

PRESENTATION
VARNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PIC CODE 935473336

I. OVERVIEW



Varna Economic Development Agency (VEDA) is a **not-for-profit, non-governmental association, registered to operate in public benefit**. It is located on the territory of Varna District in Bulgaria, East Europe. The agency was established in 1997 under the joint program Local Government Initiative of Varna Municipality and the USAID to assist the advancement of regional economic development. VEDA aims towards leadership in the establishment of conditions for sustainable social and economic development of Varna and the region. The agency supports the building of the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMES) through impartial providing of information, consulting services and training. VEDA promotes networking, the attraction of foreign investments in the Region, and improvement of the local employment opportunities.

The Agency possess a Certificate № 010, issued on 11.06.2002r. for its registration under the № 20020611019 in the Central Register of Non-for-profit Legal Entities at the Ministry of Justice for **carrying out agency's activities in public benefit**.

VEDA is registered to deliver social services, namely Bureau for social services with a Certificate № 4240, issued on 29.04.2009 by the national Agency for Social Aid, run under the rule of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.



The Agency was recognized as a **certified business support organization** under the project BASIS – Business Advice and Support International Standards. A certificate was issued on 29.10.2009 to VEDA for its achievements in the area of Business Advice and Support International Standards.

Since 1998 VEDA is a **member of the network of the Bulgarian Association of Regional Development Agencies and Business Centers (BARDA)**.

The Agency was a **National Contact Point (NCP) for CIP Eco-innovation Program 2007-2013**, managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) with a headquarter in Brussels and a member of the network of NCP in countries of the European Union, the Western Balkans, Turkey and Israel, which were eligible for funding under the Program. The Director of the Agency was **representative of Bulgaria in the EU Enterprise Policy Group - Business Chamber**, established at the DG "Enterprise and Industry" of the European Commission (2007- 2012).

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II. PROJECT EXPERIENCE

In recent years, VEDA has focused its activities in international projects, financed by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Program 2007-2013, Black Sea Basin 2007-2013 and Erasmus +. The main project, implemented by VEDA as a partner included:

Project DTP1-1-311-2.2 NETWORKD - Networking in preserving the First World War multicultural heritage in the Danube countries, supported by the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP). Fourteen project partners from nine DTP countries have jointed their efforts in the NETWORKD proposal to manage the sustainable use of the WW1 cultural heritage by combining it with a quality cultural tourism. There are also ten ASP participate. The Lead Partner is Soca Valley Development center in Kobarit, Slovenia. NETWORKD project contributes to the DTP programme objectives SO 2.2 by strengthening the joint and integrated approaches in preserving and managing the WW1 cultural heritage and resources in the Danube region as a basis for sustainable development and growth, in order to increase mobility, sustainability, common remembering and cultural tourism. Project duration: 01.0.12017- 30.06.2019.

Project 2016-1-UK01-KA202-024353 Project TeamMate360, supported by the EU, Erasmus+ Program with a lead partner Exponential Training & Assessment Limited in the UK and partners Fundatia Central Educational Soros Miercurea Ciuc from Romania, Consorzio Friuli Formazione from Italy, Best Cybernetics from Greece, ISME Ltd from Ireland, and Ad Hoc Gestion Cultural SI from Spain. Project duration: 01-09-2016 - 28-02-2019.



Project 2015-1-UK01-KA202-013654 Fit for Business Growth, supported by the EU, Erasmus+ Program with a lead partner Exponential Training & Assessment Limited in the UK and partners Best Institut fur Berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personal Training GMBH from Vienna, Austria, Universite de Bordeaux in France, Materada centar za njegu i održavanje tijela in Croatia. Project duration: 01-09-2015 - 31-08-2017.

Project 538864-LLP-1-2013-1-UK-ERAMSUS-EQR "SMEs Leaders and sustainability: Deliberative Engagement", supported by the EU Long - life Learning, Erasmus Program with a lead partner Leeds Metropolitan University in Leeds, UK and partners from UK, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Italy, Croatia. Project duration: 1 October, 2013 - 31 March, 2016.



Project 2016-3-UK01-KA105-035043 "Business Basics - An Applied Approach to Business", approved for funding by the U.K. National Agency of Erasmus + KA1 Program. The Lead Partner is One Terrene International (U.K.) , in short OTI, which is part of an

international network of organizations involved in adult education and youth work in a variety of fields in Europe. Training duration: 12/08/2017 - 20/08/2017.

Project 2016-3-UK01-KA105-035046 "Entrepreneur's Manual", approved for funding by the U.K. National Agency of Erasmus + KA1 Program. The Lead Partner is One Terrene International (U.K.) , in short OTI, which is part of an international network of organizations involved in adult education and youth work in a variety of fields in Europe. Training duration: 04/12/2017 - 12/12/2017.



Project "Young Blue Entrepreneurs Across the World" (YBE) with a lead organization - Cabildo Insular de Gran Canaria - Consejería de Juventud e Igualdad (Youth and Equality Department), funded under the Grant Agreement from August 6th, 2013 for an Action with Multiple Beneficiaries; Agreement Number 2013-3852/011-011 YT7 CAAP7. Project duration: 1 Oct.2013 - 16 February, 2015).



Project "SEE/D/0223/1.2/X APP4INNO - "Development and promotion of new approaches and tools to enhance competitiveness and innovation in the primary sector in South East Europe" (<http://www.app4inno.com/>) with a lead organization Regional Agency for Agriculture, Forestry and Agri-food sectors in the Veneto region, Padova, Italy. Under the project there will be set up a network portal (<http://network.app4inno.eu/>) for provision of on-line services for firms, knowledge sharing and pilot area. A competition of ideas, survey and other policy actions were included in project work packets. Project duration: 1 Oct.,2012 - 30. Oct.,2014.

Project SEE/D/0320/4.1/X BUILD SEE - "Addressing the divide between EU indications and their practical implementation in the green construction and eco-social requalification of residential areas in South East Europe regions" (<http://www.build-see.eu/build-see/>). Lead organization - Alma Mater Foundation in Bologna, Italy.



National and multinational focus groups in the area of public legislation, social issues and building innovations were conducted and run along with communication & publicity activities (international exhibitions, newsletters, dissemination conferences), HUB, and others. Project duration: 23 January, 2013-31 December, 2014.

Project 2.3.1.73322.291 YARCC - "Youth Action for Regional Coherence and Cooperation (YARCC)" with a lead partner HEIFER Project International from Yerevan, Armenia. Under the project were provided training on shared values and debating & argumentation, round tables on cultural heritage, regional youth network in the Black Sea Basin, and other activities, aimed at young people in Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey and Armenia. Project duration: 24 May, 2013-23 May, 2014.



Project "YARCC follow-up activities" -There were conducted in-country, Varna-based conference of the Regional Youth Network and Regional Youth Forum in Armenia, following a



new Partnership Agreement between HEIFER Project International from Yerevan, Armenia and VEDA. Eighty people from the four partnering countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia and Turkey) took part in Regional Youth Forum, held between 23-28 June, 2014 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Project 2.1.2.73301.285 PIRT "Promoting Innovative Rural Tourism in the Black Sea Basin region" with a

lead partner HEIFER Project International from Yerevan, Armenia. Under the project there was planned creation of a new innovative tourist packets in the area of the Black sea basin.

There are 4 groups of activities, incl. but not limited to training of local service providers (LSP) active in rural tourism, exchanges & study tours for LSP and travel agencies, work with educational authorities and government bodies to incorporate the new product in tourism training curricula and policy measures, and other activities, carried out by the four partnering organizations VEDA from Varna, Bulgaria, HEIFER Project International from Tbilisi, Georgia, Gumushane Educational Authorities from Gumushane, Turkey and HEIFER Project International from Yerevan, Armenia. Project duration: 5 November, 2013 - 4 May, 2015.



Project "Support for the integration of people with disabilities and prevention of their social exclusion through the mechanisms of non-formal education", funded by the Municipality of Varna under the Contract D13000812VN / 28.06.2013. The aim of the project is to prepare adults with physical disabilities for their future realization. It is envisaged through the techniques of non-formal education to increase the skills of the target group in the field of social entrepreneurship and

successful work under the operational programs in order to obtain funding from the EU Structural Funds.

Project BG051RO001-3.3.07-0002 "Students Practice", funded under the OP "Human Resource Development" - Contract R221/17.12.2013 between Varna Free University and VEDA for organization and mentoring of student's internship at the Agency office in the period 2 January, 2014 - 31 May, 2014.



Project BG051RO001-1.1.06 Creation of employment of young graduates through ensuring opportunities for internship", funded under the OP "Human resource development" - Contract ESF-1106-03-02-0176 between National Employment Agency & Directorate "Labor Bureau"-Varna on one side and VEDA - on other side, for students' employment and trainee in the period Dec., 2012 - May, 2013. Three young female graduates from Varna-based universities work at VEDA office for 6

months, acquiring practical experience in project management and for a team work.

Project SEE/D/0223 /1.2/X AsviLoc plus - " Agencies Supporting Value of Innovation systems in regional and Local economies "

The project was aimed at establishment of qualified and fitting frameworks to motivate SMEs toward innovation and to bring them closer to the results of R&D activities. This was achieved through establishment of an innovation key actors networking, promotion of innovation governance and definition of a governance model for the creation and management of innovation processes both at regional and international level. There were 15 agencies for regional and economic development in South East Europe - partners in the project. A Lead partner was the Agency for Regional Development and Innovation in Ancona, Italy. Project duration: 11 March, 2009 - 30 June, 2012.



Project SEE/333/4.2/X SEPA - "Sustainable and Equipped Productive Areas"

was realized in cooperation with eight partners - municipalities and NGOs from Italy, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia. The lead organizations was Baire Mare Municipality in Romania (in the first period) and INFORMEST in Gorizia, Italy (in the second period). The main project activities include a feasibility study for the establishment of an industrial zone, training, exchange of experience, networking at local, national and international levels. Project duration: 11 March, 2009 - 31 May, 2012.

Project "(In)Action Has Consequences: Reasons and Ways for Young People to Participate in the Decision-Making Process at Home and the EU", funded by the EU "Youth in Action" Program. It was a part of the Sub-Action 1.3 - Youth Democracy Projects, which support young people's participation in the democratic life of their local, regional or national community, as well as at the international level. The main goals of the project were:

- Young people to acquire knowledge about the decision-making process at national and European level, as well as the role of civil society and young people in this process and thus strengthen their interest in the field of public policy;
 - Young people to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to deal with the difficulties of their transition from education to the labor market, as well as get acquainted with opportunities for developing skills, essential for successful labor market integration through voluntary work.
- Lead Partner: The Institute for Market Economics, Sofia (www.ime.bg); project partners are Varna Economic Development Agency, the Institute for Liberal Studies, Bucharest and the association "Tinerii Schimba Romania", Bucharest. Project duration: 01.09.2011-31.05.2012.

Project BG2003/004-937.11.03 "Lightning Rehabilitation and Promotion of Varna Sea Garden and Its Tourist Attractions". The overall project goal was to improve the tourist attractiveness and promotion of Varna as a modern European destination for tourists from all over the world. Project includes the three main groups of activities: 1) Rehabilitation of Varna Sea Garden lightening facilities with a focus on installation of energy saving lamps and an effective illumination; 2) Renovation of the building and collections of the National Sea Museum, located in the Garden, and 3) Support and promotional activities concerning further development of the tourism in the region. Direct Beneficiary: Varna Economic Development Agency. Project duration: 1 Dec., 2005 – 31 Dec., 2006.

During the period 2009-2012 **VEDA participated in the management and implementation of activities under awarded projects by external organizations:**

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- Part of the Agency experts was included in providing project management & accounting services for the implementation of the **project VI-PP Golden Sands**, funded under the national OP "Environment" with a beneficiary the Directorate of the Natural Park "Golden Sands" (http://www.parkzlatnypiasaci.com/?page_id=362&lang=en).
- VEDA experts participated as trainers and consultants for the establishment of Social Enterprises by people with visual impediments in a **project "Together We Can More"** with a beneficiary the National Consumer Cooperation of the Blind in Bulgaria. The project was funded under the national OP "Human Resource Development".
- In 2011 VEDA succeed in a completion, announced by the Technopolis Ltd. - a consulting company from Brussels, Belgium, subcontractor of the Directorate General "Environment" of the European Commission. As a result VEDA elaborated the country Eco-innovation profile of Bulgaria for 2011 (http://www.eco-innovation.eu/media/EIO_Country_Brief_2011_Bulgaria.pdf), its update for 2012 and the report for 2013 (http://www.eco-innovation.eu/images/stories/Reports/EIO_Country_Brief_2013_Bulgaria.pdf).



III. CONTACT DETAILS

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