

desk RESEARCH

greenACT

Yes, that's our cover, because we
have to use all to use less.

PREFACE

GreenACT is a 20 months' project designed to enhance ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION and AWARENESS of YOUNG PEOPLE through the organisation of SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME to familiarize young people with the idea of environmental citizenship, based on the fact that the future depends on each and one of us by acting responsibly and positively towards our environment and developing sustainable solutions for addressing environmental challenges. In a period where Earth faces the consequences of climate change and global warming crisis and the need for mitigation of climate change is emerging, Green-ACT aims to support further these YOUTH INITIATIVES and raise more awareness in the 6 countries, by educating young people on environmental issues, inspire them in developing a firm ecological mind-set, and invite them to have a positive impact in their communities as active agents.

The partnership is composed of 6 partners from 6 countries: Romania, Lithuania, Cyprus, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Portugal Furthermore, it aims:

- o To promote the idea of establishing SUMMER SCHOOLS for raising young people's environmental awareness;
- o To set up the GreenACT MOVEMENT (a network of young activists) for coordinating their actions and engaging citizens;
- o To build/increase the capacity of partner organizations to take action regarding the reduction of waste in the partner countries by encouraging local communities to recycle and reuse.
- o To equip youth workers with new sustainable environmental skills in order to empower more young people;
- o To facilitate brainstorming on challenges and possible solutions of topics such as alternative forms of socio- economy, biodiversity and food production, sustainable production and consumption, transport, etc.

The Desk Research template will be developed in each partner country with the purpose of recording gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness in partner countries and whether there

are any good practices or not. As well known from before, there is a lack of reports based on what young people's opinion on climate crisis, eco-lifestyle, basic environmental issues, environmental awareness and reports to show their level of environmental education and awareness. Furthermore, this desk research will show the policies or good practices applied in the 6 partner countries for tackling the climate crisis and environmental degradation at the local level. The Desk Research along with the survey that will be later on realised, there will be provided evidence-based data in the participating countries on young people's attitudes towards climate crisis and eco-lifestyle and the EU policies in the 6 countries related to the protection of the environment.

The Desk Research template follows the below given structure, proposed by the Intellectual Output leader partner, D.G.T. Association, in order to allow an easier comparability of reported information and outcomes across GreenACT partner countries and includes the following chapters (that each will have 2 subchapters):

- o Chapter 1: Recording gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness Bulgaria
- o Chapter 2: Best practices in policies related to environmental protection and awareness Bulgaria

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IN BULGARIAN	5
INTRODUCTION	7
1. Recording gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness in Bulgaria	7
1.1. Already existing gaps in Bulgaria	9
2. BEST PRACTICES IN POLICIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AWARENESS IN BULGARIA	11
2.1. Already existing best practices in Bulgaria	11
Best practice № 1	11
Best practice № 2	12
Best practice № 3	12
Best practice № 4	13
Best practice № 5	13
Best practice № 6	14
Best practice № 7	15
CONCLUDING REMARKS	16
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The existing gaps, outlines in Chapter 1 are the following:

- Air quality continues to give cause for serious concern;
- Lack of integration of nature and biodiversity policy into other sectorial policies, weak administration, lack of adequate management plans and conservation objectives are some of the main threats to nature and biodiversity in Bulgaria.
- River Basin Management Plans indicate significant gaps, also reflected by very low connection and treatment rates for urban waste water. Drinking water, however, reaches high compliance rates in Bulgaria and over 90 % of its bathing waters are of good and excellent quality.
- Lack of awareness among the community on the legal frame and its implication.

Taking the gaps into consideration, the following conclusions were made:

- Industrial and household energy efficiency remains a big problem.
- Environmental organizations are one of the strongest segments of civil society in Bulgaria, and they both actively use institutional tools and organize street protests.
- Green economy in Bulgaria are not sufficiently integrated due to the lack of coordination on development, implementation and monitoring of the policies and initiatives to promote a green economy.

Chapter 2 includes the following best practices:

- Let's clean Bulgaria together- the largest volunteer initiative in the country, which aims to build public awareness on issues related to environmental protection and to make Bulgaria cleaner.
- Competition "Nature Speaks"- an artistic competition, which makes youngsters focus on issues such as: Are there separate collection containers near their home? Do we waste a reasonable amount of water when watering the garden? etc.
- National competition "Keep up to class with the lessons of nature"- the competition invites high school students from all over the country and their teachers to tell about the most interesting lesson dedicated to nature care that they had or to describe their idea for one.
- International Conference on Green Entrepreneurship-the conference marks the completion of the extremely successful GREENT project of the national organizations of Junior Achievement in Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia, Norway, and Romania
- Let's keep the Earth clean! video tutorial on packaging waste- a video tutorial covering topics such as what materials they are made of what problems do we create for the environment if we do not dispose of the packaging properly, how can we solve these problems and more.
- Concert for the initiative "The national hour of the Earth"
- The "Check your carbon footprint" game- the game is part of the Fish Forward 2.0 project (co-funded by the European Union), which emphasizes the importance of shopping responsibly to protect our oceans and provide food for the people who depend on them.

From the best practices listed above, Association Walktogether determined the most popular ways of raising awareness of the best practice being:

- Through the organisation's blog/website
- Through a separate website, created especially for the implementation of the practice
- On Social media platforms (Mainly Facebook and Instagram)
- Through news websites

In order to improve the process of raising awareness for current and future practices, the team of Association Walktogether suggested the following ways that can be used:

- Creating podcasts
- Spreading leaflets
- Contacting social media influencers, who share the ideas of the programme
- Billboards and other similar advertising tools.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IN BULGARIAN

СЪЩЕСТВУВАЩИТЕ ПРОПУСКИ, ОПИСАНИ В ГЛАВА 1 СА СЛЕДНИТЕ:

- КАЧЕСТВОТО НА ВЪЗДУХА ПРОДЪЛЖАВА ДА ПОРАЖДА СЕРИОЗНИ ПРИТЕСНЕНИЯ;
- ЛИПСАТА НА ИНТЕГРАЦИОННА ПОЛИТИКА ЗА БИОЛОГИЧНОТО РАЗНООБРАЗИЕ И ПРИРОДАТА, СЛАБАТА АДМИНИСТРАЦИЯ, ЛИПСАТА НА АДЕКВАТНИ ПЛАНОВЕ ЗА УПРАВЛЕНИЕ И ЦЕЛИ ЗА ОПАЗВАНЕ СА НЯКОИ ОТ ОСНОВНИТЕ ЗАПЛАХИ ЗА ПРИРОДАТА И БИОЛОГИЧНОТО РАЗНООБРАЗИЕ В БЪЛГАРИЯ.
- ПЛАНОВЕТЕ ЗА УПРАВЛЕНИЕ НА РЕЧНИТЕ БАСЕЙНИ ПОКАЗВАТ ЗНАЧИТЕЛНИ ПРОПУСКИ, ОТРАЗЯВАНИ И ОТ МНОГО НИСКИ НИВА НА СВЪРЗВАНЕ И ПРЕЧИСТВАНЕ НА ГРАДСКИТЕ ОТПАДЪЧНИ ВОДИ. ПИТЕЙНАТА ВОДА ОБАЧЕ ДОСТИГА ВИСОКИ НИВА НА СЪОТВЕТСТВИЕ В БЪЛГАРИЯ И НАД 90% ОТ ВОДИТЕ ЗА КЪПАНЕ СА С ДОБРО ИЛИ ОТЛИЧНО КАЧЕСТВО.
- ЛИПСВА ИНФОРМИРАНост СРЕД ОБЩНОСТТА ОТНОСНО ПРАВНАТА РАМКА И НЕЙНИТЕ ПОСЛЕДИЦИ.

КАТО СЕ ВЗЕМАТ ПРЕДВИД ПРОПУСКИТЕ, БЯХА НАПРАВЕНИ СЛЕДНИТЕ ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЯ:

- ПРОМИШЛЕНАТА И БИТОВА ЕНЕРГИЙНА ЕФЕКТИВНОСТ ОСТАВА ГОЛЯМ ПРОБЛЕМ.
- ЕКОЛОГИЧНИТЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ СА ЕДИН ОТ НАЙ-СИЛНИТЕ СЕГМЕНТИ НА ГРАЖДАНСКОТО ОБЩЕСТВО В БЪЛГАРИЯ И ДВЕТЕ АКТИВНО ИЗПОЛЗВАТ ИНСТИТУЦИОНАЛНИ ИНСТРУМЕНТИ И ОРГАНИЗИРАТ ПРОТЕСТИ.
- ЗЕЛЕНАТА ИКОНОМИКА В БЪЛГАРИЯ НЕ Е ДОСТАТЪЧНО ИНТЕГРИРАНА ПОРАДИ ЛИПСАТА НА КООРДИНАЦИЯ ПРИ РАЗРАБОТВАНЕТО, ПРИЛАГАНЕТО И МОНИТОРИНГА НА ПОЛИТИКИ И ИНИЦИАТИВИ ЗА НАСЪРЧАВАНЕ НА ЗЕЛЕНА ИКОНОМИКА.

ГЛАВА 2 ВКЛЮЧВА СЛЕДНИТЕ НАЙ-ДОБРИ ПРАКТИКИ:

- НЕКА ПОЧИСТИМ БЪЛГАРИЯ ЗАЕДНО - НАЙ-ГОЛЯМАТА ДОБРОВОЛЧЕСКА ИНИЦИАТИВА В СТРАНАТА, КОЯТО ИМА ЗА ЦЕЛ ДА ПОВИШИ ОБЩЕСТВЕНАТА ИНФОРМИРАНост ПО ВЪПРОСИ, СВЪРЗАНИ С ОПАЗВАНЕТО НА ОКОЛНАТА СРЕДА И ДА НАПРАВИ БЪЛГАРИЯ ПО-ЧИСТА.
- КОНКУРС „ПРИРОДАТА ГОВОРИ“ - ХУДОЖЕСТВЕНО СЪСТЕЗАНИЕ, КОЕТО КАРА МЛАДЕЖИТЕ ДА СЕ СЪСРЕДОТОЧАТ ВЪРХУ ВЪПРОСИ КАТО: ИМА ЛИ КОНТЕЙНЕРИ ЗА РАЗДЕЛНО СЪБИРАНЕ В БЛИЗОСТ ДО ДОМА ИМ? ИЗПОЛЗВАМЕ ЛИ РАЗУМНО КОЛИЧЕСТВО ВОДА, КОГАТО ПОЛИВАМЕ ГРАДИНАТА?
- НАЦИОНАЛНО СЪСТЕЗАНИЕ "В КРАК С УРОЦИТЕ ПО ПРИРОДА" - СЪСТЕЗАНИЕТО КАНИ ГИМНАЗИСТИ ОТ ЦЯЛАТА СТРАНА И ТЕХНИТЕ УЧИТЕЛИ ДА РАЗКАЖАТ ЗА НАЙ-ИНТЕРЕСНИЯ УРОК, ПОСВЕТЕН НА ГРИЖИТЕ ЗА ПРИРОДАТА, КОЙТО СА ИМАЛИ, ИЛИ ДА ОПИШАТ ИДЕЯТА СИ ЗА ПРОВЕЖДАНЕТО НА ТАКЪВ.
- МЕЖДУНАРОДНА КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ ЗА ЗЕЛЕНО ПРЕДПРИЕМАЧЕСТВО - КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯТА ОТБЕЛЯЗВА ЗАВЪРШВАНЕТО НА ИЗКЛЮЧИТЕЛНО УСПЕШНИЯТ GREENТ ПРОЕКТ НА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ЗА МЛАДЕЖКИ ПОСТИЖЕНИЯ В БЪЛГАРИЯ, ГЪРЦИЯ, ЛАТВИЯ, НОРВЕГИЯ И РУМЪНИЯ.
- НЕКА ПОДДЪРЖАМЕ ЗЕМЯТА ЧИСТА! ВИДЕО УРОК ЗА ОТПАДЪЦИ ОТ ОПАКОВКИ, КОЙТО ОБХВАЩА ТЕМИ КАТО КАКВИ МАТЕРИАЛИ СА НАПРАВЕНИ, КАКВИ ПРОБЛЕМИ СЪЗДАВАМЕ ЗА ОКОЛНАТА СРЕДА, АКО НЕ ИЗХВЪРЛЯМЕ ОТПАДЪЦИТЕ СИ В КОШ, КАК МОЖЕМ ДА РАЗРЕШИМ ТЕЗИ ПРОБЛЕМИ И ДР.
- КОНЦЕРТ НА ТЕМА „НАЦИОНАЛНИЯТ ЧАС НА ЗЕМЯТА“
- ИГРАТА „ПРОВЕРЕТЕ СВОЯ ВЪГЛЕРОДЕН ОТПЕЧАТЪК“ - ИГРАТА Е ЧАСТ ОТ ПРОЕКТА FISH FORWARD 2.0 (СЪФИНАНСИРАН ОТ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЯ СЪЮЗ), КОЙТО ПОДЧЕРТАВА ЗНАЧЕНИЕТО НА ОТГОВОРНОТО ПАЗАРУВАНЕ, ЗА ДА ЗАЩИТИМ НАШИТЕ ОКЕАНИ И ДА ОСИГУРИМ ХРАНА ЗА ХОРАТА, КОИТО ЗАВИСЯТ ОТ ТЯХ.

ОТ ДОБРИТЕ ПРАКТИКИ, ИЗБРОЕНИ ПО-ГОРЕ, СДРУЖЕНИЕ УОЛКТУГЕДЪР ОПРЕДЕЛИ НАЙ-ПОПУЛЯРНИТЕ НАЧИНИ ЗА ПОВИШАВАНЕ НА ОСВЕДОМЕНОСТТА ЗА НАЙ-ДОБРИТЕ ПРАКТИКИ, А ИМЕННО:

- ЧРЕЗ БЛОГА / УЕБСАЙТА НА ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯТА;
- ЧРЕЗ ОТДЕЛЕН УЕБСАЙТ, СЪЗДАДЕН СПЕЦИАЛНО ЗА ПРИЛАГАНЕ НА ПРАКТИКАТА;
- В СОЦИАЛНИТЕ МЕДИЙНИ ПЛАТФОРМИ (ГЛАВНО FACEBOOK И INSTAGRAM)



- ЧРЕЗ НОВИНАРСКИ САЙТОВЕ;

ЗА ДА ПОДОБРИ ПРОЦЕСА НА ПОВИШАВАНЕ НА ОСВЕДОМЕНОСТТА ЗА НАСТОЯЩИ И БЪДЕЩИ ПРАКТИКИ, ЕКИПЪТ НА СДРУЖЕНИЕ УОЛКУТЕДЪР ПРЕДЛОЖИ СЛЕДНИТЕ НАЧИНИ, КОИТО ДА БЪДАТ ИЗПОЛЗВАНИ С ЦЕЛ ОБЩЕСТВЕНА ИНФОРМИРАНост:

- СЪЗДАВАНЕ НА ПОДКАСТИ;
- РАЗПРОСТРАНЕНИЕ НА ЛИСТОВКИ В ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛНИТЕ ИНСТИТУЦИИ;
- СВЪРЗВАНЕ С ВЛИЯТЕЛНИ ЛИЦА В СОЦИАЛНИТЕ МЕДИИ, КОИТО СПОДЕЛЯТ ИДЕИТЕ НА ПРОГРАМАТА;
- БИЛБОРДОВЕ, И ДРУГИ ПОЗНАТИ НА ОБЩЕСТВОТО РЕКЛАМИ (ПО TV, РАДИО, СПИСАНИЯ, ВЕСТНИЦИ И Т.Н).

INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the European Desk research report is to analyze the challenges and gaps in Bulgarians' environmental education and policies and provide methodological support in the development of specialized instruments for sustainable education. The report is intended for non-profit organizations and educational institutions. The report is prepared within the project "GreenACT", coordinated by ASOCIATIA D.G.T in partnership with 5 European non-profit organizations and co-financed by the Erasmus + program "Strategic partnerships for youth."

In order to support the data provided in this report, Association Walktogether distributed a questionnaire, which aim at outlining the current knowledge of Bulgaria's youth, when it comes to environmental issues and policies. The survey has been answered by 31 people between 18 and 30 years.

For Chapter 1 the access to information was very easy and systematic because the research showed that the materials used in this paper are also uploaded in the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water and everyone can freely read the reviews, analysis and statistics. Also, the topic is well covered by several other websites such as the one of the European Commission and the UN, therefore no challenges were faced in the process of collecting the data.

For Chapter 2, the main sources of information regarding the already implemented best practices in Bulgaria were:

- The websites of the programmes
- The blogs of the organizers
- Blog post in third party pages
- Social media post

The information regarding the practices was quite accessible. Most of the times there were many sources reporting for one programme, which helped with avoiding the problem of insufficient published information. One of the encountered issues during the research process has been the many best practices found, which were implemented more than 9 years ago. In order to report only recently created and implemented practices, we had to limit ourselves to only researching programmes, which took place in the recent 6-7 years. Moreover, on the other side of the spectrum, we also came across many practices that are yet to be implemented. To keep the report accurate, we did not include those new programmes, in order to avoid the need of speculating their possible outcomes.

The following report includes executive summaries (in English and national language), introduction part, 2 Main chapters, concluding remarks and bibliographical references.

1. Recording gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness in Bulgaria

Key findings of Chapter 1:

- **Industrial and household energy efficiency remains a big problem.**
 - **Environmental organizations are one of the strongest segments of civil society in Bulgaria, and they both actively use institutional tools and organize street protests.**
 - **Green economy in Bulgaria are not sufficiently integrated due to the lack of coordination on development, implementation and monitoring of the policies and initiatives to promote a green economy.**

The Environment Protection Act, which was publicised in 2002, has been amended many times. Bulgarian profile shows that Bulgaria has made significant improvements to its environmental performance since its accession in 2007. The Environmental Protection Act establishes the general regulatory framework for SEA. The SEA Ordinance further specifies the SEA system. While Bulgarian legislation accurately reflects the environmental requirements agreed at EU level, their implementation on the ground remains a challenge.

The country adopted the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020 (NDP BG 2020) provides long-term strategic guidance for the transition towards a green economy in Bulgaria. Sectoral policy approaches to a green economy in Bulgaria are not sufficiently integrated due to the lack of coordination on development, implementation and monitoring of the policies and initiatives to promote a green economy. There are no specific coordinating mechanisms for green economy policies in place. The Ministry of Environment and Water is the main authority in charge of funding for green economy initiatives through the Operational Programme "Environment" and its two subordinated project financing institutions, the Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities and the National Trust Eco Fund.

In 2008, the Liability for Prevention and Remedying of Environmental Damage Act was adopted. The law has transposed the 2004 Directive 2004/35/EO on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage. Bulgaria successfully implements the Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 on the voluntary participation by organizations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).

For the first time, a National Waste Prevention Program was developed and incorporated in the preparation of the National Waste Management Plan 2014-2020. Waste prevention is given the highest priority in the waste management hierarchy. The biggest challenge for the successful integration of the three dimensions of Bulgaria's sustainable development policies is the stated national intention to keep the coal sector with its significant share in the country's energy balance. The reasons for this are related to job retention and greater energy security for the country.

As a Party to a number of international conventions in the field of water (the Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube, the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes), Bulgaria fulfils its obligations under international environmental regimes in good faith. We are actively involved in regional cooperation in South-eastern Europe aimed at sustainable management of water and water resources, environmental protection and biodiversity. As a Member State of the EU, Bulgaria has transposed the Water Framework Directive into its national legislation in the field of water management, as well as other sectoral directives, namely on drinking water, on bathing water, on urban waste water treatment, on nitrates and on floods. Challenges The environmental potential of the country is rated as "good" or "very good" in the European Commission 2019 Report for only 46% of all classified river bodies of water. The pressure on rivers and groundwater sites comes mainly from pollution from agriculture and from discharges that are not connected to the sanitation network. Problems in river basin management are reported - regarding the monitoring system, pressure assessment and methodologies for classification of the status of water bodies.

Measures taken Water management is carried out in accordance with the national legislation - the Law on Environmental Protection and the Law on Waters. A large number of strategies and plans have been adopted to guide policies toward long-term problem-solving. In order to comply with the European directives on the sustainability and accessibility of water and sewerage services, strategic and planning documents for the water and sewerage sector have been developed. Related to the requirements of Article 151 of the Law on Waters, a National Strategy for Management and Development of the Water

Sector has been developed. The implementation of the Strategy for Management and Development of Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2023 contributes to supplying the population with quality drinking water

Bulgaria as a member state of the EU has introduced in its legislation the mandatory European approaches related to environmental protection, consumer protection, waste management, etc. A number of initiatives and strategic programs aim at shifting society toward a circular economy model, efficient use of resources, reducing generated waste and increasing recycling.

The EC 2019 Environmental Implementation Review indicates that Bulgaria is losing 63 million EUR due to insufficient waste recycling, while the lost benefits amount to 53 million EUR. High levels of hazardous waste generated are retained, mainly due to the maintenance of hazardous tailings from copper ore processing.

Bulgaria's national policy on climate change is determined, on the one hand, by the country's international commitments to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the Paris Agreement, and, on the other, by obligations arising from EU membership and the existing European legislation in this field. Our country fulfils all international agreements related to these commitments in the field of climate change.

Bulgaria is actively involved in the common efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. At the global level, Bulgaria is a party to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and participates in the second Kyoto period of legally-binding emission commitments until 2020. Under the second Kyoto period together with the other Parties, Bulgaria strives to meet the overall target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% until 2020. With respect to greenhouse gas emissions, Bulgaria has the necessary reserve to ensure that the commitments made with signing the Kyoto Protocol are fulfilled. At national level, the Law on Climate Change Mitigation regulates government policy for mitigating climate change and for fulfilling the country's international obligations. The Law on Climate Change Mitigation regulates the implementation of the EU ETS and the activities related to the allocation of greenhouse gas emission allowances and the issuance and amendment of greenhouse gas emissions permits. This law regulates the links between national legislation and EU standards. Following the ratification of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol thereto, the Bulgarian Government has successively adopted three national action plans on climate change. The three national plans envisage specific measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors, which are in line with the country's policy and the potential of the national economy.

In order to improve the country's capacity to adapt to the inevitable negative impacts of climate change, in October 2019 a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Republic of Bulgaria were approved, outlining the strategic framework and priority areas for adaptation to climate change at the national and sectoral levels until 2030. The Strategy is accompanied by an Action plan for the main 9 sectors of the economy (agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystems, energy, forests, human health, transport, tourism, urban environment and water). Disaster risk management is considered as a cross-cutting topic. The Strategy also proposes a preliminary risk analysis of the vulnerability of the sectors of the Bulgarian economy to climate change and is the only strategic document in Bulgaria that includes an analysis of the macroeconomic consequences of climate change.

1.1. Already existing gaps in Bulgaria

Although the large implication of the legal frame, main gaps remain the following:

- a) Air quality continues to give cause for serious concern;

- b) Lack of integration of nature and biodiversity policy into other sectorial policies, weak administration, lack of adequate management plans and conservation objectives are some of the main threats to nature and biodiversity in Bulgaria.
- c) River Basin Management Plans indicate significant gaps, also reflected by very low connection and treatment rates for urban waste water. Drinking water, however, reaches high compliance rates in Bulgaria and over 90 % of its bathing waters are of good and excellent quality.
- d) Lack of awareness among the community on the legal frame and its implication.

The three main challenges with regard to implementation of EU environmental policy and law in Bulgaria are defined:

- 1) Ensuring better protection of human health by enforcing effective and efficient solutions to reduce air pollution.
- 2) Providing and implementing the investments required to ensure appropriate collection and treatment of urban waste water.
- 3) Ensuring sound enforcement of Nature protection legislation.

2. BEST PRACTICES IN POLICIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AWARENESS IN BULGARIA

Key findings of Chapter 2:

- **The following best practices:**
 - **Let's clean Bulgaria together**
 - **Competition "Nature Speaks"**
 - **National competition "Keep up to class with the lessons of nature"**
 - **International Conference on Green Entrepreneurship**
 - **Let's keep the Earth clean! video tutorial on packaging waste**
 - **Concert for the initiative "The national hour of the Earth"**
 - **THE "CHECK YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT" GAME**
- **The most popular ways of raising awareness of the best practice being:**
 - **Through the organisation's blog/website**
 - **Through a separate website, created especially for the implementation of the practice**
 - **On Social media platforms (Mainly Facebook and Instagram)**
 - **Through news websites**
- **Suggested ways that can be used in the future**
 - **Creating podcasts**
 - **Spreading leaflets**
 - **Contacting social media influencers, who share the ideas of the programme**
- **Billboards**

2.1. Already existing best practices in Bulgaria

Best practice № 1

Name of the practice	Let's clean Bulgaria together
Responsible organisation/public body	bTV Media Group
Website	https://dobriatprimer.btv.bg/daizchistim/

Summary	The campaign "Let's clean Bulgaria together" of bTV Media Group is the largest volunteer initiative in the country, which aims to build public awareness on issues related to environmental protection and to make Bulgaria cleaner and more beautiful in the long run. The emblematic campaign ranks Bulgaria leading among the countries with the best volunteer practices in environmental care in the world.
Target group	Bulgarians; age is not specified
Geographical location	Bulgaria
Reached audience/number of participants	350 organisations and institutions each year. Since the beginning of "Let's clean Bulgaria together", nearly 2,500,000 volunteers have cleaned the country.
Results of the practice	According to the Ministry of Ecology, so far the volunteers have managed to collect 94,338 tons of waste, which is equivalent to more than 200 fully loaded Boeing 747 aircraft and to remove more than 18,800 landfills from the face of Bulgaria.

Best practice № 2

Name of the practice	Competition "Nature Speaks"
Responsible organisation/public body	EcoCommunity Foundation
Website	https://bepf-bg.org/
Summary	EcoCommunity Foundation invites young people to illustrate, describe, photograph, tell everything that excites them about the environment in their homeland. With the Nature Speaks competition, the organization invites young people to take a critical look at their surroundings. The program makes them focus on issues such as: Are there separate collection containers near their home? Do we waste a reasonable amount of water when watering the garden? What resources do we use to live "normally" and what is our impact on the environment as a result? How can the situation change?
Target group	The competition is open to any student, group of students, youth club, club, youth interest group at a community centre or other non-profit organization

Geographical location	Youth from the following Bulgarian municipalities: Berkovitsa, Varshets, Chiprovtsi, Mezdra, Montana, Vratsa, Godech, Slivnitsa, Breznik, Trun and Kyustendil.
Reached audience/number of participants	Over 120 students
Results of the practice	Higher levels of engagement and interest of the youth in environmental topics.

Best practice № 3

Name of the practice	National competition "Keep up to class with the lessons of nature"
Responsible organisation/public body	Ecocentric Foundation, EcoCommunity Foundation, Friends Club of Vratsa Balkan National Park, 21st Century Economy Association, GEUM Association, Green Balkans Association and Future Now 2006 Community Center.
Website	http://zlatenoreh.net/article/NACIONALEN-KONKUR-S-%E2%80%9EVLEZ-V-ChAS-S-UROCITE-NA-PRIRODATA%E2%80%9C-252.html
Summary	High school students from all over the country and their teachers are invited to tell about the most interesting lesson dedicated to nature care that they had or to describe their idea for one, including through a drawing or a video clip. Non-profit organizations and institutions can
	also participate in the competition, presenting their most successful educational initiative or activity dedicated to the responsible attitude towards the environment. The organizers also challenge business representatives who have an active attitude towards education as a way to achieve sustainable development. They can participate in the competition by presenting their practice/product in the field of extracurricular eco-education.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● students from 8th to 12th grade ● secondary education teachers ● non-profit organizations and institutions performing educational activities ● socially responsible business



Geographical location	Bulgaria
Reached audience/number of participants	Over 60 candidates from 31 settlements from all over Bulgaria,
Results of the practice	Higher levels of engagement and interest of the youth in environmental topics.

Best practice № 4

Name of the practice	International Conference on Green Entrepreneurship
Responsible organisation/public body	JA Bulgaria
Website	https://www.jabulgaria.org/
Summary	The conference marks the completion of the extremely successful GREENT project of the national organizations of Junior Achievement in Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia, Norway (regional organization in the Sogn og Fiorane region) and Romania. The event was held at JA Startup Barn in Sofia Tech Park and summarized the philosophy, results, impact and achievements of the GREENT project, co-financed by the Erasmus + program of the European Union, which JA Bulgaria initiated in 2015.
Target group	Teachers and students
Geographical location	Sofia, Bulgaria
Reached audience/number of participants	Over 60 teachers and students
Results of the practice	Here is what the guests of the conference shared: After joining this project, I realized what all this really means, how our world is changing. I already have some business ideas, one of which is related to the use/recycling of cigarette butts, for example, which are a terrible waste product that pollutes the environment. "

Best practice № 5

Name of the practice	Let's keep the Earth clean! video tutorial on packaging waste
Responsible organisation/public body	Eco Partners Bulgaria AD

Website	https://ecopartners.bg/
Summary	<p>On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Eco Partners Bulgaria AD presents to the youngest eco- partners - children, a more interesting lesson about packaging waste. With it, they want to show that protecting the environment is easy when we collect separately. The lesson covers topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More about packaging - what materials they are made of and a little more about the materials themselves • What problems do we create for the environment if we do not dispose of the packaging properly • How can we solve these problems • How to properly dispose of packaging waste
Target group	Children and youngsters
Geographical location	Bulgaria
Reached audience/number of participants	8733 views
Results of the practice	<p>Here is what viewers share in the comments:</p> <p>"I thought about what kind of people we are, how can some people pollute it."</p> <p>"Great educational video! Presented in a very appropriate way for children, but also useful for adults"</p>

Best practice № 6

Name of the practice	Concert for the initiative "The national hour of the Earth"
Responsible organisation/public body	WWF Bulgaria
Website	https://www.wwf.bg/get_involved/earthhour/2021/
Summary	<p>On 27.03.2021 WWF - Bulgaria organized an online concert, which took place on their Facebook page. It included famous Bulgarian personalities who stand behind the cause - nature conservation and in particular bear conservation in Bulgaria.</p>
Target group	Not specified
Geographical location	Bulgaria
Reached audience/number of participants	Currently, the uploaded video of the concert has over 700 views, while the live stream was enjoyed by many more Bulgarians

Results of the practice	For the last 10 years, this good practice has been encouraging youngsters and adults to stop their busy lives for a minute, turn off all of the lights in their house and just take into consideration the importance of preserving the environment, saving resources and show respect to nature.
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Best practice № 7

Name of the practice	The "Check your carbon footprint" game
Responsible organisation/public body	WWF Bulgaria
Website	https://www.wwf-finprint.org/bg
Summary	The game is part of the Fish Forward 2.0 project (co-funded by the European Union), which emphasizes the importance of shopping responsibly to protect our oceans and provide food for the people who depend on them. Overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices threaten our valuable marine resources.
Target group	Not specified
Geographical location	Bulgaria; Worldwide
Reached audience/number of participants	The game is still accessible, which makes us unable to give a concrete number.
Results of the practice	After you play the game, the game gives you a very detailed and visual representation of how big your CO ₂ footprint is, based on your game decisions. After you finish playing it encourages you to send it to a friend and play together. That way, the game serves as a great tool for engaging the younger generation into environmental topics.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Desk research provides an overview of the gaps and best practices related with the environmental policies in Bulgaria. The gaps outlined in chapter 1 can serve as strong grounds for creating a programme, aiming at improving the current situation in Bulgaria. As mentioned above, the most important problems that require more attention are the industrial and household energy inefficiency and the not sufficiently integrated green economy in Bulgaria due to the lack of coordination on development, implementation and monitoring of the policies and initiatives to promote a green economy.

Chapter 2 contains seven best environmental practices, which can serve as sources of ideas regarding how to involve the youth in important environmental activities while also keeping them as entertaining and fun as possible. The most appropriate ones for the case of the GreenACT can be decided by comparing the results of each.

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