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Open dialogue

Regional, national and European policymakers give their views on the key issues in focus at Open Days 2011

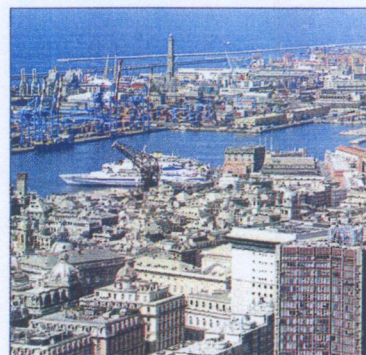
Green capitals: Why Hamburg is leading the way in its efforts to tackle climate change



Wasting time: How Europe's local and regional authorities can help move towards a zero-waste society



Urban renaissance: Mayors from across Europe come together at the Eurocities annual conference





ISPA Programme in Bulgaria a success story

ISPA Implementing Agency in the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) in the Republic of Bulgaria started its activity in the beginning of 2003 and with European Commission Decision C(2006)5541 dated 23/11/2006 is unconditionally accredited to manage the EU grant under ISPA on a decentralized basis.

In January 2007 the Republic of Bulgaria joined the European Union. Therefore ISPA Implementing Agency became Managing Authority (MA) for Cohesion Fund (Regulation 1164/94) and was renamed to European Infrastructure Projects Directorate. The Directorate manages three large-scale infrastructure Projects in the water sector for more than € 142 Million.

Today, two of the Projects managed by the MA are successfully completed and fully operational - Integrated Water Project in the town of Bourgas and Construction of Waste Water Treatment Plants located in the Maritza River Basin (Stara Zagora, Dimitrovgrad and Haskovo). The third and largest Project - Integrated Water Project in the Town of Rousse is expected to be completed by end December 2011.

As a result of the successful implementation of these three Projects, the citizens of the beneficiary towns now have new and improved water supply and sewerage systems along with Waste Water Treatment Plants that meet the European environmental legislation.

With an average percent of absorption of EU funds at 95.00% and zero irregularities so far the European Infrastructure Projects Directorate within MRDPW proves that Bulgaria is capable of efficient management of EU funds for the well-being of Europe's population and for the future generations.

During the last eight years the Managing Authority for Cohesion Fund (Regulation 1164/94) within MRDPW has walked a long road towards

successful completion of Cohesion Fund / ISPA Projects in Bulgaria. During this period the MA learnt a very important lesson - that good cooperation between Employer, Final Beneficiaries and the European Commission is essential for the overall success of the Projects.

Not one or two were the challenges that the Managing Authority had to face and overcome during the implementation of the Projects. But with highly-motivated, dedicated and professional team the Directorate strictly follows the European principles and high standards in their work. It is those principles, this strong administrative capacity and these excellent results that make the team of the Managing Authority for Cohesion Fund (Regulation 1164/94) ready and willing to take their part in the management of Operational Programme Environment in Bulgaria.

