



**GABROVO
MUNICIPALITY**



**Improving
Structural
Funds for
better
delivery of
R&D&i policies**

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Gabrovo Municipality

Project overview



IMPROVE
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Research &
innovation



Policy instrument

The policy instrument for Gabrovo Municipality is the Municipal plan for development of Gabrovo municipality (MDP) 2014-2020, Strategic goal 1: Stimulation of economic growth and enhancement of competitiveness of local business in Gabrovo municipality. In 2020 Gabrovo Municipality started programming for the next programming period, which will be based on integrated project involving all stakeholders. Based on analysis on the opportunities in the next programming period (2021-2027) and lessons learned in the end of the period 2014 - 2020, Gabrovo Municipality identifies the need of an integrated approach of development where all the stakeholders (business, public authorities, academia and NGO sector) will work in joint projects for improvement of the territory and more stable connections for better economic development of the region.

The Integrated Development Plan 2021 – 2027 (IDP) of Gabrovo Municipality is a very important strategic document that will integrate regional and spatial development. The document will identify impact areas for integrated territorial investments, and sectoral interventions can be distributed throughout the municipality.

A key priority of IDP is the socio-economic development of the region and stimulation of public-private partnerships. Integrated territorial investments are also subject to implementation in the new period, with the aim of combining economic, environmental and social interventions / projects. It is envisaged that the projects will be financed both through funds from European programs and financial instruments or through private investments. The policy learning process is progressing and there are no changes in the initially planned goals and instruments. Gabrovo project team is working with RSG for the elaboration of the Action plan based on the above mentioned analysis and the possible public private partnerships to support innovations and regeneration of industrial zones. Deep analysis of the national legislation for PPPs also continues. A new local regulation will be developed and approved related to provision of incentives to class B investors. Policy improvement is possible through an improvement of the regional ecosystem and by increasing awareness for the available financial tools.



Good practices

Good practice identified is the establishment of Regional Innovation Center “Ambitious Gabrovo” (RIC) for developing a good innovative ecosystem in the region together with business, education and public authorities. RIC main goals for creating a better ecosystem of stakeholders for economic development are:

- Incubator for talents
- Devices for automation
- Materials and technologies
- Ecology and Circular economy
- Digitalization of the region

The main beneficiaries of this good practice are local businesses and young entrepreneurs who will develop their own business. RIC is financed by annual membership fees and donations, through project financing and future dividends expected from supported start-ups, shares holding. RIC focuses on different innovative projects and supports them.

The main challenge is having on board all needed organizations to close the cycle of the ecosystem business-education/science-administration. This variety of organizations is difficult to manage, but when they have common target each one of them can contribute with its best knowledge and experience for the common target. Such quadruple helix organisations are very interesting for other regions as a new type of region governing aiming lessening the differences among the SMEs and getting them on a close levels of innovation and digitalisation on one hand. On the other with the focus on the ecology issues and circular economy RIC is a factor for a sustainable region. Furthermore, participating in one and the same organisation with representatives of the industry, the university is up to date with the current and future needs of the engineers of tomorrow and is able to keep the training programs of the students and to offer them internships for better preparation and supporting the future talents. Working under the name of one organisation together with the local government, RIC members can speed up their ideas and suggestions to the government for adequate legislation.

Link to the good practice: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/5840/ric-ambitious-gabrovo-factor-for-development-and-animation-of-the-regional-ecosystem/>



Specific issues and areas of improvement

The implementation of the Municipal plan for development of Gabrovo municipality (MDP) 2014-2020 is supported by different funding sources (ESF, national budget, municipal budget etc.). The municipal budget is very limited to support economic growth through support of innovations in the local companies, most of which are in the priority S3 sectors.

Through participation in this project Gabrovo Municipality addresses the real needs of the local authorities to:

- Define the right policy mix
- Deploy the most effective instruments
- Create synergies
- Coordinate the delivery of SF with other available funds at regional level
- Boost the use of the available EU funds
- Develop good governance in regional policy
- Engage at multiple levels and with actors from both public & private sector.

Expected impact: Increased awareness and knowledge about the development of innovations among the business operating in the priority for the economy of the municipality of Gabrovo economically activities. Growth of implemented innovations.

Expected impact: Developed business infrastructure and related networks. Sustainable partnerships implemented. Expected impact also is growth of implemented innovations and growth of net sales revenue.



Identified solutions to specific issues

In Lapland, Arctic Smartness concept is the leading initiative for implementing smart specialisation. The implementation of Arctic Smartness is based on regional cooperation, and it works like an ecosystem, where the actors share common goals to develop Lapland. Arctic Smartness Clusters act as engines for the regional development. Networks support the activities of the clusters and projects act as instruments for carrying out individual activities.

Arctic Smartness is an approach to regional development established by actors in Lapland, and it functions as an 'umbrella' for all projects implementing smart specialisation in Lapland. Lapland's Arctic Smartness concept gives a shining example of how regions may successfully enhance their development activities and utilisation of EU resources. Dedication, cooperation across different sectors and strong common vision are the key ingredients.

Arctic Smartness activities provide stakeholders in Lapland continuous opportunities to participate different networks, both nationally and internationally. This will open up possibilities for new innovation, skills and funding, and furthermore, increase local know-how in regional development.



Main stakeholders involved in the project

Local businesses

Regional Innovation Center “Ambitious Gabrovo”

Technical University of Gabrovo

Chamber of commerce and industry

Career Guidance Center Gabrovo

Trakia Economic Zone

Public authorities on local and national level: **Ministry of economy, Fund of funds Bulgaria, Regional administration, Gabrovo Municipality, District information point Gabrovo, etc.**