



United Nations  
Development  
Programme

## Urbanization and Social Development of Areas with Predominant Minority Populations

### **Programme Area:**

Poverty Reduction

### **Project Number:**

BUL/02/011

### **Duration:**

January 2003 – November 2006

### **Partners:**

- National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues (Implementing Agency)
- National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues (Executing Agency)
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### **Budget:**

Euro 5,930,000

### **Donors:**

Government of Bulgaria,  
European Union,  
UNDP

### **Project manager:**

Drago Djalov

### **Project Contact Information:**

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### **Project Description:**

The project aims to improve the quality of life in urban communities with predominant minority populations by encouraging better integration of these groups into the urban society and economy. The project will improve access to public services and reduce unemployment among the target groups in the target areas through improving public infrastructure, implementing a vocational training and temporary employment scheme, and a pilot business support initiative.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Improve the living conditions of ethnic minority groups by upgrading the public infrastructure;
- 2) Contribute to social and economic integration of ethnic minority groups by implementing active labor market policies;
- 3) Foster good interethnic relations while preserving the identity of ethnic minority groups by building public social infrastructure;
- 4) Implement part of the Framework Programme for the Equal Integration of the Roma.

### **Locations:**

Omurtag, Venetz, Dulovo, Pazardjik, Lom, Stara Zagora

### **Results (expected):**

Public works construction (approx.):

- 33,000 m of water supply network;
- 300 m of public lighting, 10 lamps;
- 8,000 m of sewerage network;
- 53,000 m<sup>2</sup> of streets and sidewalks;
- One kindergarten and one community center.

Business support:

- 175 people provided with business training and consultancies for business start-up;
- 32 leases granted for business start-ups or existing businesses;
- 6 micro-credits granted for business start-ups or existing businesses.

Employment & vocational training:

- 400 long-term unemployed provided with temporary employment;
- 96 sustainable jobs created through the leasing scheme, micro-credit scheme and other employment generation programmes;
- 1,000 long-term unemployed provided with vocational training in construction skills (100 people to find sustainable long-term employment).

### **Benefits (expected):**

- Replicable and sustainable small and medium business development models;
- Community strengthened through business support, increased civil society participation and infrastructure development;
- Improve the living environment of the citizens of the target cities;
- Provide a replicable model for active labor market policy.