



**Initiatives and
Civil
Activities**

ANNUAL REPORT

2004

Regional Fund -IGA

Pazardjik

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I. Regional Fund - IGA

Regional Fund IGA was founded in the beginning of the year 2000, for the purpose of maintaining the activities and the programs realized by the “Initiatives and Civil Activities” Foundation (registered in 1998), and also in conformity with the new realities – broadening range of the projects and the subject areas, improvement of the activities and expansion of partnerships.

The Leading Idea

of the organization is to encourage initiatives on local, regional and national level, and to provide assistance for the development and implementation in Bulgaria of the new dimensions in Europe.

The Mission

of Regional Fund – IGA is the prevention of crime on regional, national and international level. In order to achieve this goal the organization offers support and assistance in the process of conducting the necessary social, economic and justice reforms in the country;

The Values

of the organization are based on the European dimensions of humanism and civil rights observance, on the idea of preservation and extension of the virtues common to all mankind, and on the respect for the human being. Important value to the organization is the mental and intellectual development of the Bulgarian person.

The Council of Managers

determines the priority of the activities and adopts strategic programs and plans. Routine decisions are made by the Council of Experts. The Executive Director summons the Council of Managers at least once in every 6 months. He also negotiates contracts on behalf of the foundation.

The Council of Managers of the organization consists of 7 members, two of whom are also performing operation tasks.

Chairman of the Council of Managers is Gergana Zhuleva – Doctor in Philosophy, sociologist, Chairman of “Program “Access to Information” Foundation

Members of the Council are:

Dr. Antonina Zhelyazkova – anthropologist, Chairman of the Council of Managers of "Международен център по проблемите на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия";

Georgi Dimitrov – Master in Pharmacy, President of “Fromvulevi” Ltd., Executive Director of the Council of Managers of “Есенен университет по зависимости”;

Mariana Boyrikova – Master in Philology, expert librarian

Dimitar Rusinov – Master in Pedagogic, Chairman of the Center for Integration of Crime Manifested and Risk Groups

Marina Manolcheva – Master in Pedagogic and Journalism, Executive Director of the organization.

Operation Team

Executive Director – Marina Manolcheva – Master in Pedagogic and Journalism. She has graduated a 2-year specialization program on probation at the University of Central Lancaster, UK. She has also participated in educational courses on NGO management and management of probation services in the UK, Czech Republic, Romania and Latvia. She has graduated a 6-month program on advocacy and lobbying campaigns at the United States Agency for International Development, which featured practice training in the USA. She has taken part in the TUV Nord-Bulgaria “Management of quality” educational course. She is a member of the Society Council at the National Assembly. She is also the author of many publications and books.

Project Manager – Dimitar Rusinov – in charge of the program activities of the organization. He is a Master in Pedagogic, with 11 years of experience as a social worker in Bulgaria’s penitentiary system. He has graduated a 2-year specialization program on probation at the University of Central Lancaster, UK. He has also participated in educational courses on NGO management and management of probation services in the UK, Romania and Latvia. He has graduated a 6-month program on advocacy and lobbying campaigns at the USAID and also has taken part in the TUV Nord-Bulgaria “Management of quality” educational course. He is author of many publications and books. Since 1999 he has been the Chairman of the Center for Integration of Crime Manifested and Risk Groups.

- **Office Manager of the organization – Vesela Dimitrova** – Master in Ethnology
- **Financier of the organization – Nikolay Valkov** – Master in Economics

- **Manager of quality – Maria Vasileva** – Bachelor in Pedagogic. She has graduated a 2-year specialization program on probation at the University of Central Lancaster.

☞ Project co-coordinators, probation collaborators, social workers, psychologists and pedagogues are also working at the organization, either part-time or full time.

☞ The operation team activity is consulted by experts in psychology, law, social activities, sociology, and information technologies.

☞ At the organization there is a constantly working Local consultative council, including the leaders of the most important institutions and organizations in the region of Pazardjik.

S o c i a l W o r k e r s T e a m

Four on-the-spot social workers, who are carrying out activities aimed at reducing risk sexual behavior and drug injection practice among sexual exploits;

Four social workers, who are participating in activities, related to the maintenance of low levels of HIV distribution among intravenous drug addicts

Four social workers which are dealing with convicts and people who are being released from prison.

Organization's Vision for the 2002 – 2004 period

Establishment of a solid civil structure, featuring a constantly developing human resource, with the ability to tangibly influence the social and economic development of Pazardjik Region as well as the national policy in the field of support for groups with adverse social status, work with offenders in the community, drug abuse and HIV prevention, human rights, anti-corruption activities.

☞ ***Regional Fund – IGA has been entered in the Central Register of Non-Profit Companies at the Ministry of Justice, as an organization performing socially useful activities.***

☞ ***The organization is registered in Social Assistance Agency at the Ministry of labor and social policy for the following social services :***

- ***Center for social rehabilitation and integration***
- ***Day Center***
- ***Social Assistant.***

☞ ***Regional Fund – IGA is licensed at the State Agency for Child Protection for the following social services for children :***

- ***Center for social rehabilitation of juvenile offenders and children from risk social groups***
- ***Social assistant.***

Regional Fund – IGA’s public involvement

Regional Fund – IGA has earned membership with the right to vote in all regional and municipal commissions related to the prevention of crime, offenders’ reintegration, prevention and rehabilitation of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, social welfare and support for risk social groups.

- ☞ Regional Fund – IGA won the prestigious International justice award in the category “Pioneer Organization” at the International Conference “Probation 2004” in London, organized by the National Probation Directorate for England and Wales.
- ☞ The US Ambassador in Bulgaria James Pardew presented Regional Fund – IGA with the Certificate for NGO financed by the Democracy Commission at the US embassy for the project “Public Mediator in Pazardjik Municipality”
- ☞ Regional Fund – IGA won first prize for its activity in the field of freedom of information. The award is in the category “NGO that most actively used the Law for access to public information”. The competition was organized by the “Program “Access to information” Foundation.
- ☞ The organization was selected to participate in the national campaign “Antidrug”, comprising more than 60 Bulgarian NGO’s.

Regional Fund -0 IGA is now being processed for certification of compliance with the international standard of the system of managing of the quality ISO 9001, and is being consulted by experts from the German organization TUV Nord Academy.

P a r t n e r s :

International

National

Local

International partners	National partners – government institutions	Local partners – government institutions
British Council, Bulgaria	Ministry of Justice - General Directorate "Execution of Sentences"	-Regional Governor,Pazardjik -Regional Administration, Pazardjik
National Probation Directorate for England and Wales	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy	-Municipal Council, Pazardjik -Municipal Administration, Pazardjik
The Center for Crime and Justice studies (ISTD), London	Employment Agency	-District Court, Pazardjik -Regional Courts on the territory of Pazardjik Region

		- Pazardjik, Panagurishte, Peshtera and Velingrad
International contacts Dutch Probation Service	Central Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency	"Social Assistance" Directorate, Pazardjik
Penal Reform International	National Centre for Addictions	Local Commission for prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Pazardjik Municipality
Division of Probation and Crime Prevention at the Ministry of Justice, Estonia	National Council on Narcotics	-Regional Directorate of Interior Affairs, Pazardjik -Regional Police Department in Pazardjik
Municipal Administration of West Bend, USA	Prisons in Plovdiv, Pleven, Belene, Bobov Dol, Bourgas	Pazardjik Prison

National and local partners – non-governmental organizations

Center for Study on Democracy	Magistrates Training Center, Sofia	Foundation "Initiative for Health", Sofia
International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations, Sofia	Bulgarian Center for Non-For-Profit Law, Sofia	Autumn University of Addictions, Sofia
Program "Access to Information", Sofia	Foundation for Local Self-government Reform, Sofia	Association "Development of Personality and Human Communities", Pleven
Foundation "Resource Center", Sofia	Institute for Regional and International Studies, Sofia	Center for work in the community, Bourgas
Center for Integration of Crime Manifested and Risk Groups, Pazardjik	Association "Revival-2000", Pazardjik	„Humanity“ Foundation, Pazardjik
Regional Agency for Economic Development, Pazardjik	Woman Association "Mariola Dospevska", Pazardjik	Association "Philanthropy", Pazardjik
Rotary Club, Pazardjik and Rotaract, Pazardjik	Municipal Union of Employers from the System of Public Education, Pazardjik	Industrial Economic Association, Pazardjik
Association "Help for Children in Risk", Pazardjik	Youth Parliament, Pazardjik	"Open Society" Foundation, Sofia

Technical Report

2004 was the last year for completion of the Strategic plan of Regional Fund – IGA for the 2002 – 2004 period. Beside that, the organization worked in accordance with its Annual plan' 2004

What were the main aspects of the activities conducted by the organization during 2004 within the fundamental programs?

“PROBATION” PROGRAM

The “Probation” Program was created to help the achievement of Strategic goal 1: To support the process of implementation of community sanctions and measures in Bulgaria and the countries from Central and Eastern Europe

Within this program the organization set in its Annual plan 2004 expectations that the following results would be achieved:

- 1.To ensure that the probation center in Pazardjik will maintain its leading position in the country, and to extend its activities to the whole region.
- 2.To develop a model for specialized services for juvenile offenders.
- 3.To begin the establishment of a Probation Institute at Regional Fund - IGA
- 4.To realize partner projects and initiatives.

For the achieving of **result 1** the organization worked on 2 basic projects. Project **“Model of Probation Network in Pazardjik Municipality”**, which was realized during the period January - December with the financial support of the Open Society Institute – Sofia, multiplied the experience gained from the Pilot probation center (2001 – 2004) throughout the whole Pazardjik court district, including the towns of Pazardjik, Peshtera, Panagyurishte and Velingrad. This activity coincided with the changes in the legislation that regulated the institutional establishment of the probation system in Bulgaria. The successful execution of this project strengthened the prestige of the organization and played a part in the completion of the unique for this country model for inter-institutional collaboration in the field of crime prevention and counteraction. The fundamentals of three Probation councils, provided with the changes in the Law for execution of penalties, were laid; six new social workers were trained to deal with convicts given conditional sentences; six informational-educational seminars were held with the aim to popularize probation; a manual for the work of the probation councils was published, as well as two information leaflets.

The **“Daytime Probation center”** Project started at the end of the year with the financial support of the United Dutch Foundations for Central and Eastern Europe. This project will be realized in the 2005 – 2006 period. It sets a new direction for the specialized services that NGO's provide to the probation services and the commissions for prevention of juvenile delinquency. The project features development and implementation in practice of 10 types of group programs for work with criminally manifested people and their families.

The „**Municipal model for partnership between the state, local authorities and NGO's in the field of decentralization of social services for offenders**” Project is the 3rd stage of the “Model of a probation center in Pazardjik” Project, which is to be accomplished during the 2001 – 2005 period and is financially supported by the British Department For International Development (DFID) through the British Embassy in Bulgaria. Activities within this project began at the end of the year 2004 with the study on the legislation that would regulate the development of such model. This task is assigned to experts from the Bulgarian center for non-profit law and will continue during 2005.

For the achieving of **result 2** the organization worked on the “**Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders**” Project, which had the financial support of the Program “Development of civil society” of the European Commission. Activities within this project paved the way for implementation of a procedure regarding juvenile offenders in the practice of the probation model. The project was realized in partnership with the Central Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Pazardjik Municipality, more specifically the Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, and the National Education Institute – Sofia. In the process an Agreement for inter-institutional collaboration with the local government was signed. Four specialized programs were developed and introduced (they are included in a separate issue with the project), enjoying the participation of 80 juvenile offenders and their families. A model for surveying the quality of the services provided for juvenile offenders was developed, and the results were published in a separate issue. In practice, the project turned to be a realization of the task of the same name included in the Plan for execution of the National strategy for counteraction against anti-social behavior and crime among juvenile offenders.

Pursuing **result 3** the organization developed the “Civil Probation University” Project, which was approved by the “Europe” Program of the European Commission and will be accomplished during the year 2005. This project will lay the foundations of the publishing activity of the projected Probation Institute.

Beside that the organization applied for membership in the Permanent conference on probation, which is an association of experts and specialists from European countries.

For the achievement of **result 4** Regional Fund – IGA participated since April 2004 in the “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons”, undertaken by Penal Reform International (PRI). It was the first PRI project to be staged in Bulgaria and the invitation for Regional Fund – IGA to participate is seen as recognition of the increasing authority of the organization on international level. Within the project more than 130 officers from 4 prisons were trained and 4 specialized programs for prisoners were implemented, as follows: people imprisoned for violent offences, drug addicted prisoners, recidivists and prisoners with long term sentences. Among the lecturers were world renowned specialists like John Bergman, William Plume, Bob Dow and Michaela Sasarman.

The biggest success came in the beginning of the year as recognition for the achievements within the “Probation” Program. Regional Fund – IGA won **the International Community Justice Award 2004** in the category “**Pioneer**”

Organization". Her Royal Highness Princess Anna presented the award on May 29, 2004 in Conference center "Queen Elizabeth II" - London. **Regional Fund – IGA was the only non-governmental organization to win this prestigious award.** In practice, this award was an acknowledgement for the efforts of the organization to popularize probation and its legislative implementation in Bulgaria during the period 1999 – 2004.

"NO DRUGS AND HIV/AIDS"

This program focused on the pursuit of Strategic goal 2: Support and participation in the processes related to prevention, medical treatment and rehabilitation of drug addictions and HIV/AIDS, on both regional and national level.

Within this program the organization, in its Annual plan 2004, set the following results to be achieved:

1. Survey on drugs distribution in the region of Pazardjik.
2. Development and implementation of a pre-treatment program for intravenous drug addicts on the territory of Pazardjik Municipality.
3. Development and implementation of a program aimed at reducing risk sexual behavior and risk intravenous drug abuse among prostituting men and women.
4. Realization of partner projects and initiatives.

In the pursuit of **result 1 and result 4** Regional Fund – IGA participated in the international project "Civil society for reducing the demand for drugs – primary/secondary prevention in Austria, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Hungary and Romania", which was financially supported by the European Commission and executed (in Bulgaria) by CARE International – Bulgaria, Prevention-information center on drug addiction related problems at the Capital Municipality – Sofia and the "Index" Foundation. In accordance with the project, representatives of the organization took part in three educational seminars. Besides, within this project a regional survey was conducted to reveal aspects of health related behavior, as well as the attitude towards the use of psychoactive substances of high school students in Pazardjik.

For the achievement of **result 2 and result 3** Regional Fund – IGA participates since the beginning of the year 2004 in the "Prevention and control of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS" Program, which is financially supported by the Global fund against malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, and is executed by the Ministry of healthcare. The organization began working on two projects (on Component 4 and Component 6) within the Program.

"Positive choice" project – pre-treatment program intended for intravenous drug addicts on the territory of Pazardjik Municipality, which is aimed at restricting risk injection drug abuse and sexual behavior and reducing the distribution of sexually- and blood transmitted diseases, as well as the distribution of hepatitis B and C. Within this project four social workers were selected and trained on several consecutive seminars and on-the-spot practical sessions in Plovdiv and Sofia. Until the end of the year 2004 these social workers conducted activities on six such spots, dealing with 70 intravenous drug addicts from the Pazardjik Municipality.

“Reducing risk sexual behavior and risk intravenous drug abuse among prostituting men and women” Project is aimed at restricting risk sexual behavior and reducing distribution of sexually- and blood transmitted diseases among prostituting men and women on the territory of the Pazardjik Municipality. Beside that the project seeks to ensure that HIV cases will be discovered at an early stage, and the HIV-positive people will be directed for treatment in time. In accordance with this project 4 social workers were selected and trained on several consecutive seminars and on-the-spot practical sessions in Plovdiv and Sofia. Until the end of the year 2004 these social workers conducted activities on five such spots, dealing with approximately 100 male and female prostitutes.

Activity on both projects will continue during the year 2005.

“INITIATIVES AND CIVIL ACTIVITIES” PROGRAM

This program was designed to pursue Strategic goal 3: Providing support for anti-corruption processes;

In accordance with this program, the following results were estimated as set in Annual plan 2004:

1. Current monitoring of the corruption practice in the Pazardjik Municipality.

At the same time, as a consequence of several meetings with representatives of the local self-government, members of the Municipality Council, representatives of local NGO’s and the local media, Regional Fund – IGA set expectations that an additional result would be achieved – **result 2:** Institutional establishment of a public mediator.

Seeking to achieve **result 1** Regional Fund – IGA worked on a project within Coalition 2000, designed for **local monitoring of the local self-government, local media and all anti-corruption initiatives on the territory of the Pazardjik Municipality**, which was financially supported by the Center for Study on Democracy – Sofia. Realization of the project activities began in the middle of the year 2003 and it was completed in the end of the year 2004. Twelve matrices were elaborated, one for each month of the year, for surveying corruption practice and anti-corruption initiatives in the Pazardjik Municipality.

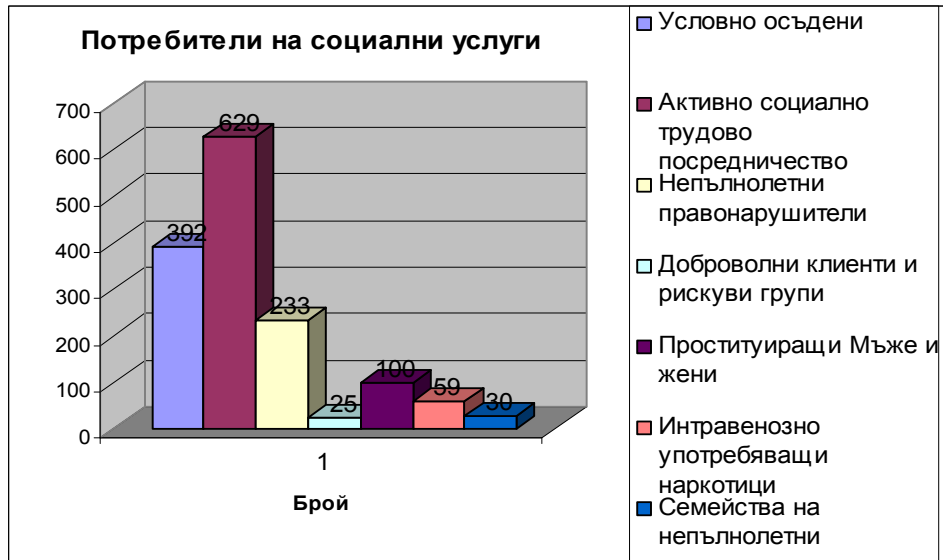
Trying to achieve **result 2** the organization started a project called “**Public mediator in Pazardjik**”, which was financially supported by the Democracy Commission at the American Embassy in Bulgaria. Until the end of the year several Information days and public discussions were held, and the Municipality Council adopted Rules for the work of the public mediator, and triggered the public mediator’s election procedure. Activities within this project will continue during the year 2005.

During the last month of the year 2004 Regional Fund – IGA started a project called “Anti-corruption network in the Pazardjik Region”, which was financially supported by the European Commission’s Phare Program “Development of civil society”. This project will have to be accomplished during the year period 2005 – 2006. It provides the implementation of a model of advocacy campaign aimed at establishment of public mediators in the municipalities of Lesichovo and Panagyurishte, as well as building up of

a coalition of NGO's to counteract against corruption, publishing of informational and educational printed materials.

STATISTICS – IGA CLIENTS

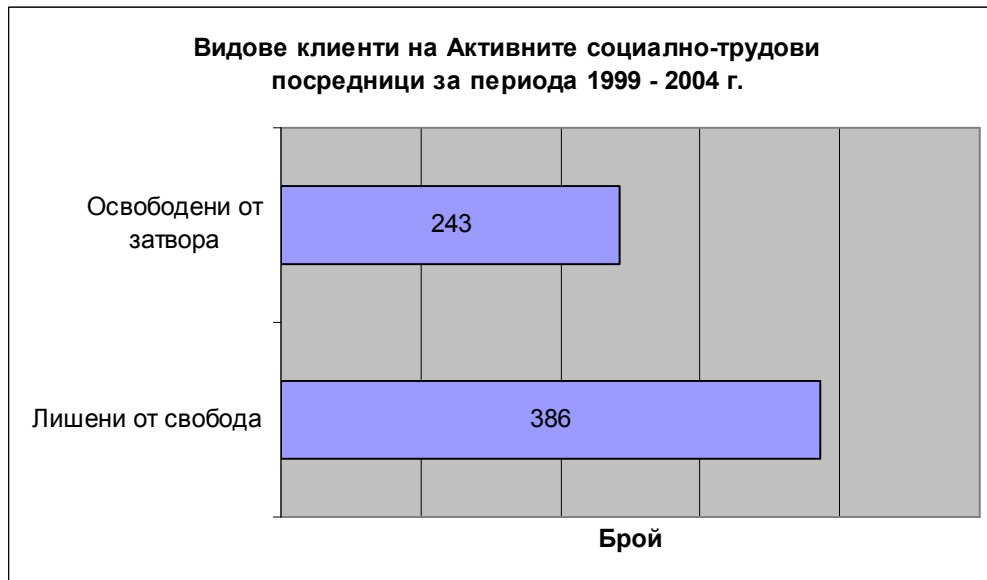
1. Social services clients



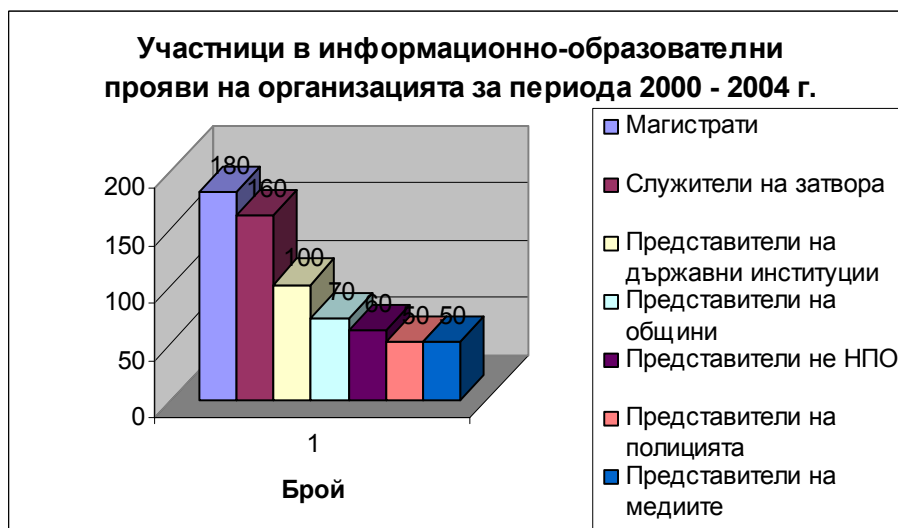
2. Clients with conditional sentences for the 2002 – 2004 period



3. Number of clients of the Active Social – Labor Mediators for the 1999 – 2004 period



4. Participants in IGA's informational-educational seminars 2000 – 2004



Regional Fund – IGA continued to work on achieving its Strategic Goal 4: Maintaining stability through increasing of the institutional capacity of the organization.

The main direction of this activity was the development of the human resources of the organization, improvement of the working conditions and further development of inter-institutional contacts.

A. Human resources

The organization is working with **4 separate teams each comprising 4 people**, which specialize and work part-time within different programs, being permanently consulted by 2 consultants. The people working full time in the office of RF – IGA **are 7**.

Regional Fund – IGA has contacts with specialist who get involved in the activities whenever they are needed: law experts, social workers, psychologists and pedagogues trained through different educational courses – forensic behavior science and probation, clinic social work, team work, information and consultation on the problems in the field of drug addictions and HIV/AIDS

Teams assigned to different programs hold weekly team meetings. Experts in psychology and psychotherapy, who do permanent supervision, are consulting the work of the organization.

B. Material equipment

During the year 2004 the organization received funding from the United Dutch Foundations and began full repairs of the building granted by the Pazardjik Municipality. Besides, through different projects Regional Fund – IGA received various technical supplies: computer systems, copiers etc.

C. Inter-institutional collaboration

The organization maintains its good co-operation with various local, national and international organizations.

During the year Regional Fund – IGA actively sought reflection in the media with the purpose of distributing information to the community about the activities and the realization of the Fund's projects as well as the results. Several types of presentations of the Fund's activity were conducted: focus groups, work meetings, individual meetings, publications, and radio and television interviews.

Regional Fund – IGA’s basic structure of programs

“Probation” Program	“No drugs, HIV/AIDS” Program	“Initiatives and civil activities” Program
<p>Main goal Protection of society through prevention of crime and reintegration of offenders</p>	<p>Main goal Prevention and rehabilitation of drug addictions and HIV/AIDS</p>	<p>Main goal Development of the civil society in Bulgaria</p>
<p>Main activity tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support the process of establishment of the probation system in Bulgaria; - To develop specialized programs and models for dealing with offenders within the community; - To train specialists in dealing with offenders within the community; - Development and realization of programs for crime preventions; - To carry out informational activities and events designed to change the attitude of society; - Publishing . 	<p>Main activity tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Realization of specialized programs for prevention of drug addictions and HIV/AIDS; - Realization of programs aimed at decreasing drug abuse as well as rehabilitation of addicts; - Informational, educational and publishing activities regarding the prevention and rehabilitation of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. 	<p>Main activity tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support of local initiatives and programs designed to stimulate the development of civil society; - Support of national and international initiatives related to counteraction against corruption; - Support of youth initiatives and programs; - Support of initiatives for participation of the society in local self-government.
<p>Subject groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offenders; - Members of vulnerable social groups; - Representatives of institutions and organizations dealing with offenders - Representatives of the society. 	<p>Subject groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addicts; - Members of risk social groups; - Representatives of institutions and organizations dealing with drug abuse and HIV/AIDS; - Representatives of the society. 	<p>Subject groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of all local institutions and organizations; - Young people of all ages; - Representatives of the society.

Financial Report for the 2004 FY

Regional Fund – IGA, Pazardjik

Report on the incomes/costs for the year 2004, non-profitable activity

Income Identification	Amount (in thousands leva)	
	2004	2003
Income from the activity	185	131
Income from regulated activities	185	131
Income from conditional donations	181	129
Income from non-conditional donations	1	
Other income	3	2
Cost Identification		
Total costs	185	124
Costs for regulated activities	3	
Donations	3	
Activity costs	180	123
Administrative costs	180	123
Financial costs	2	1
Negatives from alteration of the exchange rates	2	1
Financial results from the activity		7

Regional Fund – IGA, Pazardjik

Accounting balance to date December 31st, 2004

ASSETS	Amount (in thousands leva)	
	2004	2003
Long term assets		
Short term assets		
Material reserves		
Short term claims (receipts)		
Short term financial assets		
Financial resources	74	17
Money resources – cash	4	8
Incl. the leva equivalent of foreign currency		6
Financial resources – permanent deposits	70	9
Incl. the leva equivalent of foreign currency	52	
Total amount of assets	74	17
Conditional assets	12	
LIABILITIES		
General reserves	8	9
Short term liabilities	66	8
Liabilities to suppliers and clients		1
Liabilities to the personnel	1	1
Liabilities to social security enterprises	2	1

Other short term liabilitiesДруги краткосрочни задължения		5
Future income and funding	63	
Total amount of liabilities	74	17
Conditional liabilities	12	

 ---Executive director – Marina Manolcheva
 Valkov

 Compiler – Nikolay

Appendix 1

Implemented projects

<i>Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>2004 / 2005</i>
<i>Duration</i>	<i>01.05.2004 – 30.04.2005</i>
<i>Subject and territorial range of the project</i>	<i>4 Bulgarian prisons – Sofia Prison, Vratza Prison, Stara Zagora Prison and Pazardjik Prison</i>
<i>Total budget</i>	<i>18 520 GBP</i>
<i>Partners – The project was executed by Penal Reform International</i>	<i>Ministry of Justice – General Directorate „Execution of penalties” and Regional Fund - IGA</i>
<i>Source of financing</i>	<i>FCO – Global Opportunities Fund through the British Embassy in Sofia</i>

<i>Model of a probation network in Pazardjik Municipality</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>2003 / 2004</i>
<i>Duration</i>	<i>12 months</i>
<i>Subject and territorial range of the project</i>	<i>4 municipalities in the Region of Pazardjik</i>
<i>Total budget</i>	<i>18 500USD</i>
<i>Partners</i>	<i>Regional and District Courts, Pazardjik Regional Courts on the territory of Pazardjik Region - Pazardjik, Panagyurishte, Peshtera and Velingrad</i>
<i>Source of financing</i>	<i>”Open Society” Foundation – Sofia</i>

Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders	
<i>Year</i>	2003 / 2004
<i>Duration</i>	8months
<i>Subject and territorial range of the project</i>	Pazardjik Municipality
<i>Total budget</i>	31 609,80 EUR
<i>Partners</i>	Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Rights and Liberties Movement, National Educational Institute
<i>Source of financing</i>	EU's Phare Program "Development of civil society '2001"

Ministry of healthcare's National Government Program "Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Bulgaria"	
<i>Year</i>	2003 / 2004
<i>Duration</i>	
<i>Subject and territorial range</i>	Pazardjik
<i>Activities</i>	Component 4 – «Maintenance of a low level of HIV distribution among intravenous drug addicts » Component 6 – « Reducing risk sexual behavior and intravenous drug abuse among prostitution exploits »
<i>Total budget</i>	
<i>Partners</i>	
<i>Source of financing</i>	"Global Fund Against Malaria, Tuberculosis and AIDS" through the Ministry of Healthcare

Model of probation center	
<i>Year</i>	2002– 2005
<i>Duration</i>	3 years (third stage)
<i>Subject and territorial range of the project</i>	Pazardjik and the whole country
<i>Total budget</i>	8 000 GBP 22333,20 BGN
<i>Partners</i>	
<i>Source of financing</i>	Department For International Development (DFID)

"Public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality"	
<i>Year</i>	2004 /2005
<i>Duration</i>	01.09.2004 – 31.08.2005
<i>Subject and territorial range of the project</i>	Pazardjik Municipality
<i>Total budget</i>	15 318 USD
<i>Partners</i>	Pazardjik Municipality; Municipality Council –

	<i>Pazardjik</i>
<i>Source of financing</i>	<i>US Democracy Commission</i>

<i>“Day center for probation services“</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>2004 /2005</i>
<i>Duration</i>	<i>01.11.2004 – 31.06.2006</i>
<i>Subject and territorial range of the project</i>	<i>Pazardjik Municipality</i>
<i>Total budget</i>	<i>39 400 EUR</i>
<i>Partners</i>	<i>District Court – Pazardjik, Pazardjik Municipality–Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Municipality Council - Pazardjik, Pazardjik Prison, “Social Assistance” Directorate, Center for Integration of Crime Manifested and Risk Groups.</i>
<i>Source of financing</i>	<i>United Dutch Foundations for Central and Eastern Europe</i>

<i>“Anti-corruption network in Pazardjik Region”</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>2004 / 2005</i>
<i>Duration</i>	<i>01.12.2004– 31.05.2006</i>
<i>Subject and territorial range of the project</i>	<i>Lesichovo Municipality and Panagyurishte Municipality</i>
<i>Total budget</i>	<i>29 678,82 EUR</i>
<i>Partners</i>	<i>Pazardjik Municipality, Lesichovo Municipality, Panagyurishte Municipality, Industrial Economic Association, “Philanthropy” Association</i>
<i>Source of financing</i>	

Executive Director of Regional Fund – IGA :
/Marina Manolcheva

Timeline of Events

- ☞ **In the beginning of the year 2004** started the “Model of a probation network in the Region of Pazardjik” Project, which is financially supported by “Open Society” Foundation – Sofia.
- ☞ **On January 15th**, in the Mayor’s Hall of Pazardjik Municipality Regional Fund – IGA organized a work meeting intended to give green light to the “Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders” Project, financed by the European Union’s Phare Program “Development of civil society ‘2001’”. Main goal of this project is to reduce institutionalization of convicted juvenile offenders. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Court, the Prosecution, Pazardjik Municipality, Child Pedagogic Room, the Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, “Social Assistance” Directorate, the Regional Directorate of Internal Affairs, Pazardjik Police Department, “Labor Bureau” Directorate, journalists representing national and local media, representatives of non-governmental organizations
- ☞ **On January 21st**, 16:00 o’clock, in Hall #1 of the District Court a work meeting was held on the “Model of a probation network in the Region of Pazardjik” Project, carried out by Regional Fund – IGA with the financial support of “Open Society” Foundation – Sofia. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the realization of the project, to set out dates of the seminars and meetings in separate municipalities, as well as the criteria for the selection of the members of the Probation councils. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Court, the Prosecution, Pazardjik Municipality, the Municipality Council, the Regional Directorate of Internal Affairs, Pazardjik Police Department, Pazardjik Prison, District Forensic Service, and journalists representing national and local media, representatives of non governmental organizations.
- ☞ **Regional Fund – IGA** was the only non-governmental organization to win the prestigious **International Community Justice Award ’2004** in the category “Pioneer Organization”. The awards ceremony was held on January 29th, 2004 in the “Queen Elizabeth II” Conference Center – London. Her Royal Highness Princess Ann personally presented the award to Marina Manolcheva and Dimitar Rusinov.
- ☞ **On February 5th, 2004** respecting an initiative undertaken by the “Open Society Institute” – Sofia, 10 non-governmental organizations attended a work meeting called “Probation as an alternative to prison” in “Rodina” Hotel in the Bulgarian capital. The result of this meeting was an Appeal to the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly.
- ☞ In the beginning of **February** Regional Fund – IGA invited in its office the biggest

Television companies in Bulgaria – bTV, TV Evropa and the Bulgarian National Television, to present the already working probation model, adapted to the specific conditions in the country. In the preparations of the press materials participated not only the Probation center managers Marina Manolcheva and Dimitar Rusinov, but also the probation officers and the convicted center clients themselves probation.

☞ **On February 21-22** in the “Violas” recreation complex, Pazardjik, training was held to educate a multidisciplinary team of specialists /social workers, pedagogues, probation officers/ in the field of working with families of juvenile offenders. The goal of this seminar was to acquaint participants with the framework of family consulting, to lay out the responsibilities of each member of the team as well as the methods of approach – aspects, elements of the family system. All members participated in practical training sessions in interviewing a whole family and evaluating the family’s needs.

☞ **On February 17th and 18th** in the “Velina” Hotel in Velingrad a seminar was held intended to develop a model of collaboration between the institutions and organizations in Pazardjik that deal with convicted juvenile offenders. At this event the changes in the Criminal Code and the Law for prevention of juvenile delinquency were presented as well as the Strategy for counteraction against anti-social behavior of juveniles. A framework of a regional model for directing juvenile offenders to the Pilot probation center in Pazardjik for delivery of services was elaborated. An Agreement for collaboration was also signed.

☞ **On March 1st and 2nd** in the “Velina” Hotel in Velingrad a seminar was held Intended to train specialists from different institutions and in the Pilot probation center in Pazardjik working with juvenile offenders. The goal – to teach them how to apply the pre-elaborated framework model for collaboration between institutions and the Probation center in Pazardjik, and the methods for directing juvenile offenders to supervision. Among the participants were the Vice-chairman, the Secretary and pedagogues of the Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency – Pazardjik, representatives of “Social Assistance” Directorate and “Child Protection” Directorate – Pazardjik, social workers and probation officers from the Probation center – Pazardjik.

☞ **On March 26th** in Pazardjik, a Public treaty for security and order was signed between the Pazardjik Municipality and the Regional Directorate of Internal Affairs. The people who signed in person this agreement intended to regulate the co-operation between the institutions for the next four years, were the Mayor of Pazardjik Ivan Evstatiev, the Chief of Pazardjik Police Department major Georgi Proychev, the Director of Regional Service “Fire and Breakdown Prevention” col. Dimitar Piskov and the Director of the State Forest Service Georgi Petkanin. The Executive director of Regional Fund – IGA Marina Manolcheva and the Chairman of the Center for Integration of Crime Manifested and Risk Groups Dimitar Rusinov, also signed the document.

☞ **On April 1st and 2nd**, in the “Velina” Hotel in Velingrad a work seminar was held within the “Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile

Offenders” Project. Information about juvenile justice in the countries from the European Union was presented as well as the activity of the Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, the police and the results achieved within the project so far. During the seminar’s second phase a detailed model for the co-operation between the institutions and organizations dealing with juvenile offenders was elaborated.

☞ **On April 16th**, in the Assembly hall of the Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency three focus groups were held in accordance with the “Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders” Project. In the first focus group participated representatives of the Regional Court, the Regional Prosecution and Child Pedagogic Room. The second focus group comprised representatives of the “Child Protection” Department, the Local Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Correctional Boarding-School in Rakitovo as well as social workers from Regional Fund – IGA. Within the third focus group, an interview was held with a Roma family, whose juvenile son has been convicted for theft and given conditional sentence. In the presence of probation officers from Regional Fund – IGA and a psychologist the family expressed their opinion on probation supervision measures being applied to juvenile offenders.

☞ **On April 17th** in Regional Fund – IGA’s headquarters an educational course was held. The goal was to adapt and implement a program for professional orientation “Now where to?”. Pursuing this ten social workers and probation officers were trained. This program is one of the activities provided for within the “Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders” Project.

☞ **On April 20th**, in the Assembly Hall of the Municipal Building a work meeting was held with pedagogic councilors of Pazardjik schools and representatives of Regional Fund – IGA. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the “Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders” Project and the activities to be carried out within it.

☞ **On May 13th and 14th**, in “Velina” Hotel – Velingrad, Regional Fund – IGA organized a seminar in accordance with the “Model of a probation network in the Region of Pazardjik” Project, which is financially supported by “Open Society” Foundation – Sofia. Among the participants in this educational seminar were magistrates from the Regional Courts in Pazardjik, Peshtera, Panagyurishte and Velingrad. The purpose was to acquaint them with the international standards, principles and organization of the probation system. Among the topics that were subject to discussion were the changes in the legislation necessary for implementing of the probation. A presentation of the Pilot probation centers in Pazardjik and Stara Zagora was made. Lectors at this seminar were prof. Georgi Mitov from Sofia and Plamen Zlatev from the District Court – Stara Zagora. Among those attending were the Chairman of the District Court – Pazardjik Georgi Shopov, judges from

Regional Court – Pazardjik, Regional Court – Peshtera, Regional Court – Panagyurishte and Regional Court – Velingrad.

☞ **On June 8th**, in the British Embassy in Sofia took place the first session of the National workgroup within the “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons” Project. Leading organization for this project (which has to be realized during the April 2004 – March 2005 period) is Penal Reform International, with co-coordinator for Eastern Europe – Mihai Popescu. Partners are General Directorate “Execution of penalties” at the Ministry of Justice, and Regional Fund – IGA. The participants, among them Marina Manolcheva – Executive director of Regional Fund – IGA, Dimitar Rusinov – project manager, Vice-minister of Justice Mario Dimitrov and the Director of General Directorate “Execution of penalties”, were personally welcomed by the British Ambassador His Excellency Jeremy Hill.

☞ **On June 11th**, in the Assembly hall of Peshtera Municipality, a work meeting was organized within the “Model of a probation network in the Region of Pazardjik” Project. During this meeting presided by the Chairman of the District Court Georgi Shopov, a presentation was made of the project and the processes related to the implementation of probation in Bulgaria. The international standards, principles and organization of the probation system were discussed, as well as the legislation changes regarding probation in Bulgaria. Among the participants in this meeting were representatives of the Regional Court and the Regional Prosecution - Peshtera, the chiefs of Regional Police Departments, “Labor Bureau” Directorate and “Social Assistance” Directorate, as well as members of the Peshtera Municipality staff.

☞ **On June 22nd**, in the Hall of Velingrad Municipality a regular work meeting was held in accordance with the “Model of a probation network in the Region of Pazardjik” Project, financially supported by the “Open Society Institute” – Sofia. The participants in the meeting, among them Municipality staff, Regional Police Departments’ Chiefs, the “Social Assistance” and “Labor Bureau” Directorates and Regional Court judges, acquainted themselves with the purpose of Probation councils. Eight representatives from these institutions will be selected for the local probation council.

☞ **During the period June 28th – July 2nd**, in Stara Zagora took place the first educational module of the “Violent offenders” Program. This seminar is a part of the “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons” Project. Leading organization for this project is Penal Reform International in partnership with General Directorate “Execution of penalties” at the Ministry of Justice and Regional Fund – IGA, and funding is provided by the British Department for International Development. In this educational seminar 20 Stara Zagora Prison officers were trained as well as representatives of General Directorate “Execution of penalties” at the Ministry of Justice.

☞ **On July 6th**, in the Hall of Panagyurishte Municipality the fourth work meeting within the “Model of a probation network in the Region of Pazardjik” Project, financially supported by the “Open Society Institute” – Sofia. During this meeting presided by the

Chairman of the District Court Georgi Shopov, a presentation was made of the project and the processes related to the implementation of probation in Bulgaria. The Mayor of the Panagyurishte

Municipality Marko Mechev, magistrates from the Regional Court and the Regional Prosecution, chiefs of the “Social Assistance” and “Labor Bureau” Directorates took part in the discussions. Attendants were acquainted with the role of the projected Probation councils, which have to be established in all municipalities. Eight representatives of the aforementioned institutions will be selected for Probation council members. The Chairman of this council will have to pass training in the field of probation.

☞ **On July 7th**, in Regional Fund – IGA’s headquarters a meeting was held under the motto “Celebration with presents”, as a part of the “Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders” Project, financed by the European Union’s Phare Program “Development of civil society ‘2001”, Project BG 0104.03. The event, which enjoyed the active participation of juveniles and their families, was monitored and evaluated by the monitoring expert Trendafil Meretev. A dancing group from the Roma neighborhood Kindergarten presented a short play. The kids sang and danced to the sound of the song “The wolf and the seven goats”. The social workers team surprised the juveniles by giving away many presents and treats.

☞ **On July 9th, 14:00 o’clock**, in the Assembly Hall of Pazardjik Municipality took place the closing conference of the “Local Pilot Program for Probation Supervision of Convicted Juvenile Offenders” Project, financed by the European Union’s Phare Program “Development of civil society ‘2001”, Project BG 0104.03.

☞ **On July 27th**, in the Meeting Hall of General Directorate “Execution of penalties” - Sofia was organized the second session of the National workgroup within the “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons” Project. Leading organization for this project (which has to be realized during the April 2004 – March 2005 period) is Penal Reform International, with co-coordinator for Eastern Europe – Mihai Popescu. Partners are General Directorate “Execution of penalties” at the Ministry of Justice, and Regional Fund – IGA.

☞ **On September 8th**, in the British Embassy – Sofia was the first work meeting of the Management Group for the “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons” Project. Leading organization for this project is Penal Reform International in partnership with General Directorate “Execution of penalties” at the Ministry of Justice and Regional Fund – IGA. During this meeting the activities and the financial status of the project were analyzed, and a plan for future project activity was elaborated.

☞ **During the period September 20th – 24th**, in the Hall of the Parish Center at the “Shroud of St. Mother of God” Foundation took place the first educational session of the Program for rehabilitation of drug addicted prisoners. Part in this process took officers from Sofia Prison as well as representatives of General Directorate “Execution of penalties”. Mr. William Plume, specialist in the field of drug abuse, conducted the education.

- ☞ **On September 27th**, in the Hall of the Municipality Council in Pazardjik was held the first press conference intended to announce the start of the “Public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality” Project. Regional Fund –IGA, with the partnership of the Municipality Council – Pazardjik and the Pazardjik Municipality are executing this project. This project is financially supported by the Democracy Commission at the American Embassy in Sofia. Representatives of the leading organization explained to the press conference attendants that the activity of the ombudsman is unknown to the country and a broad media campaign needs to be launched for the popularization of this institution. This project starts in September and its duration is one year. The workgroup will elaborate the criteria related to the procedure of election of a Public mediator. His rights and responsibilities will be set out in Draft Regulations. The procedure of election will have to conclude until the end of the year 2004. The Capital Municipality Ombudsman and experts from the Center for Study on Democracy will consult the project.
- ☞ Regional Fund – IGA won first prize for its activity in the field of freedom of information. The award is in the category “Non-governmental organization with most active utilization of the Law for access to information”. The competition was organized by Program “Access to Information”. The award was presented at an official ceremony in “Mati” Hall in the National Palace of Culture – Sofia, on **September 28th**.
- ☞ The United States Ambassador in Bulgaria presented Regional Fund – IGA with a certificate for a non-governmental organization financially supported by the Democracy Commission at the American Embassy for the project “Public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality”. The ceremony, at which 28 non-governmental organizations were awarded for being approved for funding by the Democracy Commission at the US Embassy during the year 2004, took place on **October 6th** in the American Center.
- ☞ **During the period 14th – 20th October** in Stara Zagora was held the second training session of the program for violent offenders within the “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons”. Lector was John Bergmann.
- ☞ The first in the series of Informational Days intended for popularization of the Ombudsman took place on **October 21st** in the Assembly Hall of Pazardjik Municipality. It drew the attention mainly of representatives of the administration and Municipality Council members. Welcoming speeches The Regional Vice-governor Ivan Avramov, the Chairman of the Municipality Council Todor Popov and the Vice-mayor – Violeta Gindeva held welcoming speeches.
- ☞ **On October 22nd** was held the third regular meeting of the National workgroup. At the meeting the first educational module, directed towards drug addicted prisoners, was analyzed. John Bergmann presented the education intended to subject violent offenders.

- ☞ **During the period October 25th – 29th** in Pazardjik was organized the first educational module of the Program for re-socialization of recidivists within the project “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons”. The project is being executed by PRI with the partnership of General Directorate "Execution of penalties" and Regional Fund – IGA, with the financial support of the British department. The lecturers were Michaela Sasarman and Andrei Chiscu.
- ☞ **On November 9th and 10th**, in “Velina” Hotel – Velingrad Regional Fund – IGA organized an educational seminar in accordance with the project “Model of a probation network in the Region of Pazardjik”, financially supported by the “Open Society Institute” – Sofia. During this event the participants were acquainted with the international standards and the leading probation systems; the role of the Probation councils – worldwide experience and Bulgarian legislation; basic elements of probation related work, cooperation between the institutions applying probation sanctions and measures; elaboration of Regulations for the activity of the Probation council. This seminar was attended by representatives of the Court, Pazardjik Municipality, “Social Assistance” Directorate, Regional Directorate of Internal Affairs, Pazardjik Police Department, journalists and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Dimitar Rusinov – project manager, Angel Topkarov – Sector “Probation” at the General Directorate "Execution of penalties" and m.ass. Georgi Mitov – Sofia University “St. Clement of Ohrid” were the lecturers.
- ☞ **On November 16th** the vice-ambassador of the British Embassy in Bulgaria Mr. Laurence Broyde paid an official visit to Regional Fund – IGA. Mr. Broyde had talks with the Executive director of the Regional Fund – IGA Mrs. Marina Manolcheva and Dimitar Rusinov – project manager. His Excellence reviewed the project “Model of a probation center”, executed by Regional Fund – IGA in partnership with the Pazardjik Municipality. The Vice-ambassador expressed his satisfaction of the meeting with the managers and the team of Regional Fund – IGA.
- ☞ **On November 25th**, at a regular session of the Municipality Council – Pazardjik, were adopted the Regulations on the activity of the public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality. The institutionalization of the ombudsman is a main goal of the “Public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality” Project, executed by Regional Fund – IGA and is financially supported by the Democracy Commission at the American Embassy. A special commission comprising Municipality Council members, representatives of the Municipality administration and representatives of Regional Fund – IGA, developed the Regulations. The Municipality Council will elect the Public mediator among the two candidates that receive the most votes in a secret ballot in the commission.
- ☞ **On December 7th**, in General Directorate "Execution of penalties" was held the fourth meeting of the National workgroup within the “Improvement of human rights observance in Bulgarian prisons” Project. The activities are undertaken by Penal Reform International in partnership with Regional Fund – IGA and General Directorate "Execution of penalties" at the Ministry of Justice. The project is funded by the British embassy.

☞ **During the period December 13th – 16th**, in Regional Fund – IGA’s headquarters was organized an education course within the “Model of a probation network in Pazardjik Municipality. The project is executed by Regional Fund – IGA with the financial support of the “Open Society Institute” – Sofia. The purpose of this seminar was to train social workers to deliver specific social services to juvenile and aged offenders, as well as social services for children. Konstantin Tomanov – Secretary of the Central Commission for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, ass. prof. Vl. Velinov – Director of the Clinic for Forensic Psychology and Psychiatry., m.ass. Georgi Mitov – Law of execution of penalties, Sofia University “St. Clement of Ohrid” were among the participants. Among the lecturers were also representatives of local institutions – Municipality, Police, Prison, as well as Regional Fund – IGA.

Appendix 3

RF – IGA* Report `2004

The Others About Us

☞ **How do you evaluate Regional Fund – IGA’s activity during the year 2004?**

This was the question that we asked the leaders and representatives of important for Pazardjik Municipality institutions, with whom Regional Fund – IGA has developed partnerships. This is what they said:

Ivan Avramov – *Regional Vice-governor of the Pazardjik Region*

In my opinion Regional Fund – IGA is one of the best non-governmental organizations in Pazardjik and the Region, especially in the field of probation, where it is a national leader. It managed to implement the best ideas set out in the changes of the Criminal Process Code related to the probation. It created a team of specialists in this field and educated judges, prosecutors, lawyers – people close to justice, as well as government officials from the Pazardjik Municipality and Regional Government, and gave an example of how a non-governmental organization can consolidate administration on a national level, on regional level and on municipal level, and gave an answer to the question why Europe supports the activities of non-governmental organizations, organizations that are outside of government administration. It demonstrated how to gather officials from different levels of the administration and make them work together for a common cause. An example for this is the implementation of probation. Together we implemented several other models related to projects aimed at reducing corruption, for example “Municipality corruption practices related to contracts subjecting municipal immobilities”, which was a very good project

regarding anti-corruption initiatives on municipal level. In all, Regional Fund – IGA is the good example of how things should be done. Sometimes the role of the state, of the Regional Governor is the same – to consolidate different institutions on local level. A non-governmental organization demonstrated better results in this job. I wish them success and to keep up the good work, no matter how harsh the conditions are. I have always called them apostles, because they have come to me many times bringing proposals for co-operation. In Bulgaria every single reform, every movement forward is hard to undertake. Even Christianity was brought by force, but then became common religion. So, civil society exists and develops thanks to people like them.

Todor Popov – Chairman of the Municipality Council – Pazardjik

During the years of its existence Regional Fund – IGA proved to be a serious partner of state and local government institutions in the Pazardjik Municipality. Thanks to the big successes that Regional Fund – IGA achieved in every field of its activity, the non-governmental sector in our Municipality has earned great respect, and today we can say that Pazardjik has become a perfect example of the development of public-institutional partnerships and co-operations. The professional approach of Regional Fund – IGA towards the development and realization of various projects is the best proof of the fact that at this moment the non-governmental sector is the place that concentrates the capacity needed for effective work during the process of European integration.

As a Chairman of the Municipality Council – Pazardjik I have to express my gratefulness to Regional Fund – IGA for the good and useful partnership, based on mutual respect and correct co-operation. Our friends from Regional Fund – IGA help us with the realization of the basic principles that guide us in our work – transparency and effectiveness. It is the co-operation with non-governmental organizations that guarantees the maintaining of a policy which respects the most the rights and interests of the citizens. I hope that we will continue our collaboration in implementing mechanisms for civil control over the activity of the institutions, and in the near future that we will elect a Public mediator of Pazardjik Municipality – a huge step that needs to be done thanks to our always-looking-ahead partners from Regional Fund – IGA.

Ivan Evstatiev – Mayor of Pazardjik Municipality

Pazardjik Municipality has developed a partnership with Regional Fund – IGA within two projects – “Public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality” and “Model of a probation center”.

What is expected from the ombudsman institution in Pazardjik Municipality is to protect the rights of the citizens. The ombudsman has to be a mediator and to assist effective communication between citizens and the administration, the tax services, while not letting their rights be violated.

For the first in Bulgaria Probation center the Pazardjik Municipality has given up a municipal property – building, which is close to the Courthouse, the Prosecutors’ offices, the Lawyers’ building etc. These are the institutions that Regional Fund – IGA deals with. This project seeks to implement supervision and correction without imprisonment of offenders.

Working within this projects are experts from Municipality administration. I think, that realization in practice of these initiatives is a proof of the useful partnership between the institutions and the non-governmental organizations. The co-operation between the Municipality and Regional Fund – IGA contributes to the development of the democratic

society, a society in which every citizen, even an offender, gets a real chance to integrate back in social life.

Georgi Shopov – *Chairman of the District Court – Pazardjik*

Questions that stand in front of our society, from all fields of social life, including the area of justice, cannot be answered by the specialized institutions only. A co-operation is needed with non-governmental organizations. One of them is Regional Fund – IGA, our partner for a long period of time. The Court as an institution, and not only the Court, works on problems which are important to society. This includes problems related to the justice systems reform. The results are good as expected and my opinion and that of my colleagues is that we will continue to work with Regional Fund– IGA, as well as the other non-governmental organizations. This is the logical approach, an approach that helps us not only to identify the problems, but also to solve them. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations is necessary for our society.

Georgi Proychev – *Director of Pazardjik Police Department*

We have always worked well with Regional Fund – IGA. We've found common language, together we have worked on projects and programs that they have undertaken, especially in the field of probation. IGA realized a project establishing the first probation center in the country, which helped a lot in developing the model of the state institution. It is not a surprise that they were awarded in London and as we know Princess Ann personally presented them with the prize. Here in Pazardjik we are ahead of everyone in this field. We are acquainted with the other projects that IGA executes, and we have small participation in some of them, especially in the field of socialization and education of criminally manifested people as well as people released from prison. We sent a lot of officers to do training within this primary training. It is easy to work with IGA. We are helping them because we think that many of their programs regard specific problems which could not be solved otherwise. There is no other way to solve these problems except co-operation between the institutions and the organization.

Mileti Oresharski – *Chief of Bobov Dol Prison*

Regional Fund – IGA is a good partner of ours. It is a pioneer in the offender correction activity of the society. And something else – Regional Fund – IGA paves the way for government institutions, and in some cases fills holes in the administration structures and their activities.

People working for the organization put so much heart in their job, that people like me should be envious of it. But I praise them and greet them for their entire and diverse activity serving society.

Thank you for our good co-operation. I wish you success in your noble mission, which multiply constantly.

Pani Lukov – *Chief of Methodology Department of Child Pedagogic Room at the Regional Directorate of Internal Affairs.*

We have been working with IGA since the foundation of the organization in 1998. I know Marina since she was a journalist and she used to come here to do her press materials. Our

co-operation with the organization is very good. I always respond when they want my help to realize ideas that are otherwise hard for the Ministry of Internal Affairs alone – this institution is more “closed”. It would be hard for any institution alone. We have some projects that were completed successfully. We give them the information necessary and they know they can always count on our support. I think we are good partners. In the course of our work inspectors from the Child Pedagogic Room took part. We are co-operating well and we do not have any arguments. Regional Fund – IGA managed to fill a gap, because in this country people talk much, but when it comes to working difficulties arise. And they managed to implement this in practice. A few years ago I sought information on how many non-governmental organizations work with children on the territory of Pazardjik Region. It turned out that they are many, but only IGA is in fact working in this field, as well as the Association in Patalenitza.

I can say only positive and good things about IGA. And I hope that we will continue to work together successfully as good partners.

Sarah Winnwinn Sein – *University of Nottingham*

This project is a thrilling and innovative initiative, undertaken by faithful and enthusiastic institutions and separate people. The work of IGA together with the British Council was very important for the accomplishment of the project. The results are amazing. And what is more – they have been achieved before even the legislative framework was set out, and all this with reduced funding. The level of co-operation between the institutions and the support for the probation services was enormous...This project has to be recognized as a huge success, not only of the people trained, but also for the lecturers, the parties interested in this, and the funding authorities.

/ Evaluation of the education and the activities at the First probation center in Bulgaria/

Maria Yordanova – *Director of the Legal Program at the Center for Study on Democracy.*

During the year 2004 the Center for Study of Democracy and Regional Fund – IGA actively co-operate in the field of development and implementation in Bulgaria of the European standards I human rights observance. Subject of this co-operation was the process of election of Public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality. Experts from the Legal Program of the Center provided support for this initiative by getting involved in seminars and practical support for the development of the Regulations of the activity of the Public mediator in Pazardjik Municipality. Thanks to the experience gained and as a result from its activity Regional Fund – IGA managed to persuade society as well as the municipal government, that implementation of such institution is necessary, as it is a new mechanism for control over administration and counteraction against corruption.

Regional Fund – IGA wishes to thank to all our partners, adherents and friends that provided support for the realization of projects of great contribution to the development of civil society in Bulgaria.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

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Global Fund Against Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS through the Ministry of Healthcare

Democracy Commission at the US Embassy

International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations, Sofia

Foundation "Interethnic Initiative for Human Rights", Sofia

Institute for Regional and International Studies

British Council - Sofia

Center for economic development

Charity Know How

CRS – Catholic Services - Bulgaria

Center for Study of Democracy

T h e T e a m



Marina Manolcheva
executive director,
Master in Journalism and Pedagogic.
She knows, she can, she does it!



Dimitar Rusinov
project manager,
in charge of the program activities
of the organization
The projects come to him!



Vesela Dimitrova
Office manager

Master in Ethnology
Brains & Charm!



Nikolay Valkov
financier,
Master in Economics

***The only accountant in
the EU to say "Yes"**



Maria Vasileva
quality manager
Bachelor in Pedagogic

She could lead an army



Penka Todorova
Associate