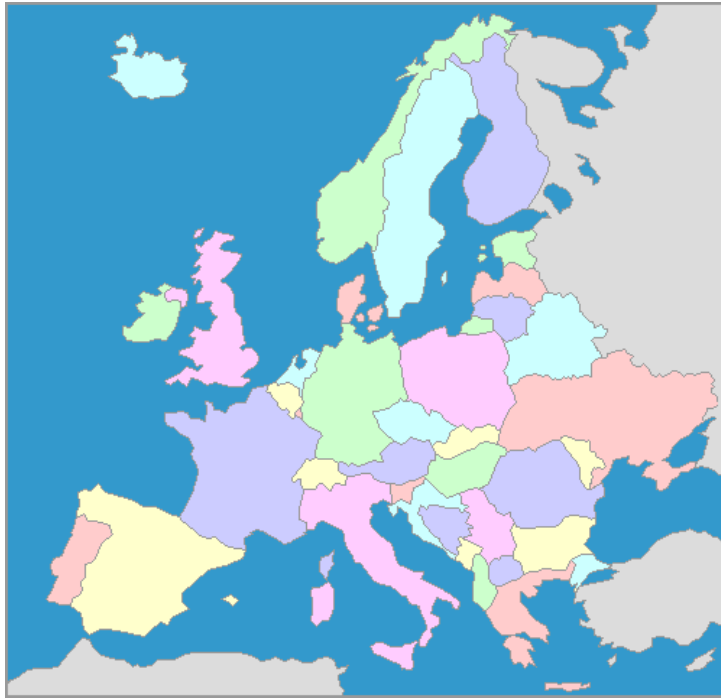




EURO PERSPECTIVES FOUNDATION



The Euro Perspectives Foundation was founded in 2008 in Sofia, Bulgaria as a new institutional structure able to address public interest in an enlarged Europe and to bring endogenous capacities to cross fertilize through Territorial Co-operation with Regional stakeholders in EU and outside for added value Regional policies and EU Integration.

EPF is intending to play the role of a neutral development pole throughout Bulgaria and the Balkans and participate actively in European Integration processes mobilizing the civil society and building the capacity of the institutions at all levels in order to achieve an effective bottom-up approach linked to EU/International/Global networks of excellence.

The founding Members of the Euro Perspectives Foundation, who have initiated and implemented a number of Interregional Co-operation projects funded by the EU Territorial Co-operation programs (e.g. INTERREG IIIC) and participated actively in the elaboration of Structural Funds Operational programmes for Bulgaria, realized that there was a need for a new institutional set up to continue the thematic work of these networks after the expiration of their financing by EU. The EPF is fed by the concepts, results and ambitions of the interregional co-operation networks and is devoted to continue the work of these & other networks in different EU regions.

Partner Organization information

Name of the Organization: EURO PERSPECTIVES FOUNDATION
Legal status: non governmental not for profit organization
Type of organization: PUBLIC EQUIVALENT BODY
Address : 55 Vladaiska Str., apt. 1
Postal code: 1606
City: Sofia
Country: Bulgaria
Telephone: +359 2 952 32 59, (GSM) +359 887 550 138
Fax: +359 2 953 27 15
E-mail : veleslava@time-foundation.org
Website: www.europerspectives.org

Legal Representative

Surname, Forename: Abadzhieva Veleslava
Telephone: +359 887 550 138
Fax: +359 2 952 32 59
e-mail: veleslava@time-foundation.org
SKYPE: veleslava.abadzhieva
Title, Sex, Language : Female, Bulgarian
Function: Chair

Executive Director

Surname, Forename: Chipev Kamen
Telephone: +359 2 9541080
e-mail: kamen@time-foundation.org
SKYPE: kamenchipev
Title, Sex, Language: Male, Bulgarian

EPF Goal

To foster sustainable development in Europe and to strengthen the European integration in the Western Balkans acting as a centre for training and education, information and experience exchange and policy-making initiatives.

EPF Objectives

- Enhancing European Integration and guaranteeing the sustainability of the results of the integration process
- Supporting the competent state authorities in formulating the state policy related to effective delivery of public services and implementation of European policies
- Drawing expert potential for the development and implementation of successful practices for public and private investments
- Development and implementation of models for successful partnerships
- Promoting innovation and economic development to improve the competitiveness and employment throughout the European space
- Improving public services in health care, education, science, culture, technology and public and social infrastructure
- Contributing to environmental protection, sustainable use of natural resources and preventing risks
- Enhancing sustainability and public visibility of protected areas
- Improving mobility, sustainable territorial and information society accessibility
- Promoting sustainable urban development
- Development and affirmation of civil society
- Protecting human rights, support for social integration and personal realization of man.
- Support of youth initiatives
- Mobilising EU resources to address the global development gap

Priority themes and territories of the Foundation are those proposed by the founders, General Assembly of Donors and Supervisory Board.

EPF Key Activities

- (1) Distribution of information and know-how, including new methods and approaches;
- (2) Investigation, analysis and development of policies/strategies/programs/plans;
- (3) Design, organization and delivery of education and training;
- (4) Setting mechanisms and systems for partnership and networking;
- (5) Holding and supporting the participation in international, national and regional experience exchange events and campaigns;
- (6) Supporting community initiatives, related to the sustainable use of natural resources;
- (7) Offering financial and technical assistance;
- (8) Working on behalf of and supporting the authorities at all levels, the non-profit organizations and the business in fundraising;
- (9) Development, implementation and/or funding of projects, including demonstration projects
- (10) Lobbying and advocacy
- (11) Supporting the coordination, information and experience exchange in operating together with state, regional and municipal bodies, non-profit organizations, commercial enterprises, the academic community and society in general;
- (12) Organizing and holding discussions, seminars, round tables, fora, public hearings and other forms of public/stakeholder consultations;

EPF performs **additional income-generation activities**, which are directly related to its main activity.

- expert support
- technical assistance
- communications;
- information and consultations
- engaging in various civil and commercial legal relations
- any other additional business activity not especially forbidden by law.

The revenues from the above-quoted income-generation activities of the Foundation are employed singularly for the achievement for the goal and objectives of the organization and without any options for the distribution of profits.

EPF founders Background

Project (donor and name)	Description	Type	Leader	Partner
INTERREG IIIC - KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS Transfer of knowledge related to social cohesion and physical regeneration.	To extend the methods and solutions of this project to new partners in developing topics like: the complementarities of towns in regional development, community tools, social cohesion and physical regeneration.	Network	Almere (NL)	Region of Western Greece
INTERREG IIIC – S3 Innovative tools of programming and management of Structural Funds.	To enhance the co-operation among European regions on the subject of programming and managing of local development programmes under EU Structural Funds, sharing innovative instruments based on the involvement of a large partnership.	Network	Emilia-Romagna Region	Region of Western Greece
EuropeAid Strengthening the capacity of Ministry of European Integration	Building the capacities of the Ministry of European Integration and line ministries for the implementation of SAA, and improvement of their coordination mechanisms.	Capacity building	Fineurope, Italy	Ministry of European Integration, Albania
NOVIB, Netherlands Strengthening NGO networking in the Black sea region	Enhancing NGO networking, support for community-based practices based on sustainable use of natural resources	Network	TIME Foundation	Black Sea Centre for Environmental Education and information, Bulgaria; Mare Nostrum, Romania; Institute of Ecology - Sough Branch, Ukraine; Krasnodar Regional Environmental Organisation

<p>EuropeAid Capacity building for NGO-business partnerships</p>	<p>Raise the capacity of environmental NGOs to be able to find ways to attract business organizations and public authorities to establish partnerships for joint initiatives aimed at implementing environmental policy.</p>	<p>Capacity -building</p>	<p>TIME Foundation</p>	<p>"Environmental course", Russia; Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia; Human Settlements Association, Turkey. Mare Nostrum – Romania, Proaktiva, Macedonia, Groupe One – Belgium, Rousse Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Bulgaria, Association of SMEs on Constanta - Romania Ministry of Environment and Waters</p>
<p>Global Environment Facility (GEF) Bulgarian National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management</p>	<p>Implementation of a participatory national process on capacity assessment for the implementation of three UN Conventions – on climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification and the development of a synergic National Strategic Action Plan.</p>	<p>Capacity building</p>	<p>UNDP</p>	
<p>UNDP – EU/PHARE Capacity Building for the Accelerated Growth of the SME Sector in Bulgaria</p>	<p>Establish a policy supportive of SME establishment and growth and an effective nation-wide SME support infrastructure.</p>	<p>Capacity building</p>	<p>Ministry of Finance</p>	

<p>US Embassy Local Agenda 21 Development in the Municipalities of Zlatitsa, Pirdop, Chelopech, Mirkovo, Chavdar and Anton</p>	<p>Development of the first regional Local Agenda 21 in Bulgaria utilising wide stakeholder participation process</p>	<p>Community-based practices</p>	<p>TIME Foundation</p>	<p>Municipalities of Zlatitsa, Pirdop, Chelopech, Mirkovo, Chavdar and Anton</p>
<p>INTERREG IIIC GRDP: Greening the Regional Development Programmes</p>	<p>Institutional Environmental Audit and sharing of expertise and knowledge of appraisal techniques to identify good practices for the environmentally sustainable development</p>	<p>Capacity Building and mainstreaming</p>	<p>UK Environment Agency South West Region</p>	<p>Region of Western Greece</p>
<p>UNDP/UK Government “Strengthening Partnership in the Planning and Absorption of the EU SCFs”</p>	<p>The project addresses the issue of the project capacity of local and regional stakeholders (municipal and district administration, NGOs and business) and particularly their capacity to identify jointly local and regional problems and to formulate joint projects which address them.</p>	<p>Capacity Building</p>	<p>MRDPW</p>	<p>Balkan Assist, the Local Government Reform Foundation, the National Association of Municipalities in Bulgaria, the National Business Development Network, regional associations of municipalities in Bulgaria, district and municipal administrations, non-governmental organizations and businesses representatives from the Northeast and Central Planning Regions</p>

**Ministry of
Regional
Development
and Public
Works of
Bulgaria**

Development of
South Eastern
Planning
Regions
Regional
Development
Plan

The project utilized wide stakeholder participation process combined with high quality expertise for the elaboration of 1 of the total 6 for the country Regional Development Plans, namely in the South Eastern Planning region (districts of Bourgas, Sliven and Yambol). This was a key step towards the preparation of Operational Programme Regional Development.

Regiona
l policy
develop
ment

TIME
Foundation

POVVIK Ltd.,
Greener
Bourgas
Foundation,
Bulgarian
Biodiversity
Foundation,
Association of
Bulgarian Black
Sea
Municipalities,
European
initiatives club
“Idea”

EPF Founders

Academia

University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”,
Sofia

www.mgu.bg

The University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” (UMG) as an individual higher educational institution established in 1953. It is the only Bulgarian university which offers complex education to specialists in the field of geology and mining, connected with the research, production and processing of mineral resources.



Prof. Dr. Ivan Milev, Rector

Throughout its history, the university has educated over 15 000 specialists and over 520 PhD fellows, among which citizens of nearly 40 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Today the University staff includes about 400 professors, assistants, lecturers and administrators which educate over 2500 students in different fields of geology and mining engineering and sciences. The structure of the University includes:

- Faculty of Geology
- Faculty of Mining Technology
- Faculty of Mining Electromechanics
- The College of Mining – Kardjali
- Department of Human Sciences
- Education and Information Department
- Complex Center for Education and Qualification
- Research Center (laboratories and publishing house)
- University Library “St. Ivan Rilski”

Authorities

Gabrovo Region

<http://www.gb.government.bg/>

Gabrovo region (dark blue on the map) is the geographical heart of Bulgaria. It is situated in the Northern foothills of the Middle Balkan Range.

The territory of the region is 2023 km² and includes 356 towns and villages, administered in 4 municipalities – Gabrovo, Dryanovo, Sevlievo, and



Tryavna. The population density of the region is 68,6 persons per km². The rivers Yantra and Rositsa cross the territory of the region. Its relief is mountainous or semi-mountainous. The climate is temperate continental with cold winters and comparatively hot summers.

Tourism is the priority branch for Gabrovo region. The unique combination of nature and climate, historical and cultural sites makes Gabrovo region an attractive destination for Bulgarian and foreign tourists. The National Park “Central Balkan” and Nature Park “Balgarka” are situated on the territory of the region and preserve protected areas, flora and fauna representatives. The region is suitable for cultural tourism and eco tourism.



The following industrial branches are developed in Gabrovo region

- Hoisting machines production
- Production of textile machinery
- Metal-processing
- Production of metal-cutting instruments and metal constructions
- Casting
- Production of rubber and plastic goods
- Sanitary faience and sanitary equipment
- Cosmetics
- Leather and shoe industry

“Central Balkan” National Park

<http://www.centralbalkannationalpark.org/bg/index.phtml>

The Central Balkan National Park was established in 1991 to conserve the unique natural scenery and heritage of this area and protect the customs and livelihood of the local population. The Park Directorate, a regional body of the [Ministry of the Environment and Waters](#) manages the Park. The Directorate engages local organizations, volunteers, and mountain enthusiasts in pursuing its goals.



Park Statistics

- Area: 71,669.5 hectares
- Total length: 85 kilometers
- Average width: 10 kilometers
- Highest peak: Botev at 2,376 meters above sea level
- Lowest elevation: near Karlovo, about 500 meters above sea level
- Wooded area: 44,000.8 hectares
- Treeless area: 27,668.7 hectares
- 70% of all ecosystems are natural
- There are 9 nature reserves, with a combined area of 20,019 hectares

Protected Area

The Central Balkan National Park is one of the largest and most valuable of the protected areas in Europe. The [World Conservation Union \(IUCN\)](#) has listed the Park as Category 2. The Park and eight of its nature reserves are on the UN List of Representative Protected Areas, and four of its nature reserves are included in the World Biosphere Reserves Network under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program. In 2002, Central Balkan National Park became a candidate for membership into the [PAN Parks](#) European Network.

Administrative Regions

The Park contains sections of five administrative regions: Lovech, Gabrovo, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, and Sofia. Its territory falls within eight municipalities—Teteven, Troyan, Apriltsi, Sevlievo, Pavel Banya, Karlovo, Anton, and Pirdop—and within 31 populated communities.

NGOs

TIME Foundation

www.time-foundation.org

TIME Foundation is one of the oldest environmental NGOs in Bulgaria. Established in 1994, it has implemented over 30 projects aiming to promote sustainable development, efficient management of natural resources, and environmental protection through institutional strengthening, consultancy aid, training workshops, fund-raising for environmental projects, and the facilitation of information exchanges between all levels of government, NGOs, private and state run companies, academia, and the general public, in order to foster democratic decision-making.

Strategic objectives:

- To involve the public in the application of sustainable development approaches
- To raise public participation in the decision making processes on sustainable development at all levels
- To assist the authorities on national, regional and local levels in the development of policies, strategies and programmes for sustainable development
- To support the coordination and communication among stakeholders at international, national and local levels on sustainable development issues
- To promote the integration of sustainability education in the educational system in Bulgaria
- To accumulate financial means for supporting the activities of diverse groups in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development

Business Centre Novi Pazar

www.abcnp.org

This Public Equivalent Body was established in 2001 via a project of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and United Nations Development Programme to foster business development in Novi Pazar Municipality. Novi Pazar is located in the North Eastern part of Bulgaria in Shoumen district. It is 60 km from Varna the largest Black Sea town of Bulgaria and covers a territory of 318000 sq km. The Municipality includes 1 town and 15 villages with a total population of 23828 people.

The mission of Business Centre – Novi pazar is to support the development of Small and Medium Enterprises in the region; to assist in generating new ideas; information and experience exchange with developed market societies for reducing the level of unemployment in the region; to support the Non-Governmental sector and to create friendly environment for its development.

The main targets, which the association aims to accomplish through its mission, are:

- Stimulation and support of the “dialogue” on local and international levels between public and private sectors.
- Supporting and stimulation of local economical growth through business support;
- Encouraging employment by supporting new business projects from the idea stage until realization;
- Increasing the Entrepreneurial culture in the region through trainings, seminars, and workshops;
- Securing direct access to financial funds by working with leasing scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises support;

- Providing broad range of informational services by establishing an informational and technological center;
- Project development for the successful start of privately owned businesses by providing contacts with local and international consultants;
- Assistance in financing projects for Small and Medium Enterprises and agricultural producers by making contacts with trade organizations, sponsor's programs and special funds;
- Improving the effectiveness of already existing firms by keeping constant with those firms;

Experts

Veslava Abadzhieva

M.Sc. in Data Acquisition Engineering from the Technical University in Sofia, Bulgaria (1992) and European Masters Degree in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, obtained in 1995 from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy – Sofia, Bulgaria and other 6 Universities from Europe.

Her key qualifications include strategic planning, project development and management, facilitation, environmental information management and analysis, grant-giving, local environmental action planning, project monitoring and evaluation, fundraising and networking. She worked as Executive Director of TIME Foundation, before working as Environmental Officer for the Matra programme at the Royal Netherlands Embassy. She has a rich experience in both international and national projects in the sphere of sustainable development and environmental protection, such as the National Capacity Self Assessment in Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Kirgistan, as well as the Regional Development Plan for South Eastern Planning Region of Bulgaria. At present she is National Coordinator for Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme. Since 1996 she is Chair of the Board of TIME Foundation.

Vladimir Tomov

Diploma in Computer Science (Dipl. Engineer in 1986) and Ph.D Study in Management Information Systems (1991) at the Technical University-Sofia. Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration, University of Mining and Geology (1995) and Diploma in Financial Management from the University for National and World Economy (1996) in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Specializations in Basics of New Business Planning, International Business Marketing, Money & Banking, Property Rights and Human Resource Management at the University of Delaware, USA (1992) and under the TEMPUS (Phare) Project in Business Planning, Multimedia Systems, Project Management under EU Programmes, Consorzio Genova Ricerche, Italy (1994), qualified in

Financial Analysis from the University of Delaware, USA (1999). Certified Management Consultant (CMC) from the Institute of Management Consultancy, London, UK (1998).

He has worked as a lecturer in the Technical University-Sofia and at the University of Mining and Geology in Sofia, Bulgaria. He has experience as consultant and manager under series of EU projects with international scope in the field of SME support, financial instruments and cooperation. Currently he is Chief Executive Officer, INTRAC Co., specializing in Business Planning, Strategic and Financial Management, Investment Negotiation, Investment Consultancy, Project Identification/Selection/Appraisal, SME Programmes, SME Financial Instruments, Human Resource Development, Training

Julieta Hubenova

Holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of National and World Economics (1988) and a MSc in Engineering (1980) from the University of Forestry Engineering in Sofia, Bulgaria. She has additional qualification in the sphere of SME evaluation and analysis – qualitative and quantitative, financial management and restructuring, identifying financial sources and joint-venture partners, project development and management, fiscal management, due diligence evaluations and investigations, formulating business plans and investment proposals, feasibility studies and marketing plans.

She was Executive Director of the CARESBAC-Bulgaria Venture capital fund at the Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF) in Washington (USA) and later worked as senior expert for series of EBRD projects related to energy efficiency in the residential and industrial sectors. Currently, she is National Director of the Business Advisory Service Programme of the BAS /TAM Programme Team at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Zlatina Mihailova – Karova

She holds a MSc. degree in law, specializing in international law and international relationships (1998) and a Masters degree in European public administration (2004) from the Sofia state University. Additionally she is trained in PPPs, local government reform, citizen participation in governance. She is a member of the National Association of lawyers in local government (NALILG), "Balkan Assist"-nonprofit association supporting civil society and citizen activity, EURO CLUBS of the BTIP, youth Chitalishe "George Minchev" in Sofia, "Women at industry" club (part of STC), the Bulgarian Moderators association, and of the Social Council for Accessibility and Integration (sofia Municipality). She is also a licensed auditor of BS EN ISO 9001:2000 and BS EN ISO 10011.

She has extensive insight into EU processes and affairs, regional development and municipal governance, public-private partnerships, social dialog and industrial relations in Bulgarian economy, and other.

She has worked as a National Consultant for the UNDP, MRDPW and BRITISH EMBASSY joint project “Strengthening Partnership in the Planning and Absorption of the EU SCFs” and also as municipal councillor at the Sofia Municipality where she was also president of social counsel of accessibility and integration. She also worked as chief expert and later as evaluator of PHARE programme- Public private Partnership Grant Scheme at the Ministry of Economy and Energy and was State expert at Directorate ‘European integration and coordination of international programmes’ and later director of directorate “Territorial governance and decentralization’ at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public works (MRDPW). She was the representative of the MRDPW to Steering committee on local and regional democracy /CDLR/ of Council of Europe and participate at its steering committee in Strasbourg. At present she is Executive director of the Foundation “Center for Public – Private Partnership”.

EU Integration advisors

Nikolas Petropoulos

He has graduated from the University of Athens with a B.Sc. in Public administration, European Integration in 1986 and with B.Sc. in Psychology in 1988. Obtained a degree in Postgraduate in Business Administration from the Free Brussels University. He is a member of the European Evaluation Society, the Robert Schuman Association, and of the Centre for Policy Studies (CEPS). He has rich international experience in projects appraisal, programming, institutional building, public administration, an European integration issues. He has extensive knowledge of transition economies, EC procedures, evaluation theories and development of evaluation criteria, evaluation of major EC Initiatives (EU Integration, MEDA), project management, R&D Information systems, data bases and web content management, innovation strategies, portals & metadata, investment analysis & business promotion, private sector support, development & markets, Interreg, and Territorial Co-operation.

He has worked for the European Commission as advisor in development projects, inter-regional networks and evaluation of Community Initiatives for more than 15 years. He acted as the EU advisor of the Secretary General of the Region of Western Greece for three years, having as a result the successful acquisition of numerous European projects, among which is the European Network of Mining Regions that constituted the starting point of Georama. Indicatively he ensured and/or participated in a number of programs for various institutions and deals with the implementation of several European projects as well as the guarantee of their added value, simultaneously with the preparation of new project proposals. At present, he is an Independent expert for Development projects and EU Integration networks,

Raina Karcheva

She holds a MA in Languages and Applied Linguistic from the Sofia State University (1969), International Masters in Public Administration from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Paris, France (1994), as well as series of additional qualifications in International cooperation, EU integration, strategic planning, decision making in security issues (NATO defence College and Centre Des Hautes Etudes de l'Armement, Paris, France)

She has extensive experience in Community Assistance Management, Intra and Inter-institutional Coordination on EU affairs, planning, negotiation, coordination and assessment of bilateral and regional cooperation programmes, capacity building in project cycle management and human resources management, monitoring of administrative capacity.

She has worked as assistant professor of applied linguistic and text analysis at the Sofia State University, and afterwards as advisor to the Minister of Education and Science on EU affairs, as Minister Plenipotentiary in the Bulgarian Embassy in Brussels and Luxembourg, as Head of Unit European Secretariat & EU Programs coordination, European Coordination Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as director of International and regional cooperation at the Ministry of Defense, and as policy advisor to the administration of the President of Bulgaria. At present, she is Key expert on Community Assistance Management and Inter-institutional coordination on EU affairs, including communication for a project aimed at Strengthening the capacity of Ministry of European Integration in Albania.

Organizational structure of EPF

The Euro Perspectives Foundation has the following bodies;

- 1. **Supervisory Board** - collective consultative and overseeing body more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law.
- 2. **Managing Board** – supreme collective body of management consisting of a minimum of three persons. The Chair represents the Foundation.
- 3. **Executive Director** - managerial body elected by the Managing Board according.

