



INTERNET RESEARCH AND GOOD PROJECT & PRACTICES

**WALKTOGETHER
MARCH 2023**



INTERNET RESEARCH



1.1.Environment Management, Coordination, Regulation, Inspection and Monitoring in Bulgaria

Environmental management, coordination, regulation, inspection, and monitoring in Bulgaria are governed by a number of laws and regulations aimed at protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development.

The main legislation governing environmental protection in Bulgaria is the Environmental Protection Act. The act establishes the legal framework for environmental protection and sets out the roles and responsibilities of government agencies, businesses, and individuals in managing the environment. The Ministry of Environment and Water is the primary agency responsible for implementing environmental policy in Bulgaria.

Environmental coordination is handled by the National Council for Sustainable Development, which is responsible for coordinating policies and programs related to sustainable development. The council brings together government agencies, businesses, NGOs, and other stakeholders to develop and implement policies aimed at promoting sustainable development. Environmental regulation is enforced by the Bulgarian Environmental Inspectorate, which is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and conducting inspections of businesses and other entities that may have an impact on the environment. The inspectorate is empowered to issue fines and other penalties for non-compliance with environmental regulations.

Environmental monitoring in Bulgaria is carried out by a number of agencies, including the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, the National Environmental Monitoring System, and the National Center for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety. These agencies monitor air quality, water quality, soil quality, and other environmental factors to ensure that environmental standards are being met and to identify potential environmental risks. Overall, Bulgaria has a comprehensive framework for managing the environment and promoting sustainable development. However, like many other countries, it faces ongoing challenges in balancing economic development with environmental protection, particularly in the areas of air and water pollution and waste management.

1.2. Municipalities and Environment

In Bulgaria, municipalities play an important role in managing and protecting the environment. Municipalities are responsible for implementing environmental policies and programs at the local level, including managing waste, monitoring air and water quality, and promoting sustainable development.

One of the key responsibilities of municipalities is managing waste. Municipalities are responsible for collecting and disposing of municipal solid waste, including household and commercial waste. They also oversee the operation of landfills and waste treatment facilities within their jurisdiction.



Municipalities also play a role in regulating the use of land and natural resources. They are responsible for issuing permits for activities that may have an impact on the environment, such as construction projects or the use of natural resources. Municipalities also work to promote sustainable land use practices, such as protecting natural habitats and promoting the use of green spaces.

1.3. Environmental Engineering Departments at Universities

Many universities in Bulgaria have environmental engineering departments that offer undergraduate and graduate programs in this field. Environmental engineering departments in Bulgarian universities often have strong connections with industry and government agencies. Students may have opportunities to work on research projects or internships with companies or government agencies, gaining hands-on experience and practical skills.

1.4. Some Associations and Foundations concerning Environment in Bulgaria

There are several associations and foundations in Bulgaria that are dedicated to environmental protection and conservation. Here are a few examples:

1. Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation: This foundation is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of Bulgaria's biodiversity. They work on a range of projects, including habitat restoration, species conservation, and public education.
2. Green Balkans: Green Balkans is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses on conservation and restoration of natural habitats and species in Bulgaria. They work on a range of projects, including wildlife rehabilitation, wetland restoration, and public education.
3. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds: This NGO is dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats in Bulgaria. They work on a range of projects, including bird monitoring, habitat conservation, and public education.
4. Eco Partners: This is an association of environmental experts and organizations that work together to promote sustainable development in Bulgaria. They focus on issues such as waste management, energy efficiency, and environmental education.

References:

<https://www.biodiversity.bg/en/>

<https://greenbalkans.org/en/>

<https://bspb.org/en/>

<https://ecopartners.bg/>

<https://www.bepf.bg/en/>



GOOD PROJECT & PRACTICES

BULGARIA



GOOD PRACTICE I

THE GREEN SOFIA PROJECT

Project Title: The Green Sofia Project

Project web address: <https://sofiagreen.bg>

Social Media pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/SOfiaGreenCity>

<https://www.instagram.com/sofiagreencity/>

Application Years: 2016-now

Obejectives and Targets:

This project aims to increase the number of green spaces in the city of Sofia, Bulgaria's capital. It includes the planting of new trees, the construction of green roofs and walls, and the creation of new parks and green corridors.

Target Groups

Citizens, municipalities, NGOs, businesses.

Learning Model : Non-Formal ? Informal ? or Formal ? (If there is learning material)

It depends on the specific activities and programs within the Green Sofia project. Non-formal and informal learning are likely to be the primary learning models, as the project involves engaging citizens and stakeholders through volunteer programs, citizen science projects, and educational initiatives outside of traditional formal educational settings.

Outputs / Products

Green Sofia project's outputs and products are aimed at promoting sustainable urban development practices, increasing the number of green spaces in Sofia, improving the city's air and water quality, promoting biodiversity conservation, and creating a more livable and sus



tainable city for all citizens. This includes the physical changes and improvements made to the city's green spaces and infrastructure. Examples of physical outputs include the planting of new trees and shrubs, the creation of new parks and green corridors, the installation of green roofs and walls, and the reduction of pollution and urban heat islands.

Success of the Projects (Any Prize and Sustainability etc)

- The European Green Capital Award in 2020, which recognizes cities for their commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection
- The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award in 2019, which recognizes outstanding contributions to sustainable urban development
- The Green Apple Award in 2017, which recognizes environmental best practices and innovations

Pics



Planting plants and trees.





GOOD PRACTICE II

The Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

Project title: The Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF)

Project web address: <https://biodiversity.bg/en/>

Social Media pages: <https://www.facebook.com/biodiversity.bg>

Application Years: 1997 - now

Objectives and Targets:

The Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) is a non-profit organization that was established in 2007 with the goal of promoting the conservation and sustainable use of Bulgaria's biodiversity. The foundation works to support scientific research, education, and public awareness campaigns, as well as to facilitate the development of policies and strategies for the conservation of biodiversity in Bulgaria.

The BBF's activities focus on several key areas, including:

1. **Protected Areas:** The BBF works to support the effective management and conservation of protected areas in Bulgaria, including national parks, nature reserves, and other designated areas of high conservation value.
2. **Species Conservation:** The BBF supports research and conservation efforts aimed at protecting endangered and threatened species in Bulgaria, including the Balkan lynx, the Egyptian vulture, and the European otter.
3. **Sustainable Development:** The BBF promotes sustainable development practices that are compatible with biodiversity conservation, including eco-tourism, organic farming, and the sustainable use of natural resources.
4. **Environmental Education:** The BBF supports environmental education initiatives aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and promoting a culture of sustainability.

Target Groups:

Scientists and researchers, NGOs, Environmental groups, local communities



Learning Model:

The BBF's educational initiatives can be classified as non-formal learning, as they are designed to raise awareness and provide information about environmental issues to the general public, rather than being part of a formal educational curriculum.

Outputs / Products:

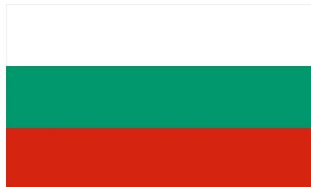
The Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) has produced several outputs and products as part of its conservation and research activities. These include:

1. **Scientific Reports and Publications:** The BBF produces scientific reports and publications aimed at improving our understanding of Bulgaria's biodiversity and identifying threats to its conservation.
2. **Conservation Strategies and Action Plans:** The BBF works to develop and implement conservation strategies and action plans aimed at protecting and conserving Bulgaria's biodiversity.
3. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** The BBF produces public awareness campaigns aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and promoting a culture of sustainability.

Developed Green Environment Courses and Materials (if any) - the organization does provide educational materials and resources related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Bulgaria.

Success of the Project:

The Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) has not received any major awards for its work on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. However, the organization has been recognized for its contributions to conservation research and advocacy in Bulgaria. For example, in 2012, the BBF was awarded a grant by the European Union's LIFE program for its work on the conservation of priority habitats and species in Bulgaria. The organization has also received funding and support from a variety of international organizations, including the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Global Environment Facility.



Pics:

Botanical Course



Bird watching



Videos:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=228138253049954>

References: <https://biodiversity.bg/en> , <https://sofiagreen.bg>