

# **POLICIES**FORDEVELOPMENT

**Annual report**



**2015**

## Our Mission and activities

We believe the implementation of effective and sustainable policies requires coherent and strategic efforts, not isolated projects and initiatives. We believe the public sector can stimulate economic and social development, not simply draw resources from them. We believe the process of governance should be instituted on the principles of creativity, knowledge and leadership. We believe policies should ultimately lead to social and economic development.

*Policies for development* was founded by academics and policy experts to inspire the application of good principles in the process of governance that lead to quality, efficiency, sustainability and integrity.

## Our activities

We create strategic solutions in the public sphere to generate policies for complex and long-term development. We stimulate informed media and public debate for the strategic directions of the long-term development of Bulgaria. We network with representatives of local and national institutions, international organizations, entrepreneurs, investors and academia and facilitate the design of smart and sustainable solutions to common challenges. We cooperate with journalists and media to provide public support for our ideas.

*Policies for development* implements strategic policy analysis and initiatives on the issues of public-private-civil partnerships, the development of a new model of public administration in Bulgaria, e-governance. We support the process of preparation for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018. We monitor the implementation of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania. We provide expert support to advocacy campaigns at national and local level. We participate as speakers and lecturers at events aiming to promote sustainable and effective policy-making.



# 2015:

## IDEAS AND INITIATIVES

In 2015 POLICIESFORDEVELOPMENT focused its activities in three main strategic directions:

### ○ Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018

**Bulgaria will start its Presidency term on 1 July 2018.** For POLICIESFORDEVELOPMENT this task is an important test for the national political, administrative and diplomatic capacity. The Presidency is responsible for the preparation, coordination and leadership of all meetings of the Council of the EU and its supporting bodies and structures (with the exception of the Foreign Affairs Council). The Presidency provides substantial political opportunities for the Member State who performs it as well as potential for influence over the strategic agenda-setting of the EU. There are about 3 years left for Bulgaria to develop its institutional and organizational capacity and to develop strategies for successful leadership of the EU during the Presidency term of Bulgaria.

**If carefully planned and utilized, the Presidency mandate will provide Bulgaria with the opportunity to put forward some of its strategic priorities into the center of the political agenda of the Union.** This is how Sweden developed its transparency policy priority within the EU institutions, Finland enhanced the Nordic dimension and regional cooperation, while Portugal carried out the EU-Brazil summit meeting. The Presidency of the EU provides an additional stimulus for Bulgaria to achieve better results on some benchmarks related to EU funds adoption and reforms in the area of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, for instance. And importantly, the rotational Presidency of Bulgaria will be an opportunity to focus the national political and civic attention on the European politics, EU's agenda. This is of great importance for a country like Bulgaria which remains in the periphery of the European political debate.

## o Youth and Democracy

Low levels of social trust. Lack of civic activity. Low levels of political participation of many young people in the European and Bulgarian political process. In order to fully understand the roots of these problems, **POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT** initiated its “*Youth and democracy*” programme, with a special focus on the factors and institutions that influence young peoples’ democratic values and beliefs. Our kickoff event in this strategic direction brought together government officials, think-tank experts, teachers and civic activists with the chief aim of formulating ideas for policy reform in the high school system that would provide a higher quality of civic education.

## o New Approach to Public Partnerships

Public-private partnerships in Bulgaria are still a contradictory economic instrument. This is largely due to concerns related to transfer of risk and concerns for misuse of public funds. Furthermore, state institutions still consider PPPs primarily as an instrument for implementation of infrastructural construction projects. The broader approach applied by the European Union or the US to the use of PPPs is rarely considered by Bulgarian institutions. We support the development of a new model of public-private-civil partnerships through the following activities:

- 1) analysis of the potential for public-private-civic partnerships implementation in Bulgaria, including assessment of the possibilities for implementation by economic sectors and existing good practices to date;
- 2) development of a web-based data base of potential partners in the three sectors (public, private, social), searchable by economic sector / scope of financing / experience / country region;
- 3) organization of work meetings between institutions, business and civil society organizations as partners in the new model of public-private-civic partnerships.

# 2015:

## Public Events

„Education should focus on creating active citizens”

„Ideologies should not be present in the education system”

“Fostering a viable democracy highly depends on the presence of democrats”

„Bulgarian teachers should have the support of the entire society”



These were some of the insights shared by participants in the panel discussion “Youth and democracy: what values should civic education develop in Bulgaria”. The event took place on June 24 in Grand Hotel Sofa with the kind support of Konrad

Adenauer Stiftung. **POLICIESFORDEVELOPMENT** organized the event with the conviction that civic education is far more than sharing information about the institutional structure and legal framework. **POLICIESFORDEVELOPMENT** takes the view that civic education has the potential to create the values that underpin modern society. The purpose of our conference was to structure the debate about civic education around a broader perspective – not just if it should be included in the school curriculum, but what values should it educate students – political participation, civic participation, engagement in local cultural and entrepreneurial activities.

Over 60 representatives of state institutions, academia, school system and civic organizations took part in the event. Among them were dr.

Rumyana Kolarova, Secretary for Education, Science and Civil Society of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, dr. Yanka Takeva, Chair of the Union of the Bulgarian Teachers, Dimitar Delchev, Member of the Parliament of Bulgaria and dr. Svetoslav Malinov, Member of the European Parliament.

In 2015 **POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**' team participated as speakers, trainers and panelists in over 20 high level events organized by state institutions and nongovernmental organizations on different topics such as regional development, electronic governance, education, healthcare.

In 2015 dr. Georgi Metodiev was consultant and lecturer on advocacy, strategic planning and coalition building in the framework of the initiative *“Strategy for long-term advocacy campaign for advancement of human and civil rights in the field of maternal healthcare”*.



In February 2015 dr. Linka Toneva took part in the discussion on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, with judicial reform and the fight against corruption, organized by MOVEBG and BIEUprint in the House of Europe in Sofia.



In the period February – March Policies for Development' team took part in a series of seminars in the framework of the project *“Strategic Planning and Advocacy: Instruments for Effective inclusion of civic organizations in the process of local governance”*, implemented by the Institute for Regional and International Studies. Our experts contributed to

the project as lecturers and consultants on the topics of strategic planning, e-governance, coalition building and innovations in public administration.

In the autumn of 2015 our policy team supported with enthusiasm the initiative “*Online voting? The referendum depends on your vote*” organized by Transparency International – Bulgaria, aimed at popularizing the national referendum on online voting that took place on the 25 of October in Bulgaria. We contributed as lecturers in over 14 discussions throughout the country aimed at informing the public on the benefits of online voting, but also on the dangers associated with that practice.



# 2015:

# Partnerships

Our initiatives in 2015 would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of our colleagues, partners and friends from the civic sector, institutions, international organizations and media.

We thank them sincerely!



# 2015:

## Policy documents

In 2015 we developed two policy papers that outlined our vision on the topics of Public sector development and the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018. We presented the papers and disseminated them to more than 200 representatives of public institutions, civic organizations, think—tanks, universities and media.

**Vision for development: towards a new model of the public sector in Bulgaria (may 2015)** summarizes key **POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT** ideas for public sector innovation in Bulgaria based on the principles of good governance, public partnership and open governance. The paper became the basis of a lively public discussion on the problems surrounding the reform of public administration in Bulgaria in the beginning of the XXI century.

We looked ahead in the coming decades and envisioned a global standard for public sector management, founded not only on good practices, but on good principles:

- Introduction of new models of services, based on cooperation between the central government, the business sector and nongovernmental organizations;
- Utilizing unconventional resources for innovation (e-governance, social media, citizen mobility, etc.);
- Cooperation with the business sector, civic organizations, media, and international organizations in order to develop new generation public sector services.
- Leadership and executive decisions based on entrepreneurship and experimentation.

In November 2015 we published **Road towards 2018: The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the perspective of opportunities**. In this policy paper we outlined **POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**' ideas for the Bulgarian Presidency that are focuses on the development of a clear vision on the formulation of priority sectors – so that Bulgaria would be able to develop national priorities that align with the European agenda and are streamlined in the timeframe leading up to 2018. We also created models for political and economic risk forecasting on the challenges that may appear on the international scene in 2018 and affect the Presidency. Furthermore, we stressed on the necessity to develop leadership capacity in the ministries on all levels with the skills to lead negotiations, mediation and models for rotation of Bulgarian public servants in the European structures.

## 2015:

## In the media

Part of our appearances and publications in the national media in 2015:

- D-r Georgi Metodiev with two articles on internet voting and the national referendum in Bulgaria on that topic. The article in Capital weekly can be accessed [from here](#), and the text in Reduta.bg [from this link](#).
- An article on anticorruption policies in Bulgaria in ClubZ magazine can be [read here](#).
- Human capital is essential for EU Presidency mandate, [article in Capital weekly newspaper](#).
- D-r Linka Toneva commented the latest EU report on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, with judicial reform, the

fight against corruption and organised crime, concerning Bulgaria. You can watch the program [from this link](#).

- Dr Linka Toneva comments on Bulgarian ONAIR TV regarding the latest EU Cooperation and Verification Mechanism report concerning Bulgarian progress with judicial reform the fight against corruption and organized crime. Watch [HERE](#).
- Leadership resources - in preparation for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018. An article for Diplomacy magazine, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs publication. [Read here](#).
- Dr Linka Toneva comments on the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018 for the CLUB Z magazine. [Read here](#)
- An article in OFFNEWS regarding the latest EU report under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism . [Read here](#).

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