



SUMMARY

Integrated Development Plan Municipality of Plovdiv

2021-2027

SPATIAL SCOPE AND ANALYSIS OF THE CONDITION, NEEDS AND POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLOVDIV MUNICIPALITY

General characteristics / profile of Plovdiv municipality

Plovdiv is the largest city in the South-Central Region, with a concentration of major activities and sites in the field of economy, health, education and science, culture, transport and communications in the region. The city is an educational, cultural, economic and commercial center of importance exceeding the regional level.

The Municipality of Plovdiv is one of the six municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria with a 100% urbanization of the population. It is a natural economic and social leader in the district and in the entire South-Central Region. There are many preconditions for maintaining the Plovdiv's stand as a leading industrial center in the country. The municipality has a decisive role in the dynamics of the economic development of the district – clearly expressed via the positioning of an economic center as a major investment destination, which does not follow strict administrative-territorial framework, but unites the natural economic area formed around the center – the city of Plovdiv.

Capacity of the local economy - conditions and prerequisites for provision and enhancement of an intelligent, technological and investment environment, for the development of an innovative municipality of Plovdiv and Plovdiv - City of the Future

Plovdiv District occupies one of the leading spots in the country in terms related to most of the indicators, taking into account the current economic situation and development potential. The district has a very good position in terms of entrepreneurship, productivity, investment and human potential, especially in high-tech and knowledge-based industries. The analysis of the main economic indicators and the structure of the economy shows that the economy of Plovdiv municipality is growing steadily with a tendency to develop the production towards high value-added industries - a clear indication that the transition to knowledge-based economy and high-tech industries is the ambition of the business, with the active support of the local administration and citizens. The state of the local economy and labor market makes the municipality attractive to Bulgarian entrepreneurs and foreign investors, forming a well-developed industrial center, and a major attraction for the development of services and productions, based on knowledge and technologies, which bring higher (especially domestic one – national and local) added value. The Municipality of Plovdiv is becoming an engine of economic development of the regional and local economy in the field of high-tech production, information and communication technologies (ICT) and knowledge-based industries. Nearly 1/10 of the country's production is generated here, and thanks to serious investments and attraction of human capital from other municipalities, in recent years Plovdiv has one of the highest growth rates of production among the economic centers in the state. Although the industry dominates the economic development of the municipality, there is a reorientation towards the field of services and industries related to innovation, high technology and ICT. The secondary processing sector occupies an important place in the economy of the municipality, and along with the restructuring and orientation towards the higher value-added services sector, there are changes in the direction of increasing labor productivity and production efficiency, which indicate a reorientation of the manufacturing industry to production of higher value-added products. In recent years, the tertiary service sector has emerged as a leader in the local economy. It is dominated by trade, followed by construction, transport and healthcare. The most

significant growth is reported in the economic activities related to digitalization, innovation and ICT - professional activities and research, and the creation and dissemination of information and creative products. This is another trend in the direction of orienting the development of the municipality towards an innovative and knowledge-based economy. At the same time, the good partnerships between the municipal administration and local business, together with the appropriate economic and social environment, support the strong development of entrepreneurship in Plovdiv, as evidenced by the significant growth in the number of micro- and small enterprises operating in the territory. The successful development of the industrial zones united in the “Thrace Economic Zone” has helped generate employment, direct foreign investment, exports and state revenues, as well as contribute to facilitating the improvement of skills, technology transfer, adoption of modern management practices, economic diversification and the formation of clusters. The positive influence of the industrial zones, the high concentration of innovation, production and industrial activities in the region, the appropriate economic conditions and the strategic position of the municipality are part of Plovdiv's potential and are factors for its future development as a regional economic supercenter in Southern Bulgaria – a leader in innovation and knowledge-based economic development, of supranational and international importance.

Social sphere and human resources - conditions and prerequisites for the development of a fair Municipality of Plovdiv and Plovdiv - a city with equal access to services and opportunities

Demographic aspects:

The population of Plovdiv Municipality, according to NSI (National Statistical Institute) data as of 31.12.2020, consists of 342 048 people. For the period 2014-2019, an increase of approximately 1.84% was registered (in absolute terms - 6,284 people), or an average of 1,047.3 people per year. The data show a steady upward trend in the number of inhabitants in the city. At the end of 2020, the distribution of the population of the municipality by gender indicates a predominance of the female population - 52.34%, compared to the male - 47.66%. According to NSI data, the average ratio between births and deaths in the city for the study period was 3,471 live births against 4,553.5 deaths. In 2020, against the background of the severe pandemic situation, there has been an increase in mortality in the municipality up to 4,931 people and a subsequent decrease in the total natural increase of the population. The birth rate in Plovdiv registered a decrease, but did not exceed the psychological limit of 3,000 live births. The natural growth rate is also declining, reaching -5 ‰ in 2020, due to high mortality rates of 14.4 ‰, while the birth rate remains 9.4 ‰ - relatively close to what was reported in previous years. The statistical data show a markedly positive trend of mechanical movement towards the second largest city in Bulgaria. In the 5-year period before the pandemic 2020, there isn't a single year with registered negative growth, and the reported levels are between 1,500 and 2,500 people per year. In 2020, logically, the mechanical growth marks a significant outflow from the city with a total of -4077 people, with the figures for men and women who left the city being very close: -2145 men and -1932 women. The dynamics in the distribution of the population by age shows a steady downward trend in the number of people of working age, by 2.56% for the period 2014-2020, and at the same time an increase in the number of people over working age by 2.04%, and those under working age, respectively by 8.78%. The data on employment in the municipality for the same period show stability of the share of employed persons, as the variations over the years are less than 1.5% per year.

Health care:

The Municipality of Plovdiv plays the role of a health-center for the whole South-Central Region. The sector shows a steady growth rate, with significant potential for development in this area. The socially organized system of health care for the population is implemented through the provision of outpatient, inpatient and emergency medical care. Municipal health care finances the maintenance of crèches, specialized kitchens for children, medical care in health offices in schools and kindergartens, the activities of health mediators and health programs in hospitals, mainly with public funds from the NHIF (National Health Insurance Fund), municipal budget, partial state funding, funding from third parties and the Ministry of Health. A total of 23 medical institutions for hospital care operate on the territory, incl. 17 multidisciplinary, of which 6 are municipal medical institutions, incl. 2 MHAT (multidisciplinary hospital for active treatment) and 4 specialized centers for active treatment and / or rehabilitation. The medical establishments and outpatient clinics for outpatient medical care on the territory, by 2020, number 1424, including: 1241 outpatient clinics, 82 health centers, 100 laboratories and 1 hospice. According to NSI data, the total number of beds in medical and health facilities in the municipality, at the end of 2020, is 5441 or 1 bed per 63 people, compared to the population. The protection and improvement of public health is an important priority in the policy of the Municipality of Plovdiv, aimed at providing affordable, quality medical care, arranged through high-tech equipment and a sufficient number of qualified specialists. The policy in the sector continues to develop in the direction of prevention, affordable, effective and quality municipal services, through the implementation of an additional set of measures and interventions in the new Programming period.

Educational services:

According to data for the academic year 2019/2020, the following educational establishments (municipal, state and private) operate on the territory of Plovdiv municipality: 59 kindergartens, 78 schools, of which 4 primary, 24 basic, 1 unified, 8 profiled high-schools, 20 secondary schools, 16 vocational high-schools, 3 art schools, 1 sports school, 1 specialized school, and 9 universities. The municipality is the initiator of a number of projects for modernization of education, by updating the material base and purchasing new ICT in schools. The innovative teaching methods introduced in municipal schools and kindergartens, as well as the initiatives for strengthening the education-business relationship, are a solid basis for improving the educational environment and the quality of educational services. The economic recovery in recent years has brought with it the need for additional labor force in various fields and educational levels. The Municipality of Plovdiv has built a potential to address this need - innovative schools, digitalization of learning processes, established STEM environment, introduced model of organization of learning and teaching "One to One (1:1)", a large number of vocational schools, introduced dual training system, as well as universities, which provide education in a wide range of specialties in 44 professional fields. The local government is making targeted efforts to develop the sector, both in terms of infrastructure and the provision of quality education, through training and retraining of teachers and professionals involved in the sector and through the introduction of new educational methods.

Social services:

The Municipality of Plovdiv is a provider of 53 publicly available and specialized social services delegated by the state, aimed at children and families, the elderly and people with

disabilities, ensured by 620 employees. The variety of services is a result of the effective coordination between the institutions and the non-governmental organizations, the active policy of the municipality and the successful practices for realization of project activity in the social sphere. The social policies and services within the territory are in accordance with the current European and national legislation regulating the social sphere, healthcare, employment, integration of people with disabilities and protection against discrimination. The scope and specifics of the provided set of social services are defined so as to meet the needs for support of the residents of the municipality who are considered to be in a situation of risk and / or social exclusion. The formation of risk groups is determined by the presence of some of the following factors: poverty, morbidity, unemployment, illiteracy, low qualifications, housing problems, lack of health and social insurance, dependence on alcohol and / or drugs, crime and others. Considering the geographical location, the good economic development of the region and the significant financial resources allocated by the Municipality of Plovdiv for social activities and integration of vulnerable groups, in recent years there has been a trend of relocation of different groups of citizens, part of which are in the scope of social assistance. The administration takes into account all the above processes and trends in the planning of social services and the development of applicable strategic documents. The efforts are focused on timely support of target groups for their daily activities, as well as for successful social inclusion.

Activities and services in the field of culture:

The Municipality of Plovdiv is a leading cultural center of Bulgaria, preserving a rich cultural heritage from different eras, with creative potential and its cultural identity and spirit, with dynamic development of cultural institutions and great potential for the development of cultural industries. In 2019 the city became the first Bulgarian European Capital of Culture. In the 2014-2020 period, a significant transformation was present in the approach related to the management of the Culture sector, as the budget for the sector grows annually, and local authorities pursue strategically planned and proactive policies for the creation of a predictable administrative and regulatory environment for cultural development. These actions are aimed at ensuring publicity and transparency in the implementation of policies and relevant decision-making procedures. With the resource, provided by the municipal budget within the previous period, through which the activities of the Cultural Calendar (which encompasses extremely diverse events, in content and format, for the presentation of all arts, tangible and intangible cultural heritage) are financed, over 1,400 cultural events have been realized throughout the city. A good practice introduced by the administration is to hold information days and awareness campaigns on the application procedures for the Cultural Calendar calls, as well as to support the development of the administrative capacity of cultural operators for project preparation and management. Targeted municipal policy and investments contribute to the improvement of the urban environment used for culture (urban infrastructure), and the implemented projects for the Kapana district completely change its appearance and make it a desirable place for presenting cultural content, investments and visits, development of cultural, creative and other industries. In accordance with the policy of deconcentrating of cultural life, improving access to culture and the concept of "Togetherness", there is an ongoing process of acquiring new spaces for culture and relocating cultural events from the center to the regions and outdoors, part of the hills, as centers for cultural events. During the new programming period it is essential to preserve the status of Plovdiv as a leader in cultural policy in the country and develop its potential as a factor in the European cultural scene through investments in creating quality and

recognizable international cultural products, co-productions with Plovdiv artists and organizations, support for participation in international cultural platforms.

Activities and services in the field of sports:

Within the territory of the municipality of Plovdiv there are 144 clubs in 36 different sports, which provide an opportunity for active participation of all age groups. The Municipality financially supports the sports clubs, according to a special Ordinance on the terms and conditions for financial support of sports activities in the Municipality of Plovdiv. There are 82 sports sites in the city – which are municipal property, as well as 6 stadiums, 8 sports complexes, 2 swimming complexes, 1 specialized area with tennis courts and 1 karting track. Two licensed sports federations are registered in Plovdiv, the Municipal Enterprise "Multifunctional Sports Hall" and the facility "Kolodrum" – unique for the Balkans, for practicing over 20 sports, holding concerts, conferences and other events of various kinds. As a city with numerous sporting achievements, merits and long traditions, the establishment of a sports museum by the Youth Center - Plovdiv is also envisaged. The Association of Municipal Councils of Sports Clubs - Plovdiv was established, which prepares all proposals related to sports and included in the Municipal Council, develops and implements the overall city and international sports calendar of Plovdiv, and assists local authorities in forming and implementing the Municipal sports policy by the administration and the Department of Sport and Youth Activities. With the approval of the Municipal Council, a Strategy for Youth Policy was adopted, in line with national and European priorities for a period up to 2030. In the current programming period, the Municipality of Plovdiv sets itself the ambitious task of implementing a major set of projects containing a large number of sites focused on the development of sports in the city, related to the construction / reconstruction of sports parks and facilities.

Infrastructural development, connectivity and accessibility of the territory - conditions and prerequisites for the development of the connected Municipality of Plovdiv and Plovdiv - a metropolitan city

Transport directions and connectivity:

The favorable geographical location and the responsibilities of Plovdiv as one of the important transport centers, not only of the South Central Region, but also of Southern Bulgaria, determine the relatively good development of the transport connections and the infrastructure serving them. Since ancient times, Trimontium has been the capital of the Roman road Via Militaris (Via Diagonalis), with a connection to Via Ignatius and the White Sea. Today, major highways of international importance pass through the region: A1-Trakia Motorway, part of the European Road E80, Pan-European Transport Corridor 4 and Pan-European Transport Corridor 8 – 5 km north of Plovdiv, as well as major railways as part of The TEN-T network on the territory of the country, in the direction of the Orient / East - Mediterranean corridor, the railway route includes the sections Vidin - Sofia - Kulata and Sofia - Plovdiv - Burgas / Svilengrad (Turkish border). The formation of the communication and transport system of Plovdiv is a result of the historical development of the city and its functional spatial structure, as well as its location on the international routes of ETC-8 and ETC-10, East-West and regional national connections North-South. The routes of the national road network enter the city's primary street network (PSN) on coordinated routes with the Road Infrastructure Agency (RIA) and use it to conduct national and regional transit flows (entrance-exit arteries) within the regulatory boundaries. The City of Plovdiv has an updated Plan-Scheme of the Communication and

Transport System (PS-CTS) to the Master Plan of the city by 2025, and the development has been carried out within the full volume required for cities of the 1st functional type. A permanent information base for modeling the processes of traffic and systems of mass public transportation (SMPT) in the city has been created, which maintains up-to-date data. The expected parameters regarding the socio-economic and urban status of the city of Plovdiv for 2025 have outlined a number of problems for transport planning for the future, which can be solved only with a qualitative transformation of SMPT. The communication and transport service of the city center and the most active core, rely on the combined action of high-speed rail transport and bus transport, as well as some functional alleviation of the traditional center through the development of a polycentric structure of the Center system. The proposed SMPT is projected through the development of the following new types of rolling stock – S-bahn transport and environmentally friendly vehicles, together with improved organization of transport services through an integrated information system. The main problem in the field of the road network in the country and in particular in the region, is the continuing lack of completed highways and expressways in the directions of the main TEN-T network. Given the lower harmful effects of rail transport on the environment compared to road transport, proper organization and increasing the attractiveness of rail transport would contribute significantly to the increase of the share of passengers and goods and the competitiveness of the regional economy. With regard to air transport, based on its growing importance related to the development of business and the tourism industry, it can be concluded that there is significant potential for the improvement of the Plovdiv Airport, but it is necessary to advance both the material and the administrative base.

Street network and sustainable urban mobility:

SMPT in Plovdiv includes bus, taxi and shuttle taxi transport. The intercity transportation in Plovdiv is achieved via 29 bus and 7 route lines. The number of taxis by 2021 is 2150. There are three main points in the city from which the extra-urban bus routes depart and arrive: bus stations "South", "Rodopi" and "North", with intensive passenger traffic to and from the suburban area of about 12,000 people entering daily in the city, with the main purpose of work and other services. Their capacity is very limited and are used only for departing buses. The organization of transport and traffic in the city is divided into the activities of two municipal enterprises: ME (Municipal Enterprise) "Organization and control of transport" and "Parking and repatriation". According to the new master plan, fewer cars and parking spaces are planned in the center of Plovdiv, which should be accomplished through the establishment of buffer parking lots, strengthening the role of public and alternative transportation. The crossroads of the city of Plovdiv as an international hub of transcontinental (ETC №8 and 10), national and regional connections east-west and north-south, form the city as an important communication and transport center. The national transport systems (RRN-republican road network, railway area) increase the daily passenger flow and the contingent of residents, passers-by and people visiting the city, which additionally burdens the transport-communication network. Although normatively some of the indicators, such as street network density, percentage of street area, type of pavement, density of SMPT lines, etc., are close to those of other major cities in the country, there is already a significant deterioration in capacity of PSN and the transport situation in the city, especially in the central part. Favorable factors and conditions in the city predetermine the significant potential for its' development in terms of transport and mobility, namely - the presence of a significant linear urban center, which stabilizes the main axis "north-south" of the city; the well-developed road network connecting the city with other

municipalities and regions; the crossroads function, reflected in the internal transport structure; the concentration of large transport facilities of different types in the areas around the Central Station and Filipovo Station, as the territories themselves are key nodes of the central axis of the city; the available railway infrastructure, which offers both territorial and intercity transport opportunities, the implementation of key transport projects and routes, the completion of which will significantly affect all urban traffic; mobility management through new technologies and investments made so far for the development of bicycle transportation (the total length of the built bicycle lanes is over 60 km, and the bicycle network covers almost all urban areas).

Water supply and sewerage networks and systems:

According to the data from WSS Ltd. Plovdiv, all 6 districts of the municipality are 100% supplied with water (connected), and the total length of the water supply network for the period 2015-2020 has increased from 585,368 m to 609,382 m., the water supply, which is provided by the WSS (water supply and sewerage) operator is 95% from pumped water and to a small extent, mainly in Plovdiv region, from surface water sources. The development of the water supply and sewerage sector in the municipality of Plovdiv after 2021 is directly related to the implementation of the project for reconstruction and construction of the sewerage and water supply network of the city of Plovdiv. For the most part, the districts of the city are covered by a sewerage network, on average – over 99%. The total length of the city's sewerage system is 488,154 m, incl. a collector network of 93 km and secondary sewerage of 395 km. It was built as a mixed system, with a degree of construction of 99.5%, which suffers from high infiltration. Drainage is still carried out by a large number of small-sized reservoirs, which have been constructed in the past and currently fail to ensure mixed water runoff in rainy weather, causing floods. The territory of the municipality is covered by WTP (Wastewater treatment plant) Plovdiv, key for the region, as it processes the wastewater not only of the town, but also of Kuklen, Maritsa, Belashtitsa, Branipole, Brestnik etc. It will carry out tertiary treatment with removal of nutrients - total nitrogen and total phosphorus. Upon completion of the reconstruction project, significant progress is expected in terms of urban wastewater treatment (tertiary treatment with removal of nutrients - total nitrogen and total phosphorus) and sludge recovery. The development of the water supply and sewerage sector after 2021 is directly related to the implementation of the project for reconstruction and construction of the sewerage and water supply network of the city of Plovdiv, incl. division of the water supply network into zones for measurement and reconstruction of part of the distribution network, construction of Peripheral collector I-A, Rain overflow №2, Collector I-A-4 and inspection shafts.

Energy and telecommunication networks:

The policies pursued by the Municipality of Plovdiv in the period 2014-2020 are in line with the national priorities in the field of energy efficiency and the National Long-Term Energy Efficiency Program. Despite the significant financial resources set aside for renovation in the past period, the majority of public buildings remain unrehabilitated, as currently 67 buildings (26.6%) have been renovated, while 185 are unrehabilitated. During the renovation process, a number of projects have been implemented, leading to the achievement of municipal and national indicative targets for increasing EE (energy efficiency) in buildings and the introduction of renewable energy sources for own consumption. The measures are related to the installation of thermal insulation on external walls and on the roof, replacement of windows, replacement of SAIs and lighting fixtures with energy saving, gasification of buildings,

construction of solar thermal systems for DHW (Domestic hot water), renovation of boiler rooms. The main instrument in the policies for increasing EE and renewal of the multi-family housing stock for the previous period, 2014-2020, EEMFRBNAP (Energy Efficiency of Multi-Family Residential Buildings National Programme), through which 72 buildings were renewed, covering 4 348 apartments, with a total built-up area of 379,045 sq.m. The total amount of investments amounts to BGN 54,486,063. The expected energy saving effect amounts to 30033 MWh / year and 15 728 tons of CO² emissions per year. In order to achieve the long-term goals of the country in the field of EE, the Municipality of Plovdiv has adopted an Energy Efficiency Program of the Municipality of Plovdiv for the period 2020-2025.

Since the beginning of the last decade, the municipality of Plovdiv is fully digitalized, with more than one network for fixed high-speed Internet. Over 80% of households use it in their homes, and broadband access for the population is provided at 100%. The Municipality of Plovdiv is characterized by a very well-established telecommunication network and is one of the most active in the country (5th place) in relation to the provision of telecommunication services for the population (including as a transit distributor).

Waste collection and management:

The system for waste collection and disposal covers all residents of the municipality, respectively 100% of their total number. Pursuant to the regional principle for waste management introduced at the national level, the municipalities of Plovdiv, Maritsa, Brezovo, Rakovski, Stamboliyski, Perushtitsa, Saedinenie, Krichim and Rodopi are included in the (Regional Association for Waste Management) RAWM-Plovdiv, established in 2017, which consists of: Regional landfill for non-hazardous waste in the land of the village of Tsalapitsa and Landfill for non-hazardous waste, and Installation for biological decomposition in a closed way in the village of Shishmantsi, which are operated according to the issued complex permits. Waste collection and disposal activities are performed by the Municipal Enterprise "Cleanliness" established in 2010. There are 21 sites for the transfer of separately collected waste. With regard to the established infrastructure and organization for waste management, it can be concluded that the Municipality of Plovdiv pursues a targeted and effective policy in the sector.

Ecological condition and risks - conditions and prerequisites for the development of green Municipality of Plovdiv and Plovdiv - a balanced city with increased quality of life

As a result of the analysis of the state of the environment in the municipality by components and factors of impact, the following problems have been identified: deteriorated air quality; surface and groundwater bodies in the territory are at risk of failing to achieve regulatory environmental objectives; depreciated water supply networks with high water losses, obsolete sewerage network with insufficient capacity, high infiltration of sewage and floods during heavy rainfall; large amount of generated mixed waste per capita and insufficiently efficient functioning of the system for separated waste collection; depletion of the capacity of the existing cells in the regional landfills for municipal waste and urgent need for expansion and reclamation; insufficient green areas for public use compared to the total area of the city. In this regard, the main potentials for development of the territory and protection of the environment are identified through: introduction of low-emission zones, both in terms of transport pollution and domestic heating; reduction of air and noise pollution by improving transport infrastructure

and removing transit traffic from the central part of the city; study of the possibilities for the water supply of the city of Plovdiv to be carried out from the dam waters of the “Vacha” cascade; prevention of groundwater pollution, including through reclamation of landfills and implementation of measures for rehabilitation of sewerage systems and modernization of WTPs; reduction of generated mixed waste per capita as well as construction of new facilities: second line for separation of household waste in Shishmantsi and site for preparation for reuse of household waste; investments in "green infrastructure" in the urban environment, which simultaneously achieve an effect on air quality, adaptation to climate change, expansion of the green system and noise reduction.

The place, the role and the perspectives for the development of tourism in the Municipality of Plovdiv

The distinctive characteristics of the Municipality of Plovdiv can define it as a competitive destination, which guarantees the quality of the tourist product. What matters is the destination's ability to create value-added products that preserve its resources and maintain its market position vis-à-vis competitors. In the increasingly competitive market, a tourist destination is successful – "whose tourism leads to sustainable economic prosperity of the population of the respective tourist place". Tourist destination Plovdiv should be considered not only as a "mixture of tourist products", but as a proposal for an integrated experience for its consumers. Traditionally, destinations are considered to be well-defined geographical areas as a country, and in this case - a city, but for Plovdiv this is not enough. The destination should be defined according to the "concept of perception" presented perceptions, cultural knowledge, level of education, purpose of travel, etc. At the same time, however, it combines the purpose of travel and the tourism product as a set of services, which involves the introduction of key criteria for the destination, incl. interest in visits, features that satisfy or contribute to meeting the needs of the tourist, the attractiveness of the area depending on the needs and perceptions of the tourist and last but not least the set of tourist facilities and services in the context of competitiveness of the destination on the domestic and international market.

Cultural heritage and state of the urban historical landscape - conditions and prerequisites for upgrading the project: "Plovdiv - European Capital of Culture in 2019" and development of the Municipality of Plovdiv as a world destination for year-round cultural tourism

Plovdiv is one of the oldest cities in Europe with an exceptional wealth of cultural values from different historical epochs, different ethnicities and cultures. The cultural layering of tangible and intangible heritage is reflected in the diverse cultural life of Plovdiv. The rich cultural heritage (CH) of the territory needs to be considered as a resource for integrated urban development, which is a prerequisite for sustainable urban development. The achievement of the local potential of the municipality and the region is important to be accomplished through cooperation with other municipalities and connecting the cultural and landscape values. The identification of the spatial potential of the MC is carried out in view of the possibilities for creating integrated territorial project initiatives within the municipality, at the district, regional and national level, as well as for its valorization through integrated territorial tourism products. In addition to cultural values (immovable, movable and intangible), special attention was paid to the municipal policy regarding the protection, management and valorization of CH, highly valued by the city's population.

Analysis of the state of the settlement network and the housing sector, the connection of the municipality with the neighboring territories outside its administrative borders

As a result of the analysis for the period 2014-2020 the following problems have been identified: the territory of the municipality is highly urbanized with a very high concentration and population density; the need for new housing is constant and is linked to migration processes to large cities, which create pressure on demand in local markets; the imbalance "center - periphery" is deepening regarding the ratio "inhabitants - housing"; other areas in the residential area are assessed as "insufficient" in the housing sector – for service, landscaping and sports. On this basis, the main potentials for the development of the municipality of Plovdiv are derived as: a clear agglomeration core, which predetermines dynamic connectivity with neighboring municipalities; while preserving the autonomy of the city, the Municipality actively interacts with the so-called rural municipalities of the 4th and 5th hierarchical levels, with which it cooperates through integrated spatial development for the achievement of sustainable economic growth, environmental and social balance; the continued development and functioning of territorial cooperation areas; Extremely extensive experience in implementing partnerships, both internationally and nationally for the implementation of joint projects as part of a sustainable policy for regional development, spatial and strategic planning. In this regard, the following solutions are planned: Draft Amendment to the General Development Plan (IOP) of Plovdiv - 2007, whose main goal coincides with the objectives of the Concept for Spatial Development (CPD) of the Municipality of Plovdiv 2015-2025 to achieve a balanced polycentric model at the level of the SCR through reforming of the regional policy, the catching-up of key infrastructure and the more targeted investment of resources; actions of the administration for ensuring the legality and expediency of the PM in order to overcome the identified deficits between the forecasts and their implementation, to prevent inconsistencies in the structural characteristics and to avoid imbalances in the spatial development of the city; integrated territorial investment (ITI) for reducing inequalities in territorial development and harness the region's potential. The city of Plovdiv is the most dynamically developing center in Southern Bulgaria, which through its multilateral connections with neighboring municipalities affects the overall advancement of the district and region. The emerging functional zone around Plovdiv covers 6 municipalities and generates nearly 1/10 of the country's production. Thanks to the serious investments and the attraction of human capital, Plovdiv marks one of the highest growth rates among the economic centers in the country for the last five years. The continued attraction of capital and people to this functional area due to the appropriate infrastructure, synergies with existing business and the development of clusters, social environment and skilled labor resources are at the heart of the future development of the district and South-Central Region. The modern development of the region is determined by the dominant position of the second largest city in the country - Plovdiv, which the NCS D defines as a city - a center of national importance of the 2nd hierarchical level - part of the "supporting skeleton" of the spatial model for national development. Opportunities for cooperation with neighboring municipalities are aimed at the following thematic areas: improving the quality of infrastructure in the existing agglomeration; improving transport connectivity with the agglomeration center in support of economic development and labor migration in the region; intermodal connectivity of national importance; regional waste and water management; ITI for utilization of the tourist potential at the level – region.

Impact of large infrastructure projects of regional and national importance, cross-border and international cooperation

The future development of the municipality of Plovdiv will be influenced by large infrastructure projects of national and regional importance, which are in the process of implementation, and are planned for implementation and financially secured in the period until 2027. The projects (with exception of National Recovery and Sustainability Plan – NRSP) are indicative, insofar as they are included in strategic documents, the versions of which are publicly available, but have not been officially adopted as the Integrated Territorial Strategy for Development of the South-Central Region, sectoral programs, etc. Within the Sector "Connectivity" the following are envisaged: Project "Construction of the highway Plovdiv-Assenovgrad" and "Modernization of the road "Assenovgrad-Smolyan-Rudozem"; Project "Construction of a railway connection to Plovdiv Airport"; Project "High-speed railway line Plovdiv-Burgas"; Project "Development of the Plovdiv railway junction"; Project "Construction of the southeastern bypass of Plovdiv". In the sector "Environment" the following is envisaged: Project "Water supply of Plovdiv and surrounding municipalities from the cascade "Dospat-Vacha". In the sector "Health" the following are envisaged: Project "Building a system for providing emergency medical care by air"; Project "Improvement of the conditions for interventional diagnostics and endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular diseases and creation of conditions for postgraduate training of specialists in the field of endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular diseases in Bulgaria". The Low Carbon Economy Sector envisages: Project "Digital Transformation and Development of ESO Information Systems and Real-Time Systems in the Conditions of Low Carbon Energy". In the Transport Sector the following is envisaged: Project "Digitalization in railway transport through modernization of safety and energy efficiency systems in railway directions of the main and wide-ranging TEN-T network". In the Energy Sector the following is envisaged: Project "Construction of a new double interconnector 400 kV between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia (85 km) with a capacity of 1,500 MW". In the Digital Connectivity Sector the following is envisaged: Project "Large-scale digital infrastructure on the territory of Bulgaria".

International cooperation is a key element of the municipal policy for urban development, as evidenced by the significant number of official foreign partners (municipalities, cities, regions), with which, over the years, agreements / memoranda / agreements for cooperation, friendship or twinning have been achieved. According to this indicator, Plovdiv ranks first of all Bulgarian administrative units. During the period 2014-2020, the Municipality of Plovdiv has successfully implemented three projects with international cooperation in the field of improvement of the urban environment, mobility and green energy, while continuing to develop and implement projects in the field of environmental protection, water quality and air quality, culture and tourism, health and security, as well as those related to the development of civil society, improving urban governance through modern digital technologies, training, exchange of experience, which can be improved incl. with the participation of foreign partners in the new programming period. The municipality's partners are diverse and include: cities and municipalities, NGOs, educational institutions (universities, centers, etc.), institutions at all levels, etc., from countries including: England, Denmark, Romania, Spain, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Turkey, etc., as well as partners from Bulgaria. The review of the implemented projects and those in the process of implementation shows that the Municipality has the experience and administrative resources to deal with the challenges of joint,

international projects. In the new programming period, the ambitions of local authorities will focus on partnership at international program level.

SWOT - analysis

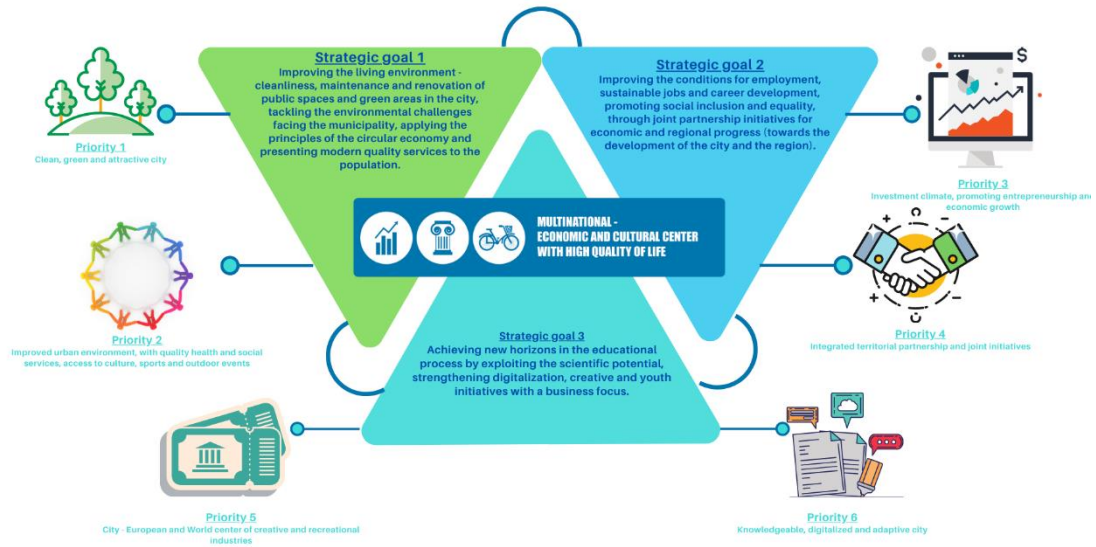
According to the obligatory structure of the document, for each of the thematic sectors in the analytical part (Volume I) are presented not only identified problems, unutilized resources and potential for development of the territory, but also a comparative analysis of the state and trends of the respective sector on district level and region planning level 2 - SCR and SER, as viewed in the context of the common regional scope. This is the basis for the creation of the SWOT - analysis by thematic areas, which as a quality analytical and forecasting method aims to define the action of internal and external factors for development of the territory and the ability to choose an appropriate strategy to achieve development goals. The strengths and weaknesses of the municipality of Plovdiv are summarized and the opportunities and threats in the spatial context at regional, national and European level are defined. In addition, the common problems and challenges are identified together with the relationships between them, due to the functional-hierarchical structure of the network of settlements in SCR, which is characterized by a prominent center in the face of Plovdiv - the second largest city in Bulgaria.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEW PROGRAM PERIOD

The goals and priorities of IDP-Plovdiv are determined in accordance with the goals and priorities of the strategic documents for regional and spatial development at higher hierarchical levels, and are linked to the achievement of specific results for the territory of the municipality of Plovdiv. During the preparation of the implementation program, the integrated approach for planning the regional and spatial development was applied to the IDP by observing the principle of partnership in defining the main project proposals by the various stakeholders, incl. citizens and organizations on the territory of the municipality, and the administration itself. The envisaged measures are pre-defined commitments by the Municipality of Plovdiv with a specific spatial dimension, specific measurable results and identified indicative sources of funding, which makes them applicable, achievable and realistic in the new programming period. The measures correspond to the needs of the territory, objectified in the results of the conducted sectoral analyses and SWOT-analysis, and are formed on the basis of the envisages of the respective development policies at national, macro-regional and European level, relevant to Plovdiv Municipality and as fully urbanized municipality and center of the South-Central Region, considered in the general system of documents and norms related to spatial and strategic planning. The activities in the program are formed after the identification of individual project ideas through working with stakeholders and by ensuring citizen participation in the process of formulating and developing local policy in the context of the “bottom-up” approach. When applying this approach, with a view to collecting, defining and optimally including in the program multilateral and multi-layered project ideas, providing solutions to various identified needs and problems, both at local and regional level, working with different stakeholders and potential partners, over 400 applications for project readiness and slips with project proposals were submitted by the administration, various organizations, incl. local business and NGO sector and citizens. The ones with potential for implementation within the programming period 2021-2027, in accordance with the above necessary prerequisites and preconditions for law and expediency, are included in the implementation program - Annex № 1 to the document. In summary, in order to achieve the integrated approach to the development of the municipal

territory in the new programming period, the most appropriate combination of resources and measures (covering groups of projects with defined specific interventions and investments to support the implementation of relevant sectoral policies) have been identified and will be utilized purposefully for the achievement of the specific strategic goal and priority defined in the IDP. The logic of interaction with the factors, conditions and potential for the specific development of Plovdiv, the zoning of the city, the network of neighboring settlements falling within the territorial scope of neighboring municipalities and individual sectors related to the development of the municipality, incl. industry, transport, environmental infrastructure, sport and youth activities, education, human health and social work, tourism, in particular based on cultural identity and cultural and historical heritage, and other relevant topics covered in its entirety in the IDP and its' implementation program. The total budget of the financial framework amounts to BGN 1,045,121.90 thousand and is distributed according to the various sources of funding between the 6 priorities, as follows: 30.64% under Priority 1; 43.22% under Priority 2; 7.73% under Priority 3; 9.81% under Priority 4; 3.03% under Priority 5 and 5.58% under Priority 6.

Vision, goals and priorities for the development of Plovdiv Municipality 2021-2027



Priorities for the development of Plovdiv Municipality 2021-2027



RELEVANCE CHAIN

according to the structure of the program for realization of IDP and the levels for achievement of the goals and priorities for development of Plovdiv Municipality 2021-2027

