



Ministry of Regional
Development and
Public works



Global
Environment
Facility



United Nations
Development
Programme

Inter-District Planning to Meet Global and Local Environmental Challenges

Lessons from Bulgaria

By Natalia Dimitrova-Popova
International Conference on Inter-Municipal Co-operation
23-24 September 2010
Dubrovnik, Croatia

What are the Rio Conventions?

Biological Diversity

- Recognition of the role of indigenous and local communities for managing biological resources

Desertification

- Facilitate awareness and participation of local communities regarding SLM practices

Climate Change

- Emissions Trading System, Joint Implementation, Clean Development Mechanism

UNDP/GEF Rio Conventions Project

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW)

Partners: Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)

Steering Committee Members from: MRDPW, MoEW and UNDP, chaired by **National Project Director**, MRDPW. Meets bi-annually

Advisory Board: wider stakeholder group. Meets once per year. Members: National and regional municipal associations, NGOs, business associations, academia

Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process Project

Improved methodologies, skills and information management system

for mainstreaming global environmental issues into regional development

How?

- Development of **training courses** and **MSc program**
- Training of 140 employees from MRDPW, MoEW, **Municipalities and District Administrations**
- Review of data sources relevant to regional and local development planning
- Set of **strategic indicators** and integration into GIS
- Development and dissemination of publications and guidelines
- Information web based portal and newsletter

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Post-training evaluation

What do you do differently after the training?

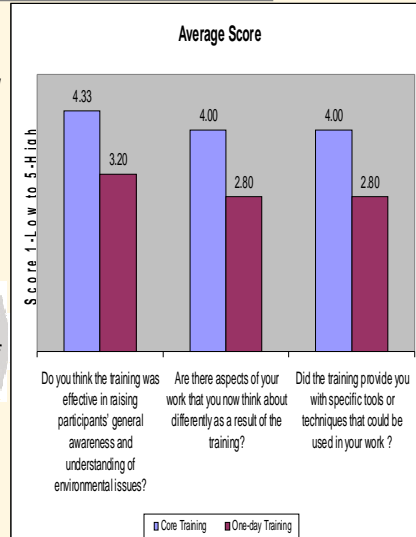
*"I do pay more attention to the **environmental aspects** of my work communications, documents and comments on projects"*

*"I seek to **increase public support** for resolving of environmental issues"*

"I apply the knowledge regarding the environmental assessments and NATURA 2000, GIS use which are related to my work"

"I have increased capacity for preparation of projects and planning documents with a focus on GEI integration"

"I have improved control and coordination on waste and water management and actions against air and soil pollution in my municipality"



Post-training evaluation. Cont'd

What were the most valuable training aspects to you?

"... understanding of the spatial planning as a spatial "projection" of regional development policy"

"... usage of GIS systems for spatial and strategic planning"

"... use of indicators for GEI integration in strategic planning"

"mechanisms for reconciliation of nature preservation and economic dev-t and ensuring co-existence of local communities"



Constraints

Further training needs

- *“Continuous lack of financing for new hardware and software solutions and use GIS application”*
- *“Difficulties with harvesting of up-to-date statistical information”*
- *“Insufficient human and financial capital, limitations of political powers of the institution”*
- *“Formalization of the planning process, non-informed decision making”*
- *“Landscape and urban planning and risk prevention”*
- *“Public-Private Partnership in the Environmental Service Delivery”*
- *“Integrated management of coast-line regions”*
- *“Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and achieving national/regional/local targets”*
- *“Development of ToR for environmental assessments”*
- *“Development of indicative spatial schemes and targeted zoning of the territory”*

Institutional changes

that support mainstreaming of global environment into regional development and spatial planning are in place

How?

- Study visit in a selected EU region (Cornwall, UK - Nov, 2010)
- Review and update of job descriptions at MRDPW and changes in staff hiring and evaluation procedures
- Adaptation of methodologies for SEA and regional development planning to **include global environmental issues**

Strategic planning documents

were revised to integrate global environmental objectives

How?

- Pilot testing of the project-developed **strategic indicators for global environmental issues (GEI) monitoring** through integration into one pilot District Development Strategy (DDS) – Plovdiv district
- Developed Methodology for Midterm Evaluation of DDS
- Practical Guidelines for update of DDS and MDPs with a focus on GEI integration

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Indicators for Monitoring the impact of regional development on the environment

Domain	Indicator
Climate Change:	Degree of achieving the national target for use of RES and energy efficiency
	Green house gasses emissions (in CO2 equivalent) per capita
Bio-diversity	Share between forest, agricultural and urbanized territories
	Relative share of territories subject to anthropogenic impact (infrastructure, residential areas, industrial sites)
Desertification	Share of territories subject to a high erosion risk
General	Expenditures for long-term assets with ecological purpose per capita
	Expenditures for long-term assets with ecological purpose

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Indicator Technical “Passport”

- **Focal area**
- **Context**
- **Definition**
- **Geographical coverage: national, regional, local**
- **Temporal coverage**
- **Update frequency**
- **Sources of information**
- **Costs**
- **Interpretation of the indicator**
- **Advantages and disadvantages**
- **Integration with GIS**

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Indicator GIS “Passports”

- **Minimum hardware equipment**
- **Basic software and additional software**
- **GIS information layers and databases**
- **GIS analytical tool/s**
- **Information architecture (data inputs, data processing and outputs)**
- **Cost estimation**

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Prototype GIS for Integration of GEI into Regional Development Planning

7 layers of GIS information:

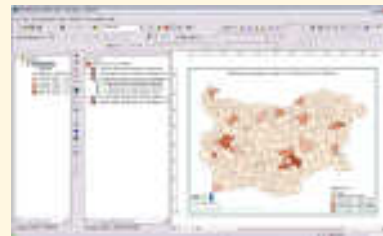
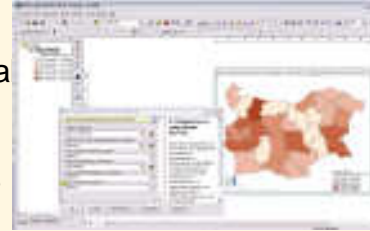
population, roads and railways, EU and national protected areas, land use, transport infrastructure, territorial units

GIS Map Application:

- Administrative and geographic maps
- Population and Employment
- Education
- Land use and transport access
- Protected areas

Concept for future upgrade

of prototype to include District Administrations and Municipalities



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Examples of Inter-District and Inter-Municipal Cooperation

Update of Plovdiv District

Development Strategy (DDS),

March – August 2010:

- 3 public hearings with representatives from: 18 municipalities, local NGOs and business associations
- Updated DDS in a transparent and participatory way
- **Areas of municipal cooperation** in implementing the DDS: development of Plovdiv airport, development of inter-district road infrastructure, marketing of an integrated touristic products



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Examples of Inter-District and Inter-Municipal Cooperation, Cont'd

Development of a Methodology for Midterm Evaluation of DDS:

- Conducted 7 working meetings
- More than 50 experts from 28 DAs took part in the Methodology Development
- Institutionalized Methodology, Aug 2010
- Potential for improving planning and access to financing during the next programming period (2014-2020)
- **Challenges:** "tying" RD and SP policies; improving coordination between RD, SP and sectoral policies and financing; develop uniform information system for RD and SP



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Examples of Inter-District and Inter-Municipal Cooperation, Cont'd

Follow up activities in Sept-Oct, 2010:

Districts and municipalities from South Central and South East regions prepare joint proposals for :

- developing of **integrated strategic planning documents** for the next programming period (2014-2020): DDS, MDPs and spatial schemes
- developing of on-line, GIS based **regional info system** to facilitate decision-making, planning and monitoring of RD and SP
- Improving mechanisms for public consultation
- Improving coordination among and financing for RD policies
- GEI integration in the early stages of RD&SP policy making

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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About the Project

The project Integrating environmental issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process is the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDP) and the Ministry of Environmental Issues (MEI), financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

About the Rio Conventions

The Rio Conventions are international treaties signed to address global environmental issues. They are part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Environmental Issues (MEI), financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Search:

News and Events

- 14.02.2007 Round Table on the Rio Convention and the Regional Development
- 17.02.2007 Conference on Regional Development Building a Sustainable Future
- 11.02.2007 Project Kick-off Workshop