



United Nations  
Development  
Programme

## Bulgaria Beyond the Facts

### Programme Area:

Democratic Governance

### Project Number:

53 368

### Duration:

September 2006 –  
December 2007

### Partners:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Government Counterpart)
- Foundation Gallup International Institute (implementing partner)

### Budget:

US\$ 99, 000

### Project funding:

US\$ 99 000 - UNDP

### Project Contact Information:

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### Project Description:

The project builds on a nine years old experience (1997 – 2006) in establishing an Early Warning System and publishing regular Early Warning Reports in Bulgaria. Under the brand ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts*** UNDP Bulgaria initiated a series of issues papers that examine critical problems and present analytical assessments of the prospects and barriers to human development in Bulgaria on the eve of its accession to the EU and during the first year of Bulgaria's EU membership. Nationally representative sociological surveys are coupled with public discussions with the participation of experts, government and NGO representatives, academia and media prior to the publication of the print issues of ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts*** on the theme of the surveys. The early warning system data base is maintained and the survey's results and analyses are accessible on the redesigned web portal ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts***. The survey's results and analyses are accessible in both on-line and print versions.

### Objective:

- The new project aims at replacing the EWR methodology with a specific type of monitoring focused on the risks to growth and development within the framework of a largely stable economy and democratic institutions. Its objective is to attract the interest and attention of expert audiences, government institutions, international partners, private sectors, media and public at large. Through triggering public debate around critical issues challenging the human development in the country, ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts*** seeks to influence the policy making process and to offer recommendations how to tackle some of the new challenges Bulgaria will be faced with as a member of the EU.

### Results achieved (by June 2007):

- Two nationally representative sociological surveys conducted: 1. Attitudes toward development aid: Bulgaria's emerging donor status of official development aid for development countries and countries in transition; 2. Social and economic contrasts after Bulgaria's accession to the European Union: the state of the middle class;
- Two public launches and discussions on the results of the surveys;
- Maintenance of the early warning database and historical archive of the early warning system and up-date of the redesigned web portal ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts***
- Special issue of ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts*** on the theme of development assistance published
- Promotion of the on-line and print versions of ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts***

### Benefits:

- Monitoring and presenting valuable analysis and assessment of current social and economic development and trends that could be forecasted. Advocating new concepts - development assistance, development cooperation, and partnership for development, human & social vulnerability. Making the results of the surveys available to public institutions, private sector, media, NGOs. Formulating experts' opinions and recommendations on critical topics and development issues in Bulgaria as a new EU member state.

### Future activities:

- Publication of the print issue of ***Bulgaria Beyond the Facts*** with focus on the middle class in Bulgaria;
- Third national representative survey under the project on the attitudes of Bulgarian youth