

COUNTRY Bulgaria
CASE STUDY CODE Bulgaria_Good Practice_O.09_01

MAIN INFORMATION

Title GlobalDobrich

Location Dobrich, Bulgaria

Responsible Authority GlobalDobrich Association

Link <https://globaldobrich.org>

Keywords Dobrich, Dobrudzha, Global Dobrich, spiritual countrymen, revival, , urban environment, citizen participation, supporter



IDENTIFICATION

Type	Case (plan, program, project etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders involved	Public institutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Method / Tool	<input type="checkbox"/>		Private sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>		Civil society organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Legal framework	<input type="checkbox"/>		Knowledge institutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Public or grassroots movements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Policy field	Urban planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Timeline	Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>		Start date	<input type="text" value="2017"/>
	Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		End date	<input type="text"/>
	Other <input type="text" value="Rural, environment"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		On going	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spatial level	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeated overtime	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			



CONTENT AND RESULTS

Purpose and context

Gathering like-minded people from around the world, creating an environment for active civic participation for the development of Dobrich and the region, realizing a series of small initiatives to mobilise stakeholders, to awaken hopes, change attitudes, provoke empathy and participation for change in life.

Dobrich is the centre of the main agricultural and grain-producing area in northern Bulgaria, however it suffers from the second fastest depopulation rate in the country with a lot of young people leaving the town and a deteriorating town landscape.

GlobalDobrich was initiated by a group of architects with the idea to counter the negative demographic and economic trends. Now the initiative is part of the life of the local community in Dobrich and organizes real and virtual meetings and discussions related to the revival of Dobrich as an economic and cultural centre of Dobrudzha region.

In 2017, two “Dobrich in Future Time” open-air fora were organized - with inspiring presentations, lively discussions and many ideas for the development of Dobrich, raised by the citizens. The main topics of the forums were economy, education, digital business, urban environment and civic participation. As a result, several local initiatives were proposed to the municipal and regional administrations. The organisation of the fora continues on annual basis.

Problems and challenges

- The main challenges refer to the passiveness and slow response on behalf of the institutions that can should take the decisions and support the implementation of the ideas developed by GlobalDobrich.

Organizing, Supporting and Funding Entities

Formal partners were attracted upon the registration of the initiative as an NGO. These include the Alliance for Regional and Civic Initiatives, Dobrich Municipality, Dobrozhanci Eco Village, Leonardo da Vinci School, Dobrich Farmers’ Market, BlueLink - Network for Civic Action, however many business entities, education organizations and CSO participate in GlobalDobrich events.

Process (including participant recruitment/selection) & Interaction/Participation (including methods/tools) used

GlobalDobrich originates from the local community and has been driven by individuals who strive to improve the living environment in their town and region. The initiatives emerged organically, without significant involvement or direction from larger organizations or authorities. It is characterized by bottom-up approach, open volunteer participation and consensus-based decision-making.

The participation process occurs via planning of annual initiatives and events, involvement of local champions – established speakers and presenters who are professionals with innovative thinking and active civic position, representatives of the local government, Dobrich citizens and friends of Dobrich, creation of thematic groups, discussing the possibility of joining efforts to implement specific ideas, proposing the developed ideas to the municipality and regional administration, fund-raising for the implementation of some of the ideas.



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Outcomes, Effects and Lessons Learned

GlobalDobrich is a voluntary initiative through which substantial civic knowledge was pooled together. However, in order for the devised initiatives to be implemented, the grassroots project had to be formalized (which in the end entailed the withdrawal of some voluntary participants). Still, for many of the small-scale projects the initiative has to raise funds independently, for the large scale projects – the formal adoption of the ideas by the municipal council have been in process.

Bibliography

Official web-site - <https://globaldobrich.org>

Facebook Profile - <https://www.facebook.com/globaldobrich/>

Media Publications:

<https://bnr.bg/varna/post/101316120/mejdunaroden-piknik-dobrich-v-badeshte-vreme-na-golama-bogorodica>

<https://www.bta.bg/bg/news/lik/323610-tri-znachimi-kulturni-i-ekologichni-proekta-pravyat-dobrich-razpoznavaem-i-atrak>

<https://www.bta.bg/bg/news/bulgaria/regional-news/oblast-dobrich/322507-sedmoto-izdanie-na-grazhdanskiya-forum-dobrich-v-badeshte-vreme-shte-se-proved>



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