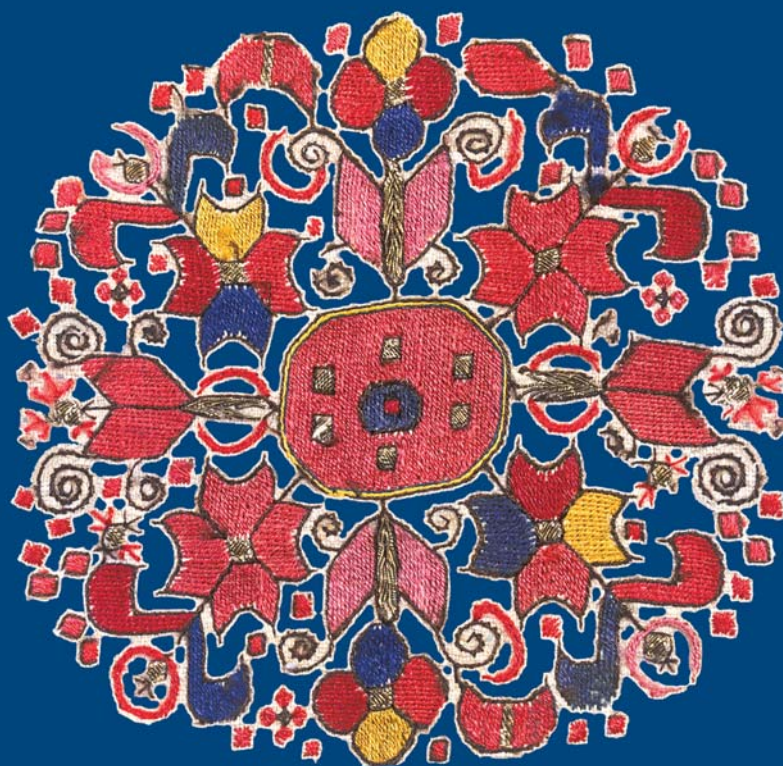




United Nations Development Programme



UNDP BULGARIA

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP Bulgaria is committed to advancing social inclusion and reducing poverty, raising the quality of life and promoting good governance – all enabling the country to meet the development challenges facing a member state of the European Union.

UNDP Bulgaria Quick Facts:

- Country office established in 1992
- Over 70 projects implemented
- Total resources mobilized (1999–2006) exceed USD 176 million
- Currently supporting more than 30 projects implemented jointly with over 200 partners from government, municipalities, the non-governmental sector, businesses and the international community
- Unique network of broad partnerships across Bulgaria.

Key Publications:

- **National Human Development Report** – UNDP's main public advocacy tool. Since 1995 human development reports put at the heart of the public debate key social and economic issues. In 2006 UNDP launched the tenth National Human Development Report – *Are we Prepared for the European Union Funds?*
- **UNDP Bulgaria Annual Review** covers UNDP work in Bulgaria.
- **Bulgaria: Beyond the Facts** special publication focusing on hot topics in the development agenda in a new EU member state.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNDP takes a leading role in global and local coordination efforts for Millennium Development Goals advocacy, monitoring, and implementation – a common commitment of all 192 UN member countries to be achieved by 2015. In Bulgaria, the first National MDG Report (2003) aligned the global goals to the average indicators of EU member states and set out a road map for achieving Bulgaria's national goals by 2015.

GOAL #1: HALVE EXTREME POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION

GOAL #2: IMPROVE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

GOAL #3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

GOAL #4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

GOAL #5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

GOAL #6: LIMIT THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS, SYPHILIS AND TUBERCULOSIS

GOAL #7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL #8: DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

- As a follow-up of the national MDG Report the first National Poverty Reduction Strategy and National Anti-Poverty Plan were developed with UNDP support.
- In 2005 the UN country team in Bulgaria launched a National Youth MDG Report – 8 Goals: 8 Insights, Young People's Stories on the Millennium Development Goals.
- The second national MDG Report is imminent. It will be a report of a new donor country actively participating in the global partnership for development and offering Official Development Assistance.

UNDP FOCUS AREAS



Social Inclusion and Local Economic Development for Poverty Reduction

Projects and advocacy work focus on promoting local economic development through entrepreneurship and business support, social inclusion of minorities, as well as on building public-private partnerships for overcoming social exclusion.

Key projects:

- Job Opportunities through Business Support (JOBS)
- Demonstration Project for Housing Renovation
- Teams on Wheels in Rural Regions
- Social Services Against New Employment (SANE)



Democratic Governance for Equitable Local Development

UNDP promotes effective governance and decentralization, increased citizen's participation in the decision-making process, accountability and effectiveness at all levels of governance in Bulgaria. Special emphasis is given to providing support for better using the development opportunities associated with EU membership.

Key projects:

- Strengthening Partnership in the Planning and Absorption of the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds
- Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- National Rural Network and Leader
- Chitalishte Development Foundation
- Support for the management of the Operational Programme for Administrative Capacity



Information Technology for Development is at the core of a series of support projects introducing the principles of e-government for greater transparency and accountability of the administration, increasing access to ICTs and bridging the digital divide for remote and poor regions of the country. The projects are: *Tele-centers, E-Government, European Software Institute – Bulgaria, Support to e-government initiatives based on the Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) at local level, National Research Network.*



Energy and Environmental Conservation for Sustainable Development

UNDP supports Bulgaria to meet its international commitments and ensure global, national and local environmental benefits. Since 2005 Bulgaria has joined the Global Environmental Facility's Small Grants Programme that allows NGOs and civil society organizations to be actively involved in environmental preservation activities.

Key projects

- Conservation of the Globally Significant Biological Diversity in the Landscape of the Rhodope Mountains
- Sustainable Land Management
- Integrating Rio Conventions into the National and Regional Development Policies
- Promoting Energy Efficiency in Private and Public Buildings



Crisis Prevention and Recovery is a recent area of cooperation between UNDP and the Bulgarian government. New projects aim at building skills and introducing a disaster preparedness curriculum for young people (*Prevention of natural disasters and accidents through the secondary education system in Bulgaria*), as well as building institutional crisis prevention and management capacity (*Ensuring the Safety of People and Infrastructure against Natural Disasters and Accidents*).

UNDP PARTNERSHIPS

The results achieved by UNDP in Bulgaria are largely due to the commitment and contribution of a broad range of partners and donors. UNDP's successful teamwork is based upon:

- Common vision for Bulgaria's future development;
- Common understanding of development priorities facing the country;
- Common belief in the importance of sustainable development programmes, projects and initiatives;
- Public-private partnerships. Through the Global Compact framework private companies and business coalitions work with the UN system, regional and local authorities and civil society organizations to support Bulgaria's development agenda;
- Joint action of UN agencies for better results of the UN system as a whole.

For the success of its ongoing and future activities in Bulgaria UNDP relies on the strong relationship with its partners.

National Partners
State Agency for Information Technology and Communications State Agency for Youth and Sports Council of Ministers Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Ministry of Economy and Energy Ministry of Education and Science Ministry of Environment and Water Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform Municipal and District Administrations National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues
UN Agencies
Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund Global Environment Facility United Nations Democracy Fund Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Population Fund (UNFRA) World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Multilateral
European Union World Bank
Bilateral
United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden
Non-Governmental Organizations
National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria Access to Information Programme Open Society Institute National Business Development Network Chitalishte Development Foundation Foundation for Local Government Reform Balkan Assist Center for the Study of Democracy The Red House Culture and Debate Center Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria Bulgarian Business Leaders' Forum Center for Liberal Strategies Bulgarian Charities Aid Foundation United Nations Association of Bulgaria Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds EnEffect Interethnic Human Rights Initiative Foundation Time – Eco Projects
Private Sector
Over 120 companies members of the Global Compact Initiative

UNDP PROGRAMME RESOURCES

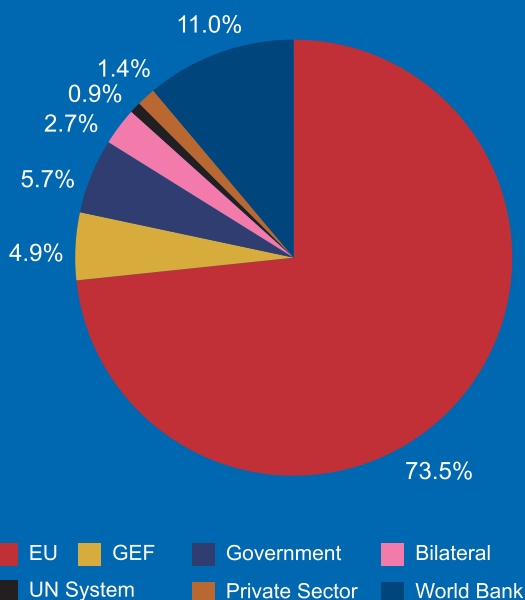


UNDP's broad partnership network includes partners from all sectors – national and municipal government bodies, non-governmental organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, the private sector.

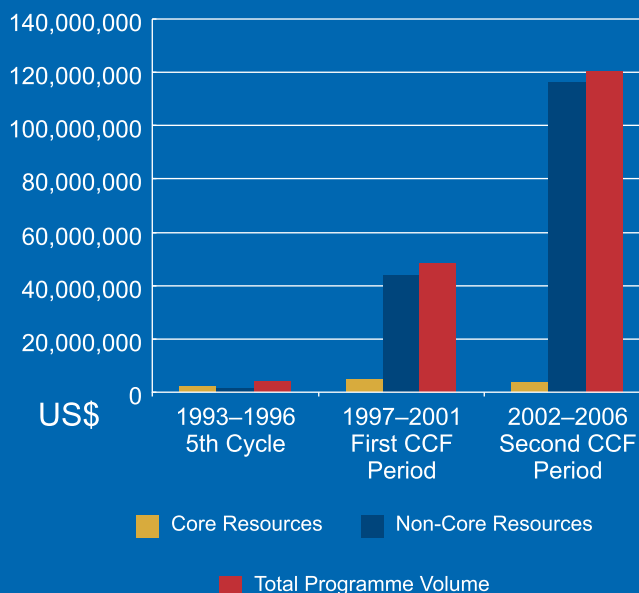
The overall financial volume of UNDP's Programme in Bulgaria (1999–2006) was **USD 176,513,022**, of which the UNDP core resources amounted to USD 7,296,629 and the non-core resources (funding provided by other institutions and donors) stood at USD 169,216,393.

The Bulgarian Government's contribution to the UNDP programme (funding provided by national institutions such as ministries and municipalities for the implementation of joint development projects with UNDP) came in at **USD 124,382,131**.

Partners for the period 1999–2006



Core/Non-Core Resources Ratio Evolution



The five largest projects implemented by UNDP in Bulgaria:

1. Beautiful Bulgaria (1997–2006): total budget of USD 65,697,625
2. JOBS (ongoing project): total budget of USD 26,320,743
3. Regional Initiatives Fund (completed project): total budget of USD 20,671,000
4. Urbanization and Social Development of Areas with Predominant Minority Populations (completed project): total budget of USD 7,222,899
5. Social Services against New Employment (SANE) (ongoing project): total budget of USD 7,014,684

Overall the UNDP programme in Bulgaria is the largest in the UNDP RBEC region, (29 countries and 24 UNDP offices); in 2005 the Programme reached an annual volume of nearly USD 29 million, and in 2006 – more than USD 25 million.

SUCCESS STORIES

■ **European Union Membership – Challenges and Possibilities**

The *Strengthening Partnerships in the Planning and Absorption of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds* project started out as a joint pilot initiative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, UNDP and the UK Government in the beginning of 2006. It proved to be one of the first actions in Bulgaria aimed at supporting a pipeline of local projects to be funded under the Regional Development Operational Programme (RDOP). The project trained as trainers 40 selected staff from 29 existing regional structures (JOBS Business Centers, Associations of Municipalities and Regional Development Agencies). These trainers in turn trained more than 1400 municipal employees, representatives of NGOs and the private sector in 92 municipalities to prepare concrete projects. Over 80 project proposals were submitted by the local actors. Most of the projects stand a good chance of receiving funding under the Regional Development Operational Programme. The pilot initiative thus contributed to preparing local development actors to efficiently use the EU funds.

■ **JOBS – Jobs Opportunities through Business Support**

The JOBS project, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and UNDP, has established a national network of 42 business centres, 11 business incubators and 15 window offices which assist local micro and small businesses to grow and create sustainable employment. Since the launch of the project in 2001 the centres have helped create over 24,000 jobs, have provided 83,000 business services and have trained 35,000 people. Some 1,400 business start-ups and established entrepreneurs have benefited from direct access to micro financing using financial leasing to buy equipment as well as start-up grants totalling BGN 14.6m (USD 9.7m). Several pilot initiatives support entrepreneurship and labour integration in minority communities. The project implements a number of special business development initiatives including Project 100, JOBS for Roma, Support to Producers of Herbs and Alternative Agricultural Products, etc. The National Business Development Network is an association of the JOBS business centres, representing their business support efforts in Bulgaria.

■ **The Rhodope Mountains – Biodiversity and Economic Prosperity**

The Project *Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Landscape of Bulgaria's Rhodope Mountains*, funded by the Global Environment Facility, is being implemented in 43 Rhodope municipalities and has already established municipal Focus Groups in 27 of them. Representatives of the local authorities, the private and non-government sector, included in the groups, have elaborated Declarations for the significance of nature as a sustainable development resource in the Western and Eastern Rhodope Mountain. An Ethic Charter for the sustainable development of ecotourism in the region was also drafted. The Rhodope project also supports the efficient management of priority protected areas; encourages alternative livelihoods; keeps the local communities informed on sustainable practices in the area of forestry, ecotourism and organic agriculture. In the Rhodope region UNDP applies an area-based integrated approach for sustainable development through projects such as *Sustainable Development of Rural Areas*, *Teams on Wheels*, *JOBS*, *Telecenters*, *Chitalishte*.

■ **SANE Project – Social Services in the Community**

The Social Services against New Employment (SANE)

The joint initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and UNDP pilots a new social assistance model offering family-based care while generating employment.

After a successful pilot phase in 12 municipalities, in January 2007 the SANE model was adopted countrywide under the National Programme "Assistants to People with Disabilities". The project provides assistance to single elderly people and people with disabilities. Local NGOs hire unemployed people as social assistants, organize their training and monitor their performance. Currently, the project's assistance menu covers 53 social services. Over 2,034 vulnerable people aged 9 to 93 in the 12 pilot municipalities are receiving social services from 705 qualified social assistants. The project developed a methodology for delivery and monitoring of the Social Assistant service. The SANE project contributes to developing a long-term national policy and builds capacity for transition from institutionalized social care to decentralized, community-based social services delivered by non-governmental entities.

THE UN FAMILY IN BULGARIA



United Nations Development Programme



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



World Health Organization (WHO)



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



International Labour Organization (ILO)



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



World Bank



International Monetary Fund (IMF)



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Bulgaria

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