

## Planning for Sustainable Communities in Bulgaria

This is the first bulletin, providing information on the activities and the development of the DFID project "Planning for Sustainable Communities in Bulgaria", implemented in the regions of Kustendil and Pazardjik and the pilot Municipalities of Sapareva Bania and Velingrad.

DFID funded project "Planning for Sustainable Communities in Bulgaria" has started at the beginning of September 2003.

This project is the third local sustainable energy planning project funded by DFID within the period 2000 - 2003, aiming at supporting energy planning, management of municipal and regional energy resources and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Bulgaria. The project is directed towards smaller municipalities in Bulgaria with limited resources to enable them to manage better their energy resources and become "sustainable communities".

The main goal of the proposed project is to build capacity of the municipalities in Bulgaria to develop sustainable energy plans and monitor their success as a part of the overall local development strategy. This will be undertaken by training municipal and regional experts in LSEP, who will transfer their skills and knowledge to the neighboring municipalities in the pilot regions.

The project is for a period of 12 months and will end in August 2004.

### The outputs of the project are:

- To build the capacity of the municipal authorities to develop LSEP in Bulgaria and to monitor their successful application as a part of the overall development plans;
- Provision of effective training tools and materials to the Lead Municipalities and Regional Administrations, based on practical experience and training needs assessment;
- Transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and experience from the Lead Municipalities (i.e. those who are already trained in LSEP) to their neighboring municipalities;
- Regional Authorities to have the capacity to promote and support Local Sustainable Energy Plans in all the local authorities within their regions;
- Municipalities have the necessary skills to monitor and evaluate local sustainable energy plans to enable progress in meeting social, economic and environmental objectives to be tracked;
- Regional Authorities and the relevant national stakeholders (e.g. Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, National Association of Municipalities, Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources) recognize their roles in ensuring the Local Sustainable Energy Planning is promoted and supported in all regions and municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria.

### Kustendil Region



### Sapareva Bania Municipality



### Pazardjik Region



### Velingrad Municipality



## Project Team

The project team consists of experts from ESD Ltd. – UK and ESD-Bulgaria OOD, who will work in conjunction with the representatives from Pazardjik and Kustendil Regional Administrations, Velingrad and Sapareva Bania Municipalities, as well representatives of "Neighbouring" municipalities.

LSEP provides the opportunity to plan and to implement investment RES and EE projects.

The "Planning for Sustainable Communities" Project will have own web site:

<http://bulgariaplan.energyprojects.net>

On the web site you will find detailed information on the project

## New in the project

The "**LSEP Methodology**" developed by the experts of ESD-Bulgaria and ESD Ltd. UK within the DFID funded "LSEP: Capacity Building" Project completed in 2003 will be used as the main LSEP training tool. This methodology describes in detail the activities, necessary for the successful development of sustainable energy plan in a community.

### LSEP Methodology



## Activities

On the 15th and 16th October 2003 kick-off meetings were held in the Kustendil and Pazardjik Regional Administrations. Representatives from ESD-Bulgaria, regional and municipal authorities and local stakeholders were present on these meetings. The consultants from ESD-Bulgaria presented the objectives and tasks of the project, the criteria for selection of trainers from the regional administrations and "lead" municipalities, as well the criteria for selection of "neighboring" municipalities. The draft work program was presented and discussed in detail. The regional and municipal authorities have expressed their interest and readiness to actively support and promote LSEP on local level.

## For more information

LSEP in Bulgaria web site: <http://free.data.bg/LSEP>

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