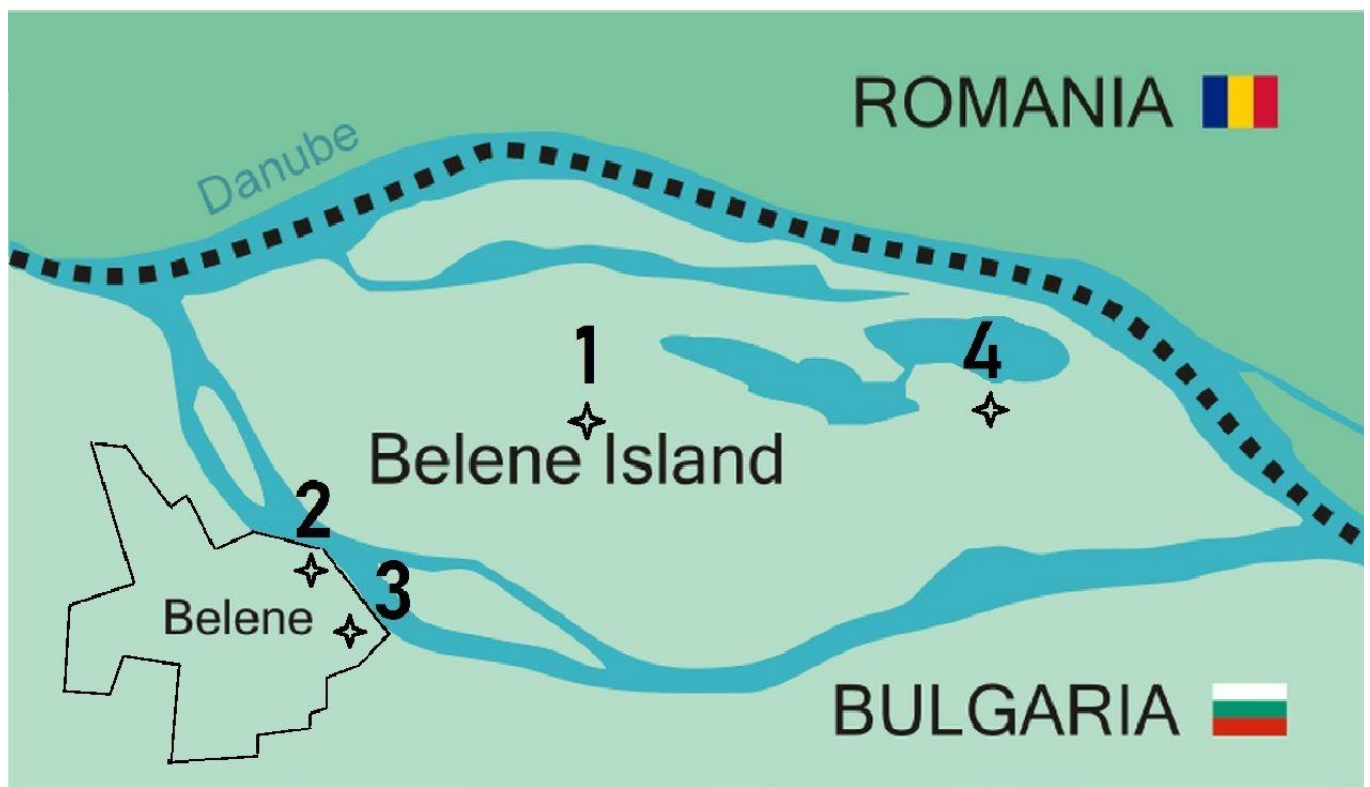


Converting Belene into a desirable place to live

*Connection of the natural and cultural-historical sights in Belene
in a common area along the Danube*

Integrated Action Plan



TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE
Making Heritage Work for City Development
Integrated Action Plan

Belene Municipality – project partner
KAIRÓS – THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE
AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL
SUSTAINABILITY
financed under the URBACT III 2014-2020 Program
co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

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*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity
will be the beauty and test of our civilization."
Mahatma Gandhi*



Sunset over the Danube River and one of the islands opposite the town of Belene

KAIRÓS, Heritage as Urban Regeneration

Kairós is an URBACT Action Planning Network led by Mula (ES) and joined by Šibenik (HR) Ukmergė (LT) Cesena (IT) Heraklion (EL) Belene (BG) and Malbork (PL). It has focused on expanding the role of cultural heritage as a driver for sustainable urban development and regeneration. Kairós has worked at two levels. Locally, each network city has co-produced an Integrated Action Plan along with a group of selected stakeholders. Internationally, a learning and exchange itinerary was rolled out, including baseline study, thematic workshops, study visits and peer-reviews.

URBACT is a European programme promoting sustainable urban development. URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming their key role in facing increasingly complex societal changes.

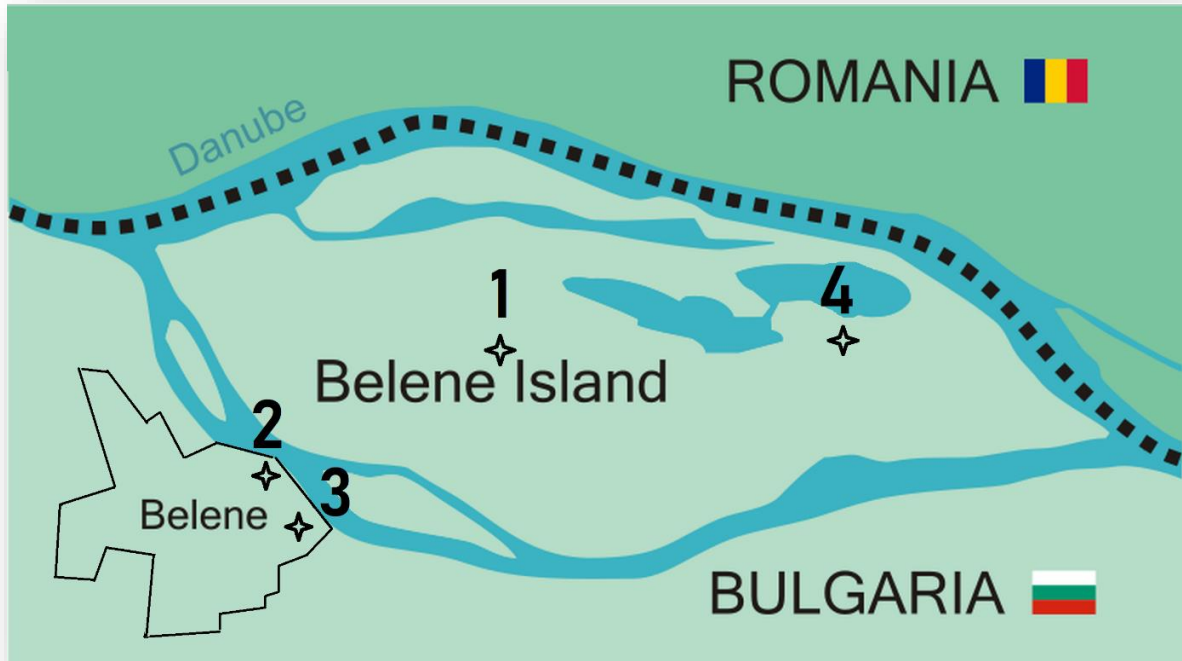
Kairós is a word in ancient Greek meaning the right time for moving into action.



1. BELENE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE KAIROS PROJECT

*"Remember that from everyone's behavior
everyone's fate depends on it."
Alexander the Great*

The town of Belene is the administrative center of the municipality of the same name. The city is located on the right bank of the Danube River. To the north of it is the largest island on the territory of Bulgaria and the fourth largest in the entire course of the Danube (Persin Island). The municipality of Belene is in the very center of the Danube tourist area. Of all the 9 tourist regions of Bulgaria, this region has the weakest tourist development, despite its large size.



a. KEY CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ASSETS

1. Persin Island (or Belene Island) is the center of **Persina Nature Park**, one of the ten nature parks in Bulgaria, which preserves the country's unique natural treasures. The flora and fauna complement the tourist characteristics and bring additional motivation for visits. For the Municipality of Belene, the unique flora and fauna can be assessed as a major natural resource;

AIM: Turning the site into a preferred place for recreation and visiting by the citizens of the Municipality of Belene and guests of the city for vacations, studying the unique flora and fauna. Improvement of the procedure for accessing the island, possible on the only pontoon bridge. Creating conditions for observation, sports and short-term training.



2. Today's city of Belene is the successor of the ancient Thracian settlement, which later grew into a key **Roman fortress and customs station Dimum**. After extensive restoration work, part of the archaeological complex has been turned into a park and is an attractive place for visits, excursions and walks. Research activities continue and the park is expanded and improved every year.



AIM: Completing the implementation of the Danube Park project around the fortress and turning it into a kind of cultural center, a major city visitor destination. Construction and maintenance of green avenues and water areas within the park. Continuing the successful process of attracting youth and families to the renewed territory by creating a chain of attractions and places for recreation for the citizens of Belene and guests. Placing a chain of bilingual information boards telling the rich history of Belene to visitors.



3. Unlike the Thracians, who accepted Orthodoxy from Byzantium, the Celts living on both sides of the Danube River accepted Catholicism. Later this territory became part of Danube Bulgaria. With the acceptance of Orthodoxy by the Bulgarians in the 9th century, Bogomils and Pavlikians settled in the area of the present-day city of Belene. At the beginning of the 17th century, a large part of the population accepted the Catholic faith. His Holiness Pope John Paul II has a monument in the city. Today, the **Catholic community with its churches and the shrine of Blessed Bishop Evgeny Bosilkov** are unique in Bulgaria and are visited tourist sites in the city.



AIM: Improvement of the city's infrastructure, the condition of the signs and the access to the Catholic temples, the shrine and the monument. Creation of additional activities for young members of the Catholic community with the aim

of keeping them in the city and integrating them into cultural life. The possibilities are: attracting them to the volunteer activities of the "Caritas" Center; participation in city holidays, cultural events and competitions; language and professional training for their use as guides for tourists in the town of Belene.

4. During the period of totalitarian rule of Bulgaria (1949-1987), a **Labor and educational camp** functioned on the territory of the largest island of Persin. Political opponents of the pro-Soviet regime were interned there. Today, the only preserved remains of this type of camp in Bulgaria are located on the island, and a Monument to the Victims of the Communist Past has been erected. It is one of the unique historical sights of the city, visited with a special pass regime.



AIM: The camp should be turned into a memorial complex with a museum. This is the center of a project implemented by the Belene Island Foundation. Assistance to the foundation in the collection of funds and the implementation of their project, not only by the Municipal Administration (which assists it in the procedure for coordinating the project with the Ministry of Culture and other institutions), but also by the local community and business. Acquainting the students and youth of the city with the lessons of the recent past through camp visits as part of their curriculum. Improving the infrastructure leading to the memorial and museum. Maximum simplification of the procedures of the throughput mode. Completing the restoration of the camp and rebuilding part of the destroyed buildings. Supplementing the fund of directional and informational signs. Completion of reenactments and exhibitions. Filming of a documentary film and its projection in specialized halls in front of visitors and in the memorial complex on the territory of the camp. Promotion of the site for visiting by guests of the city.

b. KEY STAKEHOLDERS



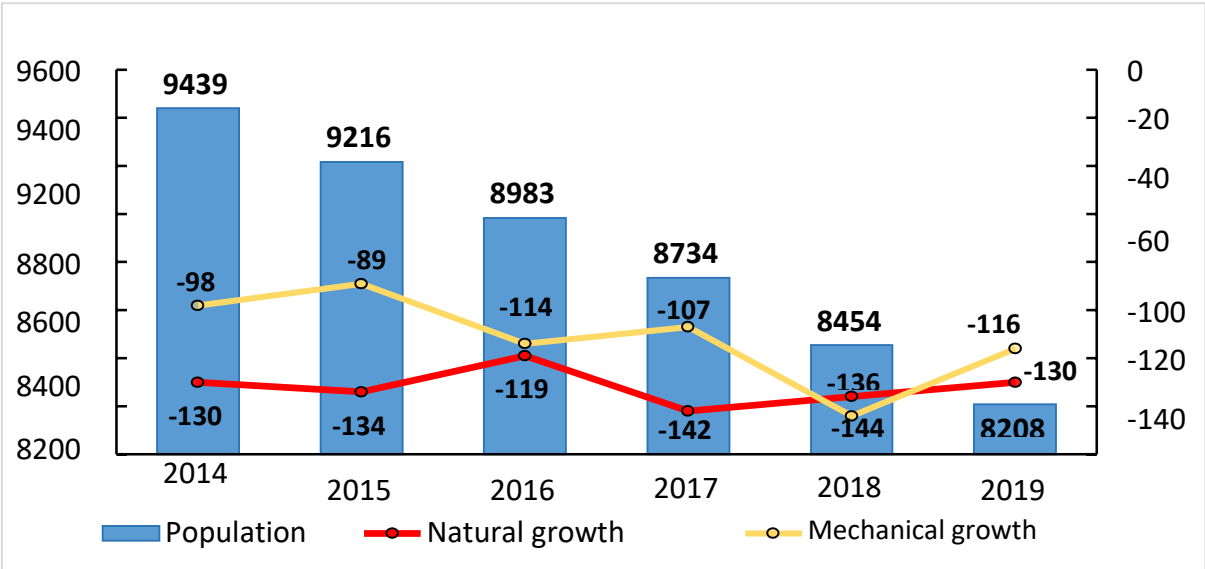
The model of participation and joint actions within the framework of the URBACT-KAIRÓS Integrated Action Plan was developed in the Municipality of Belene. It identifies the following key stakeholders:

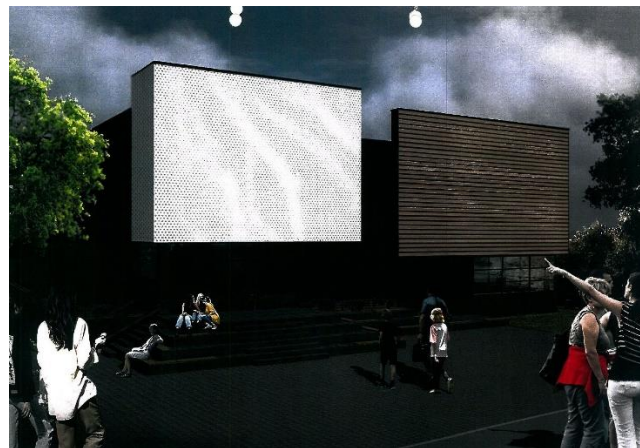
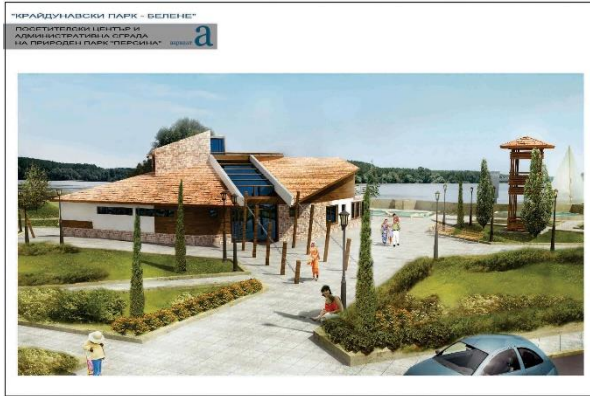
- *The leader team of the Municipality of Belene, the Municipal Council and the administration,*
- *The local URBACT group,*
- *Local public organizations,*
 - *Educational institutions,*
 - *Community center and interest clubs,*
 - *Religious communities,*
 - *Police and Prison Administration,*
 - *Civil associations,*
 - *The management of Belene NPP,*
- *Local private structures and businesses,*
- *The local initiative group "Belene-Nikopol",*
- *The administration of PP "Persina",*
- *The management of the Pleven Regional History Museum,*
- *The guides of the cultural and natural sites in the city and in the Pleven region,*
- *The National Archaeological Museum and the institutes of the BAS related to natural and cultural heritage.*

For the implementation of this time-consuming, expensive and ambitious strategy, the Municipal Council works in several directions:

- *Improvement of municipal grounds,*
- *Urban planning and infrastructure,*
- *Development of an attractive tourism product,*
- *Cultural calendar of Belene Municipality,*
- *Archaeological research and historical heritage,*
- *Stimulation of civil initiatives,*
- *Social policy and education,*
- *Youth Detention Program,*
- *Support for senior citizens,*
- *Application for national and European funding programs.*

A critical moment for the Municipality of Belene is the serious demographic outflow reflected in the graph. All the efforts of the management and administration are focused on this priority area. The goal is for the city to become an attractive, safe and perspective center of the region, where young people have fulfillment, work and secured conditions for career development, family and social life.





*The Danube Park and Visitor Center projects in Belene
The Prestige Hotel complex and the beach (top right)*

2. MAIN CHALLENGES AND APPROACH

*"A target you can't see can't be hit"
Zen wisdom*



a. TOWN MAIN CHALLENGES

Belene undoubtedly has unique natural and cultural-historical features. Few settlements in the world can boast artifacts and archaeological finds from more than 6,000 years ago.

On the other hand, the flora and fauna of the territory of Belene is amazing. Despite the limited access to it, there is still no well-functioning algorithm for attracting and serving a more powerful tourist flow.

Thirdly, the coexistence of Catholics and Orthodox on the territory of a city that has successively replaced numerous religious beliefs is impressive and instructive. Remains of them can still be observed today in the beautifully preserved ritual and festive system.

A number of customs related to pantheism, animism, shamanism, the polytheistic religion of Thrace, Hellas and Imperial Rome, Tangrism, Bogomilism and Paulicism are still alive. This colorful rosary must be preserved and become a major part of the region's development strategy.

The current URBACT-KAIRÓS project was the start of an extremely useful initiative - the civil dialogue on the topic: "The Future of Belene Municipality". As a result, the following problems requiring timely intervention were identified:

1. The depopulation of the city and the outflow of young people from it,
2. The drastic reduction of jobs due to the low standard and the lack of conditions for realization,
3. The dozens of abandoned houses, properties and public buildings,
4. The decrease in trade turnover,
5. The low attendance of cultural and natural attractions,
6. The poor condition of the street infrastructure,
7. The difficult accessibility of the region due to the badly damaged roads from the national road network to it.

There is a Plan for the Integrated Development of the Municipality of Belene for the period 2021-2027, which contains extremely important highlights, some of which are of national importance and have a European perspective. Among them are:

- Improvement of the street infrastructure in the territory of Belene,
- The construction of a third road and railway bridge on the Danube and a complete infrastructure for it,
- Resumption of the Belene NPP project until its completion, with which the Municipality of Belene will become a strategic energy center of Bulgaria and the Balkans,
- Construction of a Visitor Center and Museum through architectural rehabilitation and completion of an unfinished three-story building,

- Completing the restoration of the camp on Persin Island, completing the restorations, improving the infrastructure leading to the camp.

The local URBACT group and the broad representation of citizens identified a number of measures to solve these problems, the circumvention of which would lead to catastrophic consequences in just 20 years. The main objectives were reduced to five. Formulated concretely, they became the starting point for the conceptualization of future activities:

1. Restoring the infrastructure in the city and approaches to it.

The desired state of the city's infrastructure and the roads of the national network is to meet the minimum requirements for first-class roads. For this purpose, the active advocacy of the leadership of the Municipality of Belene and civil structures before the National Roads Agency and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is necessary. Funding through project applications should also be targeted.

2. Rehabilitation and reuse of abandoned buildings.

The working groups considered the correct actions of the municipal leadership, which initiated a dozen projects on the territory of Belene Municipality, among them: the development of several unfinished buildings, the conversion of the abandoned building next to the school into a museum, the actions taken to change the ownership of the building of the Belene railway station in municipal property and the implementation of a renovation project and its use as a visitor center and office of the Belene Island Foundation, the restoration of part of the buildings in the Persin Island camp and their conversion into a museum exhibit. For this purpose, measures for national financing, as well as actions to attract investments, have been identified.

3. Creation of new jobs for the young, through alternative forms of employment through the functioning of a complex tourist product.

The members of the URBACT group made numerous proposals for the development of a complex tourism product based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the region. The creation of a functioning and well-presented **Cultural Calendar (Appendix 1)** in the public space would attract many tourists. Serving the tourist flow would lead to an increase in the employment of young people and their professional qualification through the acquisition of knowledge and skills in the field of tourism.

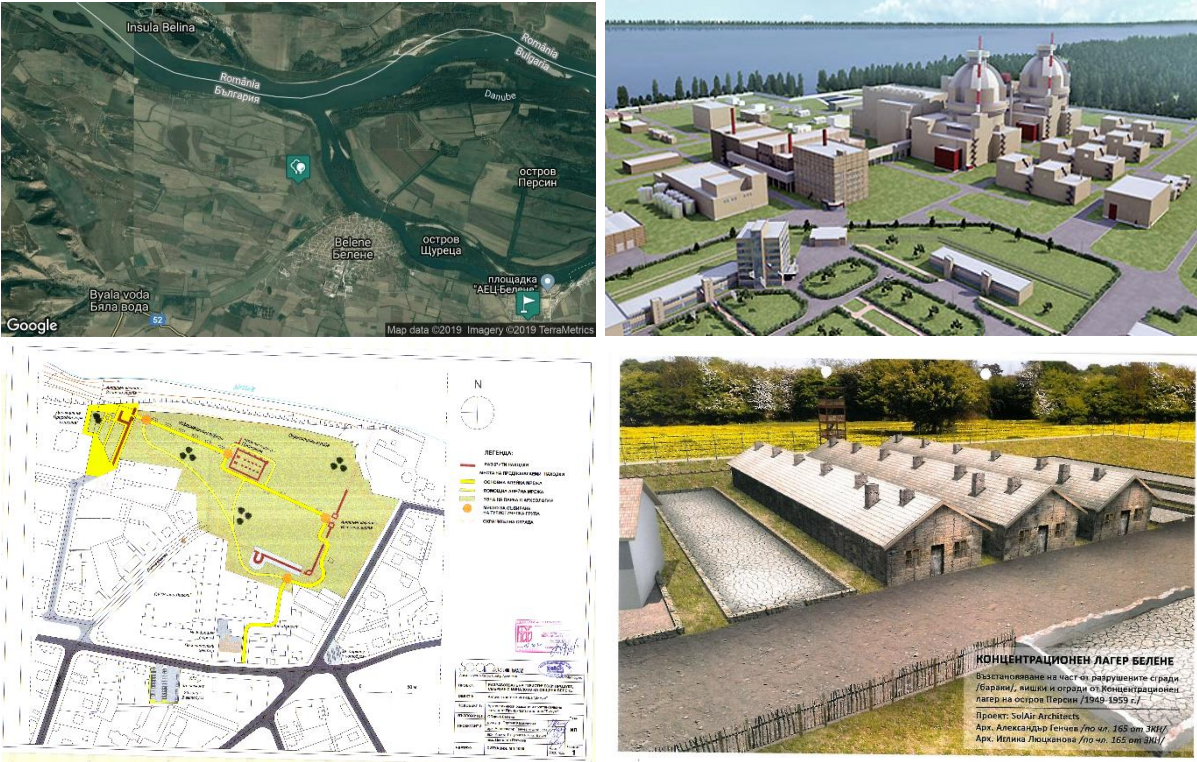
4. Enhanced application to possible regional, national, cross-border and European programs.

Over the past 6 years, the Municipality of Belene has actively applied for and won funding through projects under various national and European programs. This good practice should not only be maintained but also expanded. Some of the goals set by

the URBACT group (especially the investment projects) are unfeasible without external funding. The attraction of young specialists from the city of Belene and the use of external expertise are the main vectors for the successful application for national and European grants.

5. Civil initiative to continue the construction and commissioning of the Belene NPP and the construction of a new Danube bridge.

The combined efforts of the entire community and the leadership of Belene Municipality are insufficient to achieve this goal. The URBACT group proposed attracting a wide range of specialists and politicians, supporters of the idea of turning the region into an energy, transport and commercial center of national importance. The actions of the mayor Mr. Milen Dulev in this direction are large-scale and addressed to the government, relevant ministries and the presidential institution. The inclusion of new groups of citizens, experts and politicians can lead to a breakthrough in current politics.



*Satellite photo of Belene - the most convenient place for Danube Bridge 3
Three projects in progress: NPP Belene, Tourist product "Dimum", the Camp*

b. THE KAIRÓS FIVE-PILLAR MODEL



The integrated approach in dealing with the challenges facing the Municipality of Belene requires a new methodological framework. Belene's participation in the KAIRÓS project within the URBACT program provides a new unique opportunity to reach many of the set goals. This model is provided by the current project. It has been developed and tested by the other European cities that participate as partners. The model provides an opportunity to understand the use of natural and cultural-historical heritage. The revitalization of these spaces and cultural values is included in the strategies of urban regeneration, rehabilitation and reconstruction of abandoned buildings and sustainable urban development.

The five pillars of the chart presented above envisage a comprehensive approach to solving the existential challenges faced by all project partners.

An example of using the five pillars as an impetus for heritage change and transformation is discussed below in this Integrated Action Plan. The use of these proven levers and good practices are a guarantee of positive transformation and sustainability of the renewed urban environment. Thus, the change leads to the transformation of small settlements with cultural and historical assets into attractive

places for living, working, recreation and tourist interest. The KAIRÓS model is an approach offering opportunities for the preservation, restoration and valuing of the cultural-historical heritage by materializing the ideals of civil society based on local facts and reality, making them an engine for future development.

The current Integrated Action Plan envisages **Three changes** for the assessment, reuse and enhancement of natural and cultural-historical heritage. The destruction of this heritage would lead to the loss of cultural identity, to the departure of the region and its gradual depopulation.

The integrated plan as a construction derives from and follows the logic of the Belene Road Map. The plan focuses on establishing a **common approach** to all historic sites along the Danube River within the municipality and the abandoned municipal properties and spaces between and around them, through the creation of a Danube Park that connects natural, historical, cultural and business assets in a place for recreation, tourism, attractions and entertainment.

In the process of heritage evaluation, reuse and improvement, the principle of "Three Changes" provided by KAIRÓS provides:

Change the scale: improving and increasing the importance of the cultural image of the city; regaining the value of his inheritance.

Repurposing: re-evaluating and reusing existing spaces and landmarks, giving them a new way of functioning and being used.

Changing the method: taking an integrated approach to turning heritage into a tool for sustainable urban development and regeneration. Inclusion of natural, cultural, historical and tourist attractions in this process, where civic initiatives actively support positive changes.

One of the advantages of the KAIRÓS network is teamwork. The communication between the participating cities, the exchange of good practices, the trainings, the joint workshops and the transfer of knowledge and skills give an undoubted added value to each of the partners. This methodology places particular emphasis on citizen initiative based on frank dialogue, problem identification and correct formulation of goals.

Experience has shown the advantages of the current strategy, using resources wisely for urban regeneration.

3. DISCUSSION PROMOTED BY THE URBACT LOCAL GROUP

*"Together we can do more -
to love, to talk
to forgive and to argue.
Together we can do anything -
to cry and laugh
to discuss life
and to live it."
Valentina Dragneva*



The Local URBACT Group (ULG) includes specialists from many fields of culture, economy, education, judiciary and executive. This approach is enshrined in the IAP Roadmap, in view of the fact that our goal is to transform the cultural and natural heritage of Belene into a tourist resource. ULG has invited representatives from regional structures with experience in tourism and heritage management, local businesses, professionals in a number of related fields (tour guides, travel agents, representatives of hotel chains, business consultants and heritage conservation specialists such as architects, directors of museums, etc.). The main characteristics of ULG Belene are the following:

1. All the people in Belene Municipality (with a population of about 9,000 people) know each other. This patriarchal and friendly atmosphere is the first distinguishing quality of the Local URBACT group. It contributes to a positive and constructive dialogue, as each member of the group is aware of their responsibility to the community.
2. The started but frozen construction of "NPP - Belene" has attracted highly qualified people of science, technology and business. The proposals of the experts at the group meetings are not only well motivated, but also supported by conceptual projects, financial justification, developed plan and action strategy.
3. The Municipality of Belene has been implementing numerous national, cross-border and other international projects for years. Over the past 6 years, with

the extremely active support of the Mayor, Mr. Milen Dulev, several dozen project proposals were developed, a large part of which were approved and financed. The preparation, implementation and reporting of completed and ongoing projects requires qualified personnel, which the Municipality of Belene prepared in a short time. A large part of these specialists is a contingent of the Local URBACT group.

4. The other winning move of the Local URBACT Group is bringing in top-level external expertise. The long-term contacts of the Municipality of Belene with prominent Bulgarian scientists, researchers, politicians, capacities in the field of tourism and cultural-historical heritage, specialists in various contact areas and business representatives expand the circle of consultants. An important role is played not only by the expert opinion of professionals, but also by the view from the outside - an indispensable corrective to any local initiative.

For better functionality, the Local URBACT group is divided into sub-groups with different expertise.

The first division is imperative because of the four main strands in the Focus of the Plan. Subgroups successfully run in the following configuration:

- *Culture, natural and historical heritage,*
- *Social services, education and health,*
- *Private sector with the participation of Belene-Nikopol LAG,*
- *Military unit, police, prison, nuclear power plant.*

The second division is necessary due to the particular expertise that the specialists invited to the meetings and discussions must have:

- *Financial and accounting experts,*
- *Lawyers,*
- *Artistic and creative figures,*
- *Members of the Municipal Council.*

After determining the Focus of the Plan, it was necessary to photograph the selected objects needed for illustration and analysis by the subgroups. The following activities took place:

- *Video recording*
- *Photo shoot*
- *Branding the photos*

These actions, carried out with the active assistance of the Mayor of Belene Municipality, Mr. Milen Dulev, proved to be of key importance, as a wide range of specialists were involved:

- *From the Municipality of Belene,*
- *From the structures of the Ministry of Interior and NEK,*
- *From Pleven District,*
- *From Sofia,*
- *In some of the meetings, the opinion of experts from outside Bulgaria was also sought.*

All the suggestions of the ULG members, filled in the respective working Gantt charts with graphical representation of the time frame, are the basis for the preparation of the IAP, after analyzing and summarizing the information from them. In this way, the Plan objectively reflects the ideas of the ULG and the motivated position of its members for the implementation of activities for urban development and social sustainability.



Working meeting of the Local URBACT group

The idea of using cultural and natural heritage as an engine for sustainable urban development is a proven practice in many small and medium-sized cities in Europe. Establishing such an innovative methodology through the KAIRÓS network helps partners address the depersonalization and depopulation of rundown areas. The weaknesses of these spaces can be turned into an opportunity for inclusion and sustainable urban development, creating economically, socially and culturally attractive cities to live in. Based on the available unique natural and cultural-historical heritage, the Local URBACT group:

- Conducted a thorough **analysis** of the data,
- Shape a **vision** for urban regeneration.

The analysis showed that Belene's givens are:

- Unique as a natural and cultural-historical heritage;
- The infrastructure of the city and the approaches to it are in an unmaintained state;
- The presence of derelict buildings, unfinished objects and unused architectural spaces suggests their revitalization and reuse as part of the urban regeneration program;
- Decreased population of the city and lack of career development opportunities for young people.

The vision for the future includes the following relevant steps:

- Using the natural and cultural-historical heritage as an invaluable tourist resource; improving approaches to it; carrying out conservation and restoration works on the sites in the city and on Persin Island;
- Development of projects and provision of funding through available programs for the rehabilitation of road infrastructure;
- Assessment of the condition of unused architectural spaces, renovation and alteration of objects for their reuse for other purposes of local importance;
- Stimulating local economic development in order to create new jobs and ensure employment; inclusion of young people in the service of a growing tourist flow.

The proposals generated, motivated and tabulated by the participants in the ULG subgroups were structured into several main categories:

- Rehabilitation and renovation of abandoned architectural spaces in the city - bus and railway stations, residential buildings, unfinished constructions,
- Changing the functions of a large part of these spaces and bringing them to life for the benefit of the local community,
- Improvement of city infrastructure and road arteries to the city,

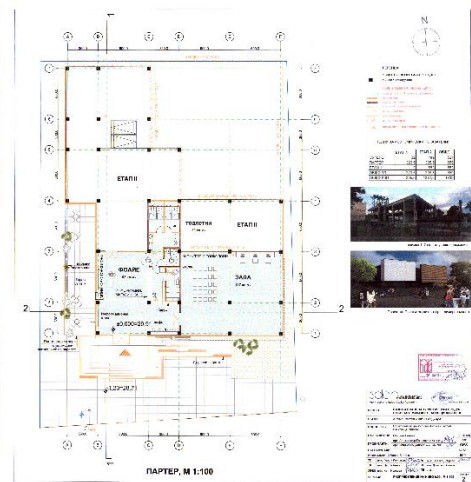
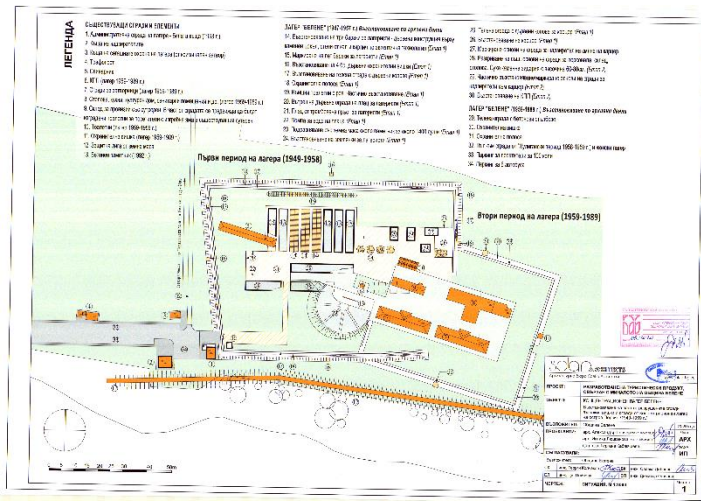
- Initiating new cultural events in the city in order to retain young people through their active involvement on the one hand, and on the other to attract friends and guests to Belene,
- Creation and wide public disclosure of the Cultural Calendar of the Municipality of Belene,
- Preparation of motivated and widely supported by the public in Belene proposals for the construction of Danube Bridge 3, the resumption of the construction of the Belene NPP and the hydrogen heating plant project,
- Active activity in the development of projects for national and European funding of the Plan for Integrated Development of the Municipality of Belene.



Along with these basic ideas, numerous joint actions of the urban community were proposed, which could be implemented with own forces and means in the areas of cleanliness, education, increasing jobs, tourism, creating and publishing advertising materials in the Internet space. Some of the easiest suggestions to implement are:

- Improvement of areas around historic sites,
- Improvement and conversion of vacant land and buildings into public spaces:
 - around Prestige Hotel,
 - around the Persina Natural Park Directorate,
 - in the Danube Park,
 - the ancient Roman customs station Dimum,
 - in the area of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church,
 - the memorial complex, in memory of the victims of the "Belene" camp on the island of Persin,
 - the building next to "Vasil Levski" school by adding a wing to it (currently only on foundations) and turning it into a visitor center with a museum collection of artifacts found in the fortress,

- the archaeological investigations of the ancient castle and customs house Dimum in Belene (enclosure and improvement, creation of paths for tourists connected as an ensemble),
- initiating new events to bring local communities together,
- providing attractions for tourists through unique local events, bazaars, festivals and competitions,
- creating a bank of business ideas related to the city and citizens, including:
 - kayak club with the assistance of the Municipality of Belene on municipal land and use of an existing building next to the Danube,
 - a Sport for All initiative supported by businesses in the city,
 - conducting business-funded kayak trips,
 - supporting participants from the city in the Danube bicycle tour, the TID international regatta and other sports events.



*Part of the new Danube Park project (left)
One of the pages of the Road Map of the city of Belene (right)*

The final version of the plan goes through discussions at several levels:

- The KAIRÓS team, Belene,
- The local URBACT group,
- The management of the Municipality of Belene,
- Acquaintance of the citizens with a shortened version of the plan, in which the proposals for change, for reuse through renovation of the abandoned buildings and measures for social cohesion are mainly brought out,
- Sharing with project partners and MA specialists.



*Designated sites for development, reuse and rehabilitation:
 Unused residential buildings in the town of Belene (top left)
 The Persina Nature Park Directorate and part of the Danube Park (top right)
 Thracian gold phial found on Persin Island (bottom left)
 Building from the camp on Persin Island (bottom right)*

4. ACTION PLAN

*"The best way to find out what the future will be is to create it ourselves."
Buddha*

The key challenges and targets set out in the Roadmap prepared by the KAIRÓS team, Belene are the following **Objectives and Actions**:

- Focusing efforts on **renovating and expanding access** to the following heritage sites along the banks of the Danube River:
 - Persina Natural Park,
 - Dimum Roman Fort and Customs House,
 - Memorial Park of the Labor and Education Camp,
 - To them, during the work of the Local ULG, the Catholic community, the churches and the shrine of Blessed Bishop Evgeny Bosilkov were added.
- **Linking heritage** sites into a logical spatial solution:
 - hotel complex "Prestige",
 - pier with fishing and tourist boats,
 - Persina Nature Park visitor center and the abandoned municipal properties between them,
 - unification of these objects in a Danube Park, which articulates the natural, historical, cultural and business values in a place for recreation, tourism, attractions and entertainment,
 - intelligent solutions of the abandoned buildings, outside the coastal area and their transformation into centers of communication and information.
- **Creation of a Cultural Calendar** and its promotion in the Internet space, in order to attract the youth, the community and tourists,
- **Determining funding opportunities** of each of the proposed ideas and their step-by-step implementation,
- **Carrying out small-scale activities** for youth inclusion in the activities :
 - Cleaning public places of waste and unnecessary vegetation,
 - Restricting vehicle access, placing protective and informational signs,
 - Conducting student competitions on the topic "My city of Belene",
 - Painting the retaining wall with the help of local artists and volunteers,
 - Open consultation with citizens and specialists on how the place should look.

The main aims, as explained above, were reduced to five:

- 1. Restoration of the city's infrastructure and approaches to it.*
- 2. Rehabilitation and repurposing of abandoned buildings.*
- 3. Creation of new jobs for young people through the creation and operation of a complex tourist product.*
- 4. Enhanced application to possible regional, national, cross-border and European programmes.*
- 5. Civil initiative to continue the construction and commissioning of the Belene NPP and the construction of a new Danube bridge.*

Valuation of activities in the revitalization of these local features is the subject of specific technical and investment plans. They are prepared according to the assignment, respectively:

- of the Municipality of Belene for the objects - municipal property (items 1-4);
- the regional administration (item 1);
- the line ministries for the national sites (item 5).

The concept of revaluation and enhancement of the heritage value of Belene includes the following recommended steps:

- 1. Compilation of an expert group of technical and economic specialists to prepare an up-to-date list of available property on the territory of the Municipality of Belene;*
- 2. Clarifying the status of the property and the purpose of this property;*
- 3. Generating ideas for optimizing the usability of buildings in order to create better conditions for local citizens and businesses;*
- 4. Discussing project ideas for regeneration with the local community;*
- 5. Development of conceptual work projects;*
- 6. Provision of financing and realization of the targeted activities, oriented towards reuse of the heritage and urban development.*



Three proposals of the Local URBACT Group for small-scale activities

5. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

*"Lots of money rarely solve one's problems.
Wisdom in the use of money solves problems."
Robert Kiyosaki*



The search for funding opportunities is based on the following assessments:

- First of all, the uniqueness and diversity of the natural, cultural and historical heritage of the city of Belene was appreciated. Its renovation, maintenance and functioning according to European standards would lead to a significant tourist flow;
- Secondly, these facts must be turned into an attractive tourist offer. Thus, business, national and European programs will see in the city of Belene an opportunity for added value, social cohesion and prospective development of available resources;
- Thirdly, the creation of a Cultural Calendar of events will increase the interest of facilitators, who will discover a good opportunity for return on investment and real results in the long term.

The evaluation of the financing possibilities is made in relation to the interests of the local structures. Those of them whose activities are relevant to the goals, vision and focus of KAIRÓS, Belene have been identified. The local ULG has identified the following main sources of funding:

a. LOCAL SOURCES

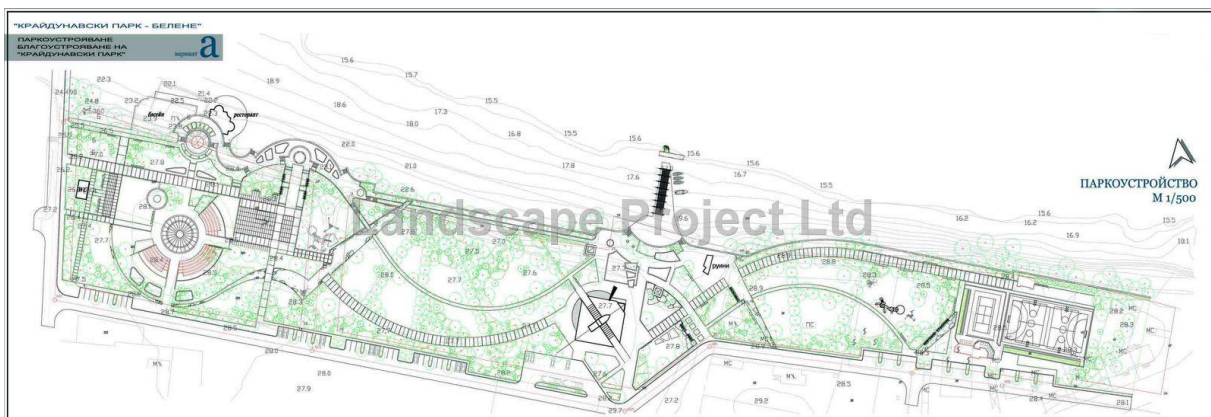
- Municipality of Belene - the municipal budget of Belene, which contains strategic measures and a financial plan close to those proposed in this document. Part of these funds are already being used purposefully and several stages of change of the urban environment have been implemented;
- Local initiative group "Belene-Nikopol";
- Businesses in the city actively participated in the Local ULG.

b. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SOURCES

- Pleven Region – the regional budget,
- Catholic Community of the Diocese of Nikopol,
- Association of Danube Municipalities,
- Association of Bulgarian Employers' Organizations,
- Ministry of Energy,
- Ministry of Transport and Communications,
- National funding programs, among which the closest to the goals and measures in the current plan are:
 - Rural Development Program,
 - Program "Environment",
 - Regions in Growth Programme,
 - Human Resources Development Program,
 - Innovation and Competitiveness Programme,
 - Program "Cultural Entrepreneurship, Cultural Heritage and Cooperation",
 - Maritime and Fisheries Programme.

c. EUROPEAN SOURCES

- Cross-Border Cooperation Program "Romania-Bulgaria",
- Danube program,
- Europe for Citizens Programme,
- "Creative Europe" program.



6. DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

*"If we cannot do great things
it is good to do only little things, but with great love."
Mother Teresa*

The model for implementing the plan is laid out in several steps:

1. Preparation of a conceptual project for each future action of the plan;
2. An estimate of the costs of implementing this action;
3. Selection of contractors - professionals and volunteers;
4. Detailed description of the project and division into stages with relevant deadlines and responsible persons;
5. Compilation of a financial framework in tabular form;
6. Financing activities;
7. Implementation of project stages;
8. Monitoring the action by applying a system of indicators.

This model has been successfully tested during the meetings of the Local URBACT Group and in the implementation of the small-scale activities. **(Appendix 2)**

Example: Compiling and discussing the conceptual project of the future Cultural Calendar of Belene Municipality is an important part of the joint work of ULG. During the workshops of the ULG, pre-assigned question tables were completed, namely:

- Year of establishment of the settlement,
- Brief historical background 5-7 sentences,
- Historical sights and museums / expositions,
- Church(s), Catholic / Orthodox, years of construction,
- Assembly of the settlement - date and what it is dedicated to,
- Holiday calendar of the settlement, celebrated en masse, by dates,
- Clubs and community center(s) with years of foundation and Folk group(s),
- Opportunities for rural, water, cycling and other types of tourism,
- Tourist accommodation options and capacity,
- Camping options, sites and capacity,
- Idea bank: with what activities can we attract tourists to our locality?

The data from these tables are processed and included in the Calendar.

The assessment of the possibility of turning the most attractive part of these objects and events into a modern tourist product is the second stage of this activity.

Thirdly, an assessment was made of the funds needed to bring the sites and events, respectively, into truly attractive places and holidays for the citizens of the Municipality of Belene, as well as the guests from the country and abroad.

The fourth task is to write down the principles of selection and qualification of personnel serving the proposed cultural events and destinations.

In the fifth place, the financial resources necessary for the advertisement to inform and bring those who wish to the territory of the Municipality of Belene have been determined.

The role of the Cultural Calendar (explained above) supports **social cohesion**, through the inclusion and accessibility of historical places on the territory of Belene in public life.

The **attractiveness** of these spaces increases and they have a chance to become a tourist destination.

This inevitably reflects on the **economy** and employment in serving cultural heritage lovers, as well as increasing the interest of potential investors.

Along with this, an increase in the value and a new use of the urban heritage is achieved, through the revitalization of **the spaces**, until recently neglected and unpopular.

This different type of **governance** with a new approach to citizen participation and alternative funding tools leads to a more meaningful use of Belene's endowments.

The present example reveals how, through the **Five Pillars of the KAIRÓS model**, the cultural and historical heritage of the region can be spiritualized and upgraded.

Belene team will keep the ULG alive after the KAIRÓS closing to implement new ideas, using the KAIRÓS model and to control the monitoring process of this project. In the next meetings of the ULG, they foresee summarizing in tabular form:

- New ideas for the Municipality of Belene; including proposals that can be implemented without the support of the municipal administration;
- The ways to achieve them;
- The expected results of the proposed actions;
- The leading unit in their implementation;
- Involvement of stakeholders as key partners;
- The time frame for the implementation of the activities;
- Required funds and funding proposals.



Selected moments from the Danube River Festival held in the city of Belene

The monitoring principle of the Integrated Action Plan has the following basic reference points:

- *A plan of the objectives and activities to be monitored and evaluated,*
- *Table of indicators (temporal, quantitative and qualitative),*
- *Civilian supervision and control by independent experts,*
- *Control by the Municipality of Belene for the timely and strict implementation of the planned activities.*

This protocol is proposed in accordance with the principles of objective and decentralized monitoring of planned activities. It is to be tabled, discussed and approved at the next ULG meetings. Its final version is to be presented to the public of the city of Belene in an understandable synopsis for opinions, additions and corrections. The role of citizens as ultimate beneficiaries is essential. The collection of data, their evaluation and the control of the performed activities is permanent, transparent and effective.

7. RISKS

*„Ex unitate vires“ (The union makes the strength)
Latin sentence and national motto of the Republic of Bulgaria*



Based on an in-depth analysis of the unique resources of the Municipality of Belene and the creative dialogue in the Local URBACT Group, the current Integrated Plan contains objective prerequisites to turn into reality the activities set out in it, and which are defined as:

- constructive,
- executable,
- conducted by the available specialists, volunteers and management personnel,
- well protected with local funding and future grants.

However, the Integrated Plan assesses possible risks and identifies measures to mitigate and overcome them:

- A lack of interest and motivation on the part of ULG members is considered unlikely. Only motivated members with high activity and expertise are invited to work subgroups. To overcome this risk, as a precautionary measure, it is planned to replace ULG members with low motivation, activity and constructive suggestions with others who meet the requested conditions for the next working meetings.
- Lack of civic support and participation is also assessed as unlikely. The small and homogeneous community of the city of Belene is a guarantee for mass participation in the targeted activities. As preventive measures to overcome this possible problem, the following are planned: acquainting the public in the city with the goals and activities of the Integrated Plan, inviting citizens to actively participate in the targeted activities by explaining the added value and public benefit of each of them.
- Insufficient funding of the activities identified in the Integrated Plan of Belene. High probability, due to the many internal and external economic factors - stagnation, inflation, sanctions, delay in the reimbursement of funds for projects. The measures to extinguish these objective reasons are: search for additional sources of financing for projects, through investments and with the municipal budget reserves; implementation of a high level of expertise for maximum success rate of submitted projects.
- Insufficient activity for applying for national and European programs. The probability is small, due to the offensive policy of the Municipality of Belene in this direction and the numerous grants won. A necessary precaution is the creation of a calendar for the preparation of projects and systematic application for all possible invitations that are of interest to Belene and are relevant to the Integrated Plan; active cooperation with other Bulgarian and international partners for preparation and participation in joint projects.
- Unattractiveness of activities from the plan to attract private investors. Average probability, due to the poor condition of the national and local road

infrastructure, the special geographical location of the region, the small capacity of the municipality. To overcome this serious negative, an assessment of the competitive advantages of the region for the development of various types of businesses is planned in the Municipality of Belene; active search for suitable investors from the area, nationally and internationally.

The participants of the KAIRÓS network are well aware of the chance to achieve another standard of living for the Municipality of Belene through the use of the natural and cultural-historical heritage.

Armed with the good practices learned from the URBACT III 2014-2020 Program, they are convinced that they can achieve the goals set in the Integrated Action Plan to achieve intensive urban development and social sustainability.

United around these ideas, the citizens of Belene Municipality are united under their motto:

TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE!



The monument of Pope John Paul II in Belene

CULTURAL CALENDAR OF BELENE MUNICIPALITY

DATE	PLACE	CULTURAL MANIFESTATION	ORGANIZERS	POSSIBILITY OF ACCOMMODATION	USEFUL LINKS	CONTACTS
06.01	Belene town, "Bulgaria" square and the bank of the Danube river in front of "Prestige" hotel building	<p>P Jordan Day (Epiphany) – consecration of the battle flags of the 55th regiment, Belene;</p> <p>P Throwing the Epiphany Cross into the Danube River</p> <p>H Throwing the Epiphany Cross into the Danube River</p>	<p>Municipality of Belene and Division 28880</p> <p>Belene Municipality and Orthodox Church People's community center "Hristo Botev - 1892" - Belene</p>	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private lodgings	Creating new ones, renewing and supplementing every year	<p>obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061</p> <p>ic.belene@gmail.com 0879404049 Cvetana Vraykova</p>
21.01	Culture clubs in Belene, Byala Voda village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of Petokladentsi, Tatarski village	<p>O Babin's Day - celebrating Maternity Support Day with women from the municipality and town halls</p>	Municipality of Belene, Culture clubs in the municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and the villages of the municipality		<p>obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061</p>
14.02	Square "Sharan", Belene	<p>O Tryphon Zarezan -</p>	Municipality of Belene,	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel,		<p>obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061</p>

	The squares in the town halls of Byala Voda village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of Petokladentsi, Tatari village	Feast of the Vintners	Culture clubs in the municipality	Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and the villages of the municipality		
19.02	"Vasil Levski" Primary School, Belene	И Anniversary of the hanging of Vasil Levski К Celebration of the patron saint's day of "Vasil Levski" Elementary School	"Vasil Levski" Primary School - Belene Belene municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		vasillevski@abv.bg 0658/34834 Rumyana Bogdanova obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
01.03	Culture clubs in Belene, Byala Voda village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of Petokladentsi, Tatari village	О Baba Marta К Day of amateurs	Belene Municipality, Culture clubs	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and the villages of the municipality		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
03.03	Belene, Парк на Признателността Appreciation Park	И National holiday of the Republic of Bulgaria И Anniversary of the	Belene Municipality and Division 28880	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061

	Village of Dekov	<p>Liberation of Bulgaria</p> <p>H Solemn ritual – wreath-laying procession at the Belene War Memorial</p> <p>K Festive holiday concert</p> <p>O Awakening with folk dance</p>	<p>Belene Municipality Culture club „Christo Botev - 1892“ - Belene Culture club "Videlina - 1897"</p>	Private accommodations in village of Dekov, places for camping		<p>obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061 ic.belene@gmail.com 0879404049 Cvetana Vraykova Natasha Georgieva 0879123898 vedelenka@abv.bg</p>
07.03	Square "Sharan", Belene The squares in the town halls of Byala Voda village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of Petokladentsi, Tatari village	O Todorov Day – Traditional horse races with folklore fun of amateur community groups	Belene Municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and the villages of the municipality		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
28.03	„Dimcho Debelyanov“ school, Belene	<p>H Anniversary of the birth of Dimcho Debelyanov</p> <p>K Celebration of the patron saint's day of Secondary</p>	„Dimcho Debelyanov“ Secondary school	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		dimchod@gmail.bg 0658/36946 Anelia Genova 0879404036

		school "D. Debelianov"				
April- May twice for 4 days Floatin g date	Churches in Belene and churches in Byala Voda village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of Petokladent si, Tatari village; „Bulgaria“ Square and Square "Sharan", Belene The squares in the town halls of Byala Voda village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of Petokladent si, Tatari village	P Orthodox and Catholic Easter Festive liturgy in churches K Easter fun - concert folklore programs of amateur community groups	Orthodox and Catholic churches Belene Municipality and Municipality Culture clubs	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and the villages of the municipality		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
02.04	Libraries in Belene Municipality and Culture clubs in Byala Voda village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of	K International Children's Book Day K Arranging a corner and discussing favorite children's books with the children	Libraries in Belene Municipality and Culture clubs	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and the villages of the municipality		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061

	Petokladentsi, Tatarski village					
May-June	Belene, Pleven district	☐ Curlew Pelican Festival	Persina Nature Park Directorate	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		DPP „Persina“, Belene 5930, „Persin“ str. № 5, 0658/32684, www.persina.bg persina@abv.bg
02.05	Square of Dekov Municipality	☐ Traditional meeting of the village of Dekov	Dekov Municipality Culture club „Videlina -1897“	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and village of Dekov, places for camping near Dekov		Natasha Georgieva0879 123898 vedelenka@abv.bg
06.05	„Bulgaria“ Square, Belene, the big hall of Culture club „Christo Botev - 1892“	P St. George's Day Day of bravery and of the Bulgarian army ☐ Holiday parade K Concert of military personnel from Division 28880 Belene	Belene Municipality and Division 28880	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
24.05	„Bulgaria“ Square, Belene, Children gardens and Culture clubs in Belene, Byala Voda	K Day of Bulgarian education and culture and Slavic writing	Belene Municipality, CPLR, Schools, Children gardens and Culture clubs	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene and		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061

	village, the village of Dekov, Kulina voda village, the village of Petokladentsi, Tatarski village			the villages of the municipality		
28-29.05	Persin island – the Memorial park	<p>🇪🇺 European Week of Remembrance and Remembrance</p> <p>🇵🇧 National Pilgrimage for the Victims of Communism in Belene Labor and Education Camp on Persin Island</p>	Belene Municipality Belene Island Foundation	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061 info@beleneisland.org 0887426704 Mihail Marinov
First week of June	Village of Petokladentsi	🇵🇧 Village meeting	Petokladentsi Municipality Culture club "Napredak 1903"	Private accommodations in villages, places for camping		Mario Donchev, 0879123890 Emil Evlogiev - Culture club „Napredak“ napredak_pci@abv.bg 0893431598
02.06	Appreciation Park, Belene	<p>🇵🇧 Day of Botev and those who died for the freedom of Bulgaria</p> <p>🇵🇧 Solemn ritual and laying of wreaths and worship at the Memorial of the Fallen citizens of Belene</p>	Belene Municipality and Division 28880	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061

24.06	Village of Byala voda	○ Midsummer , picking herbs in the village area	Byala voda Municipality Culture club "Vazrazhdane 1924"	Private accommodations in the village		Village of Byala voda, "Vasil Levski" str. №14 Rosica Petrova 0886987280
29-30.06	In front of Persina nature park building	Φ Traditional festival on the Danube River	Belene Municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
30.06-01.07	In front of Persina nature park building	Φ Rock Fest - Let's welcome the sun over the Danube river	Belene Municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
Първата седмица на юли First week of July	Village of Petokladenci	Р National march in the footsteps of St. Ivan Rilski	Petokladenci Municipality Culture club "Napredak 1903"	Private accommodations in the village, places for camping		Mario Donchev, 0879123890 Emil Evlogiev - Culture club „Napredak“ napredak_pci@abv.bg 0893431598
09.07	In the building of Culture club „Christo Botev - 1892“	Φ Path, Inspiration, Faith National Folk Festival	Culture club „Christo Botev - 1892“, Belene	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		ic.belene@gmail.com 0879404049 Cvetana Vraykova
September	Belene Municipality , „Dimcho Debelyanov “ and „Vasil	К Celebrations on the occasion of 150 years of secular	Belene Municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061

	Levski“ schools	education in Belene		town of Belene		
The first weekend of September	„Bulgaria“ Square, Belene	<p>☉ Holidays of the city of Belene</p> <p>☉ Persina fest</p>	Belene Municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
The last Saturday and Sunday of September	Village of Tatari	<p>P Petkov day</p> <p>☉ The meeting of the village</p>	Tatari Municipality Culture club „Razvitie-1921“	Private accommodations in the village, places for camping		Culture club „Razvitie-1921“ Albena Lyubenova тел 064/991764
15.09	„Dimcho Debelyanov“ and „Vasil Levski“ school yards	K Official opening of the new curriculum	„Dimcho Debelyanov“ Secondary school and „Vasil Levski“ Primary school	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		dimchod@gmail.bg 0658/36946 Anelia Genova 0879404036 vasilllevski@abv.bg 0658/34834 Rumyana Bogdanova
26.10	Village of Byala voda	<p>P Dimitrov day</p> <p>☉ The meeting of the village</p>	Byala voda Municipality, Culture club "Vazrazhdane 1924"	Private accommodations in the village		Village of Byala voda, "Vasil Levski" str. №14 Rosica Petrova 0886987280
November	In the building of Culture club „Christo Botev - 1892“	<p>☉ Autumn jubilee holidays</p> <p>K Anniversary of the community center activity in Belene</p>	Culture club „Christo Botev - 1892“, Belene	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		ic.belene@gmail.com 0879404049 Cvetana Vraykova
08.11	Village of Kulina voda	P Dimitrov day	Kulina voda Municipality	Private accommodations in the village		Village of Kulina voda, Culture club "Izgreven-1927"

		Φ The meeting of the village	Culture club "Izgrevev-1927"			
16-31.12	„Bulgaria“ Square, Belene	P Φ Christmas holidays in Belene - cultural and musical program, approved by schedule	Belene Municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private accommodations in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061
24.12	Village of Byala voda Village of Petokladenci	○ Brazaiata folk dance is played in the center and in the whole village ○ Christmas carols - Koledari	Culture club „Christo Botev - 1892“, Belene, Petokladenci Municipality Culture club "Napredak 1903"	Private accommodations in the village Private accommodations in the village, places for camping		Village of Byala voda, "Vasil Levski" str. №14 Rosica Petrova 0886987280 Mario Donchev, 0879123890 Emil Evlogiev - Culture club „Napredak“ napredak_pci@abv.bg 0893431598
31.12	„Bulgaria“ Square, Belene	Φ Welcoming the New Year with holiday cheer and fireworks	Belene Municipality	Prestige Hotel, River Side Hotel, Canet Hotel and private houses in the town of Belene		obstinabl@abv.bg 0658/31061

KEY:

H - HISTORY,

K - CULTURE,

P - RELIGION,

O – RITE, FOLK RITUAL

Φ – FESTIVAL, CONGREGATION

MONITORING OF THE INTEGRATED ACTION PLAN OF BELENE

Nº	AIM	ACTIVITIES	INDICATOR	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TERM
1	Transformation of the "Persina" Nature Park into a preferred place for recreation and visit by the citizens of the Municipality of Belene and the guests of the city for vacations, studying the unique flora and fauna.	Improvement of the infrastructure of the park: roads, observation towers, signposts, places for citizens and tourists to relax	Signed framework documents (agreements/memorandum of cooperation) and contracts with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Justice, Regional Administration, Administration of PP "Persina" - with the project contractors, - with the companies organizing tourist visits to Persin Island. 	Municipal administration/ Adm. PP "Persina" / private economic operators and associations	2022-2027
		Creating an advertising strategy to inform: to the citizens of Belene Municipality and the region, of Bulgarian tourists, of foreign tourists for the "Persina" resort.	An advertising strategy was created, agreed with the Administration of PP "Persina" and accepted by the Belene Municipal Council.	Municipal administration	2022-2027
		Simplification of the access procedure to Persin Island, through a possible electronic online booking system.	Online registration platform established.	Municipal administration/private companies	2022-2027
		Building: eco paths, bike lanes, gazebos for observation and plein air, training shelter.	Signed framework documents and contracts with: MP, PP "Persina" and with the project contractors		2022-2027
2	Full implementation of the Danube Park project	Construction of the new sites in the Danube Park.	Contracts signed with the contractors of the individual stages of the project.	Municipal administration	2022-2027

	around the fortress and its transformation into a kind of cultural center, a major urban visitor destination.	Maintenance of the infrastructure of the park and the individual objects in it.	Contracts signed with companies/companies maintaining and servicing the objects of the Danube Park infrastructure. Civic initiatives for cleaning and maintenance	Municipal administration	2022-2027
		Placement of directional and informational signs. Provision of free wireless internet	Signed contracts with contractors. Pictures of the signs.	Municipal administration, NGO	2022-2027
		Creation and distribution of advertising materials for the Danube Park: film, clips, pages on the internet platforms, banners, flyers, a brochure on the history of Belene and a tourist map.	Contracts signed with contractors. Submitted film, photo material and links to internet platforms. Submitted three copies of all printed materials.	Municipal administration, NGO, private companies	2022-2027
3	Improvement of the city infrastructure, the condition of signs, access to Catholic, Orthodox churches and historical monuments.	Repair of the streets leading to the Orthodox churches and the sanctuary. Placement of directional and informational signs at key locations in the city and region.	Contracts signed with the road construction contractors. Contracts signed with contractors. Pictures of the signs.	Municipal administration	2022-2027
4	Creation of additional activities for young people, through the functioning of a complex tourist product, professional training for their use as guides for tourists in the	Inclusion of students and youth in seasonal and socially engaged activities of the Caritas Center.	Photos of the participation of students and youth in the activities. Survey among Caritas service users.	Caritas Center	2022-2027
			Photo and video material from the city events, proving the participation of the volunteers.	Municipal administration, NGO, schools	2022-2027

	town of Belene.	Attracting students and young people as volunteers, stewards and animators during city holidays and events.	Signed contract with the training center. Conducted survey among interested parties - students, youth, parents, trainers. Copies of issued certificates.	Municipal administration, NGO, schools	2022-2027
5	Construction of a Memorial Complex on Persin Island.	Completion of the construction and restoration of the camp buildings under the project.	Signed framework documents and contracts with: Ministry of Interior, Belene Island Foundation and the project contractors.	Belene Island Foundation	2022-2027
		Initiate a national fundraising campaign.	Regular reporting of received and spent target funds from the campaign.	Belene Island Foundation Municipal administration, NGO	2022-2027
		Including the visit to the camp and the museum on the island in extracurricular educational activities of the schools in the town of Belene.	Photo material from the visits. Surveys among students and teachers about the visit. Delivered methodically a guide to inform students on the specialized route.	Belene Island Foundation, NGOs, schools	2022-2027
		Establish a standard route to the camp and improve the road surface to it.	Signed framework documents and contracts with: Ministry of Interior, Belene Island Foundation and the project contractors.	"Belene Island" Foundation, Municipal Administration, "Persina" PP Administration, NGO,	2022-2027
		Simplification of access procedure through electronic online system/registration mechanism.	Signed agreement with MoJ for simplified access system through electronic online system/enrollment mechanism.	Belene Island Foundation, Municipal Administration, tourist agent	2022-2027
		Placement of directional and informational signs in two languages.	Pictures of the signs placed on the island.	Belene Island Foundation, Municipal Administration, NGO	2022-2027
		Shooting a documentary about the labor-educational camp.	Film shot and transmitted.	Belene Island NGO and Foundation	2022-2027

		Screening of the film in the island's museum and in the information center in the city and abroad	Collecting reviews of the film in a special book.	Belene Island NGO and Foundation	2022-2027
6	Restoring the infrastructure in the city and approaches to it.	Preparation and submission of motivated letters by the Municipality of Belene and civil structures to the National Roads Agency and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works for the restoration of: the infrastructure in the city, the section Belene-Pleven, the section Belene-Nikopol, the section Belene-Svishtov.	Copies of letters with incoming numbers.	Municipal administration, Civic initiatives, NGOs, Private companies	2022-2027
		Attracting financing from businesses wishing to operate on the territory of the Municipality of Belene, by providing equity incentives.	Compiled list of interested businesses on the territory of Belene Municipality.		
		Participation in programs financing partial or complete road rehabilitation.	A table of possible programs and the application requirements of the Municipality of Belene for them.		
		Apply for the designated programs.	Copies of submitted project proposals.		
7	Rehabilitation and reuse of abandoned municipal and state buildings.	Completion of the process to change the ownership of the Belene railway station to a municipal one.	Copy of the change of ownership document.	Municipal administration, NGOs, Private companies	2022-2027

		Assigning the creation of concept projects for the identified abandoned buildings that do not yet have them.	Contracts signed with the project contractors.		
		Completion of the abandoned building next to "Vasil Levski" school and its transformation into a three-story museum, according to the project.	Contracts signed with the project contractors.		
		Creating an investment attraction strategy: on national and cross-border programmes, by applying to the relevant ministries, attraction of investments in exchange for a share in the activity of the sites with trading points, initiation of donation campaigns.	Submitted strategy with a list of programs for which the Municipality of Belene is an eligible candidate. List of interested businesses for equity participation. Report of funds from donation campaigns, submitted photo material.		
8	Creation of new jobs through the operation of a complex tourist product based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the region.	Creating a complex tourism product through: the functioning of the Cultural Calendar of the Municipality of Belene, attractive and active advertising of the unique natural and cultural-historical attractions, creating events, seasonal and permanent employment for young people with legal capacity as translators, guides and animators,	Submission of an application to the IPD with the Cultural Calendar of the Municipality of Belene. Signed contract with the training center. Conducted survey among interested parties - students, youth, parents, trainers. Copies of issued certificates.	Municipal administration, NGOs, Private companies, schools	2022-2027

		inclusion of young people in the strategy of the Municipality of Belene as authors of videos, influencers, authors of texts and photos in social networks	Photos from the events with their participation.		
9	Enhanced application under existing regional, national, cross-border and EU programmes. Expanding application practice. Attracting young specialists from Belene and using external expertise for the successful application for national and EU grants.	Creation of an annual calendar of projects for which the Municipality of Belene, NGOs and businesses on the territory of the Municipality can apply	Created annual project calendar with relevant timelines and eligibility tables.	Municipal Administration, MIG "Belene - Nikopol"	2022-2027
		Conducting preparatory training for young specialists from Belene for their use in the implementation of winning projects.	Contracts signed with a training center for young specialists.		
10	Civil initiative to continue the construction and commissioning of the Belene NPP and the construction of a new Danube bridge.	Preparation of motivated letters and signatures for the continuation of the construction and commissioning of the Belene NPP and the construction of a new Danube bridge.	Copies of incoming mail.	Municipal administration, NGOs, Civil initiatives, private companies	2022-2027
		Creation of a Public Citizen Committee at the national level to collect support for the realization of this goal.	A copy of the protocol for establishing a Public Committee.		
		Creation of a strategy for permanent and proactive actions addressed to the government and line ministries.	Strategy handed down		