

Mayor's Letter of Invitation

April, 2009

I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the International Competition for a Master Plan of Korca's City Center. Your participation is a contribution to the fulfillment of our dream of transforming Korça to a city in which the traditional coexists with the modern, the continuity with the change, the memory with faith in the city's future.

We are convinced that the new City Center will be the cornerstone for this transformation, aesthetical melioration, functional attributes and city regeneration. We want to show that the city is creating a new development rhythm by respecting also those values that distinguish Korça from other cities. You are invited to design the center of an elite town with a distinguished past both cultural, educational and architectonic.

This city, today, is searching for a new urban environment that breathes with the rhythms of time and the needs of its citizens. The study of Korca's city center is coming at the right moment in Korca's history. At this time in Korca major investments in infrastructure are in the process of completion. The total renewal of the water system is completed, and the on-going program to rehabilitate the sewage system and the waste management system will be completed in accordance with European standards.

By being the center of the region with 360,000 inhabitants bordered by two countries, Greece and Macedonia, Korca possesses enormous business potential. Korca has all the possibilities to rapidly progress in a sustainable way.

We want Korca to be a city where its citizens will find the needed spaces to conduct their lives up to European living standards. From the city center study we expect to transmit this optimistic message of life by projecting a center with more business, living and administrative spaces while making it more friendly to pedestrians.

During the last decade there have been sporadic attempts to redesign the city center. Time and historical circumstances forced spontaneous changes in the city center thus making a master plan indispensable. The master plan will be based on professional analysis and inspired by the aspirations of Korca's citizens for a beautiful and functional city.

The new city center will breathe new life into the development of the city master plan which will follow the center study giving a new urban direction to Korca.

With appreciation for you professionalism and collaboration,

Respectfully
Mayor of Korca
Niko Peleshi