



BULGARIA: Poverty Map **Country Application**

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**“More than a Pretty Picture: Using Poverty Maps to Design
Better Policies and Interventions”**

The World Bank, Washington DC, May 11, 2006



In Bulgaria poverty maps are used for

- **Targeting of services or transfers**
 - **State budget resources**
 - **EU Pre-accession funds**
 - **WB loan funds**
- **Targeting of social infrastructure projects (Social Investment Fund)**



In Bulgaria poverty maps are used for

- **Program design and allocation of resources for poverty reduction**
- **Design of targeted interventions for poor rural municipalities and municipalities with ethnically mixed population**
- **Analytical purposes**



Background: supply and demand side

- **2001 Population and Housing Census**
- **2001 Bulgaria Integrated Household Survey**
- **IDF Grant for Poverty Monitoring, Evaluation and Policy Design**
- **2003 Poverty Map**
- **2003 Bulgaria Multi-topic Household Survey**
- **2004/05 Poverty Map**
- **Social Investment Fund – needs ranking of municipalities by poverty status for social infrastructure grants**
- **Poverty reduction strategies**
- **Joint Inclusion Memorandum - 2005**
- **Post-EU Accession Cohesion Strategy - 2007**



What made production and implementation possible?

- Inputs at the map production stage
 - **Data quality and comparability with census data**
 - **Knowledge – adequate TA, critical number of people trained**
 - **Institutional arrangements in the Government and the Bank**
 - **Team composition and team ownership of the methodology**



What made production and implementation possible?

- **Access to, and knowledge of the software package (SAS or SPSS)**
- **Budget / counterpart funds**
- **Political economy of map production**
 - **Census data sharing**
 - **Ownership of the results (government, NSI, the Bank)**



What made production and implementation possible?

- Political economy of map use
 - **Political will and leadership**
 - **Credibility of methodology (unknown) and data (not recent)**
 - **Acceptance of results – “winning” vs “losing” municipalities**
 - **Legitimacy of results (are they better than MRDPR index or UNDP HDI; not representative at community level)**



Long-term sustainability will require

- **Regular update the map**
- **Dissemination and public discussion of findings**
- **Upgrade of the local capacity and expertise**
- **Expanding the number and scope of programs where targeting is based on poverty maps**



Long-term sustainability will require

- **Increase in the number of poverty map users**
- **Use as one of the targeting criteria for EU funds absorption**
- **Consider mapping poverty using income aggregates and income-based poverty lines**
 - **Eurostat / SILC will replace MTHS**
 - **To substitute or to complement?**