

*The role of Technological Regional
Foresight in the development of
Bitola Technology Park*

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Project Background

- The Centre for Research and Technology Hellas and LDK Consultants S.A. was responsible for the implementation of an EU funded project titled "Technical assistance for the feasibility study for development of a technology park in Bitola".
- The project was implemented in two phases:
 - Phase 1: The case for a technology park in Bitola
 - Phase 2: Full development study of the technology based initiative

Objectives

- **Phase 1:**
 - to assess the economic and technological conditions in the region of Bitola as to their appropriateness for the creation of technology park in the region
 - to identify the best-fitting structure (development concept) and characteristics of a technology park that will bring the most added-value for the region and the country.
 - to promote the participation of all the members of the Project Steering Committee and to secure the greatest active involvement and commitment for the Phase 2 of the project

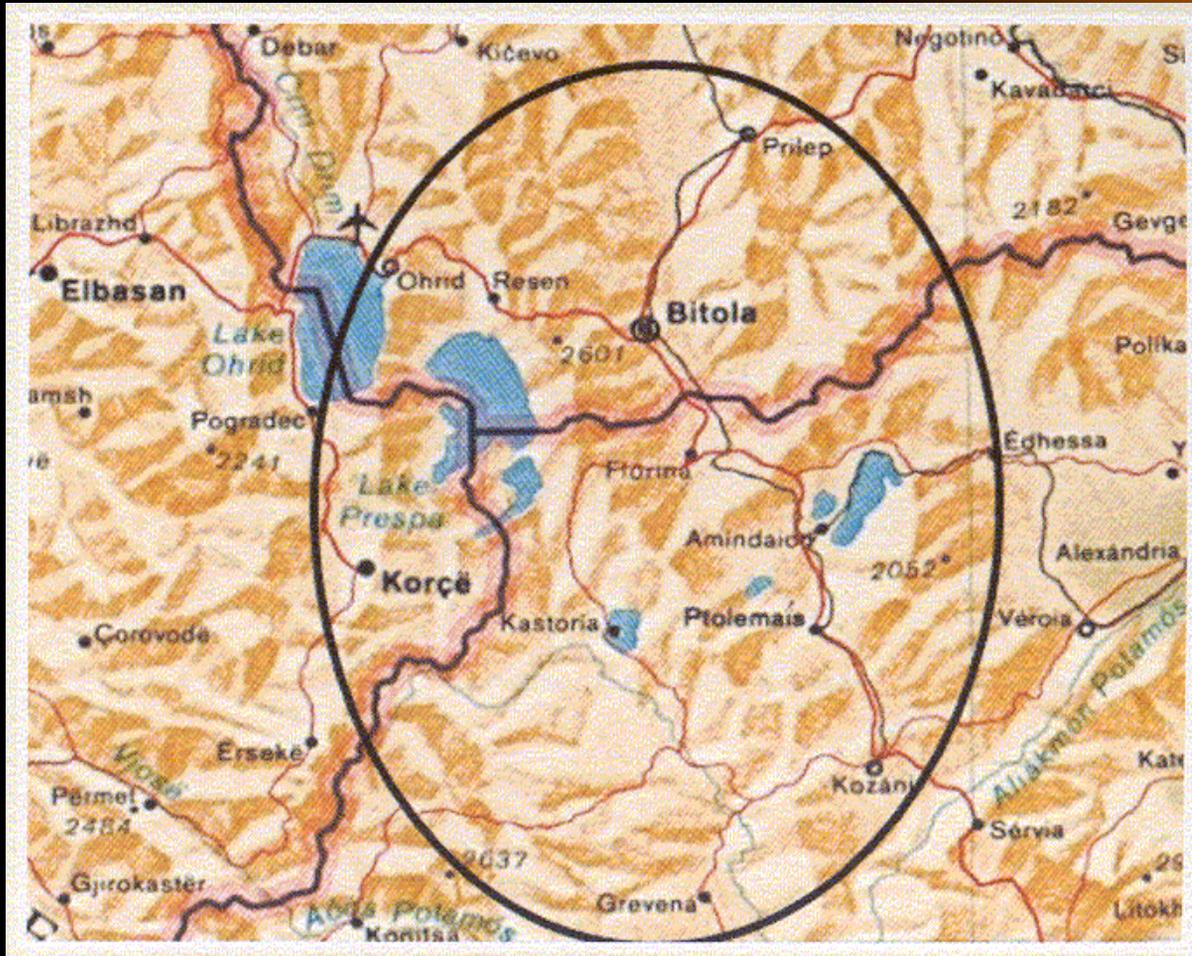
Objectives

- **Phase 2:** to analyze, examine and address in detail all those parameters necessary for the project of a technology park development in the region of Bitola. The analysis gave answer to following necessary questions
 - the provided services
 - the necessary institutional arrangements
 - the creation of a competent management structure and services provision capacity
 - the financial viability of the park
 - the actual building and operation of the technology park
 - the funding opportunities for the project.

RT Foresight Tools Applied

- A **demand analysis** among the companies in the region assessed the technology status and needs of the company and revealed that although the current financial conditions and money cost do not allow for significant technological investments, the companies are seeking opportunities for research programs and adoption of new technologies.
- From the technology supply side, an **institutional audit** of the research centres and organisations in the region revealed that research capacity in total is very moderate and with some exceptions, the research centres do not have modern facilities to perform high calibre research. On the other side, interest for research programs and cooperation is significant and there are many existing opportunities that can be exploited.
- Analysis of **national** and **regional** economy

Regional > National



Results

- Following this analysis, a detailed proposal of the **BTP features and services** to be offered from the park was made including the creation a small incubator targeting small companies, a technology transfer and a business support services unit, meeting and training facilities and a virtual library.
- Plan for development in two stages: a) First stage until in construction of BTP building b) Second stage – full scale technology park.

Euro-regional Technology Center

- Euro-regional Technology Centre foundation with the initial participation of the two partners: Municipality of Bitola, Faculty of Technical Sciences – Bitola.
- Established 31 July 2003.
- Located in the premises of Faculty of Technical Sciences.
- Management structure: Management board of 9 members (4 from FTS, 3 from Municipality, 2 external), Director (part time) and 2 (two) full time employed.
- Supported by GTZ-TT.

Activities of ETC

- Providing conditions and realizing preparatory activities for construction of Bitola Technology Park.
- Technology transfer services and projects to the companies of the region (Currently five TT projects are in final stage of realization – funded from GTZ-TT with ~ 45.000 EUR).
- Business support services to the companies of the region.
- Participation in international networks and projects for TT, Innovations, etc.
- Knowledge transfer through organizing of research and technology oriented seminars and trainings.
- Providing technological information.
- Connecting researchers from the region with the companies.
- Support for identification of potential sources of funds for the researchers and companies.

Current developments about BTP

- Feasibility study is ready.
- Project about BTP is among priorities of Macedonian government (have approval of ministerial committee for coordination of foreign aid).
- It is submitted to Hellenic Plan for Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans
- Needed funds about 1.000.000 EUR

Vision

