

## **Participate! Decide! Win! (Municipality of Danilovgrad)**

*Implemented by NGO Green Home – Zeleni Dom*

*Implementation period: Dec 2005-May 2006*

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### **Project Background**

Green urban space occupies approximately 15% of the Municipality of Danilovgrad. The regulation on physical planning and the protection of green urban areas is not implemented here, so these lands are abused and misused. The project aims at activating the participation of citizens in the process of drafting and adopting the “Regulation on organization, physical planning and the protection of green urban areas” and at empowering the cooperation between citizens and local authorities, to provide a higher quality of protection and physical planning for green urban areas.

### **Activities implemented**

- Meetings were held with the representatives of the local authorities and other relevant institutions in order to present the Project, finalize the Action Plan and get Local Government involved in the project activities
- Questionnaire was prepared and distributed to find out the local people’s concerns about the most important problems and possible solutions regarding the protection of green areas. These outcomes have been used as a basis for public debates and the Draft Regulation
- Working group was found to draft the Regulation on Physical Planning and the Protection of Green Urban Areas
- Mailing list network was created in order to provide information exchange on AC issues and ongoing events
- Media campaign was conducted together with a one-day cleaning action “My Park” and planting action in primary school
- Training was held on “Organizing an Effective Public Debate”, in cooperation with REC experts
- 6 public debates were organized for 15 local communities in order to increase the participation of citizens in the process of creating and adopting the Regulation and raising their voices in local environmental issues
- Suggestions collected through the public debates and through the meetings of the working group were analyzed and presented to the responsible officials in the municipality of Danilovgrad. The regulation:
  - reduces the misuse and subsequent damage to the environment,
  - while also incorporating citizens into the public participation process, as well as
  - testing these processes through the law-drafting process



- **The Draft Regulation was submitted to the Assembly of the Municipality of Danilovgrad and adopted by them later.**

### **Project results and outcomes**

**The project succeeded to active a big amount of citizens to participate in the process of drafting and adopting the Regulation on Physical Planning and the Protection of Green Urban Areas.** General knowledge about the public participation as an instrument of the decision-making was raised among the local people, communities, NGOs, and media representatives. The quality of cooperation between, local authorities, local institutions, citizens, medias, NGOs were increased. Also the quantity and quality of environmental information available at the local level as well as the quality of protection and physical planning for green urban areas were increased.

**Positive project experiences can be modelled and transferred to other municipalities in order to improve public participation AC requirements and institutional cooperation between local authorities and citizens.** Knowledge on local decision making instruments and public participation processes transferred to human capacities engaged during the Project (working group members, NGOs, and citizens) will be used in similar processes and Regulation implementation monitoring processes.