



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF DISTRICT PLEVEN

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### PROJECT:

## „Common Strategy for Sustainable Territorial Development of the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria”, MIS-ETC Code 171

Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

## SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

**Project title:** „Common Strategy for Sustainable Territorial Development of the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria”

**The total eligible value according to the approved project budget is 4 758 687, 83 EUR.** The funding of 4 019 187, 75 EUR, representing (84, 46 %) is provided by the European Regional Development Fund, the amount of 618 629, 42 EUR, representing 13 % is provided by the Romanian and Bulgarian State Budgets, and the amount of 120 870, 66 EUR, representing 2.54 % is a partners own contribution.

The project is financed under **Priority Axis 1: Accessibility** - Improved mobility and access to transport, information and communication infrastructure in the cross-border area, **Key Area of Intervention 1.2:** „Development of information and communications networks and services within the cross-border area” with Financing decision from European Regional Development Fund № 1054B/09.02.2012.

## **Project objectives:**

- Realize a comprehensive evaluation of the social, economic and territorial cohesion and economic competitiveness of the Romanian-Bulgarian Cross-Border area
- Elaborate the Territorial Development Strategy for the sustainable spatial and economic development of the Romanian-Bulgarian Cross-Border area
- Setting up a comprehensive and operational territorial data base for the Romanian-Bulgarian Cross-Border area.
- Developing and implementing efficient and sustainable territorial monitoring instruments.
- Developing and implementing relevant pilot project as a major input for further a durable implementation.
- Rising awareness in the Romanian-Bulgarian Cross-Border area for common problems and sustainable solutions in the area and for an efficient promotion of the region.

## **Project Partners:**

**Lead Partner:** The Ministry of Regional Development and Public administration -Romania

**Partner 2:** Ministry of Regional Development - Bulgaria

**Partner 3:** Romanian Association for Electronic and Software Industry- Oltenia - Romania

**Partner 4:** The center of consultancy and project management - Europroject - Romania

**Partner 5:** National Administration for Land Reclamation - Romania

**Partner 6:** District administration - Pleven - Bulgaria

**Partner 7:** Human Resources Development Agency- Bulgaria

**Partner 8:** Business Support Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises - Ruse, Bulgaria

**Partner 9:** Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration - Ecoregions - BG

**Partner 10:** Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism (BAAT)- Bulgaria

**Partner 11:** Veliko Tarnovo Municipality - Bulgaria

**Partner 12:** Association of Danube River Municipalities “Danube”- Bulgaria

## **Strategic character of the project:**

This project gives a common and integrated approach for the entire cross-border programme area (CBA). The project is not addressing administrative limits but is treating a specific functional area overriding the constraints imposed by national barriers. Having a holistic approach, taking into consideration the social, economical, environmental elements, the strategic character of the project is obvious and strengthened by its activities: identifying the potential elements, the main problems, building a data base and a strategy for the all cross-border area, putting together the authorities, the citizens and all stakeholders relevant from the both sides of the Danube.

The project is defining and building the cooperation framework in order to use the territorial capital to facilitate the competitiveness and innovation for the entire program area and also, to protect and improve the environment.

Also, this strategy can be use as a more focused part of the EU Strategy for the Danube Macro-region. This project helps the next financing period (2014-2020) for the two countries by identifying and prioritizing the interventions with a big impact for the cross-border are in relation with the EU development context and priorities.

The strategic character of the project is given also by the participation in the project as lead partner and partner of two national central administrative bodies, responsible with regional development, territorial and urban planning national policy in Romania and Bulgaria.

## **Main project activities:**

### **Activity 1: Management and communication**

- Management and coordination
- Communication, dissemination and promotion
- Development of a Regional Brand & Marketing Plan

### **Activity 2: Development of a common methodology and monitoring system for territorial development**

- Preparation of the common methodology for territorial analysis and diagnosis
- Preparation of the common methodology for strategic planning process and monitoring
- Training and working meetings for efficient use of the CBA methodology
- Preparing complementary instruments for territorial monitoring and development

**Activity 3: Development of common resources for territorial planning analysis and strategy**

- Assessment of internal equipment and training needs for setting up databases and processing
- Acquisition of necessary hardware equipments and software for territorial data bases
- Elaboration of a harmonized common territorial and land cover database for the Ro-Bg CBA.

**Activity 4: Analysis and diagnosis of the current situation in the cross-border region**

- Preparing of a common and harmonised cartographic support of the CBA
- Territorial analysis and data collection
- Elaboration of specialized thematic studies
- Identification of problems and territorial disparities
- Identifying needs and potential in the relevant areas of the CBA

**Activity 5: Elaboration of the Romanian-Bulgarian Cross-Border Region Territorial Development Strategy (TDS) and policy recommendations**

- The elaboration of common TDS
- Building partnership for the TDS
- Public consultations and environmental assessment of the TDS-Subcontracting of specialised services
- Drafting an Action Plan

- Drafting a Green Paper of the CBA
- Approval of the TDS

**Activity 6: Developing and implementing pilot projects in the Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border region.**

The aim of this working package is to start the implementation of the Strategy through strategic pilot projects in the eligible area of the programme and in this manner to validate and verify how the Strategy can be implemented after the end of the project.

- Integrated territorial pilot projects developed at county/district and municipality level
- Developing and implementing sectorial /thematic pilot projects Area

**Detailed information regarding the implementation of Working package**

**6.1. „Integrated pilot projects”**

Within this working package, Pleven District Administration (Project Partner 6) implements a integrated pilot project at district level. The Project aims the elaboration of a Regional spatial development scheme of the territory of District Pleven (4 653 sq.km - entire territory of Pleven District), 123 settlements in the Pleven District, 14 of which are towns, and 11 of them are municipalities) in order to create plan basis for long term, sustainable development of the urbanized territories and of the territories out of them, connected with the National strategy for regional development and with the regional and municipal development plans.

The Regional spatial development scheme will determine the directions for territorial development of the urbanized territories and their ecological reconciliation with the agricultural, forest and protected territories in order to achieve an optimal territorial structure and will envisage a proper development of the technical infrastructure and the correlation with the National infrastructure corridors with the European ones. The Regional spatial development scheme should be developed in accordance with Art. 7g. of Law of regional development.

The main objective of the spatial development scheme is establishment of spatial conditions for achievement of the goals of economic and social development, environmental protection and equality of living conditions, labor and vacation of the population, connected with cross-border cooperation and development. The scheme will determine the strategy for spatial development of the Pleven District and its connections with other districts within the region of NUTS 2 level and in adjacent regions in the country and neighboring countries (Romania).

Sub-goals of the spatial development scheme:

- Creating spatial conditions for increasing the attractiveness of the territory for developing an economy based on knowledge and available resources;
- Development and modernization of system of engineering - technical infrastructure and communications network;
- Integrated conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the environment, including natural and cultural heritage;
- Strengthening institutional capacity at regional and local level to improve the management process and support initiatives for regional and local development;

The development of Regional spatial development scheme will reflect European views on the nature and objectives of spatial development approach known as the ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective). Its essence consists in the combination of socio-economic development (regional strategies and plans) with planning (development schemes and plans).

The implementation of the pilot project will result also in the improvement of the connection and consistency between the objectives of the policy for regional development and the policy for spatial planning. The duration of the pilot project will be 17 months.

Target groups: the population from Pleven District, 11 municipalities, local and regional public authorities, business, education, NGOs.

Principal results:

- Elaborated Regional spatial development scheme;
- Improved sustainable planning and planning usage of available resources in long term (15-20 years);
- Synchronized and coordinated with the database and documents drawn up within the other project activities;
- Creating spatial conditions for intensive economic growth and improved common investment potential;
- Optimal structure for sustainable environmentally development created;

Project expected results:

- Evaluation reports on social, economic and territorial cohesion, on economic competitiveness and environment of the cross-border area
- A common Territorial Development Strategy for a coherent and synergic approach of the two riversides of the Danube to increase territorial cohesion and ensuring conditions for economic competitiveness of the cross-border area and an Action Plan.
- An operational common territorial data base and cartographic support for the Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border area, a common set of indicators and a common methodology to monitoring the territory
- A Territorial Observatory to monitoring the development of the cross-border area
- Implemented sartorial pilot projects in the field of economic competitiveness-business environment, education-human resources development, agriculture-land improvement, transports-infrastructures and tourism

- Information and knowledge largely disseminated among the main stakeholders of the Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border area
- A brand for the Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Region commonly promoted at European level

### **Target groups:**

- Public central and local administration
- Business environment and other relevant stakeholders
- Research institutions and universities
- Civil society

### **Deadlines for project implementation: 32 months.**

- Starting date of the execution of the project: 10.02.2012
- Final date of the execution of the project: 09.10.2014

### **Information about the project:**

If you need more information, please don't hesitate to contact - Ms. Dyana Stoycheva - Project Coordinator or Veselka Antonova - Technical assistant.

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