

FIN-URB-ACT

Local Action Plan City of Galati



April 2011



Local Action Plan City of Galati

Galati: General description (geographic, economic, social)

- Galati is the capital of Galati County, with a population of 293,000 inhabitants;
- The city is found at 130 km from the Black Sea shoreline and at approximately 250 km from Bucharest, Kishinev (Republic of Moldova) and Odessa (Ukraine);
- At the moment, local economic activities are concentrated on the iron and steel industry (Arcelor Mittal S.A. Galati, the Integrated Iron and Steel Works Galati), shipbuilding and naval industry (Damen Shipyard Galati, Elnav Galati, the Institute for Research and Naval Engineering Galati);
- Main exports include steel, industrial goods, cereal, cattle and timber;
- Galati city has five harbours on the Danube river, and the Galati naval fleet is the biggest one on the Danube river and secures 60% of the total national river transport.

Culture and education

- Galati is one of the academic sites of Romania with two universities (Lower Danube University and Danubius University) and other educational institutions;
- Galati is the residence of the Orthodox Archiepiscopate of Lower Danube;
- Galati is also an important cultural centre with several museums and theatres, several public libraries, a botanical garden, a sculpture park lining a promenade of several kilometres along the left bank of the Danube river.

Local Support Group

The Local Support Group created within FIN-URB-ACT comprises long-term collaborators in the SMEs domain (Chamber of Commerce, Danubius University, Romanian Commercial Bank) as well as the Management Authorities for national programmes which can be used as financing sources (Regional Operational Programme, Operational Programme for Increase of Economic Competitiveness, Operational Programme for Environment).

In terms of the communication campaign, several actions were undertaken at lead partner level. Special leaflets and press releases were prepared, with general information about the project

and with information on every action undertaken within the project. These leaflets were distributed to each partner, including Galati. At partner level, the communication materials were further distributed to the members of the Local Support Group.

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Description of the main problems identified at the level of local SMEs during the implementation of FIN-URB-ACT

Overview of the main problems identified during the implementation of the project. Outline of how these findings have affected the LAP:

- Encouraging local SMEs to branch out in more sectors which are under-represented in the region has been a long-term goal of the SME stakeholders and the project was the perfect catalyst on this issue.
- The Municipality of Galati together with the Local Support Group deployed two questionnaires aimed at the local SME environment. The first questionnaire was only at Galati partner level, while the second was a project activity which took place at every partner level, using a common set of questions.

Through these methods the LSG was able to identify the main issues requiring a solution in the Local Action Plan.

Objectives of the Local Action Plan

Creating a Support Group for SMEs which will continue the initiatives of the current LSG

- Describes the steps being taken to preserve and expand the Local Support Group after the end of the FIN-URB-ACT project; presents how the measures initiated during the project will be continued and improved.

Knowledge Sharing Initiative

- Project idea to be implemented together with the local universities; funds can be accessed through the Sectorial Operational Programme Increase of Economic Competitiveness (axis 2.1).
- The objective of the project will be to enable new techniques and ideas to be embedded into the business and offers the learning institution the opportunity to offer its students experience in a real work place and to test the results of the implemented methods.
- The FIN-URB-ACT network will remain active even after the end of our project. The dynamics of the network have been great from the very beginning and the experiences shared by our partners shape our plans and expectations.

Training Seminars

- A series of projects to be developed together with Local Support Group, members of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, which will utilise the staff, expertise and materials of the Romanian Business School in Galati (school under the tutelage of the Chamber).
- The proposed projects can be submitted for financing under the Sectorial Operational Programme Human Resources Development.

Teaching Entrepreneurship

- A series of pilot projects to be developed together with Galati's two seats of learning – the Lower Danube University and LSG member the Danubius University.
- The projects will concentrate on the urgent need of correlation between the academic curricula and the requirements of today's work-market and businesses.
- The proposed projects can be submitted for financing under the Sectorial Operational Programme Human Resources Development.

Financial guideline for SMEs

- A simplified scheme meant to enable time conscious SMEs to quickly identify possible financing sources based on their activity domain.
- A shortlist of the most common elements required in developing and implementing any project.
- The Financial Guideline allowing members of the SGSME to easily direct the SMEs towards the institution best able to help them.
- Creating an improved framework of local taxes in order to help and stipulate innovative businesses.

LAP Outcomes and/or Outputs

- access to qualified people to initiate and help implement new projects for the business
- test innovative solutions for business development - micro-credit schemes
- increase the competitiveness and profit of the business

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- increase of skill of the business' existing staff
 - the opportunity for researchers and students to test in a real environment their ideas and practices
 - a greater synchronisation between the curricula and the actual need of the business environment
 - increased skill of the local workforce
 - help in professional reorientation for long-term unemployed people for recycling industry and innovations in social care
 - increase in projects which obtain funding due to the greater expertise of the applicants
 - strong cooperation between MA and cities
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CONTACT

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URBACT II

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

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