



Project Progress Report

Name of the project: **REReP 2.3 - SEE NGO Networking/ Development of Environmental NGOs Electronic Networking in Bulgaria 2001 - 2002**

Project Manager: Milena Georgieva

Forth period: 1 July – 31 December, 2003
BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria

This project aims to strengthen environmental NGO electronic networking in Bulgaria and to link it to the other emerging networks in SEE. The network is open for all NGOs in Bulgaria. BlueLink Foundation oversees the implementation of the project in the country and ensures its transparent and democratic functioning.

The activities planned in the project are based on the BlueLink Strategic Work Plan and on the results of the Needs Assessment survey, conducted by BlueLink.

Activities planned:

I On-line content and services development

Events Calendar

II Meetings and seminars

Training Workshop in Gabrovo

III Sub-contractors

Production of bookmarks

IV Promoting SEE Regional Networking

Other activities, included in the project

Publications: BlueLink's Bi-Annual Report

BlueLink's participation in computer distribution

Activities reported:

I. Online content, services development and maintenance

1.1. News Service: More than 104 articles in Bulgarian and 33 in English were published on the news section of the BlueLink site. The news covers the development and the activities of the Bulgarian environmental organizations.

1.2. Environmental News Monitor – An electronic form for news digest is available on BlueLink's website. The users are able to subscribe and receive the news on their e-mail daily, weekly or monthly. Currently there are 76 subscribers for the digest.

1.3. Events Calendar: BlueLink had created and developed a separate section for the upcoming events <http://www.bluelink.net/kalendar/en/>. The order of the events is chronological: first is displayed the most recent event and then the later events. Through an open form the NGO users could add by themselves the events they organize (<http://www.bluelink.net/kalendar/en/form.shtml>). The form is user-friendly and simple to fill in. When a new event is submitted, BlueLink's editor is notified by e-mail to check and approve the new item.

1.4. Mailing Lists: The subscribers in the biggest mailing list (ngos@bluelink.net) are 260 NGOs, mass media, academic institutions, municipal and state authorities and individuals. BlueLink supports 46 mailing lists.

BlueLink Information Network - Bulgaria established in 1998 by: Public Environmental Centre of Sustainable Development - Varna, Environmental Club "Terra" - Blagoevgrad, Bulgarian Biodiversity Preservation Society Semperviva - Pernik, Academica Geo Eco Club – Veliko Tarnovo, Green Balkans - Sofia, For the Earth, Centre for Environmental Information and Education and ECO-CLUB 2000. BlueLink aims to create a free information forum for democracy, civil society, sustainable development and harmony with nature.



1.5. Applications setting and development: The new section 'Events Calendar' and the open form for submitting upcoming events is based on Action Applications.

1.6. Theme oriented websites: BlueLink continue to develop and to increase the content of the NGO node of the national Bulgarian CHM (Clearing House Mechanism) on biodiversity. The address is: www.bluelink.net/chm

II Meetings and seminars

Training Workshop in Gabrovo, 6-7 December, 2003

The fourth training from the series seminars for NGO on strategic use of Internet within this project was organized and held in Gabrovo with 14 participants. NGO representatives from the town and Central Bulgaria were included in the two days workshop. The program of the training is following the BlueLink's know-how, prepared for these trainings and focused on strategic use of Internet, Internet writing, online publishing tools and some other topics. An evaluation report of the workshop is provided by BlueLink, based on the participants' evaluation (see Annex 1).

III Sub-contractors

Production of bookmarks

BlueLink prepared and disseminated in cooperation with Bulgarian Society of Protection of the Birds /BSPB/, Environmental Association "Za Zemiata" and other NGOs another 6 bookmark types, rising the public awareness on particular environmental problems and protected species. The bookmarks are attractive and contain a sentence, accenting on the problem, and a web address for more information. The bookmarks are disseminated in libraries, bookshops and other public places in Sofia and other regions.

The initiative aimed to reach broader audience of people, to show them hot environmental issues in an attractive way and thus to cover broader group of citizens within the information dissemination.

Other activities, included in the project

Publications: BlueLink's Bi-Annual Report

BlueLink's bi-annual report was produced in order to present in a compact and visible way BlueLink's activities and development in the past two years 2001-2002. The report entitled "Civil society goes online" covers the network's activities during the past years 2001-2002, focused on the services development and partners collaboration.

A project report is prepared and published as a major component of BlueLink's Annual Report. The project report / BlueLink Annual Report will be distributed to NGO users and the media for promoting the work done by BlueLink and the REC.

BlueLink's participation in computer distribution

BlueLink participated in announcing, application evaluation and nomination of granted NGOs for receiving computers by REC. BlueLink announced the computer grant for NGOs on its web site www.bluelink.net. In cooperation with REC Sofia the NGO applications were discussed and nominated. Because of the big number of eligible and quality NGO applications, REC Sofia and BlueLink suggested BlueLink to search for better offer for the computers in order more NGOs to receive computers: nominated NGOs were 12, the grant was announced as 7 computers. Due to BlueLink's efforts, a suitable offer with all needed parameters was available.