

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Foundation for Local Government Reform

Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR) is an independent professional resource centre, supporting local democracy.

Mission of the Foundation for Local Government Reform is to support local democracy and promote effective, partnership-based local development, found on democratic values, social inclusion and prosperity.

FLGR was established in May 1995.

FLGR has a 5-member Governing Body.

Objectives of FLGR:

- Short-term objectives: Investment in the social capital at local and regional level, increase of the capacity of citizens and NGOs to effectively participate in the decision making process, regional and local governance based on the 12 principles of good governance.
- Medium-term objectives: Support for effective, partnership-based local and regional development, found on democratic values, social inclusion and prosperity.
- Long-term objectives: Building of vibrant dynamic communities with strong participatory local self-government, with high standards of living, sustainable development and competitive local economy.

The main spheres of expertise of FLGR are:

- Training;
- Participatory Local and Regional Governance;
- Good Governance and Integrity;
- Innovative Practices;
- Increasing the Capacity of the NGO sector;
- Strategic planning.

FLGR through study visits and exchanges supported the development of local democracy in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Georgia, Kosovo, Romania, Kaliningrad Region, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.

FLGR was part of the European network of local authorities for exchange of experiences LOGIN since its creation in 1999 until its closure at the end of 2011.

FLGR was part of the Mayors Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma Inclusion Network (MERI) 2013 - 2014.

FLGR is a founding member of Donor Fund Bulgaria.

Contact Information

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www.flgr.bg

FLGR Governing Body

Lachezar Rosenov, Mayor, Municipality of Dobrich (1995 - 2003), Chair of the Board

Deni Kamenov, Mayor, Municipality of Vidin (1991 - 1995), Vice-Chair of the Board

Ginka Kapitanova, Mayor, Municipality of Zlatograd (1991 - 1995), Executive Director of FLGR (1995 - 2007), Board Member

Roumen Draganov, Director, Institute for Analyses and Assessments in Tourism, Board Member

Zdravko Sechkov, Executive Director of FLGR, Board Member

The Team of FLGR

Zdravko Sechkov, Executive Director of FLGR

Gergana Stavreva, expert

Alexander Mihailov, expert

Rositsa Raycheva, expert

Demir Deyanov, expert

Elvira Koleva, accountant

FLGR has established a countrywide network of external experts.



INFORMATION RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

FLGR continues to develop its effective and recognizable online communication channels for users and partners:

[>> Website of FLGR](#)

www.flgr.bg

The site is actively used, news are published and databases are updated.

The screenshot displays the FLGR website homepage. At the top, the FLGR logo is on the left, and the text "Foundation for Local Government Reform" is centered. To the right, there is a search bar and links for "Site map" and "Contact us". Below the header, a navigation bar includes "e-Brief | Funding | Training | Discussion Forum" and a language selector set to "BULGARIAN".

The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: Home, About us, Projects, Publications, E-municipality, Training Center, FLGR Consult, Online Library, European Integration, Municipalities, and Links. The middle column features three news items:

- Home**
FLGR e-library in 2018
Online library for 2018 provided access to 78 new publications in electronic form in Bulgarian and English.
[read more...](#)
- 78 new practices**
Innovative Practices Online Database contains 1705 by the end of 2018.
[read more...](#)
- Green Initiatives, Sofia 2019**
The 2019 issue of EE & BE, Save the Planet и Smart Cities will be held in Sofia, 16 – 18.04.2019.
[read more...](#)

The right column contains three promotional banners:

- 24 Years FLGR** (celebrating 24 years of the foundation)
- MUNICEPS БЛОГ** (Municipalities Blog)
- MERI България** (Municipalities in Europe and the Balkans)

[>> FLGR e-Weekly](#)

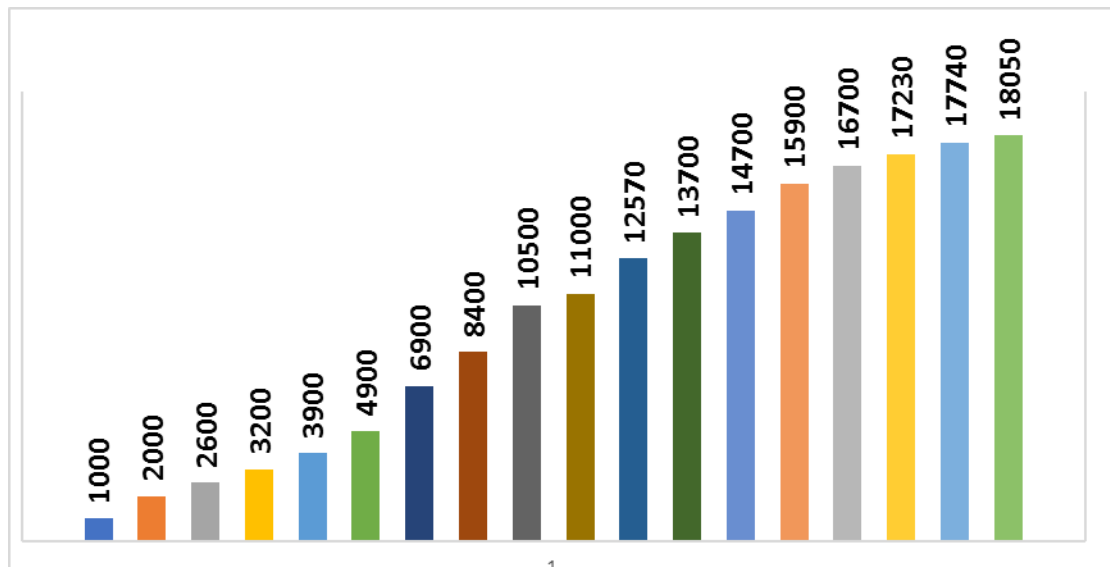
FLGR's e-Weekly bulletin (only in Bulgarian) in 2018 had 51 issues and presented to its subscribers:

- 822 funding opportunities and competitions;
- 377 training opportunities and internships.

FLGR enables the subscribers to publish for free announcements about their initiatives and many NGOs, municipalities, community centers, schools and others sent for publishing and disseminating news on their undertakings.

Subscribers of the FLGR e-weekly increased from 17 740 at the end of 2017 to 18 050 at the end of 2018.

FLGR e-Weekly Subscribers, 2001 - 2018



Reviews on e-weekly:

As a regular reader of your e-weekly, I congratulate you for the great work!
Association of Bulgarian Leaders and Entrepreneurs (ABLE), March 2019

We follow with interest the editions of the Electronic Weekly and thank you for being here!

Team of PodLezno Foundation, March 2019

Thank you for the many years I receive your newsletter and use the information!

Natalia Nikolova, April 2019

>> [Online Library](#)

The online library is located on the FLGR blog “Municeps”, there also are published news from partner organizations from all over the country.

The online library in 2018 provided access to 78 new editions in electronic form in Bulgarian and English.

The greatest interest provoked publications on topics Civic education; European Integration; Economic development; Social activities.



The screenshot shows the website for MUNICEPS, which is the blog of the Foundation for Reform in Local Self-Government (FRMS). The page features a header with the logo and navigation links for Home, RSS, Online Library, and Sign Up. Below the header is a banner with three images: a bookshelf, Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam', and a historical painting of a ship. The main content area displays a news article titled 'Дунав на поколенията, 31 май 2019, 16 часа, конференцията зала на Художествена галерия – Силистра'. The article includes a PDF icon and a short summary. On the right side, there is a search bar, a calendar for May 2019, and an archives section.

MUNICEPS
wp.flgr.bg – Блог на Фондацията за реформа в местното самоуправление (ФРАМС)

Home RSS Онлайн библиотека За нас

Municeps*
Милосер - Граждани на общината, съгражданин, сънародник (лат.). Произлиза от тила сареге – да участваш в задълженията.

Recent Posts
Дунав на поколенията, 31 май 2019, 16 часа, конференцията зала на Художествена галерия – Силистра
Номинанти за Национални награди Евлогий и Христо Георгиеви 2019
Обществените консултации – инструмент за модерен и

Дунав на поколенията, 31 май 2019, 16 часа, конференцията зала на Художествена галерия – Силистра
By ggausheva | May 28, 2019
pres съобщение Силистра

PDF
На 31 май от 16 часа в конференцията зала на Художествена галерия – Силистра ще се състои музикално-информационно събитие под надслов „Дунав на поколенията“. Организатори СНЦ „Парамел – Силистра“, в партньорство с младите артисти от Центъра за музика и изкуства „Мегатон“, ще представят успешни модели за опазване и valorизирание на културно-историческото наследство в Дунавския регион.

Събитието "Дунав на поколенията", финансирано по проект „MEMOРИШ. Панет и бъдеще. Разкази за Дунавската цивилизация“, цели да насърчи участниците да споделят своите препоръки към регионалната власт за по-добро управление на това богатство. Предстои провеждането на още 2 подобни прояви, така че да бъдат

Search
type, hit enter

May 2019
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31
= Apr

Archives
Archives Select Month
Pages

[>> Innovative Practices Online Database](#)

In 2018, the FLGR Innovative Practices project marked 20 years of its start.



FLGR consistently promotes, collects, publishes and widely disseminates innovative practices that foster ingenuity and exchange of experience among Bulgarian local governments and NGOs through its project "Innovative Practices in Bulgaria". Launched in September 1998, the project creates a sustainable model for the collection and dissemination of innovative practices in local government. Since the end of

2001 FLGR awarded local governments for being innovative in different thematic areas, in the period of 2002 - 2009 - with the annual award "Innovative Municipality".

The online Innovative Practices database on the FLGR website in 2018 was enriched with 78 new practices. Every week FLGR in its e-weekly promotes "Best practice of the week".

The total number of published and disseminated good practices since 1998, reached 1705 practices in Bulgarian and English.

The screenshot shows the website for the Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR). The header includes the FLGR logo, the text "Foundation for Local Government Reform", and a search bar with "Site map" and "Contact us" links. A navigation bar contains "e-Brief | Funding | Training | Discussion Forum" and a language selector set to "BULGARIAN".

The main content area is titled "Innovative Practices in Bulgaria" and "Innovative practices in Bulgaria" with the subtitle "Sharing innovations for improving local self-government". It features buttons for "DIRECTORY OF PRACTICES", "ADD INNOVATION", "INNOVATION OF THE WEEK", and "ANNUAL AWARD". A search bar is also present.

The featured practice is "Educational Initiative 'Babythèque', Community Centre 'Razvitie - 1873', town of Peshtera", designated as "INNOVATION OF THE WEEK - 20190533". The description states: "The aim of the project was to encourage young families to spend part of their free time in the library with their children, to be acquainted with the modern trends in early personal development and the extraordinary role of reading it." A "[More]" link is provided below the description.

Metadata for the practice includes: "Innovator:", "Publication Date: 31 May 2019", and "Nominations: 1".

The left sidebar contains a menu with links to Home, About us, Projects, Publications, E-municipality, Training Center, FLGR Consult, Online Library, European Integration, and Municipalities. A smaller version of the "INNOVATIVE PRACTICES" logo is also visible in the sidebar.

BEST PRACTICE IN BULGARIAN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS 2016/2017/2018

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

In October 2016 FLGR started implementation of the Best Practice in Bulgarian Local Self-Governments Programme, aimed at identifying, achieving public recognition and dissemination of best practices among municipalities in Bulgaria.

The prize for the winners in the competition in Bulgaria 2016/2017 was, besides the recognition of colleagues from all over the country, a training trip to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It took place from 3 to 6 June 2018. The visit was part of the Programme and was funded by the Council of Europe.

In the first edition of the Programme in Bulgaria the municipalities competed in three thematic areas.

In Thematic area 1 "Municipal Support for Civic Initiatives" the practices of the municipalities Tundzha and Dobrich were awarded.

In Thematic Area 2 "New Management Technologies and Solutions" the first two places were awarded to the practices of Troyan and Plovdiv municipalities.

In Thematic Area 3 "Social Innovations and Partnerships" the practices of municipalities of Veliko Turnovo and Svishtov were awarded.



The representatives of the awarded Bulgarian municipalities traveled to the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg and had a series of successful, informative and interesting meetings with a number of representatives of different institutions within the Council of Europe:

- Mrs. Jutta Gützkow, Head of Good Governance Division, and Ms Silvia Ivanova, Centre of Expertise on Local Government Reform;

- Mr. Dimitry Marchenkov, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe;

- Mrs. Francesca Lionetti, Intercultural Cities Programme;
- Mrs. Katya Todorova, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe;
- Mr. Ivan Nikolchev, Civil Society Unit;
- Judge Yonko Grozev, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

The participants of the study trip considered it highly effective and useful for their future work.

STUDY VISITS AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

FLGR through organizing and conducting study visits and transfer of Bulgarian experience supported the development of local democracy in other countries:

>> In the period October 2017 - February 2018 was prepared and carried out a study tour to Bulgaria of representatives of the central government, municipalities and NGOs from Kazakhstan on "Learning the Bulgarian experience and good practices in the local self-governance and mechanisms for participation of citizens and NGOs in the process" within the framework of the project "Stimulating the participation of local stakeholders in East and Central Kazakhstan", funded by EU.

PARTICIPATION IN "TRANSFORMATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE MODEL" PROJECT

In the framework of the contract awarded by the Administration of the Council of Ministers, with the object of: "Determination of services on the principle "Episodes of life" and "Business events" under the project BG05SFOP001-1.001-0002 "Transformation of the model of administrative services" financed by the Operational Programme "Good Governance", co-funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund, in the period 06.11.2017 - 04.04.2018 the FLGR team:

>> Analyzed the state and the existing practices in Bulgaria and European Union (EU) member states in the provision of services, based on the principle "Episodes of Life" and the the principle "Business Events" and elaborated:

- “Analysis of the current situation in Bulgaria regarding the interaction and integration between the different administrative structures in the provision of administrative services”; and
 - "Analysis of the existing practices in EU Member States in delivering services on the basis of principles “Episodes of Life” and “Business Events”;
- >> Prepared the report “Identification of regulatory obstacles and inconsistencies for the provision of services of the type “Episodes of Life” and “Business Events” and drafting of a concept of regulatory changes”;
- >> Identified services of the type “Episodes of Life” and “Business Events” such as:
- Prepared a report “Identifying services of the type “Episodes of Life” and “Business Events”;
 - Created a Catalogue of priority administrative services of the type “Episodes of Life” and “Business Events”.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The FLGR team in 2018 took part in:

- Organization and conducting a series of trainings on the topic “Project Management”; as well as a series of information meetings and trainings for the needs of the Local Action Groups (LAGs);
- Under a contract commissioned by the Council of Europe: organization, logistical support, preparation of materials and elaboration and presentation of analysis for the implementation of the European Label of Governance Excellence at a National Forum;
- Preparation of annual and interim reports to monitor the implementation of municipal development plans; preparing annual reports assessing the relevance, effectiveness, harmonization and complementarity of promotional programmes of Bulgarian products in the EU and in third countries, as well as recommendations for ongoing optimization of the programme actions; elaboration of a distance learning module and training of experts to work with it; conducting an information campaign and training of local leaders of Local Action Groups (LAGs); developing Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) strategic documents; elaboration of an analytical report on the sustainable management of cultural heritage and creative industries associated with it along the Danube - the first phase.

PARTNERSHIPS

>> For consecutive year FLGR was a media partner of Via Expo in conducting thematic conferences and exhibitions on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE & BE), Save the Planet and Smart Cities (March 27-29, 2018, Sofia).



>> FLGR was a media partner of the 20th Geographic Information Systems Day (GIS), November 14, 2018.

>> Human of the Year 2018

www.humanoftheyear.org

“Human of the Year” is an annual award recognizing contribution to human rights in Bulgaria. The award was initiated by the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee in 2008 and since then FLGR acts as a supporting organisation of the initiative.



>> Municipalities, community organisations, NGOs publish on their websites and in their publications information from the FLGR's e-weekly section "Financing and Training Opportunities" - for ex. National Network of Children, Perspektivi.info (information site for news and opportunities in education), National Information System of Youth, NGO CLUB - Targovishte, Regional Information Center - Razgrad and others.



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