

# Implementation of the Structural funds in Bulgaria

## Monthly brief, June 2010

### Horizontal issues and legislative procedures

- On June 3, 2010 the Council of Ministers adopted a Decree No 110/2010 on establishment of Council for Development, as an advisory body to the Council of Ministers. The Council is headed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Boyko Borissov. The Decree foresees that the Council will have a key role in defining of strategic guidelines for the work of the remaining coordination structures, established at the Council of Ministers. The Decree aims at establishment of proper organisation and coordination mechanism for programming and implementation of socio-economic development measures. The Council will organise and coordinate the elaboration of the National Development Programme (NDP), which states the goals and priorities of the country over mid- and long-term horizon. The vision and strategic goals of NDP will be coordinated with the goals of the new global strategy of EU for growth and jobs – Europe 2020. The document itself will review all the existing strategic documents and will embrace all government development policies, while at the same time it will serve as a strategic platform for formulation of new programmes. Moreover, it will be a basis for preparation of the NSRF for the next programming period (2014-2020).
- On June 23, 2010 the first session of the Council for Development took place. The meeting approved the General Programming Concept, which submits the overview of the preparation of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020, including working schedule for the development of the document. In addition, the Council approved a decision to set up inter-ministerial working group, which will be responsible for the overall elaboration of NDP Bulgaria 2020. The Council is expected to establish at its next session special sectoral working groups
- On 16 June 2010 the Council of Ministers officially approved the 2010 JASPERS Action Plan for Bulgaria. The Action Plan contains 48 projects in the following areas: water sector – 9, waste sector – 13, roads – 9, railways/ports – 5, urban infrastructure – 7, energy – 1, as well as 4 horizontal measures.
- On 17 June 2010 the Second JASPERS Stakeholders meeting took place in Sofia. The meeting was attended by representatives from the EC, JASPERS, the EIB, as well as member state authorities. During the meeting possibilities for reducing the time for submission of major project applications were discussed, as well as about the future of the JASPERS initiative. Representatives from the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Regional Development attended the meeting.
- On June 30, 2010 the Council of Ministers adopted CoM Decree for adoption of a Methodology on financial corrections. The scope of methodology includes all OP's co-financed by EU Structural Instruments as well as the Rural Development Programme and OP 'Fishery'. The document is based on the EC Guidelines for determining financial corrections to be made to the expenditure co-financed by the Structural Funds or Cohesion Fund for non-compliance with the rules on public procurement (COCOF 07/0037/02).
- The Draft CoM Decree amending CoM Decree No 55/2007 laying down the Rules on Grants Award and Selection of contractors by private bodies was sent for inter-ministerial coordination by the Minister for management of EU Funds. The purpose of the proposed

amendments is to optimise the contractor selection procedures for grants under the operational programmes outside the scope of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), to reduce the administrative burden, and to reach maximum unification between the Decree provisions and national public procurement legislation.

- The permanent working group on Public Procurement held its regular meeting on 15 June 2010. During the meeting different questions raised by the MAs of OP 'Transport', OP 'Competitiveness' and OP 'Environment' were discussed. Among the discussed topics was the treatment of the NGOs as contracting authorities under the PPA, the methods for defining the value of the public procurement as well as the possibility to open the tenders of suspended candidates in order to calculate the amount of possible financial correction.
- A Draft CoM Decree on verification of expenditures and payment of EU Structural and Cohesion Fund grants was prepared. The Decree unifies and shortens the time frames in which the Intermediate Bodies/Managing Authorities are obliged to verify the expenditures and to make the respective payments. Amendments concern also the simplification of relations between the Certifying Authority and the Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies as to the processes of certification of operational programme expenditure. The Decree was sent for coordination to the CA and MAs.
- A Draft CoM Decision on increasing the advance payments up to 35% for public beneficiaries under the projects financed by the OP 'Transport', OP 'Regional Development' and OP 'Environment' was prepared. The change achieved an increase in the amount of working capital for the public beneficiaries implementing infrastructure projects. The step is aimed at beneficiaries' support especially having in mind the negative repercussions of the global financial and economic crisis consisted in limitation of beneficiaries' financial capacity, difficulties in finding funds for pre-financing and co-financing of the projects.
- CCU implements a project for strengthening the capacity of regional and local authorities by increasing their knowledge and competence on horizontal issues concerning the implementation of Structural and Cohesion Funds. The project is financed under OP "Technical assistance" and includes in-the-field and distance learning trainings.

An e-learning system has been already developed and is operational, including the following modules: "Framework for development – Regional policy of EU"; "Project management cycle", "Financial management and control"; "Private Public Partnership", "European territorial co-operation – Objective 3 of the Cohesion policy"; "State aid" and "Public procurement". This form of training is providing much flexibility and higher availability, since it does not require physical presence in the relevant learning center. The experts may be trained in convenient time, choosing the relevant intensity depending on their occupation.

A pilot training, including the above mentioned modules starts on July, 5th. Eighty experts as a total have been registered so far. The developed program can be used repeatedly. Thus, sustainability will be provided in time.

## **UMIS**

- In June 2010 the tests of the interface between UMIS and the information systems of State Fund Agriculture and Executive Agency "Fisheries and Aquacultures" has been completed. Complementary functionality of UMIS modules "Registration", "Evaluation" and "Financial" has been tested and implemented.

- The Terms of Reference for the development of a Public information module has been finalized. The document is currently coordinated with the MA.

### **Information and publicity measures**

#### ***Institutionalization of the National Network of staff for information and publicity of the Operational Programmes***

- In relation to the need to establish a coordination mechanism for the implementation of measures on information and publicity of the Operational Programs a permanent inter-service Working Group will be established. The network will cover all operational programs. The Managing Authorities have already appointed their representatives in Working Group.
- The main responsibilities of publicity officers will be:
  - to assist in the implementation of the NSRF Communication Strategy;
  - to participate in the development and implementation of projects under Priority 3 “Promotion of European Cohesion policy in Bulgaria and ensuring the provision of general and statistical information” of the Operational Programme “Technical Assistance”;
  - to provide information on upcoming tenders for the implementation of the OPs’ Communication plans;
  - to provide information and coordinate informational events on Operational Programmes;
  - to take decisions on matters of interest of all participants in the Working Group.

#### ***Updated functionality of the information portal of EU Funds***

- On 10 June 2010 the updated functionality of the Single information portal for general and specialized information for the management of the EU Structural Instruments in Bulgaria - <http://www.eufunds.bg/> was launched. It provides detailed information on all opened call for proposals under the Operational Programmes, as well as on the guidelines for applying for these planned measures, the regulations and monthly reports on the implementation of the OPs. The website replaces the former site of the EU Structural Funds in Bulgaria, managed by the Ministry of Finance. Another novelty is the graphic option of the portal which allows monitoring the implementation of the Operational Programs by the end the preceding month. A section “Best Practices” gives information on some successfully completed projects and their results. A new section “Public Dialogue” aims to maintain regular contact and cooperation with the citizens and the civil society organizations.

#### ***Establishment of 28 Information Centers***

- In relation to the establishment of these centers the Directorate “ISUSES” submitted a project proposal to the Managing Authority of OPTA entitled “Preparation of the creation of 28 regional information centers to promote Cohesion policy in Bulgaria”.  
The specific objectives of the project are:
  - to establish a common vision of regional information centers on the Cohesion policy;
  - to achieve a consistent approach and ensure quality of services offered by regional information centers in Cohesion Policy;

- to increase the preparedness of municipalities – regional centers and the host structures of the Europe Direct network to build informational offices on the Cohesion Policy.

### **Certifying Authority**

- Regarding the functions of the National Fund Directorate as a Body responsible for receiving funds from the EC, ensuring a smooth payment process down the cascade to the final beneficiaries is a major priority. In June 2010, the National Fund Directorate approved 5 Requests for funds from the MA for the amount of 162,19 MEUR under Operational Programmes - Administrative Capacity, Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy, Regional Development, Environment ERDF/CF.
- In June 2010, 2 interim payments from the EC had been received referring to submitted Applications for payment under OP Administrative Capacity and OP Environment (ERDF). The total amount of funds received in June is 5,36 MEUR.
- In June 2010 the Certifying Authority completed the checks of the Reports on Certification and Statements of Eligible Expenditures, submitted by the Managing Authorities of the OPs Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy, Regional Development and Transport. The examination and check of the Reports on Certification and Statements of Eligible Expenditures, submitted by the Managing Authorities of the OPs Human Resources Development, Administrative Capacity and Environment continue.
- As part of the function on certification of expenditures under SCF and in compliance with art. 61 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the Certifying Authority has launched the implementation of its Annual on-the-spot plans. In June 2010 the Certifying Authority performed on-the-spot check in the Managing Authority/ Intermediate Bodies/ Beneficiary under OPs Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy, Regional Development, Environment, Transport, Human Resources Development and Administrative Capacity. The major part of the checks is completed. The reports with the results from the on-the spot checks done are in a process of finalization.
- In June 2010 the Certifying Authority prepared certificates under OP Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy, OP Regional Development and OP Transport. The certificates are ready for submission to the European Commission.

### **Operational Programmes**

#### ***OP Transport***

- On 7-8 June 2010 the Eighth Monitoring Committee Meeting of OPT were carried out. On the spot visit of the EC representatives on the site of “Sofia Metro Extension Project, I Stage – “Road junction Nadejda - Central Railway Station - Sveta Nedelya square - Cherni Vrah blvd.” (CCI No 2008BG161PR001) carried out on 09 June 2010.
- OPT Annual Implementation Report for 2009 was sent to the EC through SFC 2007 on 23 June 2010.
- On the spot check on “Sofia Metro Extension Project, I Stage – “Road junction Nadejda - Central Railway Station - Sveta Nedelya square - Cherni Vrah blvd.” (CCI No 2008BG161PR001) and "Metropolitan" JSC performed by National Fund on 17-18 June 2010.

- Ground breaking ceremony for the construction of project „Establishment of River information Services System in the Bulgarian part of the Danube River” held on 14 June 2010.

#### *Application forms (AF)*

- Application form for Construction of Trakia Motorway project – Lots No’s 2, 3 and 4 is submitted to EC on 14 June 2010.
- Application form for “Consultancy services for compliance assessment of the investment project with the essential requirements for construction works for the project "Modernization of railway Sofia-Plovdiv” is under evaluation by MA.
- Application form for „Technical design of modernization Vidin – Sofia railway“ is under evaluation by MA.

#### *Tender procedures*

- Deadline for submission of offers for selection of contractor for “Elaboration of model for managing of infrastructure projects under OP Transport” ” expired on 06.04.2010. Tender procedure was completed on 15 June 2010 by signing of contract.

#### *On-going tender procedures:*

- Selection of contractor for „Preparation of Investment project for the third diameter of Sofia Metro- “Knyazhevo” residential area – CCP – ”Botevgradsko shose” blvd” - for “light metro”. The deadline for submission of tenders was 10 May 2010. Expected completion of evaluation - end of June 2010.
- The deadline for submission of offers for selection of contractor for additional design and construction of the object: Trakia motorway / A-4 /" Orizovo - Burgas" Lot 3 “Nova Zagora – Yambol” expired on 26 April 2010. The employer’s decision for awarding of contract was issued on 8 June 2010. Expected signature of the contract.
- The deadline for submission of offers for selection of contractor for supervision of implementation of additional design and construction of the object: Trakia motorway / A-4 /" Orizovo - Burgas" Lot 3 “Nova Zagora – Yambol” was 4 June 2010. The tenders were opened on 6 June 2010. The evaluation of offers is on-going.
- The deadline for submission of offers for selection of contractor for additional design and construction of the object: Trakia motorway / A-4 /" Orizovo - Burgas" Lot 4 “Yambol – Karnobat” from km 277+597 to km 325+280" was 7 June 2010. The evaluation of offers is ongoing.
- The deadline for submission of offers for selection of contractor for supervision of implementation of additional design and construction of the object: Trakia motorway / A-4 /" Orizovo - Burgas" Lot 4 “Yambol – Karnobat” from km 277+597 to km 325+280" was 7 June 2010. The evaluation of offers is ongoing.
- Tender procedure for “Preparation of a Strategy for Implementation of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS)” was completed. Contract is expected to be signed by the end of June.
- The deadline for submission of offers under the tendering procedure for selection of contractor for “Rehabilitation of railway infrastructure along sections of the railway line Plovdiv – Burgas” was extended by 10 February 2010. Tender procedure was cancelled with the employer’s decision dated 14 June 2010.

## ***OP Environment***

- On 15 June 2010 the Eighth Monitoring Committee Meeting of OPE were carried out. The Committee adopted the Annual Report for 2009, Changes in the Strategic plan for Technical assistance for the period 2007-2013, Mechanism for management of priority axis 3 of OPE. There were presented the result from the implementation of Priority axis 4, as well as the Indicative plan for distribution of the amounts under priority axis 4 until the end of the programming period. The head of the Managing authority presented the results form the screening of projects in the water sector. Annual report was sent to the European Commission by SFC 2007 System.
- In the beginning of June, the experts of Programming, Partnership, Information and Publicity Department (PIIP) prepared and organized the Opening ceremony of a project under OPE. The municipality of Primorsko has terminated the project “Sewerage of North, South territory and Uzundzhata, II stage – Sewage pumping station 1A, Sewage pumping station 2A, with collectors and pressure collectors to Kiten WWTP, Primorsko”. The official inauguration ceremony of the first successfully concluded project financed under OPE was hold on 15 June 2010. The ribbon was cut by the Deputy Minister of Environment and Water Ivelina Vassileva, the Mayor of Primorsko Liliyana Dimova and the representatives of the DG Regional Policy of the European Commission Karsten Rasmussen.
- During the month, MA continues the practice, started in October 2009, to organize an “Open day” of Operational Programme Environment – it takes place every Tuesday, 14 p.m, when experts from MA, IA of OPE and representatives of the MoEW directorates answered the questions raised by the beneficiaries and search for solutions of specific cases.

## ***OP Regional Development***

- The sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of Operational Programme "Regional Development" was held on 4 June 2010 with the support of the Council of Ministers Administration. The results of programme implementation up to May 2010, as well as future policy developments under the programme were presented. The annual report for the implementation of OPRD for 2009 was approved. The MC adopted the changes in the Operational Programme "Regional Development" proposed by the MA as well as the revised indicative annual work program for 2010.
- On 10 June 2010 an invitation was sent to the Municipality of Bourgas to submit a project proposal as part of the operation “Sustainable urban transport systems”. The total amount of the direct award procedure is 56 MEUR and the deadline for submission of the project proposal is 10 September 2010.
- A working meeting between representatives of the OPRD MA, the EC, CCU, JASPERS and mayors of the 7 largest municipalities was held on 16 June 2010 in Burgas. The project for integrated urban transport of Bourgas developed with the JASPERS’ technical assistance was presented. The management teams of the municipalities presented the state of play of preparation of the integrated urban transport projects of the largest cities. An action plan with deadlines was agreed. The event was financed under the OP Technical assistance project Support for capacity building of CCU;
- The annual report for the implementation of OPRD in 2009 was sent to the EC on 25 June 2010.

- On 30 June 2010 the MA launched the procedure BG161PO001/3.2-01/2010 Support for organizing events of regional and national scope and impact. The beneficiary of this direct award procedure is the Ministry of Culture and the budget is 3,18 MEUR. This is the first procedure launched within operation 3.2 Regional tourist product development and marketing of the destinations. Before the official launch the scheme the guidelines were published on the website of the MA and interested parties could send comments. The MA also published the draft guidelines of 2 procedures for prevention of floods, which were launched on 1 July 2010.
- As a result of appeals with regard to the evaluation of the procedure BG161PO001/1.4-05/2009 “Support for integrated development through improvement of the urban environment” the process of signing contracts with beneficiaries has temporarily stopped.

The MA initiated a consultation procedure for amending the CoM decree 245 for eligibility of expenditure under OPRD. The proposed amendments aim to make the act more precise and to include additional categories of eligible expenditure.

### ***OP Technical Assistance***

- On 22.06.2010 the Sixth official meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC) of OP Technical Assistance (OPTA) was held. During the meeting the Annual report on implementation of the Operational program for 2009 was approved. Committee members were acquainted with the progress of the Operational program and the development of the Management Information System (MIS) - project, funded under the program. The Report on the implementation of communication activities under the Operational program and the evaluation of the OPTA Communication Plan implementation were also presented.
- Measures have been taken to accelerate the process of verification and payment as a result of which significant growth in the financial performance of the program was achieved.
- An important point to ensure the absorption under the OPTA and the stability of the administrative capacity of the Programme has been the approval of the Decision for OPTA to fund all or part of the employees’ remuneration. This will ease the state budget by nearly BGN 20 million for the period 2010 – 2015. Another important decision, taken at the last meetings was the approval of a small change in the Operational program and the extension of the list of direct beneficiaries under the measure “Functioning of national network of regional information centers for Cohesion policy in Bulgaria”- in addition to the Central Coordination Unit and the Central Information Office as beneficiaries, the municipalities of the administrative centers of 28 districts in Bulgaria and the organizations which host the Offices of Europe Direct were added. The approved change targets the rapid development of decentralized regional information centers to promote European Cohesion policy.

- 

### ***OP Development of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy***

- As of 30 June 2010 the total contracted amount under OP Competitiveness is EUR 405 418 383.32 (including national co-financing). The payments amount to EUR 216 932 909.67 ( including JEREMIE). The verified amount is EUR 204 228 958.81. The certified amount as per Reports on certification and Statements of eligible expenditures sent by the MA to the CA is EUR 203 189 389.77 and the certified amount as per Certificates and

Statements of expenditure sent by the CA to the European Commission is EUR 1 184 820.68.

- With a decision 16-749 from 18.06.2010 the public procurement procedure within Priority Axis 5 of the OP Competitiveness: “Optimization of the management of the OP Competitiveness” was cancelled due to elimination of the need for implementation of part of the activities envisaged in the documentation.
- On 2 June 2010 the Sixth official Meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC) of OP Competitiveness was held. During the Meeting the Annual Report of OP Competitiveness implementation and a modified Communication Plan were approved.
- General criteria under creation 2.1.1. “Upgrade of technologies in enterprises”- grant procedure “Support for enterprises and cooperatives for disabled people” were also approved.
- General criteria for selection of operations under 3.1.3. “Support for creation of risk capital funds, investing in SMEs” were discussed and principally approved by the MC. A Decision for extension of the deadline for implementation of projects under several procedures was approved as follows: by 6 months for the procedures BG161PO003-2.1.03 “Compliance with internationally recognized standards” and BG161PO003-2.1.04 “Upgrade of technologies in SMEs”; by 9 months for the procedure BG161PO003-2.1.05 “Upgrade of technologies in large enterprises”.

A Decision for rectification of a technical mistake in the General criteria under the grant procedure “Upgrade of technologies in large enterprises” was approved.

- On 4 June 2010 a call for proposals with a fixed deadline for application: BG161PO003-2.1.07 "Upgrade of technologies in large enterprises" was launched with a total budget BGN 58 674 900. The deadline for submission of the applications is 7 September 2010.
- On 7 June 2010 the MA and IB started 1-month Information days campaign throughout 21 cities in the country with the purpose to inform in detail the business representatives about the conditions for application on the following grant procedures: BG161PO003-2.1.07 "Upgrade of technologies in large enterprises"; BG161PO003-2.1.06 “Upgrade of technologies in small and medium-sized enterprises”; BG161PO003-1.2.01 “Support for creation of technology parks”; 2007BG161PO003/1.1.1-01/2007 “Support for creation and development of innovative start-up companies” and BG161PO003-1.1.03 „Development of innovative start-up companies through support for commercialization of innovative products, processes and services.
- The Act on ratification of the Agreements for amendment and restatement to the Framework and Funding Agreements on the implementation of the JEREMIE Initiative was promulgated on 8 June 8 2010 in the Official Gazette. Thus, the Agreements entered into force so that a creation of Holding Fund becomes possible.
- On 16 June 2010 the MA published an updated Operational Manual for implementation of contracts under grant procedure BG161PO003-1.1.03 „Development of innovative start-up companies through support for commercialization of innovative products, processes and services. Some of the applications to the Manual were updated.
- On 18 June the MA published for public discussions a project of Guidelines under the grant procedure BG161PO003-2.1.08 "Compliance with internationally recognized standards” with a deadline for submission of comments up to 28 June 2010.
- On 22 June 2010 the MA informed on its website that on the basis of a Decision of the Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism the requirement for submission of reports of

external audit for the projects under Priority Axis 4 at the request of interim payments up to BGN 60 000 had been canceled.

- On 23 2010 the MA published for public consultations and discussions a project of Guidelines under the grant procedure BG161PO003-2.4.01 „Support for development of the clusters in Bulgaria” with a deadline for submission of comments up to 05 July 2010.
- On 25 June 2010 the MA published for public consultations and discussions a project of Guidelines under the grant procedure BG161PO003-2.1.09 “Provision of consulting services for enterprises experiencing financial and economic difficulties” with a deadline for submission of comments up to 06 July 2010.
- On 28-th of June under Priority axis 3 of the OP a payment of 199 mln. euro into the account of the EIF was executed. On 29-th of June the amount was transferred into a cumulative account for registration of Special purpose vehicle “Jeremie Bulgaria” Single shareholder joint stock company.

### ***OP Human Resources Development***

- The Annual Implementation Report on OPHRD for 2009 was approved by the members of the Monitoring Committee in May 2010. AIR was submitted to EC through SFC2007 on 17.06 and was assessed as admissible by the EC Services on 22.06.
- On 29.06.2010 at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science was conducted a working seminar on the process of planning in the framework of OPHRD Priority Axis 3 and 4 under which the Ministry is performing functions of Intermediate Body. The target was to enforce the latest decisions of the monitoring Committee for completion of the planning of all initiatives under the respective Priority Axis. The forthcoming new operations will be proposed for approval at the autumn sessions of the OPHRD Monitoring Committee, which is planned for November 2010.
- The operational guidelines for OPHRD beneficiaries, settling the relations between the contracting authority and beneficiaries in the implementation of approved projects were developed and published for the following operations”:  
BG051PO001-3.3-03 School and Student practices;  
BG051PO001-3.3-04 Support for development of PhDs, post PhDs, post-graduate students and young scientists;  
BG051PO001-4.2-03 Making the school more attractive for young people.
- On 25.06.2010 were opened the price offers under the tender procedure for “Evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of 6 schemes under “Human resources development” Operational programme for the period of 2007 – 2010”. Thus the tender procedure will be completed in short terms and the respective contract is expected to start the evaluation activities.

### ***OP Administrative Capacity***

- The Annual Implementation Report on OPAC for 2009 was approved by the members of the Monitoring Committee through written procedure on 28.06.2010. AIR was submitted to EC through SFC2007 on 29.06 and was assessed as admissible by the EC Services.
- Through written procedure the OPAC Monitoring Committee approved changes in the Annual Indicative Working Programme for 2010. The amendments are related to postponement for August of launching the four procedures (under sub-priorities 1.3, 1.6, 2.5, 3.1) initially planned for June 2010. The respective reasons are related to the latest

amendments in the Council of Ministers Decree No121 (in force from 11.06.2010) which states that at least 10 days before the publication of the call for proposal on the web-site of the Operational Programme should be published draft Guidelines for Applicants. The aim is to receive opinions and proposals from the interested parties thus to improve the quality of the related documentation. After the completion of the respective terms, there is a need for additional time to reflect the received comments, thus the OPAC Managing Authority is not in a position to launch the respective procedures in June 2010 due to the insufficient time until the end of the month.

- Further to the abovementioned, the Monitoring Committee also approved broadening the scope of the procedure under subpriority 3.1, budget line BG051PO002/10/3.1-05 thus providing opportunity for more administrations to apply with project proposals.
- Under the launched on 23.04.2010 procedure under Sub-priority 1.1. “Effective structure of the state administration” targeted on identification of the problematic areas in the structure of the administration and on this basis to undertake the necessary measures for the optimization of its work, within the deadline for submission of project proposals – 01.07.2010, the Managing Authority had received one project from the direct beneficiary – Council of Ministers’ Administration. The composition of the evaluation committee and the evaluation itself are forthcoming.
- The evaluation committee under the procedure for direct awarding “Modern human resources management in the state administration” (budget line BG051PO002/10/2.1-05) that was launched on 31.03.2010, completed its work and one project proposal of the Council of Ministers’ Administration was approved. The procedure for avoidance of overlap and double financing is ongoing and after its completion MA will proceed with signing of a contract with the beneficiary.

### ***Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme for the period 2007 - 2013***

- The procedure for consultation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Republic of Turkey has been completed from Bulgarian side. Bulgarian Ministry of Finance gave its approval of the Financial Justification and the final version of MoU had been sent to the Turkish side for final consultation. After receiving the approval from Turkish side the MoU will be submitted to the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.
- Joint Technical Meeting was conducted on June 15, 2010. On this meeting both sides decided that administrative check of project proposals of the 1st call will be carried out by representatives of the Managing Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat and Secretariat General for European Union Affairs (EUSG).
- After consultation July 1, 2010 was appointed as date for opening session of received project proposals of 1st Call for proposals under Bulgaria – Turkey Cross-Border programme.

### ***Bulgaria – Serbia IPA Cross-Border Programme***

- The consultation procedure of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Republic of Serbia has been completed from Bulgarian side. Bulgarian Ministry of Finance gave its approval of the Financial Justification and the final version of MoU had been sent to the Serbian side for final consultation before submission for Council of Ministers Decision. Meanwhile, the package of documents for authorizing the Minister of Regional Development and

Public Works to sign the MoU is being prepared for submission to the Bulgarian Council of Ministers Decision.

- The staff of the Joint Technical Secretariat from Bulgarian side has been appointed, thus providing grounds for starting the evaluation of the submitted project proposals (75 submitted with Bulgarian Lead Partner and 27 with Serbian Lead Partner) under the first call, announced in 2009.
- The Annual report for implementation of Bulgaria – Serbia CBC Programme, as well as the financial report for the disbursed resources under Priority Axis 3 - Technical assistance for 2009 year and provisional budget breakdown of the financial sources under Priority Axis 3 - Technical assistance for 2010 year, subject to review and approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee (MC) in compliance with Article 110 of the Commission regulation (EC) No 718/2007, have been put to written consultation and approved by the MC. The documents are sent to the Commission for approval.

### ***Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Macedonia 2007-2013***

- The consultation procedure of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of Macedonia has been completed from Bulgarian side. Bulgarian Ministry of Finance gave its approval of the Financial Justification and the final version of MoU had been sent to the Serbian side for final consultation before submission to the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. Meanwhile, the package of documents for authorizing the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works to sign the MoU is being prepared for submission to the Bulgarian Council of Ministers Decision.
- The Head of the Bulgarian side of the Joint Technical Secretariat has been appointed, thus providing grounds for starting the evaluation of the 93 received project proposals under the first call, launched on 14 September 2009 with a total indicative budget EUR 4 131 652.
- The Annual report for implementation of Bulgaria - fYRoM IPA CBC Programme, as well as the financial report for the disbursed resources under Priority Axis 3 - Technical assistance for 2009 year and provisional budget breakdown of the financial sources under Priority Axis 3 - Technical assistance for 2010 year, subject to review and approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee (MC) in compliance with Article 110 of the Commission regulation (EC) No 718/2007, have been put to written consultation and approved by the MC. The documents are sent to the Commission for approval.

### ***Implementation of ex-ISPA/CF 1164***

- Seventh Monitoring Committee held in Sofia in the period 7-9 June 2010.
- Submission of Annual Report pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation 1386/2002 on 30 June 2010.

*Data on OPs financial progress is attached.*

