

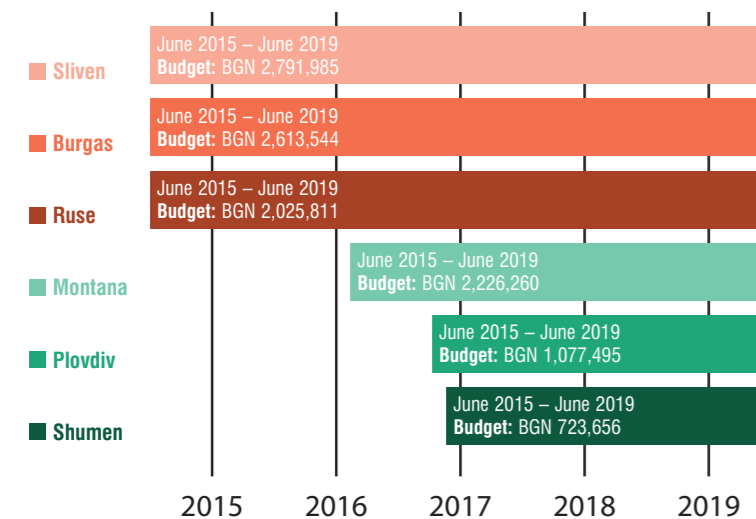
## ZOV Achievements

The ZOV Programme is a **pilot model** implemented in Bulgaria at local and national levels using the Swiss experience on access to good quality education and healthcare for children and young parents. The new profession of the **Educational Mediator** was officially registered. More than 500 teachers, directors and mediators were trained on **innovative teaching methods** for vulnerable groups and on prevention of early school leaving.

The Programme advocated for the inclusion of family planning services in the revised *National Programme for Maternal and Child Health* and supported the legal recognition of the **Health Mediator** profession in the new Healthcare Law.

One of the greatest achievements of ZOV is its **sustainability**, resulting from the planned cooperation of the Programme with national and local authorities. Most of the ZOV activities will be further maintained by delegated budgets, national programmes and other donors' projects.

### Funding Timeframe of Local Projects



### ZOV KEY STRATEGIC APPROACHES:

- Integrated approach – combines health, education and infrastructure activities, targeting one and the same community;
- Cooperation with central and local institutions;
- Direct intervention in large urban communities and small rural areas, where services are close to people;
- Preliminary planning of activities which leads to sustainability;
- Advocacy at central level;
- Supportive supervision at local level;
- Capacity building for local partners.



ZOV is implemented under the Thematic Fund *Support for Social Inclusion of Roma and Other Vulnerable Groups* of the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme (BSCP).

Within the Framework Agreement between Bulgaria and Switzerland, BSCP amounts to 76 million CHF for the period 2010-2019 ([www.swiss-contribution.bg](http://www.swiss-contribution.bg)).

Learn more about ZOV here:

[www.zovprogramme.bg](http://www.zovprogramme.bg)

[f@ZOVProgramme](https://www.facebook.com/ZOVProgramme)

June 2019

Pictures: © SDC  
Photographer: Hristo Vlahev  
Pictures Sliven: Ivo Danchev



BULGARIAN-SWISS PROGRAMME  
FOR PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF  
ROMA AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Health and  
Education  
For all

## The Programme

ZOV Programme (**Health and education for all**) supports the social inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups with the financial contribution of the Bulgarian-Swiss cooperation programme. The total amount of the financial supports is **8 088 500 CHF**, with the Swiss contribution being **6 920 000 CHF**. ZOV aims at improving access of Roma and other vulnerable groups to better education and healthcare in the period 2013 - 2019.

The ZOV target groups are children and young families in 6 regional centers where vulnerable groups live in closed and marginalized communities with extreme poverty levels.

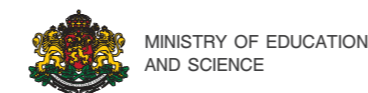
Additionally, 8 smaller locations - partners to regional centers - participated in the programme - Gabrovnitsa, Kuklen, Sredets, Malko Tarnovo, Zvezdets, Ivanski, Vetovo and Senovo.



Altogether, **30** partnering schools, kindergartens, healthcare centers, NGOs and others participated in the Programme with specific and practical activities targeting vulnerable groups.

The Bulgarian *Ministry of Labor and Social Policy* is the key partner of the Programme. *Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Science* participate in ZOV with financial contributions, expertise and consultations. The overall co-funding of the 3 Ministries amounts to **1 168 500 CHF** (15% of the total budget).

Together with:



## MONTANA

A new kindergarten for 120 children was built and equipped in the Kosharnik neighborhood. The kindergarten's sustainability is ensured through a delegated budget since 2018. 415 children from Kosharnik and the villages of Gabrovnitsa and Bezdenitsa are engaged in afterschool programmes in Bulgarian language, math, arts and sports.



Two new modern healthcare centers in Kosharnik and Gabrovnitsa were open. Four health mediators provided their services to over 1000 children and families.

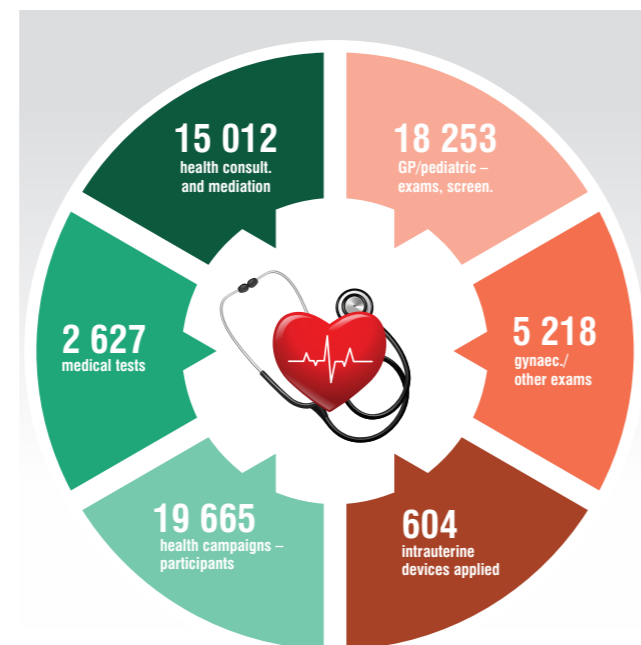
## PLOVDIV



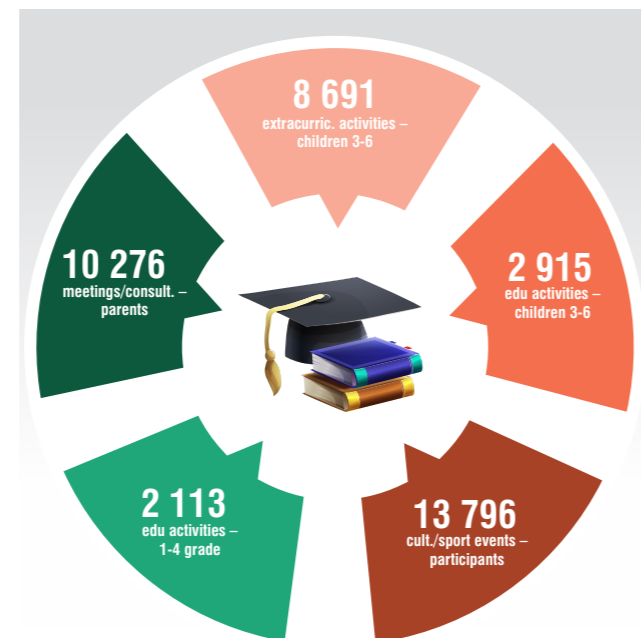
A new educational center, attached to *Kiril Nektariev* and *Naiden Gerov* primary schools, opened its doors in 2019, in Stolipinovo. Close to 1000 children attend afterschool programmes in Bulgarian language, arts and sports. ZOV provided a chance to children and their parents to visit for the first time in their lives theatre performances, museums and galleries. A new health center, attached to the existing municipal medical center with doctors' and mediators' offices was built and equipped under ZOV.



## RESULTS HEALTHCARE - Services and Beneficiaries (all locations) 2016-2018



## RESULTS EDUCATION - Services and Beneficiaries (all locations) 2016-2018



## RUSE



40 children from vulnerable groups attend a fully renovated nursery which is sustained by a delegated budget since 2018. Some partnering NGOs implemented innovative parent-children afterschool activities, consultations with parents and teenkitchen activities with the purpose to prevent dropping out of school. Two educational mediators were hired on permanent contracts in 2 Ruse schools. A renovated and equipped sports hall in Vetovo hosts 40 children who were already awarded prizes at national competitions. Sports activities motivate children to attend school regularly.

## SLIVEN

Over 100 children from Nadejda neighborhood attend nursery and kindergarten for the first time in their lives. The newly built kindergarten offers intensive Bulgarian language study applying innovative teaching methods.



A GP's and a gynecologist's offices were renovated and equipped in the Traktysya neighborhood. A gynecologist office was renovated in Vetovo and a GP's office - in Senovo. Regular medical check-ups were carried out in all of these offices.



Next to the kindergarten, ZOV built and equipped a health center for GPs, a gynecologist and a pediatrician. A new cultural center provides space for celebrations and parents' meetings.

## BURGAS

Since 2016, 300 children attend pre-school classes in the newly built annex to the primary school *Hristo Botev* in Pobeda neighborhood. Regional Roma Union's mediators organized over 400 motivational sessions with parents.

The renovated community center in Sredets attracts children from the neighborhood to its clubs for Bulgarian language, computers, sports and arts.

30 children attend a renovated and fully equipped kindergarten in the village of Zvezdets. More than 30 children and their parents participated in activities in parent-



## SHUMEN

A kindergarten and its branch in Shumen were renovated and partially equipped, hosting 150 children, including 25 newly enrolled children. Two mediators are responsible for children's regular attendance and Montessori-trained teachers deliver Bulgarian language training and organize week-end clubs for parents (similar activities are implemented in the school in Ivanski). The Shumen kindergarten and its branch are sustained by a delegated budget since 2018. Over 2000 children visited museums, natural parks, concerts and puppet theatre.



children clubs in the newly equipped kindergarten in Malko Tarnovo.

Two new GP and gynecological offices were set-up in the village of Zvezdets. The gynecological examinations in Malko Tarnovo and Zvezdets are performed by a gynecologist from Burgas in coordination with the local health mediator. The same doctor supported by 2 health mediators examine the patients in Burgas.

A local gynecologist from Sredets examines pregnant women on the spot. Family planning services are secured by a medical center in Burgas.

A gynecologist, a GPs and a health mediator's offices were set-up in the repaired and equipped health center in Ivanski.

