international community of paragliders and promote paragliding in Bulgaria.

The project has contributed to the enhancement of the capacity of the Fly Independent Association which has a mission to meet two of the development challenges facing Bulgaria: to contribute to the economic development of the country as an attractive tourist destination targeting a specific niche in the sector: people who want to experience the adventurous high-adrenalin feeling of flying in the air, including people who cannot experience it through standard channels due to disabilities). A social paragliding campaign was held for the first time in Bulgaria: 63 participants, people with disabilities and disadvantaged people performed their first tandem flight. It was for the first time that 5 tandem pilots acquired specific know-how from the partner organization for performing specialized flights for people with disabilities. The second challenge is to utilize the free time of young people who want high emotions. One has to feel the atmosphere of the public events of the organization regardless of whether this is a closed-door conference or an open-air event.

The reputation and visibility of the organization were supported by strong media presence: more than 130 media publications and interviews covered the events and the project, the implementation of the social campaign, the open forum events and the upgrading of qualifications of the pilots, as well as the establishment of a long-term partnership with the Swiss partner. This led to positive feedback from the participants in the activities and increased public interest and confidence. The international paragliding insurance provided

by the Swiss partner APPI was opened for Bulgarian members for the first time during the project implementation. Owing to the establishment of a long term partnership with the Swiss partner APPI, Fly Independent has become an active part of the worldwide network of professional paragliding organizations.

Registration number of the project	PF 012
Title of the project	For the Development of Paragliding, Fly More
Executive agency	Fly Independent Association, Sofia
Partners	Association of Paragliding Pilots and Instructors APPI
Project Location	Bulgaria
Budget (BGN)	204,045.14
Committed Grant(CHF)	99,000.00
Disbursed Grant (CHF) (forecast)	84,822.82
Cofinancing	75.74%
Duration	26 Months
Period of Implementation	8 August 2013 - 30 October 2015

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PF 013 - BSCC – Promoting Partnerships

BULGARIAN-SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BSCC), SOFIA

Let us learn from the best, so that we succeed together!



The “BSCC- Promoting Partnerships“ project developed and elevated to a higher level the partnership between the BSCC and SEC, while establishing new partnerships between Bulgarian and Swiss companies. The partnership between BSCC and SEC dating back to 2004 was further enhanced through sharing experience to the benefit of both organisations. The focus of the project allowed both organisations to work more intensively in the domain of partnership and co-operation practices. On this basis the trust of the Swiss business representatives in the Bulgarian business was increased and the Swiss entrepreneurs showed greater interest in Bulgaria, which is a prerequisite for establishing successful business partnerships between companies from both countries. Owing to the Swiss grant provided through the Partnership Fund the instruments necessary for facilitating the establishment of business contacts between Swiss and Bulgaria companies from various sectors of the economy were ensured. A web-based platform for partner search has been created and launched. It will provide crucial support for the development and extension of the bilateral business contacts. The organisation and implementation of the two forums created prerequisites for meetings and new contacts between companies from both countries. As a result of the successful implementation of the project and application of the knowledge obtained from the exchange of experience and good practices during the working meetings between the management teams of the two organisations (BSCC and SEC+), the BSCC team improved its capacity to attract new members. Another benefit for the BSCC members is the increased number of services offered by the Chamber and their improved quality as a whole. The project not only extended the partnership between BSCC and SEC+ but also laid the foundations for future collaboration with SWISSMEM, the association of the Swiss mechanical and electrical engineering industry, with Switzerland Global Enterprise, the Swiss association for promotion of export, international cooperation and SME support, and with Cleantech Switzerland, the Swiss export platform of the companies in the environmental protection, RES energy production and waste recycling industries.

Registration number of the project	PF 013
Title of the project	BSCC – Promoting Partnerships
Executive agency	Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC), Sofia
Partners	Chamber of Commerce Switzerland - Central Europe (SEC+)
Project Location	Bulgaria, Sofia; Swiss Confederation, Zurich
Budget (BGN)	177,100.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	99,862.16
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	98,008.29
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Execution	1 June 2013 - 31 May 2014

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PF 014 - Bulgarian - Swiss partnership for development of the Gea Chelonia Foundation Tortoise Centre

GEA CHELONIA
FOUNDATION,
VILLAGE OF BANYA,
BOURGAS
DISTRICT

We are grateful to the Swiss Confederation for the support to the fourth European Tortoise Centre in its mission to preserve these ancient reptiles!



The “Bulgarian-Swiss Partnership for the Development of the Gea Chelonia Foundation Tortoise Centre” project helps meet one of the most acute development challenges: to protect and preserve the environment and biodiversity. By exchanging experience with the Swiss partner, Gea Chelonia Foundation has consolidated its role as a rescue, tourist and scientific centre striving to protect a specific endangered environmental niche. Sustainable Bulgarian-Swiss cooperation for the development of TBRC as a European Rescue Centre was established, herpetological tourism was developed and offered and collaboration with foreign experts in the field of chelonian conservation and research was established. The new methodologies concerning the habitats, reproduction and rehabilitation of tortoises, adapted by the Swiss partner and applied at the Tortoise Centre, as well as the infrastructure changes related to the temporary accommodation and tortoise care, were essentially innovative. The added value achieved through the exchange between the Bulgarian and Swiss experts and scientists in this field was the basis for enhanced cooperation and promotion of the Tortoise Centre as a tourist destination in both countries. One of the goals was to increase the capacity of the organization to offer herpetological tourism services. Successful group tours were organized for travellers from Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Netherlands and Denmark. Herpetological tourism is a new type of tourism for Bulgaria and we relied on the Swiss experience for its development and promotion.

Registration number of the project	PF 014
Title of the project	Bulgarian-Swiss Partnership for the Development of the Gea Chelonia Foundation Tortoise Centre
Executive agency	Gea Chelonia Foundation, village of Banya, Bourgas district
Partners	Schildkroten-Interessengemeinschaft Schweiz
Project Location	Bulgaria, Bourgas District, Nesebar Municipality, village of Banya
Budget (BGN)	120,488.72
Committed Grant(CHF)	67,940.51
Disbursed Grant (CHF) (forecast)	67,940.51
Cofinancing:	10%
Duration:	24 Months
Period of Implementation	17 October 2013 - 17 October 2015

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PF 016 - Dance Connected – Establishing Capacity for Strengthening and Diversifying the Bulgarian Contemporary Dance Scene

ONE FOUNDATION
FOR CULTURE AND
ARTS, SOFIA

Contemporary dance art should be considered by society as a pleasant and preferred artistic or entertainment opportunity and as an attractive career choice.



“Dance connected – establishing capacity for strengthening and diversifying the Bulgarian contemporary dance scene” is a project of ONE Foundation for Culture and Art (acting as an Executing Agency) that was successfully implemented in the period 2014÷2016. The project contributed to the development of one aspect of the cultural environment in Bulgaria – the contemporary dance art, with the active involvement of the project partners, three Swiss dance companies with rich portfolio and successful experience worldwide: Foundation Cie Gilles Jobin, Foundation Cie Philippe Saire and Compagnie József Trefeli. The Executing Agency and its partners share the understanding that cultural engineering and management have become an increasingly important indicator for the economic growth of a country. Dance connected is part of the progressive effort to revive and enrich the cultural market in Bulgaria.

The project established a pilot scheme of an educational and discussion-based platform, which included several types of interventions to support the development of competitive and valuable dance productions both locally and internationally. The activities included: workshops for professional dancers and choreographers focused on exchange of experience and innovative practices; workshops for young talents/students on dance techniques and new training methods; creation of a full-fledged performance for participation at international festivals; a forum for stakeholders to exchange know-how, artistic ideas, existing challenges and for policy-making and presenting successful Swiss performances to the general public in the framework of the annual One Dance Week Festival.

Registration number of the project	PF 016
Title of the project	Dance Connected – Establishing Capacity for Strengthening and Diversifying the Bulgarian Contemporary Dance Scene
Executive agency	One Foundation for Culture and Arts (previous Sofia Foundation for Culture and Arts), Sofia
Partners	1) Foundation Cie Gilles Jobin, Genève, Switzerland; 2) Foundation Cie Philippe Saire, Lausanne, Switzerland
Project Location	The cities of Sofia and Plovdiv
Budget (BGN)	160,780.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	90,659.73
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	86,861.83
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	10 March 2014 - 9 November 2016

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PF 018 - Public Campaign Aiming to Alter Public Perceptions and Attitudes towards People with Intellectual Difficulties through the Promotion of Good Practices for Integrated Employment on the Basis of the Swiss Experience

MARIA'S WORLD
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Who says that I can not? People with intellectual difficulties have the right to work and live just like us.



People with intellectual difficulties remain one of the most discriminated and isolated groups in society. They frequently spend their time in a close family circle, without any meaningful occupation, adequate social contacts or possibilities to choose how to live their life and develop their full potential. The project entitled “Public Campaign Aiming to Alter Public Perceptions and Attitudes Toward People with Intellectual Difficulties Through the Promotion of Good Practices for Integrated Employment on the Basis of the Swiss Experience“ boosts the social intelligence of the Bulgarian society and the general level of sensitivity to people with intellectual difficulties and focuses attention on the fact that they are part of the rich tapestry of human life.

The project focuses the attention of the Bulgarian society on people with intellectual difficulties as one of the groups exposed to the greatest risk in the country. The project focused on the abilities of this group and on the possibilities for its meaningful social participation and its right to employment. The key emphasis of the public campaign was laid on the demonstration and enhancement of the benefits of the Swiss integrated employment model, which enables people with intellectual difficulties to work at social and other employment workshops: a proven model that ensures their meaningful social participation. To achieve this, a film dedicated to the Swiss experience and the reality in Bulgaria was created. It features a social service – the Day Care Work Centre for people with intellectual difficulties that is truly innovative for Bulgaria. It is the key project of Maria's World Foundation. The documentary provides an additional impetus for and enhances

sustainable changes in the perception of people with intellectual difficulties. The two staff members of the Foundation trained to apply the model will facilitate its application in the future and cascade the Swiss experience to other social service providers and to potential employers. The collaboration between the partners has continued after the completion of the project activities.

The project pursues the overall objective to promote the inclusion of people with intellectual difficulties in employment by bringing about a change in the public approach and in the prevailing attitudes and prejudices regarding their employment.

Registration number of the project	PF 018
Title of the project	Public campaign aiming to alter public perceptions and attitudes towards people with intellectual difficulties through the promotion of good practices for integrated employment on the basis of the Swiss experience
Executive agency	Maria's World Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Etablissements publics pour l'integration (EPI) - Collonge-Bellerive, Switzerland
Project Location	Sofia, Bulgaria; Collonge-Bellerive, Switzerland
Budget (BGN)	110,410.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	62,257,038
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	58,553.41
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PF 019 - Trade Union Partnership for Sustainable Social and Economic Development

CONFEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT
TRADE UNIONS
IN BULGARIA,
SOFIA

The Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, the biggest representative trade union organization in the country in the last twenty years has played a fundamental role as a one of the main social partners in the processes of transition to democracy and a stable market economy. The new role of the social partners apart from representing and defending the rights of the employees and workers should be to contribute to the sustainable social and economic development. In that respect a joint project for exchange of experience and know-how on vital topics with the Swiss Inter Professional Trade Union (Unia) was essential for the capacity building of CITUB, so that it could play this new role successfully. It also brought added value to the solution of the development challenges in

the socio-economic context. The partnership was focused upon exchange of experience for increasing the role of CITUB in the social and economic development in Bulgaria by building its capacity in the spheres of organizing, recruiting and campaigning. This new bilateral institutional partnership between CITUB and Unia contributed to the reduction of the economic and social disparities between the two countries.

Both partner organizations – the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria and the Inter-professional Trade Union Unia are members of the European Trade Union Confederation and of the International Labour Organization. In that respect the established partnership and the best practice examples of the project were disseminated at European



level and added value to the initiatives of ETUC and ILO aimed at strengthening the capacity and role of the trade unions in Europe and across the world by means of organization, recruitment and active citizenship. The results of this project and its follow-up activities strengthened the relationship and networking of both organizations on European level and disseminated the best practices amongst the other interested member-organizations of ETUC and ILO. They had the potential of establishing new relations and networks with other stakeholders. The added value of the project is visible on several levels (national, sectoral, regional and enterprise) and in several different aspects (direct impact on the capacity of the trade union, increase in the trade union membership and more indirect impact on the social and economic state of the country).

Registration number of the project	PF-019
Title of the project	Trade Union Partnership for Sustainable Social and Economic Development
Executive agency	Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, Sofia
Partners	Trade union Unia, Berne, Switzerland
Project Location	Sofia
Budget (BGN)	330,223.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	186,204.31
Disbursed Grant (CHF) (forecast)	160,895.95
Cofinancing	15%
Duration	20 months
Period of Implementation	14 September 2014 – 14 May 2016

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PF 022 – Bumblebees

DOSE OF LOVE
ASSOCIATION,
BOURGAS

Enhancing young people's critical attitude towards risky sexual behavior and drug use for the purpose of cultivating a culture of safe nightlife.

The Bulgarian-Swiss partnership sought to address a development challenge, i.e. the easy access to psychoactive substances in the Bulgarian society and the lack of healthy and attractive entertainment options for young people. This was the first and innovative project for party drug prevention and safe nightlife. The project created an innovative harm reduction practice of synthetic drug use and promoted safe nightlife in the country. In pursuit of this goal a partnership was established with the “Infodrog” organization. The pilot program was implemented in Burgas district (town of Burgas; town of Nessebar; Sunny Beach resort). The innovations in the regional practice were brought about by training representatives of the entertainment business. The goal was to improve the safety of the club scene and to increase the ability of the personnel to manage the excessive drug use and its secondary risks. The direct work with clients was implemented during 30 nightlife events in the region. For the first time in Bulgaria party drug users and the business community were covered by prevention and harm reduction services. The information contacts and help materials for safe nightlife assisted young people in making healthier choices in risky situations.

The “Bumblebees” project provided an answer to the need for adequate response to synthetic drug use problems in the Bulgarian reality and gave a start and a solution by implementing an innovative ideology of safe nightlife. The results yielded an optimistic view of creating a safe club environment in the future. There is growing sensitivity to safe nightlife involving spot activities in society, among professionals, businessmen and clients, in the media and in the professional community.

Registration number of the project	PF 022
Title of the project	Bumblebees
Executive agency	Dose of Love Association, Bourgas
Partners	Swiss health foundation Radix/Infodrog
Project Location	Bourgas District; Bourgas Municipality; city of Bourgas
Budget (BGN)	137,179.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	77,351.73
Disbursed Grant (CHF) (forecast)	66,019.74
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015

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PF 023 - L.I.G.H.T – Local Initiative for Guiding Heritage for Tomorrow

CENTER FOR
HERITAGE
INTERPRETATION
ASSOCIATION,
SOFIA

Visitors are not attracted by the low cost but by the integrated heritage interpretation, of good quality and with practical orientation, which reflects local resources.



The “L.I.G.H.T. – Local Initiative for Guiding Heritage for Tomorrow” project introduced an innovative concept and model of interpreting the natural and cultural heritage of Belogradchik for long-term utilization of the resources by adopting the knowledge and experience of the Swiss partner, the Institute of Landscape and Open Space, University of Applied Science Rapperswil. The project aimed at benefitting from the experience of the Swiss partner and increasing the capacity of the Executing Agency for quality interpretation of the cultural and natural heritage generating entrepreneurial initiatives and economic results for the local community.

The project integrated the UNESCO perspective and the destination management of Belogradchik as part of the development policies of the city. It created a network to support innovation in interpreting and managing heritage. The project team developed a “Policy Paper”, i.e. a platform for achieving physical, cognitive and emotional accessibility of heritage. It trained local community representatives in the skill of quality interpretation of heritage seeking to unlock its unknown features. It conducted a “Manufactura” workshop for creative manufacturing of items related to local heritage. It published a brochure to communicate the heritage by means of photographs and legends. It developed a conceptual “Heritage Trail” for integrated interpretation of local heritage.

The geographical scope of the project covered the municipality of Belogradchik, but its concept was applicable across the country as it rested on universal methods and approaches established by the Swiss partner and applied at European level. The results of the project were widely publicized to demonstrate how heritage can be appreciated, interpreted, communicated and operated in a new way, with environmental, economic and social returns.

Registration number of the project	PF 023
Title of the project	L.I.G.H.T – Local Initiative for Guiding Heritage for Tomorrow
Executive agency	Center for Heritage Interpretation Association
Partners	Institute of Landscape and Open Space, Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland
Project Location	the town of Belogradchik
Budget (BGN)	137,617.98
Committed Grant (CHF)	77,599.26
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	74,650.31
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	15 June 2014 - 15 June 2015

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PF 024 - Bulgarian E-Referendum Model (BERM)

FUTURE
21 CENTURY
FOUNDATION,
PLOVDIV

An obvious crisis in the political system of Bulgaria demands the introduction of direct democracy.

Information technologies (IT)

permit its realization through e-referendums. The sovereign itself can take responsibility of its destiny.



The project “Bulgarian E-Referendum Model (BERM)” aimed to boost direct democracy in Bulgaria through the development of an e-referendum model for Bulgaria in partnership with an experienced Swiss partner, the Bern University of Applied Sciences. The implementation of e-referendum is the best guarantee for the stronger influence of citizens on policy-making at the local and national levels and for further development of a genuine civil society in Bulgaria. The project delivered a technical, organizational and legal model of how an e-referendum could be implemented in Bulgaria and raised the awareness on the subject. The exchange of know-how and the transfer of Swiss expertise were anticipated to bring about real amendments of the current Bulgarian legislation as well as a working IT model with a roadmap for its implementation.

The project team conducted extensive research on existing referendum models in Switzerland and worldwide, organized visits of Swiss experts to Bulgaria and of Bulgarian experts to Switzerland and produced a meta-description of an original Bulgarian IT model for e-referendums. The project team also analyzed the Bulgarian legislation, prepared proposals for amendments that would incorporate the e-referendum practice in Bulgaria, and waged an advocacy campaign, including a representative international conference “From e-voting to e-civil participation” hosted by the Bulgarian Presidency and a concluding expert roundtable discussion in Sofia. All project materials and outputs are available through the project’s website and Facebook group. As an additional result, the project developed an IT Internet-based instrument facilitating the launching of civil initiatives in Bulgaria.

Registration number of the project	PF 024
Title of the project	Bulgarian E-referendum Model (BERM)
Executive agency	Future 21 Century Foundation, Plovdiv
Partners	Berne University of Applied Sciences – Business section
Project Location	Nation-wide
Budget (BGN)	174,403.22
Committed Grant (CHF)	98,341.52
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	85,124.46
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	14 March 2014 - 13 March 2016

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PF 025 - Improving the Legislative Environment for Direct Democracy in Bulgaria through Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation

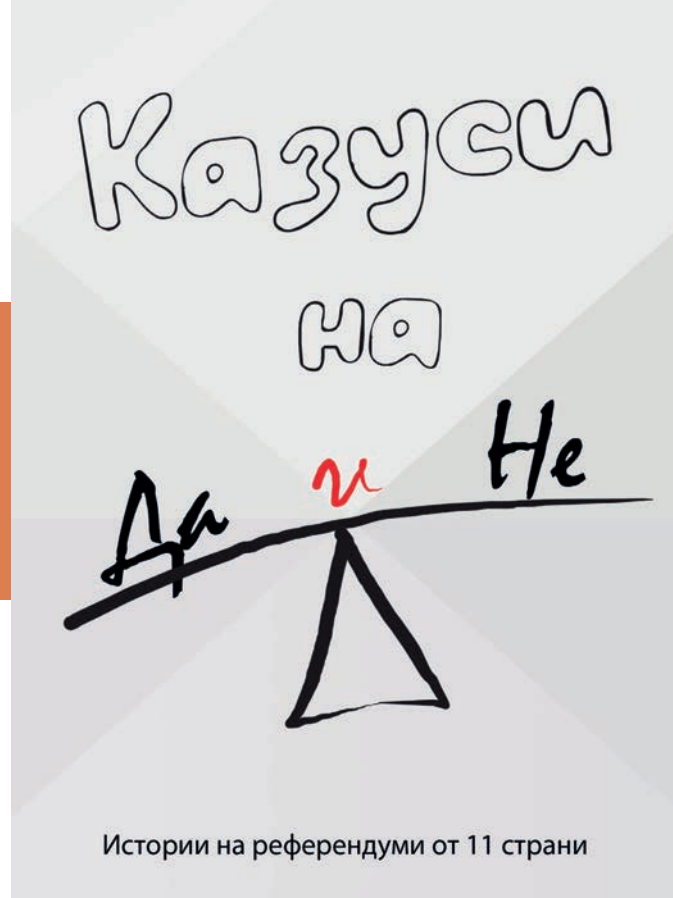
BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PROMOTION
OF CITIZENS
INITIATIVE,
BOURGAS

Through improving the legislation on direct participation in Bulgaria we aim at empowering citizens to exercise control and ensuring their participation in the future of the country.

The project addressed a substantial democracy-building challenge facing Bulgaria, namely the deficit of direct citizen participation in decision and policy-making. Finding a solution to this challenge was of key importance for strengthening of the direct

democracy instruments in the poorest EU Member State. Tapping into the wide-ranging and long-standing Swiss experience in the field of direct democracy, the project provided legal technical assistance for overcoming current problems in the functioning of the direct democracy mechanism. A Bulgarian citizen rights NGO and a Swiss leading direct democracy research institute applied a holistic approach to the issue, tackling its major aspects through a survey-based pilot study. On the one hand, the crucial aspects of the current legislative environment impeding citizen participation through initiatives and referendums in Bulgaria were identified, analysed and disseminated. On the other hand, best practices of direct decision-making in Switzerland and other developed democracies were identified and disseminated.

Measures for improving referendum legislation were outlined and urgent improvements were shortlisted. A Green Paper and a White Paper of improvements were produced. A national citizen initiative "Participation, Not Predestination" was launched and a short list of proposals was submitted to the Council of Ministers. The Bulgarian-Swiss partnership between the lead organization and the ZDA continued and past-project plans were outlined including a joint participation and presentation of the project results at the Sixth Global Democracy Forum in San Sebastian, Spain, in November 2016.



Registration number of the project	PF 025
Title of the project	Improving the Legislative Environment for Direct Democracy in Bulgaria through Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation
Executive agency	Bulgarian Association for the Promotion of Citizens Initiative, Bourgas
Partners	Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), Switzerland
Project Location	Sofia and Sofia District, Bourgas, South Central and North Central regions
Budget (BGN)	159,309.40
Committed Grant (CHF)	89,266.00
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	85,536.79
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	16 Months
Period of Implementation	13 June 2014 - 13 October 2015

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PF 026 - Move (Forward) with Us

HEALTH
AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Game and creativity are central to the life of children and they are fundamental instruments for their physical, mental, emotional, social and cultural development.



The “Move (forward) with us” project was based on the approach of psychosocial development of children through movement, games and sport (MGS). The project was based on experiential learning and active involvement of segregated Roma children in MGS activities. On individual level these activities enabled the children to reinforce their own personal and social capacities for successful social integration. The project strengthened the professional capacity of the beneficiary organization by training its team in order to improve their competencies.

An efficient and sustainable partnership was established between the Health and Social Development Foundation, HESED, and Terre des hommes Foundation, to strengthen the professional capacity of the applicant to work with Roma children and improve their school attendance. The project “Move (forward) with us” aims to introduce the approach of psychosocial development of children through motion, games and sport (MGS) and adapt the MGS methodology for Bulgarian conditions. The two partners exchanged good practices in social services delivery for Roma children, enabled 200 children to reinforce their own personal and social capacities and supported their integration into the school system. The project raised the awareness of the stakeholders and the civil society about the importance of the social inclusion of Roma children by sharing the results of the project.

Registration number of the project	PF 026
Title of the project	Move (forward) with us
Executive agency	Health and Social Development Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Terre des Hommes Foundation, Switzerland
Project Location	Sofia and Kyustendil
Budget (BGN)	157,864.12
Committed Grant (CHF)	89,015.54
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	78 852.68
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	1 April 2014 - 31 March 2016

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PF 028 - Regulatory Impact Assessment – Key Mechanism for Enhancing Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Bulgaria

CENTRE FOR
REGULATORY IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

“Less is more” - less regulation means greater choice for citizens, NGOs and the business community.



The project “Regulatory Impact Assessment – Key Mechanism for Enhancing Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Bulgaria” was aimed at delivering a response to the challenges faced by Bulgaria with the Regulatory reform. It was intended to provide an impetus for enhanced evidence-based decision-making in the national legislative process by highlighting the benefits from the deployment of a structured and consistent system for regulatory impact assessment (RIA). The project targeted the national government, local authorities and the business community. Its major purpose was to diffuse expert knowledge and to promote mutual understanding among the key actors on the regulatory reform needs and priorities. Thus, besides the capacity building activities, the project drafted an analysis on the current status of the reform in Bulgaria, a tailored study on the arrangements and best practices of evidence-based decision-making in Switzerland and a Practical Manual for RIA at the national and local levels in Bulgaria. Considerable attention was allotted to the dissemination of the knowledge and experience generated during the project.

The main project message was “Less is more” – less regulation means greater choice for citizens, NGOs and the business community. The project philosophy was focused on the establishment of conditions for evidence-based regulatory decision-making in Bulgaria by promoting the rationale for consolidating the existing RIA system. Sharing Swiss experience and know-how is considered to be essential for Bulgaria, so that the country could address one of the most pressing challenges to its development, namely the lack of mechanisms to measure the expected costs and benefits from the new legislation and to evaluate the impact and effects of the application of the already adopted legislation.

Registration number of the project	PF 028
Title of the project	Regulatory Impact Assessment – Key Mechanism for Enhancing Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Bulgaria
Executive agency	Centre for Regulatory Impact Assessment Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (Institute de Hautes Etudes en administration publique)
Project Location	Sofia, Bulgaria
Budget (BGN)	102,654.50
Committed Grant(CHF)	57,884.25
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	56,254.94
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	7 April 2014 - 7 April 2015

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PF 030 - 3C – Culture. Creativity. Change. Agenda for Creative Cities

FABRIKATA
REGIONAL RESOURCE
CENTRE FOR
CULTURE,
GABROVO

Together we can create the Agenda for Creative Cities. We are guided by the belief that culture and creativity are the cornerstones of economic and social cohesion and development. Our actions are aimed at broad social advocacy for new connection among culture, policy, economics and the civil society.



The Bulgarian-Swiss partnership sought to address the development challenge of survival of culture in the market economy environment including stage culture (non-commercial music and dance), cultural heritage, and creative originaive business. The project sought to create options and make the most of the economic and social opportunities offered by creativity and culture. It helped create favorable conditions for **creativity to flourish and underpin the entire social and economic development** of three post-industrial cities in the North Central Bulgarian region.

The project was instrumental in performing the following main interventions: participatory cultural policy-making (coaching and backstopping / large group facilitation); compilation and sharing of research results and cultural mapping outcomes; launching of a project fund for pilot projects; establishment of local creative clusters and networking; capacity building.

The project also fostered the recognition of culture as an element of economic and social cohesion and development and extensively **advocated a new relationship between culture, economy, policies and citizenship.**

The results achieved by the project in the sphere of participatory cultural project-making capacity include: (1) one Wisdom Council (51 representatives of local authorities and cultural agents took active part in the discussion process); (2) Open Space Workshops (in Troyan, and Veliko Tarnovo); (3) Open Space Conference in Gabrovo (32 representatives of stakeholder groups took active part in the event ; (4) series of Open Space Workshops held in Troyan and Veliko Tarnovo in April 2015 (67 participants, representatives of stakeholder groups including cultural and educational organisations, as well as institutions,

youth groups, municipal administrations, citizens etc. (5) an Open Space Conference in Gabrovo in April 2015; (6) 1 Focus group (Conference) – 40 representatives of cultural institutions from the region took part in the Conference and 2 Focus groups participated in the training.

The Open Space events were realised together with the Partner organization KaosPilots, Switzerland. A group of 7 students and team leaders from KaosPilots School Switzerland, led by the School Director Matthias Straub-Fischer facilitated the Open Space events in April 2015.

Practical implementation of the project ideas was achieved through the established project fund which led to the elaboration of project ideas by local promoters. Over 17 project ideas were presented at different project events.

More than 150 people were directly involved in the activities of the projects referred to above.

Registration number of the project	PF 030
Title of the project	3C – Culture. Creativity. Change. Agenda for Creative Cities.
Executing agency	Fabrikata Regional Resource Centre for Culture, Gabrovo
Partners	KaosPilots, Switzerland
Project Location	the cities of Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo and Troyan
Budget (BGN)	152,709.60
Committed Grant (CHF)	86,109.04
Disbursed Grant (CHF) (forecast)	58,457.69
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	18 Months
Period of Implementation	1 July 2014 - 31 December 2015

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PF 031 - Implementing Social Entrepreneurship Training Programme – The Swiss Expertise

SOS ENTREPRENEURS
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

The Swiss experience and good practices add value to the development of social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria.



The project helped foster the development of state policies supporting social entrepreneurship by using the Swiss experience and expertise and presenting a professional training program as an example of good practice and an instance of achieved effectiveness and sustainable results.

The joint work of the Executing Agency (EA) and its Swiss partner, the Social Entrepreneurship Initiative and Foundation (SEIF), relevant to the project, was aimed at building the expert capacity of the EA by implementing an innovative and recognized training program in social entrepreneurship developed by the Swiss partner. The considerable experience and the materials for the training program were presented by the Swiss experts before representatives of the Bulgarian state administration, non-governmental organizations and the media with the aim of promoting and implementing the Swiss experience and expertise in creating policies for developing and stimulating social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria. The exchange of experience and know-how between the partners laid down the basis for a long-term partnership. Two innovative electronic instruments were developed: a web-based e-learning platform and a mobile application for performing the two basic training courses of the program. Both instruments, the platform and the application, are used by both partners, thus contributing to the strengthening of the technical and administrative capacity of the organizations and to their development.

Registration number of the project	PF 031
Title of the project	Implementing Social Entrepreneurship Training Programme – the Swiss Expertise
Executive agency	SOS Entrepreneurs Foundation, Sofia
Partners	Social Entrepreneurship Initiative & Foundation (SEIF), Zürich, Switzerland
Project Location	city of Sofia
Budget (BGN)	34,716.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	19,575.47
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	18,918.72
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	9 Months
Period of Implementation	1 April 2014 - 31 December 2014

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PF 032 - The Horse – Our Common Friend, Challenge and an Open Door

RUSE EQUESTRIAN
AND HORSE
BREEDING CLUB,
RUSE

A new type of a social service has been created through transfer of a developed and successfully applied Swiss model for horse assisted therapy focused on people with disabilities and their parents and on institutions dealing with similar problems.



Nowadays traditional and non-traditional medicine confirm the beneficial effect of the interaction of man and horse. Methods of horse assisted therapy are widely used in social and medical rehabilitation. Horse assisted therapy helps improve the physical and mental health of people with disabilities. In Switzerland successful models have been found to solve these problems, as one of the innovative practices is the horse assisted therapy. The main challenge for the Ruse Equestrian and Horse Breeding Club in implementing the project “The Horse – Our Common Friend, Challenge and an Open Door” was to master and apply the Swiss approach and methodology for implementation of horse assisted therapy. The professional marketing of this type of social service combines elements of physical therapy, occupational therapy, expressive therapy, speech-language pathology, education, and psychology and child development, in combination with the horse assisted therapy.

The project concept was focused on solving a specific problem in the social sphere – social inclusion and integration into society of children with disabilities and identification of opportunities for sustainable solutions for their inclusion in public life according to their abilities. The project concept made it possible to achieve a solution through an integrated approach, which involved first the transfer and absorption of the Swiss model of horse assisted therapy, which was new to Bulgaria, second, the provision of a new type of social services, and third, all-level coordination among the institutions involved in the implementation of public policies. For the purpose of implementing the project concept an institutional partnership was established between the Swiss Association for Therapeutic Riding PT – CH SV_HRP and the Ruse Equestrian and Horse Breeding Club. The aim of the partnership was the joint execution of activities and transfer of Swiss know-how in the field of horse therapy in support of the Bulgarian partner. After the conclusion of initial contacts between the Swiss Association for Therapeutic Riding PT – CH and the Ruse

Equestrian and Horse Breeding Club, the partner organizations planned, as their first joint initiative, an intervention in the social sphere prompted by the rich experience of the Swiss partner in this regard. The programme for transfer and implementation of the Swiss model was drafted according to the Project requirements for execution in Bulgaria and the training was conducted by instructors of the Swiss partner. 10 children with various physical and mental disabilities, speech disorders and sensory deficits were involved in the programme implementation. The indoor arena was the necessary setting for carrying out the training. A synergetic effect was achieved: parallel with the training of thr Bulgarian instructors, 10 children with disabilities benefited from pilot horse assisted therapy. Following the successful introduction of the innovative Swiss model and its promotion, the Ruse Equestrian and Horse Breeding Club joined the Swiss Association for therapeutic riding as an associate member. This was an essential element of the project in terms of development, consolidation of the partnership and overcoming new challenges for future sustainable development.

Registration number of the project	PF 032
Title of the project	The Horse – our Common Friend, Challenge and an Open Door
Executive agency	RUSE EQUESTRIAN AND HORSE BREEDING CLUB
Partners	PT-CH (Horse Assisted Therapy Switzerland), Berne, Switzerland
Project Location	Ruse, Bulgaria; Berne, Switzerland
Budget (BGN)	175,970.00
Committed Grant(CHF)	99,224.99
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	95,656.85
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	24 Months
Period of Implementation	1 July 2014 - 30 June 2016

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PF 033 - Democracy is a Process

DARIK
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

Democracy is
a process and
day-to-day
effort exerted
by all of us!



The objective of the project was to build the capacity of the Darik Foundation and thereby of Bulgarian journalists, media representatives and civil society in their work to promote the democratic principles of governance in Bulgaria. The project, entitled “Democracy is a Process” targeted media representatives, journalists and NGO experts. The project concerned the establishment of cooperation between the Bulgarian partner, Darik Foundation, and the Swiss partner, Reporters without Borders (RWB), for joint implementation of activities, exchange of good practices, transfer of Swiss expertise and know-how in support of the democratic development of Bulgarian media and civil society members. The project did not solve the economic problems the media sector was facing at that point of time, but it sought to create conditions for increasing the capacity of the free press and media to adequately respond to public needs and interests. In this project the National Darik Radio is a natural partner of the foundation. It was one of the few free media left with a national audience of approximately 1 million listeners, therefore the project team realized that the implementation of this project could contribute considerably to greater public sensitivity to expressions of democracy in Bulgaria. By introducing the democratic traditions of Switzerland in Bulgaria and using this as a basis for the activities planned /completed while at the same time covering as many areas as possible, for example economics, health, education, pension system, culture, national security and confidentiality of personal communications, charity, etc., the project has the potential to support the capacity-building process not only for Darik Foundation, but also directly or indirectly for many journalists, NGO representatives, including young people and active citizens.

Registration number of the project	PF 033
Title of the project	Democracy is a Process
Executive agency	DARIK Foundation
Partners	REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS – Switzerland; Geneve, Switzerland
Project Location	Nation-wide, Bulgaria; Bern, Switzerland
Budget (BGN)	164,232.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	92,606.23
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	88,244.15
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	13 Months
Period of Implementation	1 April 2014 - 30 April 2015

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PF 037 - Attorneys in Protection of Child Rights

PROGRAM FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE JUDICIAL
SYSTEM
ASSOCIATION,
SOFIA

WE WORK for an effective
judicial system capable
of responding to society's
interest in justice.



Children participate in legal proceedings in different capacities – as offenders; as victims of crimes; as participants in cases of divorce of their parents; as witnesses, etc. However, often, especially when a child has become a victim of a crime, parents choose to keep her/him as far as possible from interaction with the legal system because they don't trust that legal professionals (judges, police, prosecutors and attorneys) will apply the necessary approach. On the contrary, they think the system will further traumatize and re-victimize their child. While this is currently a deficit of the entire system, the involvement of attorneys is not to be disregarded in the juvenile justice reform process.

Given the reasonable concerns raised in society as to whether the rights of children, among which the right to information, to representation, to participation and to protection, are fully respected, it has become evident that the Bar must urgently provide for measures to catch up in this respect. The participation of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IIRC), Switzerland as a key Swiss partner in the project was negotiated as another means to ensure synergy with existing policies. The project focus: child-friendly justice, is an area, in which Switzerland contributes particular experience and know-how in regard to both education and training of professionals and organization and functioning of the justice system. This capacity is the reason why Swiss expertise is relied on and why IIRC is a desired partner by both the state and the Program for the Development of the Judicial System Association as Executing Agency for this project. The completed project suggests a parallel effort to strengthen the capacity of the Bar to contribute to child-friendly justice in Bulgaria. From now on the attorneys can adequately defend children involved in judicial procedures. The project activities contributed to the creation of guarantees that children's rights are better defended in judicial proceedings by trained lawyers. Furthermore, it laid the foundations of the further sustainable and continuous specialization of legal professionals in the field of children's rights and child-friendly justice in Bulgaria.

Registration number of the project	PF 037
Title of the project	Attorneys in Protection of Child Rights
Executive agency	Program for the Development of the Judicial System Association, Sofia
Partners	Institut International des Droits de l'Enfant (IDE) Foundation, Sion, Switzerland, Attorneys' Training Center "Krastio Tsonchev"
Project Location	Sofia and 3 local Bar Associations in Bulgaria
Budget (BGN)	156,424.19
Committed Grant (CHF)	88,203.60
Disbursed Grant (CHF)	82,779.88
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 Months
Period of Implementation	1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015

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PF 038 - Floral City

GABROVO
MUNICIPALITY

We seek to create a "Floral City" and ensure sustainable conditions for its future development by pooling the efforts of the institution and the local community on the basis of shared partnership experience and rendered support.



The project was implemented by a partnership including the municipalities of Gabrovo and Thun. The relations between the partners were effectively deepened in the course of performing the project activities, which involved elaboration of a 5-year Strategy for the development of urban green areas in Gabrovo municipality by Bulgarian and Swiss experts. Annual work plans were developed and their elaboration and implementation were assisted and supervised by Swiss experts. Personnel trainings were provided. They included on-site visits by the Management and actual work of Bulgarian employees at the partner's enterprise. Specialized vocational training was also performed. The relevant unit was supplied with technical equipment and specialized clothing. Demonstrational GIS and technical models were elaborated. The local community was involved in activities with demonstrational effect, including the creation of a specialized floral models and local community participation in competitive "local green" initiatives organized by youth volunteer groups. Exchange of knowledge between the partners and capacity building activities were conducted throughout the project implementation period, the most important of them being: the visits of Thun experts to Gabrovo involving a new vision, fresh ideas and contacts, transfer of experience and practices, such as managerial skills, tree cutting and flower planting; 9 workers from the Landscaping unit were able to acquire practical experience in Thun, Switzerland; the Swiss experts and practitioners had the possibility to exchange practices in direct contacts, on the spot and to become aware of a different perspective and approaches; the Swiss experts played a leading part in evaluating the students' projects while providing the Swiss perspective. Value was added to the project through the "Thun Garden in Gabrovo" initiative, commenced as part of the exchange of ideas during the visits of experts and workers in both cities, and through the initiative of building a figure of a "Gabrovian" green cat in Thun.

The main problems and development challenges tackled by the project were in the domain

of public services provision and community building initiatives. The specific problem addressed by the project was the provision of proper basis for smooth functioning of the newly established municipal unit responsible for the maintenance of the floral and green areas in the city. In the process of project implementation a number of development deficiencies were surmounted with a positive result.

Registration number of the project	PF 038
Title of the project	Floral City
Executive agency	Gabrovo Municipality
Partners	Municipality of Thun, Switzerland
Project Location	Gabrovo Municipality
Budget (BGN)	491,620.14
Committed Grant (CHF)	233,760.38
Disbursed Grant (CHF) (forecast)	233,602.99
Cofinancing	15%
Duration	36 Months
Period of Implementation	1 May 2014 - 30 April 2017

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PF 043 - Establishment of a Bulgarian-Swiss Orthopaedic Workshop

COMMUNITY
DONATION FUND
STARA ZAGORA
FOUNDATION,
STARA ZAGORA

Bulgarian orthopaedists and orthopaedic technicians together with their Swiss colleagues treat children with modern orthopaedic devices manufactured according to a Swiss model.



The project contributes to the introduction and application in Bulgaria of innovative, non-invasive approaches and Swiss know-how in providing the service “treatment of specific orthopaedic problems in childhood”. In order to achieve this goal the Executing Agency (EA) of the project, the Community Donation Fund Stara Zagora Foundation, in partnership with the Swiss Foundation Swissclinical established in Stara Zagora an orthopaedic workshop following a Swiss model, where Swiss and trained Bulgarian orthopaedists and orthopaedic technicians provide specific services to children with orthopaedic problems from the whole country. Within the 3-year implementation period of the project more than 800 children received medical examination and treatment and 150 orthopaedic devices were manufactured. The training of the Bulgarian specialists was conducted in accordance with the best European and Swiss standards. The dissemination of information to the orthopaedic community about the benefits of the non-invasive, children-friendly approach creates prerequisites for the sustainability and long-term impact of the project.

Registration number of the project	PF 043
Title of the project	Establishment of a Bulgarian-Swiss Orthopaedic Workshop
Executing agency	Community Donation Fund Stara Zagora Foundation
Partners	Fondation Swissclinical, La Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland
Project location	City of Stara Zagora
Budget (BGN)	407,120.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	229,465.57
Disbursed Grant (CHF) (forecast)	205,456.99
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	36 Months
Period of implementation	1 May 2014 - 30 April 2017

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THEMATIC FUND
“PARTNERSHIP FUND”

Small Block Grant “Business
Development and Corporate
Social Responsibility”

BD & CSR 001 - Business Partnerships for Better Society (B2B 4 CSR)

BULGARIAN-SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BSCC), SOFIA

The goal of the project was to enhance the business relations between Bulgarian and Swiss companies. The project supported and encouraged socially responsible Bulgarian

companies to participate in the introduction of the successful Swiss dual vocational education model in Bulgaria by presenting the successful implementation of the model in Switzerland. The project expanded and built upon the platform for business partnerships successfully established during the previous project. The Chamber of Commerce Switzerland – Central Europe (SEC) transferred its know-how to the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the two chambers together built the capacity of the newly established Swiss-Bulgarian Business Club.

The goals described above were pursued through activities such as building on and expanding the partnership platform of the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce through a series of meetings with prospective new partners in Bulgaria and in Switzerland and their accession to the partnership platform. The electronic version of the platform on the website of the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce was upgraded and a mobile version was developed. Two business forums were organized, one in Bulgaria and one in Switzerland, with the participation of Bulgarian and Swiss companies and representatives of vocational schools. The project encouraged more Bulgarian companies to participate in the dual education in Bulgaria through the organization of site visits by representatives of 40 Bulgarian companies and 10 vocational schools to Swiss companies and schools participating in the dual vocational education system in Switzerland.



Registration number of the project	BD & CSR 001
Title of the project	Business partnerships for better society (B2B 4 CSR)
Executive agency	Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC)
Partners	Chamber of Commerce Switzerland – Central Europe (SEC+), Swiss-Bulgarian Business Club
Project Location	Republic of Bulgaria, Swiss Confederation
Budget (BGN)	400,000.00
Grant (CHF)	200,000.00
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 months
Period of Implementation	3 October 2016 – 2 October 2017

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BD & CSR 002 - Innovative Models for Business Development and CSR

CENTER FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND EXECUTIVE
DEVELOPMENT,
SOFIA

The project enhanced the partnership between CEED and the Swiss higher educational institution SIFE and built upon the effect and outcomes of the previous project implemented by CEED under the “Partnership Fund” by constant exchange of information on specific development challenges, by

increasing the capacity and sustainability of Bulgarian startups, SMEs, NGOs and social partners. One of the persistent major challenges is the engagement of SMEs from peripheral regions of the country in corporate social responsibility practices. Seeking to address this problem the project focused on awareness-raising activities and on the sharing of innovative approaches, problem-solving methodologies and know-how from Switzerland.

One of the most important project events: the CSR Demo Day in Sofia offered a forum for presenting the best ideas related to corporate social responsibility (CSR). The ideas were selected during a series of trainings entitled “Business Development and CSR” held in 6 planning regions of Bulgaria with the participation representatives of over 200 SMEs. The two-module training programme was drafted by the Swiss experts from SIFE and the trainings sought to integrate CSR practices in company operations for the purpose of improving the competitiveness of Bulgarian SMEs and creating new products and processes. During the trainings the participants were advised and supported to establish a business model including CSR practices. 22 participants presented their ideas before experts, investors and business representatives from Switzerland and Bulgaria and a panel selected the most promising ideas – 5 winners traveled to Switzerland on a business trip for exchange of experience. Another important project event was the Final conference entitled “Corporate Social Responsibility”. The conference gathered experts from Switzerland, representatives of startups, SMEs, NGOs, social partners and other interested parties for the sake of establishing contacts, transferring knowledge and supporting each other.

The ambitious goal of the project was to raise the awareness of Bulgarian entrepreneurs, SMEs, NGOs and social partners about business development services and CSR policies and initiatives based on Swiss good practices. This led to the creation of a favourable environment enabling the implementation of business development services and CSR, increasing the transparency of socially responsible practices by using Swiss expertise and



boosting the capacity of non-governmental organizations and social partners in Bulgaria, including exchange of knowledge in the CSR area based on Swiss experience.

By consolidating the institutional partnership between CEED Bulgaria and the Swiss higher educational institution SIFE the project transferred successful Swiss practices and applied a new approach based on innovative business models for the target group in order to minimize the disparities and the gaps between Bulgaria and the more advanced EU countries and to achieve sustainable, economically and socially balanced development of Bulgaria.

Registration number of the project	BD & CSR – 02
Title of the project	Innovative Models for Business Development and CSR
Executive agency	Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development, Sofia, Bulgaria
Partners	Swiss Institute for Entrepreneurship SIFE, University of Applied Sciences HTW Chur, Switzerland
Project Location	Republic of Bulgaria, Swiss Confederation
Budget (BGN)	340,000.00
Committed Grant (CHF)	170,000.00
Cofinancing	10%
Duration	12 months
Period of Implementation	3 October 2016 - 2 October 2017

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JOINT BLOCK GRANT PROJECT
SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT SCHEME
OF THE REFORM FUND LINKED TO
CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND THE
PARTNERSHIP FUND GRANT SCHEME

0002 – Network it SMART

SMART
FOUNDATION,
SOFIA

The “Network it SMART” project of the SMART Foundation contributed to enhancing the visibility of the Bulgarian-Swiss

Cooperation Programme and the Swiss support for the Bulgarian civil society by organizing a number of activities to promote the projects supported by the two Thematic Funds of the Swiss Intermediate Body: the Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation and the Partnership Fund.



The kick-off event of the project was a conference on the topic “Enhancement of the Cooperation among the Civil Society Organizations and Their Active Involvement in the Democratic Processes” for the beneficiaries of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme. The conference was followed by a series of workshops targeting representatives of non-governmental organizations and dedicated to topics such as innovation and diversification of the sources of funding by applying modern approaches to NGO sustainability and building the capacity of the organizations to communicate their causes.

The “Network it SMART” project also included a photo contest under the title “The Human Being between Today and Tomorrow” which focused on the human element at the fine line or in the big contrast among the three pillars of sustainability: environmental protection, social development and economic development. Photos selected by an expert panel were exhibited at crucial locations in Sofia and Plovdiv.

For the purpose of raising the awareness of young people on the role of the civil society two simulation models were organized in the cities of Sofia and Varna with the participation of high-school and university students aged between 16 and 25. Young people, seen as the future changemakers, were targeted directly and involved in a series of interactive preparatory activities combining tools typical for non-formal and civic education.

Part of the project was also the creation of the documentary film “Butterfly on the Shoulder”. The film offers a different perspective to causes, devotion, humaneness and the meaning of things seen via the personal stories of the characters in the documentary from SOS Children’s Villages Bulgaria and the Wildlife Rescue Centre at “Green Balkans”, Stara Zagora.

The project also provided space for ensuring visibility of the impact of the Bulgarian-

Swiss Cooperation Programme by organizing a big motivational conference on Key@SWISS. It was a one-day highly interactive event based on motivational talks by Swiss and Bulgarian speakers on topics such as sustainable development, active citizenship, social entrepreneurship and innovation.

The event was preceded by a discussion hosted by H.E. Denis Knobel, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to Bulgaria, during which selected journalists were able to discuss with the speakers from the Key@SWISS Forum the successful outcomes of the work in the two key strands of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme: the Reform Fund Linked to Civil Society Participation and the Partnership Fund, as well as crucial topics for the Bulgarian society, such as community creation and sustainability, social entrepreneurship, environment and active citizenship.

The project results focused on the promotion of the role of the civil society organizations among various social segments, the thin connecting line being precisely the support of the Swiss Confederation and the existing models of democratic development there.

Registration number of the project	0002
Title of the project	Network it SMART
Executive agency	SMART Foundation, Sofia
Partners	–
Project Location	Sofia
Budget (BGN):	435.167.78
Committed Grant (CHF):	217,583.89
Cofinancing:	10%
Duration:	23 months
Period of Implementation	1 December 2015 – 31 October 2017

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