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## GreenMove Project:

Transforming rural mobility for a Sustainable  
future



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# GreenMove Project

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## Presentation of Gotse Delchev municipality

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# Where we are

Gotse Delchev Municipality is located in Southwestern Bulgaria, along the Mesta River at the foot of the middle Pirin Mountains. The region is mainly mountainous, but the right bank of the Mesta River has extensive fertile lands that are cultivated. The city is 18 km. from the border with Greece and 100 km. from the Aegean Sea. Due to its geographical location, Gotse Delchev falls into the zone of the transitional Mediterranean climate zone and the climate is mild and warm with average annual temperatures of 11-12°

The town of Gotse Delchev is named after the great revolutionary Gotse Delchev. The area is an interesting mosaic of different types of relief and includes the vast Gotse Delchev valley, the southern parts of the picturesque Momina gorge on the river Mesta, the foothills of the Western Rhodopes, the southeastern part of Pirin and the northern part of Slavyanka mountain. The municipality has one town and 12 villages. The water resources are extremely rich due to the Mesta River and its many tributaries, the flora and fauna are very diverse, and on its territory is the Orelyak Nature Reserve, Pirin National Park, which is included in the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List, the Alibotush Protected Area and the Mesta Protected Area.

# River Mesta valley





## River Mesta valley





# Pirin mountain





## Orelyak Peak – the highest in the area



# Gotse Delchev - introduction

34% of the municipality's territory is agricultural land that is cultivated, and 62% is forest territory managed by the state and the municipality cannot directly dispose of it.

Despite its relatively small area, the municipality's contribution to the district is significant. Gotse Delchev is in the group of small towns with microregional significance for the territory of a group of municipalities.

The development of the municipality of Gotse Delchev does not function in a closed system, but as part of the general economy and development of the country and is influenced by the national level.

Due to its specific geographical location, the town of Gotse Delchev plays the role of a local economic center for several municipalities along the valley of the Mesta River - Satovcha, Garmen, Hadzhidimovo. The city has a well-developed processing industry, the main sectors of which are textile and footwear, food and beverage industry, woodworking and paper industry, and production of plastic products. The municipality's contribution to the GDP of Blagoevgrad region is constantly increasing.



# Gotse Delchev - introduction

The city's economy is dominated by microenterprises (92.6% in 2010). During the period of economic crisis, there was a certain decline in the production of some key sectors, but at the same time, other structurally determining sectors, such as the food industry, recorded a significant increase in production, despite the adverse effects of the economic crisis.

The potential for the development of tourism and agriculture is insufficiently utilized. Investment activity in the conditions of economic crisis is decreasing, but at a slower pace than the average for the district. Despite the entry of a number of foreign investors, foreign direct investments are still significantly lower than the average for the district and the country.



In the center of the town





In the center of the town





# Unique rural characteristics

Gotse Delchev is part of the most dynamically developing region of the country – the South-West, which is partly due to the unique rural characteristics of the municipality, contributing to a sustainable lifestyle of the population.

The favorable geographical location and proximity to the border with Greece and the port of Kavala, preserved nature, which is a protected area under the legal protection of Natura 2000, rich forest fund, rich natural resources, as well as the relatively favorable demographic characteristics of the population, compared to the average for the country, are some of the characteristics of the municipality that favor a sustainable lifestyle in the region.

Good levels of economic activity of the population; presence of active enterprises in all categories (micro, small, medium and large enterprises); presence of entrepreneurial structures that promote business and cross-border relations with neighboring countries are characteristics defined by the Municipality as favorable for the development of the region.

The good environmental characteristics (air, soil, noise, low pollution), which allow the development of ecological agriculture and tourism, as well as the decreasing losses of drinking water during its transmission through the network, further improve the quality of life and meet the environmental standards for sustainable living

## City museum





In the center of the town





## The building of the Holy Metropolis of Nevrokop





## In the center of the town





## Folklore festival





## City park





## City park



# Collaboration with other rural municipalities

Given the fact that Municipality of Gotse Delchev is located in an area designated as rural, its cooperation with neighbouring municipalities is of essential importance for the overall development of both the municipality and other cooperating municipalities.

The main way of cooperation is the implementation of partnership projects with neighbouring municipalities. Since 2024, when implementing national programs operating with European funds, the development and implementation of a concept for integrated territorial investments with an implementation period until 2029 has been introduced.

In this regard, the Municipality of Gotse Delchev, in partnership with the neighbouring rural municipality of Garmen, has approved for funding the concept "Improving the quality of life, the quality of public services provided, development of local business and more efficient utilization of the potential of the territory for the development of sustainable tourism and the promotion of local cultural, historical and natural landmarks".



# Collaboration with other rural municipalities

In the concept for integrated development, the Municipality of Gotse Delchev is a partner, in addition to the neighboring municipality of Garmen, with several primary schools, with a non-governmental organization for development of human resources and competitiveness of local enterprises and with three enterprises with a total of 2,000 employees.

The concept includes many and various project activities worth 30 million leva. Without its cooperation with these organizations, the Municipality would not have received this funding, as it would not meet the new European requirements for integrated development.

# Collaboration with other rural municipalities

7 years ago, the Municipality of Gotse Delchev initiated the creation and assisted in the development of a Local Action Group, including the municipality and two other neighboring municipalities. This is a structure that contributes to local development with the participation of civil society and local economic actors in the development and implementation of local integrated strategies that help their regions and facilitate the transition to a more sustainable future.

The Action Group has nearly 10 million leva in public financial support for projects implementing the local development strategy through three different programs. The Strategy finances projects of companies (agricultural producers and processors, micro-enterprises in the manufacturing sector, tourism, services, etc.), non-governmental organizations, community centers, municipal administrations and other beneficiaries eligible according to the rules of the funding programs, from the territories of the municipalities of Gotse Delchev, Garmen and Hadzhidimovo.



## Delchevo village





## Surroundings





## Surroundings





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**Thank you!**

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