

ZIMNICEA

ZIMNICEA CITY HALL

LOCAL AGENDA 21 – Local Plan for Sustainable Development of Zimnicea Municipality

ZIMNICEA

2004

UNDP Project ROM 98/012, 0033238

Copyright 2004 Zimnicea City Hall, Romania

1, Giurgiului Str., Zimnicea, Teleorman County

Tel: 0247/ 366196

Fax: 0247/ 366780

E-Mail: primaria.zimnicea@evstar.ro

© 2004 National Centre for Sustainable Development

15 Alexandru Philippide St., Sector 2, Bucharest

Tel: +4021 201 14 10

Fax: +4021 201 14 02

E-Mail: office@sdpn.ro

The opinions expressed belong to the authors and do not necessarily represent the point of view of the UNDP.

Document published with the support of the United Nations Development Programme

Between September 2003 – January 2004, the project was co-financed by USAID- GRASP Programme

Technical expertise provided by the National Centre for Sustainable Development.



Z I M N I C E A

Local Steering Committee (LSC)

Pârvu Petre, President – Mayor, Zimnicea

Drăghici Dan – Director, Zimnicea Hospital

Mareş Dan – Director, SC Urbana

Calotă Gheorghe – Vice Mayor, Zimnicea

Vida Aurel – Agronomical Engineer – Plant Protection Centre

Matei Ioana – County Employment Agency– Work Force Office – Unemployment, Zimnicea

Tote Petre – Retired

Local Agenda 21 Office:

Marilena Şoimeanu

Camelia Țurcan

Consultancy from the National Centre for Sustainable Development – NCSD:

Călin Georgescu – Project manager

George Romanca – Local coordinator for Arad, Bolintin Vale, Mediaş, Sibiu, Sighişoara, Târgovişte cities

Radu Vădineanu – Local coordinator for Câmpina, Piteşti, Fălticeni, Târgu Jiu, Vatra Dornei cities

Tania Miha – Local coordinator for Slatina and Zimnicea cities

Dan Apostol – Editorial, cultural, scientific consultant

Carmen Năstase – Financial coordinator

Bianca Bacinschi – Communication

Adrian Voinea – IT Specialist

Coordination of Working Groups:

Economy - Coordinator: Salcie Daniela

Social - Coordinator: Calotă Gheorghe

Environmental Protection - Coordinator: Berechet Ionel

Human Resources - Coordinator: Vidrişin Adrian



MUNICIPALITY

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Foreword by the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Romania.....</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Foreword By the Mayor of Zimnicea</i> | <i>9</i> |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| I. STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT..... | 11 |
| I.1. ASSESSMENT | 11 |
| I.1.1. Natural capital..... | 11 |
| I.1.1.1. Geographical data | 11 |
| I.1.1.2. Historical references..... | 13 |
| I.1.1.3. The Quality of Environmental Factors | 13 |
| I.1.2. Anthropogenic Capital | 17 |
| I.1.2.1. Economic Activities and the Business Environment..... | 17 |
| I.1.2.2. Spatial Planning..... | 21 |
| I.1.3. Social Capital..... | 22 |
| I.1.3.1. Population Structure and Dynamics | 22 |
| I.1.3.2. Interethnic Relations..... | 23 |
| I.1.3.3. Labour Force | 24 |
| I.1.3.4. Social Protection..... | 24 |
| I.1.3.5. Health | 25 |
| I.1.3.6. Education..... | 25 |
| I.1.3.7. Culture | 26 |
| I.1.3.8. Sports and Leisure | 27 |
| I.1.3.9. Civil Society | 27 |
| I.1.3.10. Mass Media | 28 |
| I.1.3.11. Public Safety..... | 28 |
| I.2. OBJECTIVES..... | 29 |
| I.2.1. General Objectives | 29 |
| I.2.2. Specific Objectives: | 29 |
| I.2.2.1. HUMAN RESOURCES Domain | 29 |
| I.2.2.2. ECONOMIC domain | 30 |
| I.2.2.3. SOCIAL domain..... | 32 |
| I.2.2.4. INFRASTRUCTURE..... | 35 |
| II. LOCAL ACTION PLAN | 37 |
| II.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES | 37 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| II.2. MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY | 38 |
| II.3. FINANCIAL PROJECTION 2004-2007 | 39 |
| II.3.1 Local estimated budget for the period 2004 - 2007..... | 39 |
| II.3.2. The incomes and expenses registered between 2000-2003 | 40 |
| II.4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND IDENTIFIED PROJECTS | 42 |
| II.4.1. Human resource domain:..... | 42 |
| II.4.2. Economic domain..... | 43 |
| II.4.3. Environmental protection domain..... | 45 |
| II.4.4. Social domain..... | 45 |
| III. PRIORITY PROJECTS (PP) EMERGED FROM THE LA 21 PROCESS FOR THE PERIOD 2004 - 2014 | 49 |
| III.1. Programme for the restoration of the water supply, sewerage and heating systems | 49 |
| III.2. Local Plan for Social Assistance | 50 |
| III.3. Re-evaluation and re-activation of the postindustrial zones | 50 |
| III.4. Ferry-boat system for traffic transfer on Danube between Zimnicea and Svishtov..... | 51 |
| III.5. Integrated waste management..... | 52 |
| III.6. Natural gas supply and distribution system..... | 53 |
| ANNEXES..... | 55 |
| 1. "SOUTH DANUBE" EUROREGION | 55 |
| 2. ZIMNICEA, ROMANIA AND PIEVE EMANUELE, ITALIA – TWINNED CITIES | 56 |
| 3. ZIMNICEA – DISADVANTAGED ZONE..... | 56 |



MUNICIPALITY



Z I M N I C E A

Foreword

by the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Romania

Local Agenda 21 (LA21) was developed and adopted at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 as a vehicle for promoting sustainable development. Ten years later, in Johannesburg in 2002, the second summit promoted LA21 as the principal instrument for use in achieving the well-being of the world's population. Aimed at local administration, LA21 promotes, through public participation, a delicate balance between economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection.

The concept of sustainable development calls for a constant re-evaluation of the relationship between man and nature, and solidarity between generations, as the only viable option for long-term development.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Romania actively promotes sustainable development through its support of the project "Building Local Capacity to Implement the Local Agenda 21 in Romania." The project was implemented in nine pilot cities during 2000–2002, and in an additional thirteen cities, during 2003–2004. The project covers a new set of cities every year, under the coordination of the National Centre for Sustainable Development, the UNDP implementing agency for LA21.

This has been a unique participatory process, stimulating the energy of citizens, businesses, academics, NGOs, and local authorities. They all rose to the challenge and their collective efforts have produced this document. This report grew out of local needs and ideas and is a tribute to their efforts, energy and enthusiasm. Whether by giving information, offering technical assistance or through their participation, the whole community has made an enormous contribution to its success.

The result is a coherent strategy with a concrete action and implementation plan. Both offer a concrete certification that the project can meet the needs of the community and represent an important contribution to sustainable development in Romania. I congratulate and thank all those who have contributed to its success.

Soknan Han Jung

UNDP Resident Representative
UN Resident Coordinator



MUNICIPALITY



Z I M N I C E A

Foreword

By the Mayor of Zimnicea

At this time, when Romania needs to adapt to European standards in terms of EU integration, the city of Zimnicea also needs a plan for development which is based on the suggestions of all important local institutions, which touches upon all domains and which reflects the interests of all members of the community; a plan which channels resources towards integrated actions that aim towards social progress, environmental protection, efficient use of human and natural resources for a higher level of economic development and employment.

The involvement of our town in the Local Agenda 21 project, financed by the United Nations Development Programme, facilitated the formulation process of the Local Plan for Sustainable Development, and substantially contributed both to strengthening the capacity at the level of local authority and to stimulate civil society participation in this planning process.

The continued and competent technical assistance provided by the National Centre for Sustainable Development was of a real support in the implementation process of the sustainable development principles.

We wish to thank all the specialists who understood the importance of this challenging endeavour and supported us with their experience and expertise, as well as the population of Zimnicea for the active participation in the public debate process. Thus, the document for the sustainable development of the city represents the participation and contribution of the entire community, and creates a true partnership between the local administration and the population.

This success is only the beginning of a long road; our future efforts should be focused on the achievement of the Strategy's objectives. The implementation of the priority projects, the establishment of the public-private partnerships, is the main objectives for the next period and we hope to continuously develop the successful partnership with UNDP/NCSD.

Only together can we transform Zimnicea into a true European city.

ss

Mayor of Zimnicea

Petre Pârvu



MUNICIPALITY

I. STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

I.1. ASSESSMENT

I.1.1. Natural capital

I.1.1.1. Geographical data

Location and Relief

The city of Zimnicea, an ancient Romanian locality, is situated in Teleorman County, which unfolds entirely in the Romanian Plain, between the junction points of Olt and Vedea Rivers with the Danube.

The city is located at the intersection of the parallel of 43°37'07" northern latitude (on the same latitude with Nice, Florence and Marseille) with the meridian of 25°23'32" eastern longitude.

Zimnicea is 2 km away from the Danube, in the southernmost point of Romania, located on the large, tall terrace of one of Danube's branches Pasarea, and close to the oldest Dacian-Getic Fortress from Muntenia (the 4th century BCE). The city is located on the left side of Danube River, on a plateau that stretches from the south border of the Pasărea River. The town altitude is of 48 m.

Zimnicea is located in a rich agricultural area which produces cereals, vegetables, grapes, tobacco, sunflower, and fruit-bearing trees, over a surface of 10,375 ha of arable land.

As a harbour on the Danube, Zimnicea is connected with 8 countries situated on the Danube border from Eastern and Central Europe and has access to the Black Sea. Since 1993, when the Rhine-Main-Danube channel was inaugurated, the city has various connections with the countries from the Eastern Europe, Balkans and the Middle East, as it is 60 km away from the only road and railway port Giurgiu-Ruse and 120 km away from Bucharest.

Zimnicea had an evolution typical to the cities on Danube, determined by the importance of the goods trade. Later, the agricultural and administrative activities were added to the commercial activity, the town being the capital of the county between 1837 and 1839.

With a population of 15,672 inhabitants, Zimnicea has a special place within the system of the urban localities in Teleorman County. Although small, the town is a river harbour with various functions of local importance.

The thoroughfares, which coincide with the old commercial routes, are oriented towards Zimnicea with an east-west direction (Turnu Magurele – Giurgiu). As to the road network, the city is connected to Turnu Magurele through DN1 and to Alexandria through DN 51 A. To the east, Zimnicea is connected to Giurgiu through DN 5C.

The railway network of the city is connected to the junction-rail Rosiori de Vede (through Alexandria). The southern terminal point of this railway is in Zimnicea, up to the harbour area.

Climate

Zimnicea is located in an area characterised by a temperate-continental climate, with wide air temperature amplitudes, low precipitation, frequent torrents during the summer and frequent draught

periods. The annual average quantity of precipitations is less than 500 mm. There are strong contrasts between summer (+30°C - +40°C) and winter (-30°C). The temperature differences between land and water determine the presence of the Danube breeze. The transit character is caused by the interaction of the dry air masses originating from the east and northeast with the tropical air masses from the south and southwest, and with the oceanic air masses from the west.

Flora and fauna

The area is generally unfavourable to the development of tree vegetation and marks the transition from forest to meadow / grassland specific to the steppe area, with hair grass, feather grass, twitch, wormwood, vetch, willow, poplar, pedunculate oak tree, elm, ash tree, hornbeam, common maple and trefoil lawn, sedge, club rush, reed, water fern / tansy, sword flag, elder tree, box thorn, climber plants, creeper, hops, white and yellow water lily, frogbit, hornwort.

The fauna includes various mammals such as: rabbit, ground squirrel, hamster, field mouse, fox, badger, wild boar, jackal, deer, hedgehog, mink, and muskrat. Also found are reptiles specific to the steppe area: green lizard, lizard, snake, and batrachians (red forest frogs and toads), insects and gastropods as well.

Numerous bird species can be found: blackbird, crow, jackdaw, magpie, wood-pecker, titmouse, starling, woodcock, cuckoo, pheasant, bustard, lark, bee eater, wagtail, hen hawk, owl, ring dove, partridge, and quail. The last ones are valuable hunt, and some of them

are protected by law. In the forests of the surrounding islands there are fen fowls such as: pelicans, sea eagles, swans (during winter), cormorants, seagulls, bald coots, wild ducks and geese, little seagulls, storks, egrets, and small snipes.

The natural and artificial lakes are populated with different species: carp, crucian, tench, pike, sheat fish, roach, perch, bleak, pike perch, rapacious carp, dace, while the Danube waters are populated with mackerel, sturgeon, stor sturgeon, beluga (great sturgeon), sea trout.

The presence of such rich flora and fauna makes this region very similar to the Danube Delta, and enhances its tourism potential, as it offers a beautiful and unique landscape. The Danube, together with its secondary branches "Pasarea" and "Dunarica", Suhaia Lake, the group of lakes Fatana – Chircanu- Radulea-Fistoveanca, and the forests with various fauna and flora, offers unique landscapes: the everglade with sand, poplar and willow forests, ponds, and the river itself - deep and slow.

Soil and Subterranean Resources

The soil, from south to north, includes: chernozems, brown russet forest soils, which are fertile and favourable to the agriculture. The phreatic water layer does not have a negative impact on the network of construction and fountains.

The geological structure of the subsoil consists of sand and gravel from the Fratesti layers, from the minor river beds of the Danube.

SWOT Analysis

| STRONG POINTS | WEAK POINTS |
|--|--|
| <p>Natural environment favourable to rest and recreation Beautiful landscape, flora and fauna – possibilities of capitalisation in the tourism field Rich hydrographical network, piscicultural and cynegetic potentials, which allow hunting and fishing Harbour on the Danube, small distance from Bucharest and from the bridge Giurgiu - Ruse</p> | <p>Lack of protected areas, natural protected with specific flora and fauna Destitute of exploitable mineral resources Lack of natural gas supply in the locality Lack of sewerage network in the peripheral area of the town</p> |

ZIMNICEA

I.1.1.2. Historical references

Situated at the southern frontiers of the country, this territory has offered auspicious living conditions since ancient times.

Zimnicea is a very old locality; it developed near a "Getic-Dacian" fortress (approx. 1,200 m west of the town centre), and was considered the oldest fortress in Muntenia.

The basic occupations of the inhabitants were traditional: agriculture, fishing, iron processing, joinery, pottery, weaving, and trade. The inhabitants sold cereals, cattle, sheep, fish, butter, salt, honey, wax, timber and were bought (thick) cloth, oriental textures, carpets, and spices, through the custom-house in Zimnicea. In 1898, the import and export of these products was still done through the harbour of Zimnicea, because the railway Zimnicea- Smardioasa was still under construction.

In 1838, Zimnicea was categorised as a market town, and the census of that year registered 551 families and 3,046 inhabitants living there. Between the years 1837 – 1839, the town became the capital of Teleorman County, Zimnicea starting to play a role in the big historical events.

After Romania entered World War I, on the 15th of August 1916, Zimnicea went through dramatic times. The name of the 262 heroes who died for reuniting of the Romanian nation were written on the "Monument of Heroes," located in the town's park, a monument which was raised in 1930 and restored in 1981 and 2001.

In 1922, 1,123 inhabitants (peasants who went to war, widows, and orphans of war) were received lands totalling 6,176 ha. In 1929 Zimnicea was declared an urban commune.

I.1.1.3. The Quality of Environmental Factors

Air Quality

Zimnicea has one sampling point for air quality control (the City Hall), with fixed equipment for sampling gaseous pollutants – daily average samples, the

analysed indicators being NO₂, SO₂, NH₃; analyses were done also for the hydrogen sulphide indicator – H₂S, average momentary samples.

In 2002, according to physical and chemical analyses, acid rain was recorded (pH < 6.5). The minimum recorded value was of 5.18 pH, in August.

Sulphide hydrogen measurements were carried out in the town's surroundings. The maximum admissible concentrations were not exceeded, as illustrated by the results of the analyses. Since the measurement procedures were established more in terms of possibilities than in terms of evaluation requirements, the results are not relevant. Nevertheless, the results illustrated the presence of trans-boundary air pollutants from the Bulgarian shore (H₂S).

The Environmental Radioactivity Station of Zimnicea performs measurements through the "Standard working program," according to the "Working methodology" established by the National Commission for Nuclear Activity Control. A general conclusion: the registered values fall within the admissible limits.

Surface and Subterranean Waters

Drinking water

Zimnicea is supplied with drinking water both from subterranean and surface sources and (Cheson), and the water network is 32.1 km long.

The surface water source is a "bank take off" from the Danube River, which ensures the drinking water supply for the population in proportion of 75%, as well as the necessary industrial and drinking water for the southern industrial area, with a debit of 883 l/s.

The underground water source is the secondary supply source and it works through drilled wells equipped with submersible electric pumps consisting of 2 locations:

- Location no. 1, which includes 2 drilled wells with Q = 36 l/s.
- Location no. 2, which includes 16 drilled wells with Q = 64 l/s

The mixture between the underground water and the surface water is done in 2 tanks from the water plant, one with a capacity of 5,000 m³, and the other with a capacity of 1500 m³.

Municipal and Industrial Wastewater and Rain Water

Wastewater in the city originates from:

- Households and municipal activities
- Industrial activities

Of the total 63 km, only 20 km of the street network are connected to the sewerage network. The

evacuation of the wastewater from the households, from industry, and rainfall is done through the wastewater treatment plant, which has a debit of 2,302 m³/ hour.

The wastewater treatment plant has generally good performance levels, but the two decanter tanks need repair, as they have fissures and ex-filtrations in the upper area.

Waste

Waste generation

Quantity of Generated Waste During 1995 – 2000, According to Types of Waste and Origin

| Main types of waste/ year | Waste Code | 1995 -m ³ - | 1996 -m ³ - | 1997 -m ³ - | 1998 -m ³ - | 1999 -m ³ - | 2000 -m ³ - |
|--|------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.1 Municipal waste total, of which: | | 12,772 | 12,831 | 12,892 | 13,014 | 13,064 | 13,126 |
| Municipal waste non-selectively collected from the population | 200301 | 9,879 | 9,914 | 9,44 | 10,024 | 10,045 | 10,088 |
| Municipal waste collected from economic operators (industry, trade, tourism, institutions, etc.) | 200301 | 2,893 | 2,917 | 2,948 | 2,990 | 3,019 | 3,038 |
| Waste from municipal services Total, of which: | | 4,541 | 4,655 | 4,631 | 4,784 | 4,800 | 4,515 |
| Street waste | 200303 | 1,174 | 1,288 | 1,224 | 1,247 | 1,323 | 1,038 |
| Waste from marketplaces | 200302 | 1,440 | 1,460 | 1,450 | 1,430 | 1,420 | 1,460 |
| Waste from gardens, parks and green areas | 200200 | 1,920 | 1,900 | 1,950 | 2,100 | 2,050 | 2,010 |
| Hospital waste | 180000 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 1.2. Mud from the treatment of the municipal wastewater | 190805 | 70 | 72 | 78 | 80 | 76 | 82 |
| - Mud from septic pits | 200304 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1.3 Waste products from construction and demolishing sites | 170000 | 270 | 300 | 400 | 430 | 600 | 500 |
| Total – general waste | | 17,653 | 17,858 | 18,001 | 18,308 | 18,540 | 18,223 |

Average Composition of Municipal Waste (%)

| Paper, cardboard | Glass | Metals | Plastics | Textiles | Organic materials | Others: ashes, ceramics, rubber, leather | Total % |
|------------------|-------|--------|----------|----------|-------------------|--|---------|
| 12 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 60 | 10 | 100 |

Waste management

Sanitation Service Operators

| Address | Nature of the property | Area of action | Services provided: | Number of the personnel |
|-------------|------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| URBANA S.A. | Stock Company | -apartment buildings -industrial, trade, tour operators and other institutions | Municipal and industrial waste collecting, transport and disposal | 3 persons |

Equipment for Waste Transportation

| Sanitation service operator | Equipment for waste transport (no. and capacity) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-------------|-----|--------|-----|----------------------------------|-----|
| | Compacting garbage trucks | | Transport containers | | Transport with trailers | | Dump trucks | | Trucks | | Tractor with trailer- containers | |
| | No. | Cap. | No. | Cap. | No. | Cap. | No. | Cap | No | Cap | No | Cap |
| URBANA SA | | | 1 | 4 mc | | | | | | | 1 | 4mc |

Waste Disposal

The municipal waste produced by the population and economic operators is deposited in the two existing landfills (disposal by biodegradation).

A small part of the (industrial) production waste is deposited on the ground (the case of the six commercial units), in the landfill in the northwestern section of the town. However, the most significant amount of waste is collected and recycled by specialized firms.

Waste resulting from the construction and demolition sites is deposited in the landfill in the northwestern part of the city through ground depositing by the operator or beneficiary.

Hazardous waste is disposed of as follows:

- Sharp objects from the hospital for chronic diseases are disposed of in a dry well
- Organic hospital wastes are incinerated – the ashes resulting from the crematory of the City Hospital are deposited at the landfill in the northwestern part of the town.
- Hospital waste from veterinary activities is cremated:
 - Sc Suinprod SA incinerates this type of waste in metallic containers, and the ashes are taken to the sterile dump within the precinct of the firm;
 - The veterinary cabinet cremates this type of waste in metallic barrels, and the ashes are taken to the landfill from the northwest of the town.
- Animal corpses from households are cremated or buried on households property, or

transported to the landfill and deposited on the ground; a dry well also exists outside the city;

- Animal corpses and remains from the slaughter house (2 tones / week), originating from SC Suinprod SA, are collected in a trailer and picked up weekly by SC Protan SA Bucharest;
- Packages of pesticide are incinerated in metallic containers;
- Sludge from the municipal wastewater treatment plant is eliminated through surface disposal;
- Sludge from the wastewater treatment plant of SC Suinprod SA is eliminated through discharge into ponds, and after the humidity is reduced, it is deposited at the sterile dump from the precincts of the firm. During the summer it self-ignites;

- Toxic waste from the population is eliminated through ground depositing at the two landfills, along with the domestic waste;
- Other hazardous waste from the economic operators is eliminated by specialised firms, which have special contracts for this activity.

Areas polluted due to waste deposits

The landfills: northwest: 2.4 ha; west- Republicii Street: 0.035 ha, northeast – 3.6 ha; at the fortress – 0.0110 ha.

Areas with uncontrolled depositing outside the landfills (and on the edge of access roads).

Analiza SWOT

| STRONG POINTS | WEAK POINTS |
|---|--|
| <p>National network included in the international network. Strong international connections through the Agency from Vienna.</p> <p>Very well trained specialists in the field. Wide knowledge regarding the impact of radioactivity on the environment and on the population.</p> <p>Database well designed and completed, with the help of specialists.</p> <p>The possibility of performing spectrometric analysis.</p> <p>The permanent analysis of the radioactive dose of the environment.</p> <p>Geographical location- the southernmost point in the country, on the border with Bulgaria, along the Danube.</p> | <p>Old equipment.</p> <p>Obsolete equipment within the network.</p> <p>Lack of computers in the network</p> <p>Lack of connections at the local level with the laboratories from Bulgaria (except the radioactivity laboratory)</p> <p>Lack of public or private investment funds</p> <p>Citizen ignorance concerning the laboratory's activity (lack of publicity)</p> |
| OPPORTUNITIES | RISKS |
| <p>New employment opportunities created through program modification</p> <p>Achievement of viable projects that can lead to the establishment of a new and competitive laboratory</p> <p>High level of knowledge development among the network members.</p> <p>General and complete database available to the community.</p> <p>Permanent supervision of all radioactive agents, present in the atmosphere naturally or artificially.</p> <p>Attracting foreign investors in an area with a strict control of the radioactivity level (agriculture, industry, fishing, river port, ferry boat, free zone, tourism development etc.)</p> | <p>Risk of a nuclear accident at the Kozlodui Nuclear Power Plant (cooling with water from the Danube)</p> <p>Limited professional development of the workers due to lack of new information and knowledge</p> <p>Lack of involvement of investors in uncontrolled areas and in a possibly polluted environment.</p> <p>Impossibility of performing precise and realistic measurements and determinations due to the old and non-performing equipment.</p> <p>Risk of accidents.</p> |

| POSITIVE FACTORS (INTERNAL) | NEGATIVE FACTORS |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural environment (diversity, variety) - Attractive urban and suburban zone. - Intensive use of ecologically friendly means of transportation (bikes) - Sufficient green areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ineffective use of natural resources (water), overused specific infrastructures. <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- Lack of an ecological landfill. - Insufficiency of certain resources – local funds for the environment |
| OPPORTUNITIES | RISKS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attract investors with financial resources for implementing “clean” technologies - Program to plant vegetal belts along DN 51 and in the area of protective dams. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risks related to the urban infrastructure (water supply and sewerage) - Disadvantaged geographical position from a pollution point of view (near Bulgaria) – air pollution |

I.1.2. Anthropogenic Capital

I.1.2.1. Economic Activities and the Business Environment

Economic Situation

The evolution of the town's economy is connected to that of the national economy, which is in a difficult situation due to the delayed application of reform and the prolonged transition to the market economy.

Private economic operators and their initiatives influence the good functioning of the market economy. Therefore, it is vital that private initiatives be supported. An increase in the number of economic operators is encouraged, as well as an increase in the number the individual persons wishing to develop a business.

The analysis of Zimnicea's economic situation shows that its evolution is far from falling within sustainable development principles.

Firms Registered Between 2000- 2002

| Economic operators | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | Percent | Total |
|---------------------|------|------|------|---------|-------|
| Production | 56 | 16 | - | 22% | 72 |
| Services | 66 | 6 | - | 22% | 72 |
| Trade | 170 | 4 | 10 | 54% | 174 |
| Constructions | 7 | - | - | 2% | 7 |
| Total | 299 | 26 | - | 100% | 325 |
| Family associations | 100 | 125 | 140 | | |

The number of individual businesspersons decreased significantly in 2003, one of the reasons being the high production and sale costs they confronted.

Industry

The categories of industry and the main firms in Zimnicea are:

- Metallurgy:
 - SC Zimtub SA - produces helicoidally and longitudinal welded pipes
 - RC Metal – (firm with Turkish capital), produces rectangular pipes
 - Europipe – (firm with Turkish capital)
 - SC Titan SRL – processing iron sheets, tinsmithing, boilers
- Light industry:
 - SC Zimtex SA – ribbon factory
 - SC Picena – (firm with Italian capital), ready-made clothes
 - Sophore Investments SRL – (firm with English capital), ready-made clothes
- Food and agriculture:
 - SC Intreagro SRL – agricultural, food and drinks
 - SC Suinprod SA – pork and beef products
 - SC Agrovitis
 - SC Agromar
 - SC Zimexfrance SRL
- Furniture:
 - SC Conart SRL
- Construction:
 - SC Dorex SA – thermal isolating windows
 - SC Comconstruct SRL
 - SC Euroconstruct SRL

Being in recession, the local economy is still based on traditional activities: agriculture, metallurgy, light and food industry, and trade. The economic recess in the last years lead to excess capacity in some industrial fields, depreciated technological equipments (at the level of years 1970- 1980), insufficient strategic investors, and weak connections with possible Bulgarian partners.

The Development of the Private Sector

SME Dynamics

During the 13 years of transition, the private sector experienced difficulties due to a general lack of experience, unsteady laws, bureaucracy, corruption, as well as a lack of trust of the population in the private initiative. Among economic operators, SMEs are now more significantly represented because on one hand they have the capacity to absorb the labour force created in the processes of reorganization, and on the other hand, the products and services they offer contribute to the recovery and re-launching of the local economy. The variation in the number of SMEs does not only affect the economic level, but it also has consequences with regard to the natural and human environment. The business community from the private sector must become an important partner for the success of any sustainable development program. To meet this purpose, the local administration will work on reducing and eliminating the obstacles on the way towards economic development, and facilitating the promotion of economic vitality.

Business Services

The most important Romanian commercial banks have branches in Zimnicea: the Romanian Bank for Development, The Romanian Commercial Bank, Raiffeisen Bank, CEC. These banks offer a range of financial and banking services requested by the business environment and by economic operators.

Transportation

a) Road Network

Zimnicea is connected to the rest of the country by the following roads: to Turnu Magurele through DN51, to Alexandria through DN 51A, and to Giurgiu through DN 5C.

The main roads have been asphalted and a belt road towards the harbour was built. The configuration of the town's road network is determined by the directions of the 3 national roads meeting in Zimnicea and by the interposed area of railway transport.

The road from the harbour is splits into two thoroughfares, establishing the connection with the upper terrace of the town.

With regard to road traffic, the general census and the traffic forecasts for the public roads show the following values (transportation vehicles / day) on the thoroughfares that go through Zimnicea:

| National road | Year - 1990 | Year - 2000 | Year - 2010 |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| DN 5C | 1,936 | 3,608 | 6,023 |
| DN51 | 1,663 | 5,250 | 8,953 |
| DN 51A | 6,404 | 13,404 | 22,231 |

In Zimnicea there is a recorded a number of 1,892 cars, 287 mopeds, and 104 motorcycles.

b) Railway Network

The town is connected to the "Rosiori de Vede" rail junction by a railway, through Alexandria, and it represents the terminal point of this line, which continues to the harbour area.

c) Water Transportation for Merchandise

Zimnicea uses a 20-ton crane for loading and unloading the barges that stop in the harbour. Transportation of merchandise via the river is employed by the Factory of Welded Pipes SC ZIMTUB SA, SC INTERAGRO SRL, SC PICENA, etc.

In recent years, the volume of merchandise traffic through Zimnicea Harbour decreased considerably, mainly due to events in Yugoslavia as well as to the lowering level of the Danube – cause by the drought.

Tourism

Tourism represents a profitable activity, with a major positive impact on the local economy.

The geographical position of Zimnicea gives it a significant tourism potential - with piscicultural and hunting opportunities, a beautiful landscape, and very diverse flora and fauna. This potential, however, is not

ZIMNICEA

exploited. There is no interest in initiating various programs to attract foreign tourists, and tour operators are mostly importers rather than providers of services in the field.

The local services are not sufficiently developed and branched out according to international trends in the field (cultural tourism, ecotourism, agricultural tourism, wine tourism, fishing, hunting, cruises on the Danube).

Also, there is no interest in promoting the traditions of the area.

The town has:

1. Hotel Zimnicea "Zimtub SA," with a capacity of 48 rooms, restaurant with 100 seats, and a night club with a capacity of 80 places.
2. Fast-Food terrace-restaurant
3. A four-star hotel, under construction.

The predominance of big economic operators leads to a reduced capacity for adapting to market economy conditions.

Agricultural Development

Zimnicea is located in a predominantly agricultural area, where the cultivation of cereals, tobacco, sunflower, vegetables, viticulture, and animal breeding play an extremely important role.

The current commercialising of produces raises problems in the agricultural field.

Today, an increasing number of large companies are practising a production processing system in a closed circle. The produces from personal lands are capitalised in personal micro-processing firms.

Among the small producers there is little interest in the personal processing of products. The majority prefers to capitalise their products on the food market. In order to support them, the City Hall built 2 modern spaces: one for commercialising fish and another for dairy products.

The main occupation of the town's inhabitants is agriculture. From the total arable surface, approximately 46% is owned by private households.

Total surface: 13,131 ha

- Arable surface: 10,557 ha (79%)

- Forests: 896 ha (1 %)
- Percentage of the total surface of the town occupied by bodies of water: the surface of minor riverbeds (approx. 97 ha)
- Total length of bodies of water (approx. 26 km)

Land Use

- Agricultural areas – 79.5%
- Other uses - 10.5 %
 - Urban area
 - Fresh water and lakes with meadows with no agricultural use
 - Communication network
 - Forests

In the past 12 years, most land owners leased their lands to the agricultural firms established in Zimnicea:

- SA ZIMNICEA
- SA OGORUL
- The INTERAGRO Group

The percentage of arable area currently in use is 54%, and this figure tends to rise with the addition of new surfaces.

The structure of the land according to crops during 2002-2003:

- Wheat 31%
- Barley 1%
- Corn 36%
- Sunflower 19%
- Others 13%

7% of the agricultural area consists of meadows, and 5 % of the area has vineyards.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the growth of the following: soybean, rape, mustard for seed, coriander, and tobacco. There is a need for the diversification of the range of cultivated plants which do not have the necessary amount of seeds for re-planting.

Forests are of great importance at the local level. In 1991, Law 18/91 appropriated land to a number of 371 persons, which contained a forested area of 79.78 ha. In 2000, Law 1/2000 appropriated land to a number of 69 persons, with a forested surface of 21.69 ha.

Zootechny

Animal breeding has a special economic and social importance. There are two firms dealing with animal breeding and capitalisation, and their activity is based on modern, scientific principles.

There is one firm operating in the horned cattle field (SC INTERAGRO SRL), and one firm that collects milk (DANONE), which satisfies the necessary production.

The number of animals: (at the 2002- 2003 agricultural census):

- Horned cattle 846; sheep 1,122; goats 590; pigs 50,486; horses 612; poultry 56,486.

Land distribution according to crops 2002-2003

| Culture | Surface (ha) |
|----------------|--------------|
| Wheat | 2,914 |
| Barley | 50 |
| Two-row barley | 36 |
| Corn | 3,318 |
| Sunflower | 1,757 |
| Tobacco | 370 |
| Mustard | 45 |
| Soybean | 200 |
| Vegetables | 180 |
| Potatoes | 40 |
| Beans | 20 |
| Melons | 40 |
| Lucerne | 296 |

SWOT ANALYSIS – ECONOMIC FIELD

| STRONG POINTS | WEAK POINTS |
|--|--|
| Danube - harbour; Industrial platform; Fertile agricultural land; Labour force; Infrastructure; Geographical position (120 km far from Bucharest, in the neighbourhood of the Bulgarian city - Svishtov); Social and cultural facilities; Educational network; Damming works; Constructions in different phases of execution; Socially calm areas; Water stream- Dunarica; Hunting and fishing potential; 14.Existence of compact areas available for building an industrial park; Land available for investment; Low level of infringements and criminal activities. | Low standards of living; Lack of employment opportunities; Reduced information network; Lack of specialists; Lack of competitive phone services; Lack of investors; Negative demographic index; Labour force migration; Insufficient facilities in schools and at the Culture House; Lack of appropriate heating system in schools; Low quality of drinking water and high energy consumption for its production and distribution; Conservative mentality of the population; Undiversified industrial structure; Poorly trained labour force; Obsolete technologies. |
| OPPORTUNITIES | RISKS |
| Free zone Disadvantaged area. Transboundary cooperation Crossing border point. Diaspora Representatives in superior forums Twinning agreements with other cities | Weak seismic resistance Degraded and lowered phreatic water layer Pollution Competition on the financing projects market Economic recess |

Z I M N I C E A

I.1.2.2. Spatial Planning

Statistics:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Surface of administrative territory | 13,131 ha |
| Agricultural surface | 10,557 ha (79.5%) |
| Arable surface | 9,330 ha |
| Forests | 896 ha (1%) |
| Surface of inhabited area | 729.35 ha |
| Surface occupied by constructions | 230,983 m ³ |
| Number of dwellings..... | 5,842 |
| Number of inhabitants..... | 15,672 |
| Inhabitable surface (m ³ /inhabitant) | 14.81 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of state-owned residences..... | 572 |
| Number of private owned residences..... | 5,270 |
| Total apartments | 2,570 |
| From which: private property..... | 2,006 |
| state property..... | 572 |
| Total private property houses..... | 3,264 |
| Uninhabited apartments (state property)..... | 151 |

Percentage of the entire town surface occupied by courses of water: minor riverbeds (approx. 97 ha)

Total length of courses of water (approx. 26 km)

In Zimnicea there are 571 apartments in 8 apartment buildings in different stages of execution.

Drinking Water Supply System

| | Overall population | | | Population connected to the water supply system | | | % of total | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|---|--------|--------|------------|------|------|
| | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 |
| Centralised network | 17,768 | 20,000 | 25,000 | 11,925 | 16,000 | 23,000 | 67,1 | 80 | 92 |
| Wells (fountains) | | | | 5,843 | 4,000 | 2,000 | 32,9 | 20 | 8 |

Connection to Sewage Systems with Wastewater Treatment Plants

| Year | Overall population | Population connected to the sewage system | % of the total | Quantity of sludge | Use of sludge | Humidity |
|------|--------------------|---|----------------|--------------------|---------------|----------|
| 2000 | 17,768 | 8,710 | 49 | 82 t/year | No | 92 - 95 |
| 2005 | 20,000 | 12,210 | 61 | 144 t/year | Yes | 92 - 95 |
| 2010 | 25,000 | 18,280 | 73 | 216 t/year | Yes | 92 - 95 |

Heating Systems

| Total households, of which: | Coal | | Wood and wood cut | | Natural gas | | District heating | | CLU | |
|-----------------------------|------|---|-------------------|----|-------------|---|------------------|---|-----|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 5,739 | | | 3,426 | 60 | | | | | | |

Electric Energy

Zimnicea is supplied with electric energy from the National Power System through two transformation stations:

- Northern electric power station located on DN 51
2x 25 MVA – 110/20KV
- Harbour electric power station, located near the harbour
2x 25 MVA – 110/20 KV- supplying the city

2X 25 MVA – 110/6 KV – supplies the Welded Pipes Factory (Zimtub SA)

The electric networks are located underground; in the suburbs, they are aerial. The domestic consumers - social, cultural and economic operators - are supplied through the low voltage network, which follows all access roads of the city.

Public lighting is done through a low voltage network which has the same route as the direct supply consumers network, and is also shared for the most part with the urban phone networks (aerial for the most part).

The electric power consumption in Zimnicea is of approximately 25 GWh/year, of which:

- Household consumption 6 GWh/year
- Municipal consumption 0.5 GWh/year
- Industrial consumption 16 GWh/year
- Agriculture 3 GWh/year

Telecommunications

Since 2000, Zimnicea owns an Alcatel digital telephone exchange. This facilitates the connections to the urban, national, and international lines as well as internet connections such as ISDN and Artelecom. There are 2,100 telephone subscribers in Zimnicea.

Road Network

The total length of the street network is of 63 km, of which 22 are asphalted, 13 km consist of dirt roads, and 22 km are paved.

The total length of the water distribution network is of 32 km.

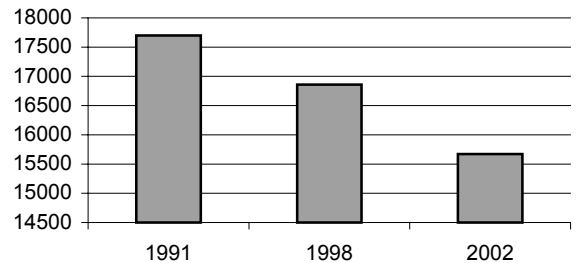
The length of the sewage network is of 18.6 km. 12 km of streets are connected to the sewage network, of the total street length of 63 km. The sewage network collects wastewater from households, industry, and pluvial waters from households, industrial operators and rainfalls.

I.1.3. Social Capital

I.1.3.1. Population Structure and Dynamics

| Data on human resources | Year 1991 | Year 1998 | Year 2002 | Comments |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Total population | 17,699 | 16,859 | 15,672 | Decreasing |
| Structure by gender: | | | | |
| - Male | 8,484 | 8,261 | 7,615 | |
| - Female | 9,215 | 8,598 | 8,057 | |
| Structure by age groups: | | | | |
| - 0-14 years | 3,942 | 3,690 | 2,435 | Decreasing |
| - 15-59 years | 10,667 | 10,310 | 9,934 | Decreasing |
| - 60 years and over | 3,090 | 2,859 | 3,303 | Increasing |
| Active population | 7,596 | 6,795 | 3,354 | Decreasing |
| Total population | 17,699 | 16,859 | 15,672 | Decreasing |

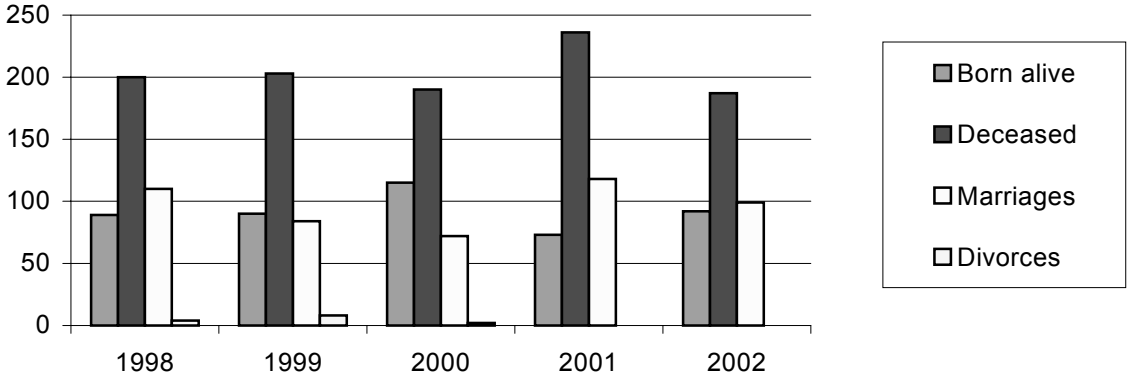
Population Development Between 1991-2002



Population has experienced negative dynamics, as deceases are exceeding the natural increase.

| Year | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Born alive | 89 | 90 | 115 | 73 | 92 |
| Deceased | 200 | 203 | 190 | 236 | 187 |
| Marriages | 110 | 84 | 72 | 118 | 99 |
| Divorces | 4 | 8 | 2 | - | - |

Z I M N I C E A



Population Distribution According to Employment

| Total population | Aged between 0-19 years (children and students) | Aged between 20-59 years (active population) | Over 60 years (retired) |
|------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| 15,672 | 3,594 | 5,181 of which: - 3,354 employed - 465 unemployed (232 women and 233 men) - 1,362 without occupation Of which: 1,052 beneficiaries of social support 310 with no income | 6,897 |

The population distribution according to gender illustrates a higher number of women than men.

The statistics indicate that during 1991-2002, the population decreased by 2, 391 persons. There are 3 main factors leading to this decrease:

1. Migration of the county's population to Bucharest (The migration percentage from Teleorman county is higher than in other areas of the country)
2. Low level of modernisation of the town and lack of strong economic operators to engross the available working force.
3. Reduced birth rate, characteristic at the county level, emphasising the high number of elderly persons (highest in the nation).

The negative effects of the demographic ageing process are obvious if we look at the economic and social development of the town.

The total resident population in Zimnicea (in year 2002) was of 15,672 inhabitants, of which:

| | | |
|-------|-------|---------|
| Women | 8,057 | 51.41% |
| Men | 7,615 | 48.59 % |

I.1.3.2. Interethnic Relations

Population Structure by nationality, according to the 2002 census, reflects a relative homogenous composition.

| Nationality | Number |
|-------------------|--------|
| Romanian | 15,230 |
| Hungarian | 2 |
| Rroma | 431 |
| German | 2 |
| Bulgarian | 2 |
| Other ethnicities | 5 |

Population Distribution According to Religion

| Religion | Number |
|------------------|--------|
| Orthodox | 15,535 |
| Roman - Catholic | 8 |
| Greek - Catholic | 1 |
| Reform | 1 |
| Baptist | 9 |

| Religion | Number |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Adventist | 83 |
| Gospel Christians | 7 |
| Other religion | 7 |
| Atheist | 3 |
| Without religion | 18 |
| Total | 15,672 |

I.1.3.3. Labour Force

The active population is of 3,354 persons (21,40% of the total population). The distribution of the active population by areas of activity is as follows:

| Domain | Number | Percent |
|--|--------------|---------|
| Agriculture | 601 | 17.91% |
| Industry: | 1,446 | 43.11 % |
| - Processing industry | 1,311 | 39,08 % |
| - Electric and thermal energy, gas and water | 135 | 4.03 % |
| Constructions | 97 | 2.89 % |
| Trade and services | 244 | 7.27 % |
| Transportation | 49 | 1.46 % |
| Financial activities, banking and insurance | 28 | 0.90 % |
| Public administration, security, and social assistance | 177 | 5.27 % |
| Education | 206 | 6,14 % |
| Health and medical assistance | 304 | 9.06 % |
| Freelancers | 202 | 5.99 % |
| TOTAL | 3,354 | |

Unemployment Rate

| 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 11.2% | 8.2% | 12.2% | 11.4% | 13.4% | 13% |

I.1.3.4. Social Protection

Social Assistance and Activities for Persons at Risk

The local administration pays special attention to social protection. The main objective is the

development and diversification of means of social protection, especially for persons with special needs (disabled, the elderly, persons with small or no income, persons with many children and low or no income).

Persons with Special Needs

There are 135 disabled persons registered in Zimnicea, of which 96 are adults and 39 minors.

There are 20 children and 21 adults with severe disabilities who have a personal assistant.

Persons with Low or No Income

According to Law 416/2001 regarding the minimum guaranteed income, in Zimnicea there are 1,052 assisted beneficiaries with social support, of which 310 have no income.

The categories of persons exempted from local tax payment are:

- persons with severe and medium handicap
- social support beneficiaries
- blind persons

Care centre

There is one day-care centre in Zimnicea, belonging to the County Council Teleorman - the County Department for Child Rights Protection, which is destined for the children with families in difficulty. The children benefiting from the services of this center have the ages between 7-16 years.

Pensioners Club

In order to improve the living standard for the retired persons, the Local Administration adopted a series of measures, such as:

inauguration of 3 low prices stores

arranging the Pensioners Club provided with television, radio and various society games.

Z I M N I C E A

I.1.3.5. Health

Healthcare

The current state of public health illustrates the effects of the difficult living conditions in the years prior to the 1989 revolution and of the present living conditions, defined by social and material problems. These effects lead to a critical public health situation, compared to the European level.

After analysing the global and specific health indicators, the following conclusions were reached:

- There is a tendency of demographic ageing of the population;
- The last 2 years show a decrease in the number of children in families;
- The general mortality indicator is low, as most deaths occur with persons aged over 50 years, according to the ageing process (141 deceased persons in 2002);
- Infant mortality has a positive development, but the low living standards lead to a medium birth weight being lower than in the European countries (deceased under 1 year in 2002- 1 case).

The most frequent causes for mortality are vascular accidents, cardiac insufficiency and infarct.

The most frequent diseases are: arterial hypertension, pneumonia, cardiologic diseases, acute breathing infections and tuberculosis (5 children and 30 adults)

The medical services for the population are provided by the municipal Hospital of Zimnicea, with a capacity of 128 beds and out-patient services with clinics for: tuberculosis, paediatrics, obstetrics-gynaecology, general surgery, family planning, spa therapy, psychiatry, neurology, ENT, ophthalmology. The hospital and clinic have a staff of 27 doctors with 10 residents, 5 additional persons with university degrees, 79 medical assistants, 40 auxiliary staff. The hospital has the following medical departments: intern, obstetrics-gynaecology, surgery, paediatrics and anaesthesia – intensive care. One physician attends 681 patients, a dentist 3,918 persons, and a nurse 186 persons.

The hospital and clinic have one laboratory for analyses, one for radiology, a hospital pharmacy, a

pharmacy for free medication dispersal, and special programs of the Ministry of Health.

There are 3 pharmacies in town, of which one has a non-stop program. A school dispensary exists in School No. 1, "Miron Radu Paraschivescu."

Emergency medical assistance is provided by the ambulance service, with a staff of 15 medical assistants and 5 cars.

The deterioration in the state of public health is a result of a series of factors related to the economic field, to the general life style, and to the public healthcare system.

Some of these factors are:

- The absence or insufficiency of professional services in the hospital and clinic;
- Insufficiently equipped medical units, both in terms of quality and quantity;
- Lack of permanent care services provided by the family doctors;
- Prohibitive medication prices, even under compensatory conditions;
- Decrease of family income together with the increase in the number of the families living under the poverty threshold;
- Increase in food expenses, electricity and heat to the detriment of personal hygiene products and services (soap, detergent, toothpaste);
- Generally depressive state of mind as a consequence of the unemployment, social insecurity, low living standards, increase in the number of alcoholics and smokers;
- Reduction of health funds allocated by the state and from the family budget.

I.1.3.6. Education

Preparing the human resources

School Network

There are 5 kindergartens in Zimnicea, 3 primary and secondary schools and a theoretic high school with both day and evening courses.

The Zimnicea Theoretical High school is 40 years old. The new building was built with the support of the Swiss Government, after the March 4th, 1977 earthquake. There are 15 classrooms in the high

school, one gymnasium and one workshop. The courses are attended by 511 students; there are also 2 classes for evening courses. Zimnicea high school has a library with 20,578 books and a modern information technology laboratory, endowed with 30 computers.

The School no. 1 “Miron Radu Paraschivescu” has 15 classrooms, of which 3 are laboratories (physics, chemistry, biology), 5 are for mathematics, geography, art, religion, Romanian language, one gymnasium, one workshop, and a library. The courses are attended by 434 students.

School no. 2 has 15 classrooms, of which 3 are laboratories (physics, chemistry, biology), 6 are for mathematics, geography, art, history, Romanian language and technical training, an information technology laboratory, a gymnasium, a library with 11,798 books, 4 workshops, one embroidery workshop, 2 basketball courts, 1 handball court, and a music hall. Starting with the academic year 2003-2004, the school has three 9th grade vocational classes. The school is attended by 580 students.

School no. 3 has 22 classrooms, of which 3 laboratories for biology, technical training and physics, and 3 rooms for mathematics, geography, and history. The school is attended by 535 students.

Kindergartens – The 5 existing kindergartens are attended by a total of 441 children.

The Children and Students’ Club is an institution owned by the Ministry for Education and Research, and it plays a role in occupying children’s and students’ spare time. The courses available are optional, free, and supervised. Their goal is to develop children’s skills, talents and habits needed in future careers, to stimulate talented children in various domains, to encourage friendship, teamwork, provide experience in activities involving both theory and practice, to stimulate creativity and the development of the communication skills. The lack of a grading system leads to an optimum co-operation among teachers, students, and family, and contributes to an efficient campaign against drug abuse, alcohol, smoking, as well as emphasising the positive attitudes and the pro-social behaviour of students. Attendance to Club courses occupies children’s spare time with pleasant

and useful activities, avoiding the vagrancy and gang forming.

I.1.3.7. Culture

Zimnicea does not host many occasional or permanent artistic events. The budgetary resources allotted for cultural events are insufficient for the desired cultural life of the citizens. Due to the lack of financial support from the state and of favourable laws (Mecena law, tax on profit) a series of institutions have lost their cultural traditions. Therefore, the need for new cultural institutions is clear.

The cultural institutions active in Zimnicea are:

- The Culture House and the town’s library
- “Miron Radu Paraschivescu” Library, which was inaugurated in 1952 and received its current name only in December 1989. The library is open in a national heritage building since 1985 with the help of the City Hall. It owns a total of over 57,000 books, located in 11 rooms, one of them used as a lecture hall. The library received a donation of 246 books in Italian from the twined Italian city Pieve Emanuele.

Heritage:

- Religious edifices: the churches “Sfintii Imparati Constantin si Elena,” “Sfintii Apostoli Petru si Pavel,” and “Sfintii Mihail si Gavril;”
- Monuments: Unknown Soldier Statue, Heroes’ Cemetery;
- Archaeological site (protected area) “Dealul Cetatii” - Getic-Dacian fortress (located at approx. 1,200 m West of the town centre), considered the oldest from Muntenia and covering a surface of 9.3 ha.

One of the town’s traditions is the wine and vineyard festival “Zarezan,” organised each year on the 1st of February. Participants include Bulgarian guests. “Zarazean” is an ancient custom in both Romanian and Bulgarian traditions, kept alive until the present times in various communities from Teleorman County.

Another popular festival is “Brumarelul,” which takes place in a Saturday and Sunday in mid October.

SWOT ANALYSIS – CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

| STRONG POINTS | WEAK POINTS |
|--|---|
| Institution with legal rights –Cultural House Zimnicea. Institution with own building, connected to all municipal services. Institution included in an associative non-profit form. Development of cultural activities. Opportunities to develop economical activities for supporting cultural and artistic events. Development of qualification and re-qualification activities. Adequate mechanical facilities of the stage. | Insufficient and obsolete equipment. Lack of telephone / fax connection. Lack of supply with thermal energy. Low interest in cultural activities. Lack of confidence in professional re-conversion activities. Insufficient promotion of local folklore. |
| OPPORTUNITIES | RISKS |
| Cultural cross-border exchanges. Varied opportunities for qualification and re-qualification of the working force according to local requirements and interests. Free zone. Disadvantaged zone. | Economical recess. High level of unemployment. Uncertain future economic development. Building degradation. |

I.1.3.8. Sports and Leisure

Zimnicea owns some attractive areas, located at relatively small distances from the centre of town, where the access is easy:

- The Town Park
- The “Disko- Hope” leisure area situated on the Danube’s riverside, with a beach, an open-air nightclub with a capacity of 1200 places.
- The beach and leisure complex from Cheson;
- “ZimtubSA” Zimnicea Hotel with a capacity of 48 rooms, a restaurant with 100 places and a nightclub with 80 places;
- The Fast Food restaurant;
- The “Dunarica” children’s summer camp, with a capacity of 200 places, football and tennis courts, kayak-canoe boats, and a cafeteria with a capacity of 250 seats;
- The town’s stadium with the related endowments;
- Gymnasium, currently under construction.

Although there are various leisure opportunities due to the town’s location on the Danube’s riverside, and despite the existing sports complexes, practicing sports is limited by different reasons, such as:

- insufficient funds allotted for maintaining or modernising the existent endowments and the

staff hired for cleaning, surveillance and maintenance.

I.1.3.9. Civil Society***Citizen participation***

The civil society in Zimnicea (citizens, non-governmental organizations, associations, trade unions) must be encouraged to become actively involved in the decision making process, because “the degree of population’s participation to the decision making process is a condition for accomplishing a sustainable development.”

The most representative sector of social activity in Zimnicea is the NGO sector.

The existing organisations include:

- “Dunarea de Sud” Association, which forms a partnership with the “Dunav Yug” association from the Bulgarian side of the “Dunarea de Sud” Euro-region, which includes the towns: Zimnicea, Alexandria, Turnu Magurele, Rosiori de Vede in Romania and Svishtov, Belene and Nikopol in Bulgaria. The association promotes common activities for the children and students from both sides of the Danube River, educational activities involving environmental protection and activities for reducing the

pollution, trans-boundary cultural exchanges, and international projects.

- “Bovizim” Association of the horned cattle breeders in Zimnicea, its purpose is to protect the interests of its members in the animal breeding sector, cultivation of the leased lands for obtaining fodder, processing and capitalising the animal and vegetable products.

I.1.3.10. Mass Media

The mass media institutions in Zimnicea are not well developed, and the population receives information from the national television channels (cable TV which is provided by SC LIDAS SA) and radio, central press, as well as publications from Teleorman County. There is only one local monthly newspaper issued by the Town Hall: “Curierul Primariei Zimnicea”.

I.1.3.11. Public Safety

The safe environment of the community is guaranteed by public safety agents in collaboration with the constabulary and public guardians.

According to the Prosecutor’s office in Zimnicea, criminal behaviour is kept under control.

From the analysis of a number of 110-120 crimes (the average on the last 4 years) the conclusions are:

- 35% of crimes include: robbery (20%), trust abuse, embezzlement, fraudulent administration, fraud;
- 20% are crimes against persons: physical violence (10%), insults, slander, public order infringement.

The majority of offenders are unemployed, divided in the following age categories:

- minors approx. 10%
- 18-25 years approx 40%
- 25-55 years approx 30%

These offenders commit mostly robberies, physical damage, insults, public order infringement.

Public safety must be strengthened in the future. This is not only the responsibility of specialised institutions, but also that of each citizen.

SWOT ANALYSIS – SOCIAL DOMAIN

| STRONG POINTS | WEAK POINTS |
|---|--|
| Harbour on Danube Existence of cultural- health-environment networks Organised tourism Opportunities to practice nautical sports Available spaces and buildings to establish business incubators A surplus of living spaces Water management works Associations Folklore groups | Terminus railway and road point. Lack of specialised staff (especially for health) Negative natural increase of population. (-10%) Aged population Migration of active population Conservative mentality Agricultural area Insufficient and obsolete equipment Low involvement of Local Council Lack of information Improper living conditions (lack of supply with warm water, heating and natural) |
| OPPORTUNITIES | RISKS |
| Arrangement of apartments. State border with Bulgaria Disadvantaged zone Legal framework for qualification or professional re-conversion of the working force (Culture House) Development of tourism in a controlled area from environmental point of view, and very rich in natural resources (flora and fauna). | Economic recess Instability of foundations (soil) Depopulation Nuclear power plant Kozlodui – Bulgaria. |

I.2. OBJECTIVES

I.2.1. General Objectives

- **HUMAN RESOURCES domain**

Secure the necessary human resources for the development of Zimnicea

- **ECONOMIC domain**

Competitive economy to support the town's development, connected to the international economic circuit. (unemployment %age < country average; GDP/inhabitant > country average)

- **SOCIAL domain**

Safe and attractive social environment

- **INFRASTRUCTURE domain**

Modern infrastructure necessary for town's development

I.2.2. Specific Objectives:

I.2.2.1. HUMAN RESOURCES Domain

A. Keeping and attracting well trained human resources (stability):

- Provide an attractive living standard;
- Job opportunities for all (working places);
- Create optimal leisure conditions (hunting, fishing).

B. Human resources training

- Provide a competitive and comprehensive system for human resources training (for students and adults):
 - Enhance the capacity for alternative training at the Children Club.
 - Modernise the training tools for unemployed persons at local office of AJOFP;
 - Establish a Club for IT and multi media training.

- Support the compulsory education system (modernise the teaching materials):
 - Establish a classroom with IT equipment in each school;
 - Use of multimedia in the teaching process;
 - Create appropriate conditions for sports activities. With financing from the state budget, within the framework of the "Sport Gyms" programme – initiated by the National Investment Company SA Bucharest, Zimnicea will benefit from a gymnasium with a surface of 1,102 m2 and a capacity of 50 places. It will be open for all students and young people in Zimnicea;
 - Provide the schools with books and educational materials;
 - Restoration of the water supply and heating systems (social groups). In 2003 all the schools and kindergartens in Zimnicea were provided with thermal stations, financed by state budget;
 - Introduce alternative curricula for students;
 - Provide schools with specialised laboratories;
 - Provide schools with modern furniture.
- Development of alternative teaching systems (economic schools, vocational schools etc.)
 - Set up a tourism school (post secondary school);
 - Establish an Informatics school;
 - Establish a vocational school in agriculture and zootechny field.

C. Motivating the Human Resources

- Maintain a high level of local development
 - Coordination of the economic development by a local accredited institution.
- Introduce new technologies and professions
 - Create a business incubator for software technologies;
 - Modernise the carpet factory;
 - Build a factory for fruit and vegetable processing;
 - Establish Agencies for Advertising and Home services;
 - Establish a Local Development Agency.

D. Training oriented towards local needs

- Establish a Local Council for professional training (LCPT)

- Establish LCPT through the association of the educational and training institutions;
- Develop a study concerning the labour force and future needs;
- Establish a Local Parents Council.
- Create a partnerships network with other schools / marketing
 - Formulate a marketing strategy for each education institution;
 - Establish connections with schools from the EU.
- Adult secondary school
 - Organise training courses for unemployed persons, using the existing facilities;
 - Train teachers in specific fields;
 - Organise foreign language courses for adults;
 - Organise adults' qualification courses in vocational schools.
- Reduce migration of educational staff
 - Provide houses for teachers.

E. Counselling and professional reorientation

- Establish an office for testing professional skills and professional counselling
 - Studies and examples available for the solicitors; qualification for the adequate profession;
 - Sociologist and psychologist provide advice regarding local employment opportunities.
- Establish an Office for professional reorientation in collaboration with D.J.F.M.P.S
 - Study the local labour market;
 - Professional counselling;
 - Qualification and re-qualification advice, with increased employment possibilities.

I.2.2.2. ECONOMIC domain

A. Attract investments

- Provide investors with facilities
 - Establish a local support office for investors;
 - Identify and submit a set of local facilities for investors for Local Council approval.
- Establish industrial areas
 - Identify and evaluate the feasibility of potential industrial areas;

- Create an industrial area for clean industries.
- Promote the area
 - Print promotion materials for Zimnicea zone;
 - Identify and prepare a list of available of lands and spaces;
 - Promote the area in the central newspapers.

B. Develop SME sector

- Search for SME foreign market
 - Sectoral marketing projects;
 - Provide market information and market research;
 - Support the design and development of new products.
- Reduce the bureaucracy in the SME establishment process
 - Set up a local office (within the Town Hall) to support SME establishment.
- Provide credits and guarantees for SMEs
 - Establish a mutual fund to support SMEs;
 - Provide assistance in the process of getting guarantees.
- Provide a space for a business incubator.
 - Establish a business incubator.
 - Identify the demand for spaces for services and production.
- Provide subsidies for SMEs
 - Allocate a part from local income to subsidise SMEs;
 - Provide assistance to SMEs, for subventions use.

The encouragement of the SME sector, an important objective for local sustainable development, has two major components:

- Meet the provisions of the acquis at the local level, in the area of Free Circulation of Services (negotiation chapter 3) and of Small and Medium Enterprises (negotiation chapter 16), in order to prevent the making of decisions on the local level which may restrict SME activity. This mostly addresses the administration of the following laws which impact SME development:
 - Law no. 133/1999 regarding the stimulation of private enterprises to establish and develop small and medium enterprises, as well as the law regarding SME establishment and development (currently in the parliamentary debate process)

- Law no. 507/2002 regarding the organisation and implementation of economic activities by individual persons, as well as the law regarding the authorisation and registration in the commercial registry of individual persons independently active in the economic sector and of family associations (currently in the parliamentary debate process)
- Law no. 650/2002 regarding the commercialisation of market products and services and the application of methodological norms for their implementation.
- Develop partnerships for identified priority projects within the Local Agenda 21 for local SMEs. Regional Development Agencies may be involved in the framework of these partnerships, as well as representative associations of the SME sector, including regional representatives of CNIPMMR, as follows:
 - Consulting of regional responsible factors for the implementation of the Development Strategy for the SME sector for the period 2004-2008;
 - Development of local and regional programs to ensure regional sustainable development and increase competition among SMEs;
 - Development of local networks for warranty funds;
 - Support SME access to information and consulting services;
 - Ensure the sustainability of industrial parks and of business incubators;
 - Support business transfers in the cases of small and medium enterprises;
 - Support SME access to public utilities;
 - Modernisation of local public administration departments in order to increase the efficiency of relationships with enterprises;
 - Initiation of a permanent dialogue between ANIMMC, city hall, and prefecture regarding problems related to the relationship with enterprises for the application of methodological norms;
 - Organisation of thematic seminars in order to find the best sustainable development solutions, and to foresee any artificial obstacles in the way of business development.

C. Economical reorientation and diversification

- Develop a strong tourism industry
 - Establish a local office for tourism development;
 - Identify the tourism potentials;
 - Training in tourism field;
 - Support the marketing process;
 - Print a leaflet to promote local tourism.
- Develop new support services for tourism
 - Identify new related services for tourism;
 - Provide priority support to food industry, public food network, handicraft etc.
- Food industry development
 - Study the local food demand and the possibilities to cover it;
 - Training in the food industry field.
- Develop high tech industries (software, communications)
 - Establish a business incubator for software technologies;
 - Provide internet connections for Zimnicea Town Hall and establish a network with the Teleorman Prefecture;
 - Establish an Intranet connection between Town Hall departments.

D. Community services

- Develop studies and Programmes:
 - Develop local studies.
- Stimulate the development of services for companies:
 - Fiscal facilities for new service providers;
 - Local facilities provided by the Local Council for the business community.
- Establish a Local Development Agency:
 - Establish the Agency's Statute and Action Plan;
 - Legal constitution;
 - Establish an agency headquarters and hire the necessary staff.
- Provide assistance and consultancy:
 - Establish a consulting centre and a network of enterprises;
 - Develop services for entrepreneurial training.

E. Enhance levels of qualification in the labour force

- Identify the existing training level and the training domains;
- Decentralise monitoring and training activities;
- Medium term planning of the training and reorientation of the working force;
- Collaborate with the educational system to direct it to meet the future local needs.

F. Modern infrastructure

- Identify the problems and the needs for infrastructure enhancement;
- Modernise the infrastructure in compliance with the medium term requirements.

G. Agricultural development

- Identify problems faced in agriculture (opinion survey)
- Provide assistance and consulting:
 - Establish a local office for assistance and consulting to support the establishment of individual firms;
 - Provide assistance concerning the protection of plants;
 - Provide assistance concerning the use of Sapard credits;
 - Implement projects in agriculture;
 - Allocate a part of the local income to procure seeds and ensure high quality breeding.
- Re-launch of pisciculture

H. Economical cross-border cooperation

- Stimulate and facilitate the local economic development in partnership with the Bulgarian local economy:
 - Establish in partnership with Bulgaria a Float or Ferry-boat system on Danube for cross-border traffic transfer between Zimnicea and Svishtov;
 - Establish and develop, in partnership, adjacent cross-border services.

I. Set up SMEs for better use of local resources

- Better awareness and use of agricultural produces
 - Build a cereal mill;
 - Establish laboratories for pastry and varied bakery
- Revaluation of building materials
 - Build brick factory, bolts and prefabricates.

J. Establish consulting services in the following domains: economy, human resources, social and culture, infrastructure works.

K. Establish a wholesale market for cereals

I.2.2.3. SOCIAL domain

A. Provide high-level medical assistance

- Municipal hospital provided with necessary equipment according to current standards, for the treatment of diseases most prominent in the Zimnicea area
 - Assess the most prominent diseases in Zimnicea;
 - Identify the necessary equipment;
 - Improve hospitalisation conditions for the patients;
 - Attract physicians from all medical specialities;
 - Re-establish the Blood Donors Centre.
- Modern and efficient ambulance system
 - Provide special ambulances;
 - Provide medical equipment for emergency aid.
- Efficient pharmacies network:
 - Correlate the pharmacies' working hours;
 - 24-hour pharmacy;
 - Set up new private pharmacies.
- Clinic with modern medical equipment:
 - Apply reform measures for clinics;
 - Modernise the reception spaces in the clinic;
 - Provide medical equipment.
- Motivate medical staff.

Z I M N I C E A

B. Develop cultural activities

- Promotion of cultural activities:
 - Promote cultural exchanges with Bulgarian partners;
 - Set up specific cultural groups;
 - Organise tours of cultural groups;
 - Organise art exhibitions;
 - Establish the "Miron Radu Paraschivescu" literary circle.
- Stimulate folk traditions:
 - Identify and document research of folk traditions;
 - Support folk art and handicraft artists;
 - Print a leaflet to promote local folk traditions;
 - Establish a professional folk group.
- Promote artistic groups (music, theatre, plastic arts) among students
 - Stimulate school choir;
 - Establish a school symphonic orchestra;
 - Set up an art school;
 - Support the school bands;
 - Establish a theatre group – amateurs;
 - Establish a professional group for music and dance.

C. Identify new leisure areas and activities

- Manage sport grounds for tennis, basketball, etc.:
 - Identify and design the necessary spaces;
 - Organise challenges.
- Build skateboard and go-cart track:
 - Identify and design special tracks for skateboards and roller blades;
 - Build the tracks;
 - Identify and design go-cart tracks.
- Restoration of the stadium:
 - Rebuilt the platforms;
 - Set up sports associations;
 - Stadium management.
- Create a sandy beach on the Danube river:
 - Concession of the land along Danube;
 - Arrange sand in compliance with sanitary and safety regulations;
 - Equip the sanitary groups and other facilities;
 - Arrange the access roads and adequate parking lots.
- Modernise the children's summer camp:
 - Re-arrange the camp;

- Modernise the kitchen and the dining room;
- Build playgrounds;
- Promote the Zimnicea children's summer camp.
- Modernise the access roads to the Danube
 - Asphalt the harbour road;
 - Build a highway city-harbour to provide fluent traffic conditions
- Build wharfs for leisure river boats
 - Dredge Dunărica Lake and build wharfs for hydro-bikes, boats, nautical sports.
- Provide seasonal skating rinks
 - Identify suitable surfaces to be arranged as skating rinks (during winter time);
 - Provide the lighting system;
 - Provide other facilities (fast-food).
- Introduce new sports: trampoline jumping, snowmobiles etc.
 - Install trampolines in schools;
 - Identify suitable routes for snowmobiles;
 - Introduce the "Rounder" national sport;
 - Sport dance;
 - Medical gymnastics, fitness, and body-building;
 - Build a diving board in the "Dunărica" area.

D. Provide assistance and organise activities for disadvantaged persons (the elderly, children, unemployed)

- Organise special events for the elderly and children
 - Establish a club for the elderly;
 - Invite the elderly to attend special social-cultural events;
 - Set up a dispatcher to watch over the elderly (social assistance);
 - Set up a canteen for poor and a shelter for persons in critical situations;
 - Establish a club for gifted children;
 - Set up a shelter for the elderly and for abandoned children.
- Support the set up non-governmental organisations dealing with social issues
 - Provide spaces (for rent) to organisations involved in solving urgent social problems;
 - Support volunteers organisations that perform activities for the benefit of poor, the elderly, and children;
 - Establish an organisation to support the institutionalised children.

E. Ensure public safety

- Prevention of criminal offences
 - Involvement of persons predisposed to delinquency in social-cultural-sporting activities;
 - Monitor persons with risk;
 - Provide adult education.
- Security systems for institutions, companies and houses
 - Install special security systems in collective dwellings;
 - Collaborate with police to install alarm systems;
 - Secure efficient public lighting systems.
- Measures to remove animal vagrancy
 - Establish a plan to remove stray dogs;
 - Set up a service for the disposal of animal carcasses;
 - Establish a programme to castrate stray dogs;
 - Train veterinarians to castrate stray dogs and establish shelters for stray dogs.

F. Diversified social life

- Organise festive days: beer festival, harvest day etc.
 - Organise beer festival;
 - Organise wine and fish day;
 - Organise harvest day;
 - Special fanfare performances in the park;
- Organise the “M. R. Paraschivescu” day.
- Establish clubs and organise special events
 - Organise award events for students / citizens with special achievements;
 - Establish sporting / cultural clubs;
 - Organise cycling challenge – the tour of Zimnicea.
- Organise joint activities with Bulgarian partners
 - Organise sport challenges;
 - Organise shows;
 - Organise plastic arts exhibitions in twinned schools;
 - Exchange of children in family placement;
 - Organise school competitions (mathematics, physics and chemistry).

G. Clean environment – pollution level below the admissible values

- High-tech laboratory to monitor the quality of environmental components
 - Arrange an adequate space as laboratory;
 - Provide the necessary equipment to perform physical-chemical and radiological analyses;
 - Provide a computing system for information recording and exchange;
 - Provide a mobile laboratory;
 - Equip with a rapid alarm system.
- System for informing and exchange of information
 - Set up a public posting system for pollutant values;
 - Establish a network between the other monitoring centres in the area (including Bulgarian ones) for data exchange;
 - Provide internet connections.
- Ecological education for adults and children
 - Introduce ecological education in primary schools;
 - Set up an ecologic club, with the support of the County Environmental Protection Agency;
 - Print posters and leaflets to promote ecological activities;
 - Organise seminars / workshops on ecology and pollution.
- Legal measures to fight against polluters:
 - Establish a team to apply punishments and penalties;
 - Monitor the polluters.
- Support to solve pollution problems:
 - Provide assistance to draw up the environmental documents;
 - Provide counselling to adopt cleaner technologies.
- Establish a seismic survey station.

H. Habitat at European standards

- Efficient heating system
 - Re-analyse the thermal distribution network;
 - Analyse the heat losses;
 - Adequately isolate the pipes and the basements of the apartment buildings;

Z I M N I C E A

- Increase the burning efficiency factor of the boilers;
- Optimise the fuel supply;
- Adequate insulation of the houses;
- Replace the central heating system with smaller local systems (for one apartment building or even smaller);
- Adequate drinking water supply
 - Monitor water consumption;
 - Identify losses in the system and eliminate them;
 - Provide water treatment and quality control.
- Basements and roofs adequately insulated
 - Technical expertise of basements and roofs;
 - Establish measures and priorities to solve specific problems.
- Secure proper information access from home
 - Provide apartment buildings with systematic and well structured cables for TV and telephone;
 - Set up efficient and lasting post boxes.
- Arrange the spaces between apartment buildings and houses
 - Arrange the existing spaces as green spaces;
 - Arrange special playgrounds;
 - Arrange access roads and facilities for fire fighters and ambulances;
 - Build parking lots.
- Support the associations of apartment owners
 - Establish an office within Town Hall for the relationship with Owners' Associations;
 - Provide support for association activities (legal, informational, etc.).
- Provide a safe and healthy environment
 - Establish an efficient sanitation system for municipal waste;
 - Provide standard garbage containers;
 - Arrange the special places for garbage containers, for population, companies and institutions;
 - Secure an efficient sewage system;
 - Organise the sanitation of the streets and public spaces;
 - Build public ecological WCs;
 - Build a municipal ecological landfill;
 - Apply penalties for the infringement of the regulations concerning the waste collection and storage.
- Establish an office for Consumer Protection.
- Print posters and leaflets on how to act in emergency situations (earthquake).

I.2.2.4. INFRASTRUCTURE**A. Modernise roads**

- Repair the asphalted streets, including the harbour road;
- Asphalt the streets and build a ring-road;
- Modernise the access road from the national road Alexandria – Zimnicea to the water treatment plant;
- Modernise the access road to the municipal landfill;
- Build the second municipal landfill and the access road to it;
- Build the road “Market-Turnu Magurele” road.

B. Provide adequate power supply

- Power supply of the Water take-off Station (Cheson - Danube) using a subterranean network;
- Provide power supply to the west part of the town;

C. Provide adequate harbour facilities

- Traffic studies on the Danube – Rhine – Main channel;
- Establish passenger transport on the Danube;
- Border passing point Romania – Bulgaria;
 - Ferryboat;
 - Free zone.

D. Multipurpose railway station / railway junction / harbour

- Analyse the railway traffic of passengers and goods;
- Establish a rapid train on the route Zimnicea – Bucharest:
 - Provide public transportation between the railway station and the harbour.

E. Increase the seismic resistance

- Identify the damaged buildings and reinforce them.

F. Enlarge the living and commercial spaces

- Use the existing strength structures
 - Business incubator;
 - Social dwellings;
 - Set up SMEs.

■

G. Restore the drinking water supply system

- Clean the existing water wells
- Procure new pumps for water collection from wells and its distribution to the population.

H. Provide suitable conditions to introduce a modern telephone system.

II. LOCAL ACTION PLAN

The Local Action Plan (LAP) – the main element in planning a sustainable development - contains the analysis of problems and the evaluation of priorities, as well as the early phases of the implementation of these principles and mechanisms capable to establish deep mutations in the conception and behaviour of the entire community.

Due to its nature, structure, and temporal dimension, the Local Action Plan contains a set of policies corresponding to fields of activity. This Local Action Plan is applied to a period of 10-20 years, established for accomplishment the Local Strategy for Sustainable Development (LSSD)

Formulating the town's Strategy for Sustainable Development represents a new practice for the local public administration. The strategic planning is one of the main instruments that help the local community to verify the put into practice the forecasted policies and programs as well as measuring their effects.

During the development of the Local Action Plan, as part of the LA 21 implementation process, the town's administration was concerned with obtaining a complete integration both on the horizontal level, by combining the economic, social and environmental components and on the vertical, among all the levels of power: community, national, regional and local, in order to secure the coherence of the political and decisional process.

The partners involved were: representatives of the civil society, of the public administration, as well as other groups of interests who cooperated voluntarily to the planning process.

The problems which Zimnicea has to confront must be balanced by a unitary strategic vision, expressed in specific objectives, materialised in fields of interest with definite and clear responsibilities, for which the functioning of the various partnerships is needed.

The basic characteristics of the Local Action Plan are:

- it is operation and achievement oriented;
- acts in a well defined temporal framework;

- is innovative, creative and against the routine;
- refers to a well defined area;
- must be assumed by all the people involved;
- the problems tackled are legal;
- refers to the realistic and available resources;
- represents a process where all the involved parties can learn.

The Local Action Plan will be periodically revised, so that the established objectives can take into account the economic evolution of the country, the state of the economy at a regional and local level and the opinions of the local community regarding the LAP implementation.

II.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The socio-economic analysis performed in Zimnicea indicates the following general objectives for which the support of the local community is needed:

1. Ensuring the human resources necessary for accomplishing the social and economic development of the town;
2. Developing the local economy by connecting it to the regional economic circuit (cooperating with the neighbouring towns from Bulgaria and with other harbours on Danube, from upstream and downstream);
3. Environmental protection (monitoring and preserving the quality of the Danube water and the air from the trans-boundary area);
4. Urban regeneration (restoration of apartment buildings, supporting the development of private dwellings);
5. Zimnicea – junction point for the international transport (railway, river and motor transport).

II.2. MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The objectives concerning the institutional environment are as follows:

- subsidiary;
- citizen oriented policy

which correspond to the following objectives of the strategy:

- redefining the local competencies;
- transparency and efficiency of local actions.

The measures for strengthening the institutional capacity at the level of Zimnicea Town Hall mainly aim for:

- ensuring an efficient urban and financial management;
- defining the public services in relation with the current financial resources, the objectives of the sustainable development and with the wishes and demands of the community as well.

These measures are mainly directed towards the human resources, the development of abilities and knowledge of the staff working for the local administration. Creating the necessary partnerships for a sustainable development is impossible to achieve without these measures.

Strengthening the institutional capacity is a lasting process, where the radical change of the public servant's attitude towards the citizens' access to the administration's activity represents an essential condition for the change in image and the increase in credibility of the local administration.

To meet this objective, the Ministry of Public Administration, through the National Centre for Continuous Training of the Local Public Administration, organised training courses for the staff focused on the following subjects:

- organizing activities of territorial and urban planning;
- strategies regarding the development of the territorial- administrative units;
- internal audit;

- local taxes;
- the duties and abilities of the Town Hall secretary;
- concepts concerning the European accession and regional development;
- organisation and functioning of the local public administration;
- human resources in public administration;
- public acquisitions;
- social protection in Romania;
- investments - condition for the local development;
- implementation of infrastructure projects financed from PHARE funds;
- management of the projects financed by the EU in the field of regional development.

Also, courses for PC operating were organized at the Town Hall headquarters and were provided by the "Informatics Training Centre" from Alexandria.

The Town Hall of Zimnicea envisages strengthening the institutional capacity at all levels of decision and execution. This means both attracting enough financial resources required for the investments, and increasing the level of training and qualification of the human resources, identifying the most efficient mechanisms of communication, and, last but not least, re-analysing the administrative frame of allocating responsibilities.

With the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the financial management, the proposed measures are:

- improving the internal organizational structures;
- redesigning the budgetary planning procedures;
- increasing the efficiency and quality of the activity specific to each internal structure;
- optimising the settlements (Local Council's decisions, Mayor's dispositions) in order to become efficient to the advantage of the entrepreneurs and tax payers;
- efficiency in the externalisation of the activities;
- drastic lowering of the operational costs of the public administration;
- evaluating the incomes and expenses of the local budget, measuring the results using the performance indicators;
- set up an efficient system for quantifying the results by stages (during the budget execution);
- correct evaluation of the efficiency in using the public funds.

Z I M N I C E A

Harmonising the local administrative procedures with those of the European Union

The commitment to the values and political and administrative basic principles (transparency, accountability, predictability, viability) represents an essential condition for the EU accession process and sustainable development.

The access to the non-reimbursable funds, granted to Romania by EU in the pre-accession stage, is crucial for the implementation of the projects included in the

Local Plan for Sustainable Development of the city of Zimnicea.

The Local Administration will consider the increase in institutional capacity to absorb these funds and its capacity to design, develop and finalise projects financed by these funds. These can be done through the viable achievement planning process with the identification of the real and potential financing sources. The attraction of the internal or foreign investors depends not only on the accuracy of these plans but also on the facilities offered by the municipality.

II.3. FINANCIAL PROJECTION 2004-2007**II.3.1 Local estimated budget for the period 2004 - 2007**

Thou. ROL

| Indicator name | Code indicator | Programme 2004 | Proposals 2005 | Proposals 2006 | Proposals 2007 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| INCOME - TOTAL | 00,01 | 76,481,988 | 66,262,500 | 72,017,500 | 79,891,800 |
| Own income - TOTAL | 48,02 | 35,384,000 | 23,652,500 | 24,911,500 | 26,510,800 |
| I. Current income | 00,02 | 17,520,000 | 11,259,500 | 12,311,500 | 13,520,800 |
| Fiscal income | 03,02 | 4,460,000 | 4,230,000 | 4,662,000 | 5,124,000 |
| Taxes on land | 04,02 | 130,000 | 153,000 | 168,000 | 185,000 |
| Taxes on buildings and lands from legal persons | 05,02 | 4,100,000 | 4,232,000 | 4,656,000 | 5,121,000 |
| Other direct taxes | 08,02 | 3,130,000 | 799,000 | 867,000 | 984,000 |
| Other indirect taxes | 17,02 | 1,295,000 | 864,500 | 952,000 | 986,000 |
| Income from public institutions | 21,02 | 295,000 | 287,000 | 297,500 | 307,800 |
| Other incomes | 22,02 | 4,110,000 | 694,000 | 709,000 | 813,000 |
| II. Capital income | 30,00 | 5,070,000 | 878,000 | 710,000 | 435,000 |
| III Amounts taken over from the state budget | | 52,201,277 | 53,367,000 | 58,336,000 | 65,365,500 |
| Quota and amounts detailed from the taxes on income | 31,02 | 29,110,000 | 30,157,000 | 31,271,000 | 33,750,500 |
| Quota detailed from the taxes on income | 31,02,01 | 9,000,000 | 9,240,000 | 9,440,000 | 9,930,000 |
| Amounts detailed from the taxes on income in order to balance the local budget | 31,02,02 | 16,316,000 | 18,642,000 | 19,381,000 | 21,195,500 |
| Amounts allocated by the County Council for balancing the local budget | 31,02,03 | 3,794,000 | 2,275,000 | 2,450,000 | 2,625,000 |
| Amounts detailed from VAT | 33,02 | 23,091,277 | 23,210,000 | 27,065,000 | 31,615,000 |
| Amounts detailed from VAT for the state owned educational institutions: pre-university, day nurseries, local and county centres for consultancy in agriculture | 33,02,01 | 22,091,277 | 22,210,000 | 26,065,000 | 30,615,000 |

| Indicator name | Code indicator | Programme 2004 | Proposals 2005 | Proposals 2006 | Proposals 2007 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Amounts detailed from VAT to subsidise the thermal energy | 33,02,02 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Subsidies from the state budget | 37,02 | 1,640,711 | 700,000 | 600,000 | 500,000 |
| Donations and sponsorships | 40,02 | 50,000 | 58,000 | 60,000 | 70,500 |
| Expenses TOTAL | 50,02 | 76,481,988 | 66,262,500 | 72,017,500 | 79,891,800 |
| Public Authorities | 51,02 | 9,900,000 | 9,527,000 | 10,236,000 | 10,661,000 |
| Education | 57,02 | 25,497,483 | 25,812,000 | 30,235,000 | 35,555,000 |
| Health | 58,02 | 371,090 | 417,000 | 467,500 | 513,800 |
| Culture, religion, youth and sports | 59,02 | 2,706,000 | 1,409,000 | 1,696,000 | 2,159,000 |
| Social assistance, appropriations, pensions, benefits and compensations | 60,02 | 7,330,000 | 12,081,000 | 12,508,000 | 12,718,000 |
| Services for public development and housing | 63,02 | 12,423,200 | 9,983,500 | 9,917,000 | 13,252,000 |
| Agriculture and forestry | 67,02 | 118,415 | 129,000 | 137,000 | 142,000 |
| Transportation and communication | 68,02 | 14,817,800 | 6,200,000 | 6,125,000 | 3,992,000 |
| Other actions | 72,02 | 443,000 | 579,000 | 546,000 | 724,000 |
| Transfer to other budgets | 84,02 | 100,000 | 125,000 | 150,000 | 175,000 |
| Interests payment for public debts and other expenses | 88,02 | 100,000 | - | - | - |
| Loan reimbursement | 90,02 | 2,675,000 | - | - | - |

II.3.2. The incomes and expenses registered between 2000-2003

-Thou. ROL -

| No. | Indicator name | Year 2000 | | Year 2001 | | Year 2002 | | Year 2003 | |
|-----|---|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|------|
| | | Achieved | % | Achieved | % | Achieved | % | Achieved | % |
| 1. | INCOME - TOTAL | 12,539,727 | 78 | 27,164,336 | 96 | 47,243,228 | 91 | 60,136,286 | 83 |
| 2. | Own income - TOTAL | 6,381,348 | 85 | 5,722,466 | 84 | 9,203,903 | 69 | 14,120,257 | 76 |
| 3. | I. Current income | 4,098,088 | 83 | 4,628,204 | 72 | 6,620,074 | 78 | 10,305,568 | 82 |
| 4. | Fiscal income | 1,930,124 | 71 | 2,095,131 | 71 | 2,554,082 | 75 | 3,335,570 | 81 |
| 5. | Taxes for the use of the state owned lands | 55,912 | 78 | 42,682 | 109 | 16,953 | 57 | 93,842 | 80 |
| 6. | Taxes on buildings and lands from legal persons | 1,487,237 | 95 | 1,362,233 | 77 | 2,318,238 | 119 | 3,963,433 | 81 |
| 7. | Other direct taxes | 236,408 | 94 | 305,618 | 111 | 688,028 | 98 | 876,999 | 94 |
| 8. | Tax on shows | 394 | 39 | 1,085 | 217 | 202 | 4 | - | - |
| 9. | Other indirect taxes | 119,282 | 397 | 45,712 | 88 | 46,257 | 46 | 1,049,138 | 86 |
| 10. | Taxes from public institutions | 62,551 | 69 | 133,929 | 139 | 252,810 | 92 | 270,400 | 82 |
| 11. | Other incomes | 206,180 | 106 | 641,814 | 50 | 743,504 | 37 | 716,186 | 80 |
| 12. | II. Capital income | 166,867 | 83 | 130,368 | 130 | 181,202 | 91 | 65,288 | 80 |
| 13. | III. Special destination income | 2,116,393 | 89 | 963,894 | 385 | 2,402,627 | 51 | 3,749,401 | 67 |
| 14. | IV Amounts taken over from the state budget | 5,667,004 | 72 | 20,903,380 | 100 | 35,539,325 | 98 | 44,016,029 | 99,9 |
| 15. | Detailed quota from the taxes on salaries | 320,680 | 101 | - | | - | | - | - |

Z I M N I C E A

| No. | Indicator name | Year 2000 | | Year 2001 | | Year 2002 | | Year 2003 | |
|-----|---|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|------|
| | | Achieved | % | Achieved | % | Achieved | % | Achieved | % |
| 16. | Detailed quota from VAT, for the local budget | - | | 13,323,824 | 100 | 18,657,826 | 100 | 20,607,345 | 99,8 |
| 17. | Quota and amount detailed from the taxes on income | 5,346,324 | 71 | 7,579,556 | 101 | 16,881,499 | 96 | 23,408,684 | 100 |
| 18. | Quota detailed from the taxes on income | 2,014,324 | 101 | 4,307,860 | 109 | 5,043,002 | 97 | 6,105,105 | 100 |
| 19. | Quota and amount detailed from the taxes on income for balancing the local budget | 987,000 | 100 | 3,021,696 | 100 | 11,077,047 | 100 | 13,303,579 | 100 |
| 20. | Amounts detailed from the taxes on income to subsidise the thermal energy | 1,345,000 | 38 | - | | 149,450 | 30 | - | - |
| 21. | Amounts allocated by the County Council for balancing the local budget | 1,000,000 | 100 | 250,000 | 50 | 612,000 | 75 | 4,000,000 | 100 |
| 22. | Subsidies | 491,375 | 73 | 538,490 | 73 | 2,500,000 | 100 | 2,000,000 | 25,2 |
| 23. | Loans | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24. | Expenses TOTAL | 12,170,170 | 76 | 25,878,657 | 91 | 46,706,234 | 90 | 58,223,153 | 80 |
| 25. | Public Authorities | 2,802,535 | 92 | 4,073,095 | 77 | 6,188,294 | 88 | 7,190,943 | 89 |
| 26. | Education | 1,629,664 | 76 | 14,581,707 | 99 | 26,568,235 | 99 | 25,009,343 | 93 |
| 27. | Health | - | | 142,731 | 100 | 175,687 | 91 | 515,943 | 94 |
| 28. | Culture, religion, youth and sports | 147,017 | 86 | 299,599 | 83 | 470,514 | 85 | 827,595 | 65 |
| 29. | Social assistance, appropriations, pensions, benefits and compensations | 807,403 | 93 | 1,247,406 | 91 | 5,076,114 | 99 | 9,250,000 | 100 |
| 30. | Services for public development and housing | 4,102,798 | 61 | 5,030,247 | 87 | 6,481,904 | 91 | 10,584,577 | 52 |
| 31. | Agriculture and forestry | 138,629 | 100 | 91,773 | 100 | 111,517 | 100 | 117,046 | 81 |
| 32. | Transportation and communication | 311,715 | 99 | 31,042 | 31 | 295,462 | 96 | 394,736 | 91 |
| 33. | Other actions | - | - | - | - | - | - | 97,691 | 99 |
| 34. | Transfer to other budgets | 164,016 | 100 | 131,057 | 77 | 164,874 | 82 | 36,748 | 37 |
| 35. | Special destination expenses | 2,066,393 | 87 | 250,000 | 100 | 1,173,633 | 25 | 4,198,531 | 75 |
| 36. | Interest payments for public debts and other expenses | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 37. | Loan reimbursement | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 38. | Excess | 369,557 | - | 1,335,679 | - | 1,234,744 | - | 2,362,263 | - |
| 39. | Deficit | - | - | 50,000 | - | 697,750 | - | 449,130 | - |

II.4.1. Human resource domain:**II.4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND IDENTIFIED PROJECTS**

The following measures and projects are emerging from the general and specific objectives identified in the Local Strategy for Sustainable Development:

PROPOSALS:

1. Provide service-dwellings for specialists;
2. Restore the basements and roofs;
3. Develop of the tourism area;
4. Increase the life expectancy and improve the demographic indexes;
5. Monitor environmental factors;
6. Develop hunting tourism;
7. Develop leisure activities for free time;
8. Restoration of the municipal heating system.

| No. | Specific objective | Financing source | Project title | Estimated project value (Euro) | Period | Responsible Institutions / Departments | Partnerships | Monitoring and evaluation |
|--|--|------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Education / training of human resources | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Provide a comprehensive and competitive system for educating / training human resources (students and working force) | N, BL | Increase capacity for alternative training at the Children's Club | 10,000 | 2004 | IST, Town Hall, | NGO, | LA21 |
| | | BS | Modernisation of the training tools at the Training Centre for Unemployed persons (in the frame of Local Office of the County Agency for Employment – AJOFP) | 5,000 | 2004 | AJOFM | Town Hall, NGO, SRL | LA21 |
| | | BS, BL, N | Establish a Centre for training on IT and multimedia use | 10,000 | 2004 | IST | NGO, Town Hall | LA21 |
| 2 | Support the compulsory educational system (modernisation of the material base) | BS, BL, N | Provide a classroom in each school with IT equipment | 50,000 | 2005 | IST | SRL, NGO, Town Hall | |
| | | BS, BL | Use of multi media in the teaching process (CD, video tapes) | 5,000 | 2004-2006 | IST | NGO, | |
| | | BS | Provide schools with adequate materials for athletic activities | 20,000 | 2004-2006 | IST, Town Hall | | |
| | | BS, BL, N | Provide schools with books and educational materials (blackboards, projectors, screens) | 15,000 | 2005 | IST | NGO, Town Hall | |
| | | BL | Restore the heating and water supply systems in schools (social groups) | 50,000 | 2004 | Town Hall | | |
| | | ISJT | Provide schools with specialised laboratories (for physics, chemistry, foreign languages, technology) | 50,000 | 2005 | | | |
| Motivation / stability of the local human resources | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Keep a high rhythm for the local development | N, BL | Establish a Local Development Association | 10,000 | 2004 | Town Hall | SRL, NGO, other institutions | |
| 4 | Introduce new technologies and professions | N, BS, BJ, BL | Establish a business incubator for software technologies | 100,000 | 2005 | Town Hall | | |
| | | R, N, | Build a factory for tinned fruits and vegetables | 1,000,000 | 2005-2007 | SME | | |
| | | R, N, | Promotion Agency for providing home services | 15,000 | 2005 | SME | | |
| Education oriented to local needs | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Establish a Local Council for professional training | N | Establish the Local Council for professional training through the association of the existing educational and professional training institutions | 10,000 | 2005 | NGO AJOFM | NGO, SME, | |

| No. | Specific objective | Financing source | Project title | Estimated project value (Euro) | Period | Responsible Institutions / Departments | Partnerships | Monitoring and evaluation |
|---|---|------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 | Use the high school and vocational training resources for continuous adult training | N,BL,BS | Provide training courses for unemployed persons using the existing laboratories Train teachers to be able to provide adult training | 15,000 | 2005 | SME, AJOFM | NGO, SME ISJ | |
| Counselling, professional reorientation | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | BL, N | Establish an office for testing vocational aptitudes and offering career counselling | 5,000 | 2005 | IST, | AJOFM, ITM, Town Hall | |
| | | BL, BS, | Establish an Office for professional reorientation and re-qualification together with D.J.F.M.P.S | 5,000 | 2005 | AJOFM | ITM, Town Hall | |
| Provide assistance and special activities for persons in difficulty (old people, children, unemployed persons) | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Organisation of special events for the elderly and children | BL | Establish a club for senior citizens | 10,000 | 2004 | Town Hall | NGO, | |
| | | BL, | Establish a dispatcher for elderly care (social assistance) | 10,000 | 2005 | Town Hall | NGO | |
| | | BL, N | Establish a social canteen and a temporary shelter for persons in critical situations | 100,000 | 2005 | Town Hall | NGO | |
| | | BL, BS, N | Build a shelter for old persons. | 100,000 | 2005 | Town Hall | NGO | |
| | | BL, BS, N | Establish a club for gifted children | 10,000 | 2004 | IST | Town Hall, NGO | |

Legend: (R) Reimbursable, (N) Non-reimbursable, (BL) Local Budget, (BJ) County Budget, (BS) State Budget

II.4.2. Economic domain

PROPOSALS:

1. Management of the summer camp (Dunarica).
2. Build a factory for fruits, vegetables and meat processing.
3. Reestablishment of the carpet factory.
4. Modernisation of Stefan cel Mare Str., between Mihail Kogalniceanu and Turnu Magurele streets.
5. Management of "Fântâna Sfatului" spring – mineral water.
6. Facilitate the establishment of SMEs.
7. Legal taxation.
8. Easy procedure and clear inventory for concession.
9. Special industrial areas.
10. Business incubator.
11. Free economic / customs area.
12. Adequate infrastructure.
13. User-friendly fiscal system.
14. Available spaces for business incubators.
15. Qualified services (consultancy, management, marketing – export / marketing)
16. Encourage associations according to professional criteria.
17. Increasingly developed services offered to businesspersons and enterprises.

| No. | Specific objective | Financing source | Project title | Estimated project value (Euro) | Period | Responsible Institutions / Departments | Partnerships | Monitoring and evaluation |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|--|---|---------------------------|
| Attracting Investments | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Provide facilities for investors | BL,N | Establish a local office to support the investors | 15,000 | 2005 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, Public local institutions Private partners | |

| No. | Specific objective | Financing source | Project title | Estimated project value (Euro) | Period | Responsible Institutions / Departments | Partnerships | Monitoring and evaluation |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|--|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 | Establish industrial areas | BL, Potential investors Owners | Establish an industrial zone for clean industries | 150,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | LOCAL COUNCIL | |
| 3 | Promotion of the area | BL, N | Edit a promotional brochure presenting the Zimnicea area | 10,000 | 2005 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |
| | | BL,N | Promote the Zimnicea area in central newspapers | 20,000 | 2005 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |
| Development of SMEs sector | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Search for foreign market for SMEs | N, BL | Marketing projects by domains | 20,000 | 2005 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, | |
| | | N,BL | Provide information concerning the market and the market research | 15,000 | 2005 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |
| | | N, BL | Support the design and the development of new products | 30,000 | 2005 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |
| 5 | Facilities for SMEs | N,BL | Establish a local office to support the set up and the operating of SMEs | 30,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, SME, INVESTORS | |
| | | N,BL | Create a local mutual fund to support the SMEs. | 25,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO,SME, INVESTORS | |
| | | N,BL | Establish a business incubator | 50,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, INVESTORS | |
| 6 | Build a gas supply and distribution system | BS, N, BL | Build a gas supply and distribution system. | 125,000,000 | 2008 | LOCAL COUNCIL | Urbanism Department | |
| Re-direction and economic diversification | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Development of a sound tourism industry | N, BL, | Establish a local office for tourism development | 150,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |
| | | N, BL | Development of the food industry, handicrafts etc. | 200,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |
| Agricultural development | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Provide assistance and consulting services | BL,N | Establish a local office for assistance and consulting services to support the set up of the individual firms, the use of the SAPARD credits and agricultural marketing | 20,000 | 2006 | DADR, LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |
| Trans-boundary economic cooperation | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Stimulate and facilitate the local economic development in partnership with Bulgarian local economy | N,BL,BS | Ferry-boat system on Danube for traffic transfer between Zimnicea and Svishtov. | 5,500,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, | |
| | | N,BS,BL | Establish and develop, in partnership with Svishtov Town Hall, the adjacent services at the board-crossing point. | 100,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO | |

Legend: (R) Reimbursable, (N) Non-reimbursable, (BL) Local Budget, (BJ) County Budget, (BS) State Budget

II.4.3. Environmental protection domain

PROPOSALS:

1. Provide the existing laboratory with the necessary equipment for performing accurate analyses.
2. Design and implement new projects for local development of environmental protection.

3. Promote good relationships with the local administration and the local community.
4. Design specific local databases in close connection with the national database and with the database of the Bulgarian laboratories.
5. Informing the public about the results of the analyses performed.
6. De-clogging the Pasarea River.
7. Forestation of degraded unproductive lands

| No. | Specific objective | Financing source | Project title | Estimated project value (Euro) | Period | Responsible Institutions / Departments | Partnerships | Monitoring and evaluation |
|---|---|------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------|--|---|---------------------------|
| Ecological environment – pollution level under the admissible limits | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Monitoring and warning system for environmental quality factors | BL, BS,N | Establish a laboratory equipped with necessary instruments for physical-chemical and radiological analysis | 100,000 | 2006 | APM, LOCAL COUNCIL | APM (Agency for Environmental Protection) | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Acquisition of a mobile laboratory | 200,000 | 2006 | APM, LOCAL COUNCIL | APM | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Acquisition of a rapid warning system | 250,000 | 2006 | APM, LOCAL COUNCIL | APM | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Public poster of the pollutants values | 70,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL, APM | APM | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Connection with the other monitoring centres in the area (including Bulgarian centres) for data exchange | 200,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL, APM | APM | |
| 2 | Education on environmental protection | BL, BS,N | Printing of advertising materials on environmental education | 10,000 | 2005 | APM, LOCAL COUNCIL | APM | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Organise seminars, public debates on ecology and pollution | 25,000 | 2005 | APM, LOCAL COUNCIL | Schools, Children's Club, NGO | |
| 3 | Ensure a healthy environment | BL, BS,N | Establish an efficient system for municipal waste management | 12,500,000 | 2008 | LOCAL COUNCIL | SC URBANA SA | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Provide an efficient sewage system | 500,000 | 2008 | LOCAL COUNCIL | SC URBANA SA | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Build ecological public WCs | 20,000 | 2008 | LOCAL COUNCIL | SC URBANA SA | |
| | | BL, BS,N | Build an ecological landfill | 10,000,000 | 2008 | LOCAL COUNCIL | SC URBANA SA | |

Legend: (R) Reimbursable, (N) Non-reimbursable, (BL) Local Budget, (BJ) County Budget, (BS) State Budget

II.4.4. Social domain

PROPOSALS:

1. Working force qualification and re-qualification courses according to interest and to the existence of absorbent SMEs or SA.

2. Project and programme design in the social domain (shelter for the elderly, social canteen) and attraction of external financing sources.
3. Cultural and artistic activities for adults' permanent education and development of specific leisure activities (Pensioners' Club).
4. Qualification and re-qualification courses for the labour force.

5. Efficient system for the prevention of delinquency.
6. Information system (through posters / local media) concerning infringements.
7. Efficient collaboration between the police and bars, discotheques, stores open during the night. These establishments should have their own security systems in order to prevent accidents and property violation.
8. Information and education system on the infringements' prevention modalities and solving.
9. Security systems and interphone for the blocks of flats.
10. The involvement of young people and unemployed persons in social, athletic, and cultural activities.
11. Provide municipal hospital with trained staff and adequate equipment to cure most frequent diseases.
12. Improve the accommodation and meals for the patients in the municipal hospital.
13. Set up a new operative ambulance system.
14. Provide the clinic with a modern medical system.
15. Organise special festive days: beer festival, harvest day etc.
16. Attract artistic and theatre troops to perform in Zimnicea for the local citizens (at the Culture House).
17. Organise symposia, informational meetings, exchanges of experience between institutions and citizens.
18. Develop common activities in partnership with Bulgaria.
19. Establish clubs and organise special events for youth.

| No. | Specific objective | Financing source | Project title | Estimated project value (Euro) | Period | Responsible Institutions / Departments | Partnerships | Monitoring and evaluation |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Competitive medical assistance | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Municipal hospital properly equipped, in accordance with actual standards, to cure the specific high-incidence diseases in the area | BL,BS,N | Improvement of the hospitalisation conditions for the patients | 150,000 | 2007 | DJSP TR, LOCAL COUNCIL | MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL ZIMNICEA | |
| | | BL,BS,N | Re-establishment of the Blood Donors Centre | 400,000 | 2008 | DJSP TR | MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL ZIMNICEA | |
| 2 | Adjacent medical services | BL,BS,N | Provide modern ambulances | 800,000 | 2008 | DJSP TR | MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL ZIMNICEA | |
| | | BL,BS,N | Provide medical equipment for first aid and diagnosis | 800,000 | 2008 | DJSP TR | MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL ZIMNICEA | |
| | | BL,BS,N | Modernisation of the reception spaces in the clinic | 100,000 | 2007 | LOCAL COUNCIL | MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL ZIMNICEA | |
| Diversified social life | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Organise festive days | BL, N | Organise the beer festival | 40,000 | 2007 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, TRADESMEN | |
| | | BL,N, | Organise the wine day (ZAREZAN) | 20,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, TRADESMEN | |
| | | BL,N, | Organise the harvest day (BRUMĂREL) | 30,000 | 2006 | LOCAL COUNCIL | NGO, TRADESMEN | |
| | | BL,N, | Cycling challenge – the tour of Zimnicea | 10,000 | 2005 | LOCAL COUNCIL | Children's Club | |

Legend: (R) Reimbursable, (N) Non-reimbursable, (BL) Local Budget, (BJ) County Budget, (BS) State Budget

Z I M N I C E A

At the legislative and executive levels, it was decided to start the formulation of certain investment projects necessary to ground the urban development and regeneration. Some of these projects are partially achieved:

- Thermal plants for schools, kindergartens, and the Theoretical High School;
- Set up playgrounds for children;
- Build a gymnasium;
- Modernisation of the Peco gas station;
- Enclose the cemetery area, repair the Mortuary Chapel;

- Well drilling for water supply and electrification of the "Rudarie" area;
- Restoration of the central streets;
- Modernisation of the food market, building of stores for dairy products and fish;
- Management of the Central Park, modernisation of public lighting, electronic clock;
- Restoration of the hospital building;
- Restoration of the police building;
- Residences for young people – ANL.

Investment programme in year 2004

- billion ROL -

| Objective | Total value (updated) | Achieved by December 31, 2003 | Planned for 2004 | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Value | Deadline for completion |
| Water supply | | | | |
| a) Restoration of water tank 5000 m3 | | | 7.0 | 31.12.2004 |
| Pave a secondary road | | | | |
| a) Cobble the secondary streets on the axis N-S | | | 6.0 | 30.06.2004 |
| Build a bridge | | | | |
| a) Restore the bridge over Pasarea river | | | 3.0 | 30.06.2004 |
| Build a gymnasium | | | | Financed by CNI |
| Other objectives | | | | |
| a) Administrative building for micro power plant | | | 1.85 | 30.09.2004 |
| b) Micro power plants for educational institutions | 8.84 | 7.50 | 1.34 | 31.03.2004 |
| c) Real estate cadastre | 5.97 | 0.75 | 0.30 | 31.12.2004 |
| d) Restoration of public lighting | | | 9.67 | -/- |
| e) Artesian well | | | 0.50 | 30.06.2004 |
| f) Photocopy machine, printer | | | 0.10 | 31.12.2004 |
| g) Expenses for design activities and approvals | | | 0.55 | -/- |
| TOTAL | | 8.25 | 30.31 | |

Investments provided during 2001-2003

| Objective | Put in service | Short description of the project's characteristics and social impact | Value mil. ROL |
|--|-----------------------|--|------------------|
| 1. Restoration of city streets a) Restoration of the road system on Cuza Vodă Street b) Street restoration, objective I+II | Sept.2002 Nov.2003 | The road system was rebuilt with concrete on the section between Primaverii and 1 Mai streets, measuring 175 m. The road and pedestrian traffic was improved. The streets on the axe North – South were reshaped and cobbled over a length of 29 km, creating proper traffic conditions | 672.6 6,687.2 |
| 2. Bridge construction a) Restoration of the bridge over Pasarea river | May 2003 | The superstructure of the bridge over Pasarea river was rebuilt with concrete, thus the vehicles can access the dammed area without crossing the city. | 97.6 |
| 3. Other objectives: | | | |
| - Building of stores in the food market for milk and meat | Sept.2001 | Special store to commercialise meat and milk was built. Previously this activity was performed improperly in open air, with no respect of sanitary regulations. | 336 |
| - Enclose cemetery no.1 | Sept.2001 | Cemetery no.1 was enclosed with a fence over a length of 658 m | 483.4 |
| - Video conference system + PC procurement | Aug.2001 | The communication with other city halls was significantly improved at the county level | 151 |
| - Enclose cemetery no.2 | Dec.2002 | Cemetery no.2 was enclosed with a fence over a length of 202 m | 124.9 |
| - Lighting system for administrative building | Dec.2002 | The old lighting system, with high risk of fire, was completely replaced | 260.5 |
| - Car purchase (Dacia) | Dec. 2002 | | 184 |
| - PC and printers procurement | Dec. 2002 | Computers and printers acquired for the Town Hall improved activities | 34.4 |
| - Purchase of refrigerators for schools | Aug.2002 | To create proper conditions for the implementation of the "Milk and croissant" governmental programme, the schools were equipped with refrigerators. | 43.2 |
| - Drilling wells | July2002 | Four wells were drilled in the Cetate-Rudari area (area with no drinking water supply system) to improve the living conditions in this disadvantaged zone | 80 |
| - Set up a clock in the central area of the city | Dec.2003 | The device set in the central area of the city provided information on the date, hour and temperature. The action was well received by the citizens. | 97 |
| - Thermal micro-plants for the educational institutions | Jan.2003 | Four thermal micro-plants were set in order to secure the heating of schools | 8,418.4 |
| - School furniture | Nov.2003 | 8 classrooms were provided with new furniture | 500 |
| - Lighting system for Civil Defence | Dec.2003 | The old lighting system from the basement, with high risk of fire, was repaired | 84.9 |
| - Purchase of computers etc. | Dec.2003 | The newly acquired computers improved the activity of the town hall. | 158.8 |

■

III. PRIORITY PROJECTS (PP) EMERGED FROM THE LA 21 PROCESS FOR THE PERIOD 2004 - 2014

1. Restoration of the heating, water supply and sewage systems and modernisation of the wastewater treatment plant.
2. Social assistance programme – Local Anti-Poverty Plan
3. Re-evaluation and re-activation of the post-industrial zones.
4. Ferryboat system for traffic transfer on Danube.
5. Integrated waste management.
6. Natural gas supply and distribution system.
7. Establishment of a Local Development Office, built on existing LA 21 office resources (human resources, logistics) aiming to:
 - a. Set up an inventory of the labour force from Zimnicea and adjacent communes (by categories of professions, age, residence etc.) in order to assess the available labour force for future development investments.
 - b. Set up an inventory of the lands and spaces suitable for industrial development.

III.1. Programme for the restoration of the water supply, sewerage and heating systems

A. Short description of the programme

- The programme aims to:
 - Increase the technical and economical efficiency of the water supply and sewage system of Zimnicea municipality;
 - Restore the thermal distribution network;
 - Eliminate the negative environmental impact (the restoration of the water supply and sewage networks located in the basements of apartment buildings);
 - Repair the 5000 m³ drinking water tank, to secure the necessary drinking water pressure for covering the consumption at

the city level. The acquisition of higher capacity pumps will solve this problem.

- Project manager
 - Zimnicea Town Hall in partnership with SC Urbana SA
- Responsible Departments for project achievement within the Town Hall:
 - Department for "Development Programmes and Strategies"
- The social impact and/or the impact on the environmental quality:
 - Improved services provided to local consumers;
 - Decreased water losses in the network, and lower costs for the consumers;
 - Eliminate water infiltrations in apartment building basements and reduce the land ram effects.
- The influence of the programme on local, regional and/or national economy:
 - Reduce the investments for infrastructure;
 - Stimulate the development of local construction firms;
 - Attract the investments at local level etc.
- Programme beneficiaries
 - SC Urbana SA
 - citizens of Zimnicea
- Investment location:
 - the investment will be focused on the water supply and sewage network, the wastewater treatment plant and the heating network of the apartment buildings in Zimnicea.

B. Financial requirements of the programme / project

- Cost estimate:
 - 150,000,000 EURO
- Type of financing:
 - Internal sources – credits and local budget
 - External sources – EU grant

C. Implementation period

- The project will be implemented in three phases:
 - Feasibility study;
 - Restoration / extension of the sewerage system in the suburbs (2 years);
 - Restoration of the heating network and of the apartment building basements (3 years).

III.2. Local Plan for Social Assistance

A. Short description of the Programme

- Enforce the following programmes and measures to fight poverty in the town of Zimnicea:
 - Law 416/18.07.2001 concerning the minimal guaranteed income;
 - Build a shelter for the elderly;
 - Establish a social cafeteria.
- Programme / project – Zimnicea Town Hall, Department for Social Assistance and Department for Development Programmes and Strategies, together with non governmental organisations active in the field.
- Social impact:
 - Reduce the poverty;
 - Improve the quality of life, the state of health; facilitate the access to the social and medical insurance system for the elderly.
- The influence of the programme on local, regional and/or national economy:
 - Reduce the impact of poverty;
 - Increase living standards;
 - Improve the quality of services;
 - Reduce the infringement phenomena;
 - Create new jobs.
- Potential users / beneficiaries of the programme / project
 - disadvantaged social categories;
 - the elderly;
 - homeless persons.
- Financial resources
 - Non-reimbursable funds from Romanian Government in the frame of the programme “Investments for social services”
- Investment location:

- The Hospital for Chronic Diseases – Zimnicea.

B. Financial requirements of the programme / project

- Cost estimate:
 - 3,500,000,000 ROL
- Proposed financing structure:
 - Public financing from Governmental sources
- Type of financing
 - Non-reimbursable

C. Regulations

- National Plan against Poverty.

D. Implementation period

- 2004 - 2005

III.3. Re-evaluation and re-activation of the postindustrial zones

A. Short description of the Programme

- Restoration and reactivation of the postindustrial zones from the existing industrial enterprises in Zimnicea; a decline in the profitability of their activity was recorded as they belong to the ferrous metallurgy, light industry and food industry.
- Restoration of these zones can be achieved by:
 - Modernisation of the assets of the industrial enterprises –own investments;
 - Establishment of partnerships with interested investors for professional reorientation.
- Establish cells with different destinations (convert the unnecessary productive or storage spaces) to increase the profitability within the big industrial enterprises.
- Re-allocate the working force involved in industrial activities towards new activity sectors and reduce the unemployment rate at city level.
- Use of the lands that presently don't generate profit.

ZIMNICEA

- Location:
 - All possible locations situated on the premises of industrial enterprises that are no longer operational or have reduced efficiency.
- Financers / Partners
Zimnicea Town Hall is the initiator of programmes for public-private partnerships in the industrial fields
 - Owners of industrial enterprises;
 - Potential investors;
- Beneficiaries:
 - Potential investors;
 - LOCAL COUNCIL of Zimnicea;
 - Owners of industrial enterprises;
 - Population of Zimnicea.
- Implementing partners:
 - LOCAL COUNCIL of Zimnicea will act as business mediator between the potential investors and industrial enterprises, interested in the reorientation, restoration and modernisation of their own post-industrial zones.
- Programme financing
 - Potential investors;
 - Owners of the industrial enterprises.

III.4. Ferry-boat system for traffic transfer on Danube between Zimnicea and Svishtov

A. Short description of the Programme

- Project objectives:
 - Revitalisation of the local / regional economy through the establishment of a cross-border road corridor, combined with a river connection and river transportation;
 - Management of both shores (Romanian and Bulgarian) to facilitate the ferryboat access;
 - Development of the existing points for border crossing and customs to manage the cross-border road traffic;
 - Increase the economic and social cooperation with the city on the other side of the Danube (Svishtov);
- Manager of the programme / project: Public / Private Partnership under the coordination of the Town Hall;

- Responsible Departments for project achievement within the Town Hall:
 - Department for Development Programmes and Strategies
- Requested external technical assistance: technical assistance from European companies with sound experience in the field, supported by European funds;
- The social impact and/or the impact on the environmental quality: the development of the road connection to cross the Danube will increase the pressure on the environment; in order to keep this under the limits stated by the European standards, specific measures are requested from early stages of design process; the social impact is significant, the traffic volume will help the local community to get rid of the actual isolation (end of road city);
- The influence of the programme on local, regional and/or national economy: the project implementation will stimulate the exchange of goods and the development of productive economic and commercial activities. Zimnicea can become a road transport junction using the axis North – South (road and ferryboat) and East – West (on the Danube river) connected with the Main – Rhine Channel.
- Potential users / beneficiaries of the programme / project: the direct beneficiaries of the project are the local communities of Zimnicea and Svishtov.
- External financing resources: reimbursable and non-reimbursable EU funds together with national Romanian and Bulgarian funds and commercial credits;
- Dissemination channels: public services provided by a public / private consortium;
- Investment location: city of Zimnicea – Danube bank.

B. Financial requirements of the programme / project

- Estimated cost: 5.5 mil. Euro;
- Proposed financing structure with the indication of the source: 60 % external sources, 30% national funds, 10% own funds.
- Type of financing: non-reimbursable funds and commercial credits;
- Critical factors that influence the profitability: the tariffs for transfer with the ferryboat, the

availability of the non-reimbursable funds, the media and the facilities for crossing the border.

C. Regulations

- The implementation of the project in the macroeconomic context of the national economy and the investment projects at local level, based on the available resources;
- Financial contributions from internal, external, public or private sources;
- Regulation favourable or unfavourable to the project / programme implementation: the establishment of the European road corridor is unfavourable to the project, but the project is supported by the river corridor Danube – Main – Rhine.

D. Implementation period

- The project will be implemented between 2006 – 2009, subject to the attraction of funds.

III.5. Integrated waste management

A. Short description of the Programme

- The project aims:
 - To protect the environment and the Danube, through an active management of the municipal and industrial waste;
 - To increase the tourism attraction of the city and of the Danube harbour;
 - To recover recyclable waste;
 - To build an ecological landfill including:
 - o Enclosing fence
 - o Access roads
 - o Monitoring equipment
- The advantages of the waste recycling:
 - reduce waste quantities;
 - low costs for waste transportation to the landfill;
 - reduce noise pollution;
 - reduce space for waste storage;
 - income sources.

The main project's activities include: waste collection, sorting and treatment, in parallel with recycling the reusable waste. The composting method will be used, and the final products of this process can be used as fertiliser in agriculture or as building raw material.

- The programme / project manager: Zimnicea Town Hall / Urbana SA;
- Responsible departments for project achievement within the Town Hall: - Department for Husbandry and Housing;
- Requested external technical assistance: the technical assistance will be provided by the specialised office for integrated waste management of the Ramnicu Valcea City Hall;
- The social impact and/or the impact on the environmental quality: the active management of the municipal and industrial / agricultural waste will protect the fragile ecosystem from the Danube border, thus contributing to the development of the piscicultural and agricultural potential of the adjacent area. The water quality of the Danube will be protected as well, leading to the development of the cross-border collaboration and increase tourism in the border area.
- The project influence on the local, regional and/or national economy: the integrated waste management is assumed to produce an indirect long term benefit, due to the increase of the tourism activities and implicitly of the related economic activities.
- Potential users / beneficiaries of the programme / project: the private households and the economic operators will be the direct beneficiaries of the programme; the sanitation company and the firms dealing with waste recovery will be potential users.
- External financial resources: Non reimbursable and reimbursable EU funds and commercial credits;
- Dissemination channels: Public services provided by URBANA SA, company under the authority of the Local Council Zimnicea;
- Investment location: the city of Zimnicea, on the road towards Giurgiu;
- Project's harmonisation / integration with the local territorial planning: the land for the construction of the landfill is included in the Urban Master Plan.

Z I M N I C E A***B. Financial requirements of the programme / project***

- Estimated cost: 12.5 mil. Euro;
- Proposed financing structure with the indication of the source: 80 % external sources, 10% central funds, 10% own funds;
- Type of financing: non-reimbursable funds and commercial credits;
- Critical factors that influence the profitability: the tariffs for the services, availability of the non-reimbursable funds.

C. Regulations

- The implementation of the project in the macroeconomic context of the national economy and of the investment projects at local level, based on the available resources;
- Financial contributions from internal, external, public or private sources;
- Regulation favourable or unfavourable to the project / programme implementation: European environmental regulations on habitats and on economic agents are favourable to the project from priority point of view.

D. Implementation period

- The project will be implemented between 2005 – 2008, subject to the acquisition of funds.

III.6. Natural gas supply and distribution system***A. Short description of the Programme***

- The project aims to:
 - increase the technical and economical efficiency of the area;
 - improve the quality of the services provided to the population;
 - promote an intensive policy for resource valorisation.
- Project manager: Town Hall Zimnicea

- Department from the City Hall in charge with project / programme implementation: Urbanism Department.
- The social impact and/or the impact on the environment quality:
 - increase of the quality for the services provided to local consumers;
 - improve the living conditions for the city's inhabitants;
 - reduce the air pollution.
- The programme impact on the local economy:
 - stimulate the development of the local firms for building materials;
 - attraction of local investments.
- Potential users / beneficiaries of the programme / project:
 - all city's inhabitants.
- Investment location:
 - city of Zimnicea.

B. Financial requirements of the programme / project

- Estimated cost:
 - 125,000,000 Euro
- Type of financing:
 - internal sources – local budget, state budget
- Critical factors that influence the profitability:
 - The high cost of the investment.

C. Regulations

- Local Council Decision (HCL) no.12/12.03.2004 – concerning the achievement of the investment:

“Natural gas supply and distribution system in the city of Zimnicea”.

D. Implementation period

- The project will be achieved in three phases:
 - Feasibility study;
 - Building the gas supply and distribution network;
 - Plug in of the dwellings and economic operators.
- The project should be completed by the end of year 2008.



MUNICIPALITY



ANNEXES

1. “SOUTH DANUBE” EUROREGION

Within the EU pre-accession process of the central and Eastern European countries, which includes Bulgaria and Romania, new concepts which arose include cross border cooperation and the establishment of Euroregions. This phenomenon emerged from the necessity to determine and keep the environmental dynamics and technical-economical characteristics of the area belonging to Euroregion “South Danube.” This Euroregion was established in August 2001 and complied with European structures. According to the Agreement for cross-border cooperation, technical Working Groups were set up for the following domains:

- infrastructure;
- economy;
- environmental protection;
- education, culture and sport.

The establishment of the Euroregion aims to promote the cross-border cooperation for:

- cultural exchanges;
- communications;
- transportation;
- health;
- sports and tourism;
- environmental protection;
- common actions in case of natural disasters;
- development of cooperation relationships between neighbourhood inhabitants;
- collaboration between organisations, institutions and business community.

Within the PHARE Cross Border Cooperation Programme, specific projects that brought together Romanian and Bulgarian children and young people were developed. These projects include: “Towards friendship through sport,” “Make a friend on the other

side of Danube river,” “Radio Katranov,” “Balkan youth forum,” “Share your dreams, share your reality.” These are only few examples of such projects which lead to closer relations between the inhabitants of the “South Danube” Euroregion.

Resources and natural potential of the “South Danube” Euroregion

Location, territory, borders

The “South Danube” Euroregion includes three cities from Bulgaria (Svishtov, Belene and Nikopol) and four cities from Romania (Zimnicea, Turnu Măgurele, Alexandria and Rosiori de Vede).

Their territory is situated in the Low Danube Plain and belongs to two Bulgarian regions (Svishtov belongs to Veliko Târnovo zone and Nikopol and Belene belong to Pleven zone) and one Romanian county (all four Romanian cities belong to Teleorman County).

The surface of the “South Danube” Euroregion measures 1,326.9 km² on Bulgarian territory, and 6,500 km² on Romanian territory.

Geographical characteristics

The soils along the valleys of Osam, Yantra, Olt, Vedeia and Teleorman rivers are predominantly alluvial, sandy or argillaceous yellow soil.

The relief is formed of long plains and wetlands. The Danube banks are characterised by a geographical asymmetry: the Northern bank (between Turnu Măgurele and Zimnicea, including the great lake Suhaia) is low and marshy while the Southern bank (the area around the cities of Svishtov and Nikopol) is higher and steep. More than 95% of the Euroregion territory has an altitude of 100 m above sea level, which favours the intensive development of the agriculture, the improvement of the transportation

infrastructure with low investments, the set up of an irrigation system etc.

Climate

The territory of the Euroregion has a moderate-continental climate, summer temperatures exceeding 30°C. The winter season is characterized by negative temperatures with values between -1 and -10°C, and frost periods lasting 2-3 weeks. The climate is a restrictive factor for the certitude of good and constant harvests.

Vegetation

The forests cover approximately 35% of the Euroregion surface, and willows, oaks, elm trees and poplars are the predominant species.

The predominance of marshy vegetation and easily flooded forest is caused by the existence of numerous lakes on the Romanian bank.

Population

The population of the "South Danube" Euroregion is of 73,249 inhabitants on Bulgarian side and 117,000 inhabitants on Romanian side.

2. ZIMNICEA, ROMANIA AND PIEVE EMANUELE, ITALIA - TWINNED CITIES

On May 23, 2003, the Mayor of Zimnicea, Mr. Petre Parvu, and the Mayor of Pieve Emanuele (Milan Region, Italy), Mr. Francesco Argeri, signed a Twinning Agreement between the two localities. Through this agreement, both cities committed to

achieve the objectives and aims of the EU, with significant citizen support.

The cities of Pieve Emanuele and Zimnicea thereby provided for an exchange of experience and collaboration between the communities of the two towns. The two communities, their active enterprises, schools, and many other organisational forms of social life, collaborate for a mutual benefit based on the Protocol of Friendship Pact signed in Italy on November 23, 2002.

Through this and an additional technical act, Pieve Emanuele and Zimnicea prove their commitment to support the development of the European project for a Europe which is more present in citizens' conscience, an Europe governed by peace and understanding between all people.

3. ZIMNICEA – DISADVANTAGED ZONE

Starting with December 2000, the city of Zimnicea was declared Disadvantaged Zone for a 10-year period. This zone has a surface of 13,131 ha and benefits of the following:

- Custom tax and VAT exemption for foreign machineries, tools, equipments, vehicles and other goods imported to support investments in the area.
- VAT exemption for machineries, tools, equipments, vehicles and other Romanian goods used to support investments in the area.
- Custom tax exemption for the import of raw materials and for the production from the area.
- Tax on profit exemption.
- Tax exemption on the lands removed from agricultural circuit and ceased to the investors in the area.
- Available commercial and living spaces.

■