

The **Agency for Economic Development Kostinbrod (AEDK)** was found in November 2005 by business and local authority in the region of Kostinbrod. The agency is experienced in business relations and services and especially in surveys over the business environment and development priorities, capacity building trainings and seminars for representatives of SMEs for advancement of their skills and knowledge in EU standards and requirements, partnership building, Project Cycle Management (PCM), business planning and finance, know-how transfer, legal affairs, marketing and Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

As non-governmental organization, AEDK has a regional scope of intervention and acts on the territory of Sofia District and Sofia - city.

AEDK has a diverse team of professionals in project management, coordination of trans-regional activities, experts in the field of social and economic development, professionals in management, marketing and human resources development consulting.

AEDK has successfully implemented following projects:

1. **Strengthening the local development initiatives and entrepreneurship**, under PHARE CBC Bulgaria-Srebia, 2005/017-457.01 Joint Grant Scheme for Sustainable Economic Development Scheme:
 - a. The project was implemented in the period 2010 – 2011;
 - b. Description: Strengthening the local development initiatives and entrepreneurship in the municipalities of Kostinbrod and Leskovac through establishment of regular information exchange channels and capacity building. Main activities implemented were organization and delivery of 8 capacity building trainings for LDOs/SMEs; Development of one place information unit – creation user-friendly web-based information portal; Establishment of a partnership network in the cross-border region;
2. **Acquisition of skills and achieving social activity for potential Local Action Group (LAG)**, under Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, Measure 4.3.1, Axis 4 – LEADER:
 - a. The project was implemented in the period 2009 – 2011;
 - b. Description: To enhance capacity of local authorities for the application of instruments and management systems; Promotion of innovative approaches for improvement of quality of administrative services based on good practices exchange; Development of sustainable partnerships for exchange of good practices for quality management systems and international standards;
3. **EXCHANGE of good practices for quality management of municipal administrations**, under Bulgaria – Serbia IPA Cross Border Programme:
 - a. The project was implemented in the period 2011 – 2012;
 - b. Description: To enhance capacity of local authorities for the application of instruments and management systems; Promotion of innovative approaches for improvement of quality of administrative services based on good practices exchange; Development of sustainable partnerships for exchange of good practices for quality management systems and international standards;
4. **Increase the competitiveness of enterprises by focusing on technology and know-how transfer between SMEs, research, industry and educational institutions in the sphere of energy**

efficiency, renewable energy sources and ICT for Sofia and Nishava districts, under Bulgaria – Serbia IPA Cross Border Programme:

- a. The project was implemented in the period 2011 – 2012;
- b. Description: Introduction of the energy efficiency, renewable energy sources (RES) and ICT technology principles to the SMEs from the Sofia district and Nishava cross-border region; Awareness rising on applicability of the new technologies and innovations in achieving competitiveness and substantial benefits for the business organizations in the cross-border region;

5. Strengthening the cross-border territorial competitiveness and economic development in Nish and Jablanica (Serbia) and Sofia (Bulgaria) regions through efficient utilization of regional resources in the area of renewable energies use with stress on biomass employment, under Bulgaria – Serbia IPA Cross Border Programme:

- a. The project will be implemented in the period 2013 – 2014;
- b. Description: To support the business and economic development of Nis, Jablanica and Sofia regions through increased use of renewable energies and efficient utilization of regional resources; To reduce the negative effects of economic activities on the environment by encouraging friendly environmental economic activities; To raise the awareness on applicability of renewable energy technologies in achievement competitiveness and sustainable benefits for the business organizations in the cross-border regions;

6. Mobile Internet, E-services and Training for Rural Community in Cross-Border Region, under Bulgaria – Serbia IPA Cross Border Programme:

- a. The project will be implemented in the period 2013 – 2014;
- b. Description: ICT awareness & literacy and life-long learning culture promoted among the teachers, students and entrepreneurs from 20 underdeveloped and info-poor communities in Bulgarian–Serbian cross-border region, through provision of mobile internet access infrastructure and E-learning methods;

7. Work & Train. Promoting training and inclusion of the disadvantaged groups through work, under LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME, Leonardo Da Vinci Partnership:

- a. The project will be implemented in the period 2013 – 2015;
- b. Description: To exchange on models and best practice related to forms of social Enterprises with strong pedagogical dimensions; To enhance new forms of subsidiarity between public and private institutions in the social inclusion and the training sectors; To explore how to enhance capacity building and networking of work integration social enterprises and learning organisations; To promote inclusive programmes tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups and applying innovative pedagogies and assessment procedures on the basis of people's potential and prior learning and experiences; To enlarge the gamma of possibilities, by means of vocational training, of social and professional integration of individuals who -due to their exclusion and their relegation to a marginal role in society- have fallen victim to increasing social and professional handicaps.