



SOZOPOL
FOUNDATION

**Activities in favour of
people with disabilities**



In the recent years Sozopol Foundation has responded to the call of the international community for improving the quality of life of people with disabilities by providing them with services that ensure their social inclusion and equal human rights.

The Foundation has considerable experience in the development and implementation of projects associated with accommodating the needs of people with disabilities and securing their access to cultural heritage and natural landmarks.





The projects implemented by Sozopol Foundation have allowed Sozopol to become one of the six cities in Europe, which are participants in the League of Historical and Accessible Cities.



**LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL
AND ACCESSIBLE CITIES**

Ávila (Spain)

Sozopol (Bulgaria)

Lucca (Italy)

Torino (Italy)

Mulhouse (France)

Viborg (Denmark)

1. Creation and promotion of the cultural tourist product in Sozopol through restoration of the southern fortress wall and tower and construction of public tourist infrastructure for people with disabilities in *The Old Town of Sozopol Architectural and Historic Reserve*, funded under ‘Development of Cultural Tourism in Bulgaria Project’, EU PHARE Programme and co-founded by Sozopol Foundation. The project was implemented in 2003-2004.



Ramps along the Southern panoramic alley

The project activities included: provision of access for people with disabilities from the parking lot in front of the Town Hall through all alleys in the Town Park, along the Southern panoramic alley, with access to the sea, to *Southern Fortress Wall and Tower Architectural and Historic Complex* and to the Municipal Ethnographic Museum. A toilet for people with disabilities has also been constructed within the complex.



Ramps to *Southern Fortress Wall and Tower Architectural and Historic Complex* and to the Municipal Ethnographic Museum

2. Provision of accessible environment for people with disabilities to Ethnographic Museum and *Southern Fortress Wall and Tower* Museum Complex at the *Ancient Town of Sozopol* Architectural and Historic Reserve, funded by Agency for People with Disabilities, which is a body of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria, and co-funded by Sozopol Foundation. The project was implemented in 2010-2011.



Lifts for people with disabilities at *Southern Fortress Wall and Tower* Architectural and Historic Complex and the Municipal Ethnographic Museum

3. Ancient Sozopol – Saint Ivan the Precursor Monastery – Culture through the Centuries, funded under the EEA Financial Mechanism and co-funded by Sozopol Foundation. The project was implemented in 2009-2011.



Some of the activities under the project included construction of a ramp, allowing direct access of people with disabilities from *Southern Fortress Wall and Tower* Architectural and Historic Complex to the sea.

4. Provision of accessible environment for people with disabilities from Southern Panoramic Alley to the tourist pier in Sozopol, funded by the Agency for People with Disabilities and co-funded by Sozopol Foundation. The project was implemented in 2011-2012.

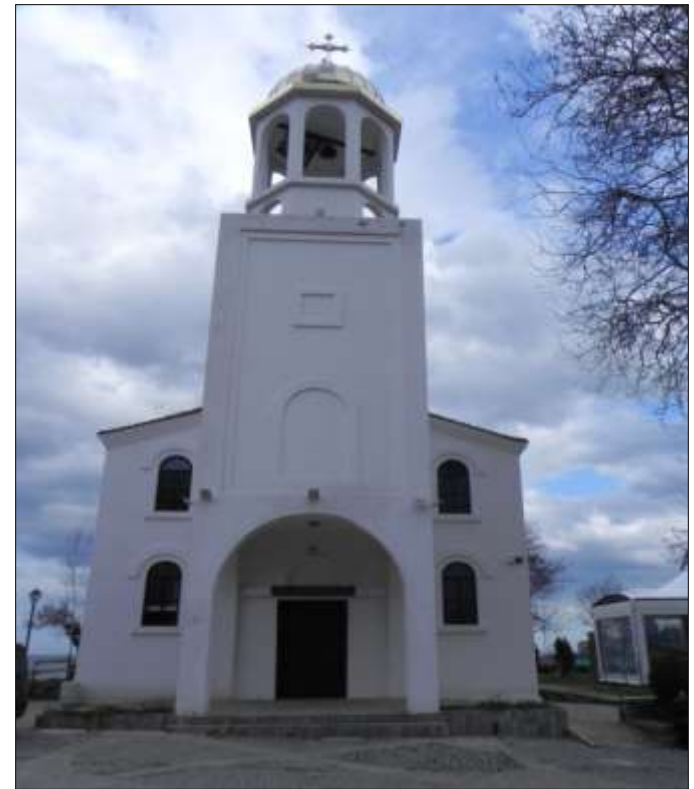


The project activities included construction of a lift for people with disabilities, providing access from the Southern panoramic alley to the tourist pier with a view of the sea and Sozopol.

5. Providing access for people with disabilities to the Archaeological Museum and to St. Cyril and St. Methodius Orthodox Church, where the relics of St. John the Baptist are exhibited for worship. The project was implemented in 2012.



Ramp to the entrance of
the Archaeological museum of Sozopol



St. Cyril and St. Methodius
Orthodox Church

The implementation of abovementioned projects has gradually provided adequate infrastructure for people with disabilities to access *Ancient Town of Apollonia* Archaeological Reserve (the old town of Sozopol) thus enabling sites socialization so that these people could enjoy equal tourism opportunities combining both cultural and recreational aspects.

