

# Implementation of the Structural funds in Bulgaria

## Monthly brief, March 2010

### Horizontal issues and legislative procedures

- On March 18, 2010 the National Assembly supported the proposal of the Prime Minister for structural and personnel changes in the government. Mr Tomislav Donchev was appointed as a Minister for EU Funds management.
- On March 30, 2010 the Minister of EU Funds Management discussed with representatives of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB) the state of implementation of the operational programmes (OPs). The main focus of the discussion was on NAMRB proposals for improvement of the provisions for the use of advanced payments, opportunities for streamlining the procedures for examination and verification of the payments to the beneficiaries, etc.
- The working group on financial corrections completed its work. A report has been submitted to the Prime Minister for acceptance. A draft Council of Ministers' act is under preparation for official approval of the methodology for applying financial corrections.
- By order of the Prime Minister of 29 of March 2010 a working group has been established for preparation of amendments to Council of Ministers' Decree No 55/2007 on the Conditions and Contract Award Procedure conducted by Beneficiaries of Agreed Grant from the Structural Funds of the European Union and from the PHARE Programme of the European Union. The task is to optimize the rules of procedure, incl. an elaboration of an appeal procedure, and diminish the administrative burden in implementation of the Decree. A meeting was held on 30 of March.
- A draft Council of Ministers Decree lying down the functions of the Minister for Management of EU Funds and of the operational coordination of the Funds is prepared and an interministerial procedure will be launched for adoption.
- Common position on the aspects of the regional and local governance and territorial cooperation for informal meeting of the ministers in Malaga (16-17 March) was prepared with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and adopted by the national Council of EU Affairs.
- A dissemination seminar on internal guidelines for prevention and treatment of conflict of interests was held in March.
- Central Coordination Unit has prepared a draft CoM Decree for the organization on elaboration of National Programming Document (NPD) for the period 2011-2020, which will establish the long-term national development strategy. The draft document approves the concepts for NPD and successor of NSRF. The draft CoM Decree sets up a working group, which would elaborate the strategic documents. The draft should be soon discussed by CoM.
- A training course for reporting irregularities was organized by the Directorate AFCOS with in the MoI. More the 30 civil servants were trained on reporting procedures regarding irregularities

## UMIS

- Two meetings were held with representatives of State Fund “Agriculture” and Executive Agency “Fisheries and Aquacultures” dedicated to the elaboration of a unified method for the establishment of interface between UMIS and the information systems IACS and Axter Popeye. As a result, the final version describing detailed business requirements is in preparation and is expected to be agreed upon in April.

## Information and publicity measures

- A national representative survey of the general public awareness of EU funds was conducted under a project of the CIO, co-financed by OPTA. The results of the survey revealed an increase of the level of awareness of the operational programmes by 50%. 62,6% of the public have heard of the operational programmes, 17.6% of which define themselves to be well informed.
- During the regarded period 7 information days (6 regular consultation days under OPE and 1 under OPRD) as well as 63 trainings for MAs and IB servants with 620 participants and 14 trainings for OPs beneficiaries with 661 participants were held in total.

## Certifying Authority

- In March 2010 the Certifying Authority sent to the Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies respective reports from the performed on-the-spot checks related to the certification of expenditure, verified by the Managing Authorities as of December 31, 2009 requesting information on the subsequent actions undertaken by MA/IB with regard to the findings and recommendations made.
- In March 2010 the Certifying Authority prepared Annual plans for on-the-spot-checks at the Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies on the basis of risk analyses performed for each of the seven Operational Programmes. The plans were sent to the Managing Authorities for coordination.
- In March 2010 the Certifying Authority ensured the preparation and submission of the Annual Statement on Withdrawn and Recovered Amounts for the year 2009 and Pending Recoveries as of the end of the year 2009 to the European Commission.
- Regarding the functions of the National Fund Directorate as a Body responsible for receiving funds, ensuring a smooth payment process down the cascade to the final beneficiaries is a major priority. In March 2010, the Certifying Authority approved requests for funds from the MA for the amount of 36, 95 mln. euro under Operational Programmes - Administrative Capacity, Human Resources, Regional Development, Technical Assistance, Environment EFRD/CF and Transport EFRD.
- In March 2010, interim payments from the EC had been received covering the Applications for payment under OP Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy, OP Transport EFRD/CF, OP Human Resources and OP Administrative Capacity. The total amount of funds received is 60, 54 mln. euro.

### **Audit Authority**

- On 11 March 2010 preparation and participation in Annual Bilateral coordination meeting between the auditors of DG “Regional policy” and DG “Employment” and Audit of EU Funds Executive Agency was held
- In March 2010 the audits of operations under OP “Regional development”, OP “Transport”, OP “Competitiveness”, OP “Administrative capacity” and OP “Human resources development” started.. A statistical method of Monetary Unit Sampling and ACL software have been used for the last two programs as the number of transactions allows the use of this technique. For the other programs the AA has decided to audit all projects with certified payments due to their limited number. An overall unified approach has been implemented and the respective programs and checklists have been developed, tested and adjusted accordingly using the support of the external audit companies. A logistic framework for on the spot checks has been elaborated and the technical and staff resources have been precisely allocated.
- In March 2010 the start of the system audit of OP “Environment” – planning phase was made;
- In March 2010 the start of the fieldwork under the system audit of Certifying Authority was made;
- Two-days training on audits of operations for all auditors of AA, provided by an auditor from DG “Regional policy”, EC (29-30 March 2010).

### **Operational Programmes**

#### ***OP “Transport”***

- Monthly progress meeting held on 18-19 March 2010.
- The Deputy Minister Ivaylo Moskovski was appointed as a Head of OPT Managing Authority from 15 March 2010.
- The Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications Alexander Tsvetkov met with representatives of the municipalities in whose territories infrastructure projects under OP "Transport" are implemented. During the meeting the steps which have to be taken for acceleration the process of absorption were discussed. The representatives of the municipalities took the commitment to provide assistance for completion of the projects within the deadlines.

#### ***Application forms (AF)***

- The work on the preparation of the Application form for the project Construction of Trakia Motorway –Lot 2, 3, 4 continues. The AF is under finalization.

#### ***Tender procedures***

- The deadline for submission of offers for 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" type is 26.04.2010. The evaluation of offers will start on 26.04.2010, 14 h.

- The deadline for submission of offers for selection of contractor for "Elaboration of model for managing of infrastructure projects under OP Transport" is 6.04.2010. The evaluation of offers will start on 7 April 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 "section: Lot 3 Nova Zagora – Yambol is 26.04.2010. The evaluation of offers will start on 27 April 2010. The tender documents for Lot 4 are submitted to the Managing Authority for approval in the beginning of March 2010. The announcement for Lot 4 tender procedure will be published on 12 April 2010.
- The contractor for the tender "Preparation of a Strategy for implementation of technical specifications for operative compliance of conventional rail system in Republic of Bulgaria" was selected. The contract is signed.
- The contractor for the tender "Establishment of River Information System in the Bulgarian part of Danube" was selected, appeals are rejected by Commission on protection of competition, signing of contract is forthcoming.
- The contractor for the tender "Selection of the contractor for additional design and construction of the object: Trakia motorway / A-4 /" Orizovo - Burgas "section: Lot 2 Stara Zagora - Nova Zagora, from km 210 +100 to km 241 +900." was selected with a Decision of the Chairman of the Board of the Road Infrastructure Agency, issued on 25 February 2010. The selected contractor is JV "Trace Highway" offering the lowest price, amounting to 138.868 million leva. The procedure for appealing is on-going.
- Procedure for the tender "Preparation of a Strategic Business plan for development of railway transport" was cancelled and will be re-launched.

*On-going tender procedures:*

- Evaluation of offers for Selection of the Contractor for supervision of Implementation of: Additional design and construction of the object: Trakia motorway /A-4/" Orizovo - Burgas "section: Lot 2 Stara Zagora - Nova Zagora, from km 210 +100 to km 241 +900 is on-going.
- Tender for Selection of the contractor for additional design and construction of the object: Trakia motorway / A-4 /" Orizovo - Burgas "section: Lot 3 Nova Zagora - Yambol, from km 241 +900 to km 277+597"- construction of Lot 3 of Trakia Motorway has been launched on 26 February 2010.
- Tender for "Preparation of a Strategy for Implementation of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS)" is under evaluation.
- 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" contract was extended by February 10, 2010. Evaluation procedure is on-going.

***OP "Environment"***

- In March 2010 the regular consultations for beneficiaries were held, organized by the MA and IB of OPE. The experts presented information on the financial management, reporting

and carrying out of the public procurement procedures in relation with project implementation.

- In the period 15-26 March 2010, MA and IB organized and carried out a cycle of trainings for the beneficiaries of OPE. The seminars were carried out within 2 weeks in Blagoevgrad, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Montana, Plovdiv and Yambol. The corrective measures undertaken in relation with selection of qualitative and effective projects and also the requirements for the projects, which are prepared to be financed, were presented to beneficiaries. Also the practical training for preparing the reports was carried out. Over 250 representatives from 100 municipalities participated on the trainings – these are almost 2/3 from the beneficiaries in waste and water sector.
- In March 2010 the MA and IB of OPE finished screening of the projects financed under OPE. All beneficiaries were informed that changes in the contract for direct grant could be initiated so that to respond to the changes in the EU legislation and to the changed approach in the management of priority axis 1 and 2 when enough arguments and normative reason are in fact. Proposals for changes were initiated by the MA and Beneficiaries. Nevertheless the screening of the projects finished, each contract for direct grant is on different stage in the glint of the concrete measures. After signing the annex to each contract, the temporarily measure for stopping the public procurement procedure dropped out.
- On 23 March the expert group has started the evaluation of project proposal for integrated waste management in Sofia, submitted by Sofia Municipality. The deadline for assessment of project proposal was 10 days from starting day.

### ***OP “Regional Development”***

- On 2 March a new call was launched by the MA - BG161PO001/4.1-03/2010 Support for implementation of energy-efficiency measures in municipal owned educational institutions under priority axis 4 of the programme. The call envisages 13,9 MEUR to be provided to small municipalities to improve the energy efficiency of educational infrastructure. An equivalent call was opened in February, targeting the large municipalities.
- During the reported period 8 project fishes were submitted within the fixed deadline (31.03.2010) under the grant scheme BG161PO001/1.1-05/2008 Support for provision of appropriate and reliable state cultural infrastructure, contributing to development of sustainable urban areas, with the Ministry of Culture as a concrete beneficiary.
- 1 medium-term Framework Investment Programme and 10 Project Fishes were submitted within the deadline for application 31.03.2010 under the grant scheme BG161PO001/1.1-08/2010 Support for the reconstruction, renovation and equipment of medical and public hospitals in urban agglomerations with a concrete Beneficiary the Ministry of Health.
- During the regarded period the deadline for submission of project proposals under the grant scheme BG161PO001/1.1-09/2010 Support for implementation of energy efficiency measures in municipal educational infrastructure in urban agglomerations was extended by 1 month till 21 June 2010.
- The work of the Evaluation Committees on grant schemes BG161PO001/1.1-07/2009 Support for ensuring an appropriate and profitable high school infrastructure in the urban agglomerations and BG161PO001/1.4-05/2009 Support for integral and sustainable development through improving the urban environment continues.

- Under Priority Axis 2, the second Evaluation Committee concluded its work on grant scheme BG161PO001/1.1-09/2010 Support for rehabilitation and reconstruction of second-class and third-class roads with a concrete Beneficiary - the Road Infrastructure Agency. 15 Project Fishes were approved for a total grant aid amount BGN 264 985 729,46.
- Under Priority Axis 3 there were made corrections in the requirements for application on grant scheme BG161PO001/3.3-01/2008 Support for effective national marketing of the tourist product and improvement of the information service with regard to the legal status and the name of the concrete beneficiary. The deadline for submission of the project proposals was extended till 31.09.2010.
- On 10 March the 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference on E-Governance, accentuating on Operation 2.2. “Information and Communication Network” of Regional Development Operational Programme was opened.
- In the period March 15-18 there was a mission from DG Regio, which was dedicated to OP Regional Development. During the mission several meetings were held where the overall progress of the OP was discussed, as well as progress with the urban transport projects, the JESSICA initiative, the municipalities as the main beneficiaries of the programme, and modification of the OP text.
- On 24 March the Head of the MA approved the evaluation report under the procedure BG161PO001/2.1-01/2007 Support for reconstruction and rehabilitation of II and III class roads and awarded 135,5 MEUR to the Road Infrastructure Agency for the execution of 15 projects. As a result, 246 MEUR has been awarded to the agency for reconstruction of II and III class roads, out of the 256 MEUR allocated for this activity under Priority axis 2 of OPRD.
- On March 29, in Vidin, the first information days, organized by the MA to popularize the 2 calls for energy efficiency in educational institutions were held. The information days will include events in each of the 6 planning regions. Within the event, the Head of MA took part in the Meeting with NAMRB and informed about the Bulgarian position and contribution for the development of the Danube Region EC Strategy.
- In March the MA cooperated with the CCU to finalize the Jaspers Action Plan for 2010. The OPRD projects, which will receive technical assistance by Jaspers, include the Sofia and Bourgas urban transport projects, and the gas interconnector between Bulgaria and Serbia. The MRDPW will also receive support for the overall planning and management of the urban transport sector through the establishment of a PIU in the ministry with the participation of Jaspers experts.

### ***OP “Competitiveness”***

- On 1 March the MEET launched a public procurement procedure under Axis 5 of the OP Competitiveness: “Optimization of the management of the OP Competitiveness”. The deadline for submission of applications is 26 April 2010. The following activities will be carried out under this procedure:
  - to analyse the implementation and management of the Operational programme Competitiveness;
  - to make a comparative analysis with similar operational programmes of other MS in order to get best practices in the field of the implementing and management of the OP;
  - to improve the design of the Guidelines and documentation;

- to establish a stable monitoring and control system regarding the projects implementation;
- to define key indicators for operational monitoring of the projects in order to measure the diversion between: “purpose and result”;
- to work out Risk Management System;
- to prepare ToR for establishment of Information System for management and follow-up of the data in order to achieve better turnover of the documentation flow and guarantee of rapid receive of necessary reports, generated from the system as well as to provide a permanent connection between all the units involved in the OP implementation.

The main results of the abovementioned activities are as follows:

- Profound analysis of the OP implementation;
- Comparative analysis of the OP with other similar MS’ OPs;
- Improved working process, management, monitoring and control procedures;
- Improved Guidelines for applicants;
- Effective and efficient mechanism for evaluation of the project proposals;
- Risk management system;
- ToR for Information System, etc.

Some of the public procurement procedure activities will be considered as an evaluation of the OP. Additionally to this, the MA envisages launching a procedure for interim evaluation of the OP in the second half of 2010.

- On 15 March a letter (provisionally sent by e-mail to the MA on 1 March) from the EC corresponding to the written procedure on the project selection criteria of 10 calls for proposals was received. Regarding the comments on the ten calls the MA will consider all of them.
- On 17 March the updated Indicative Annual Working Programme for upcoming calls for proposals under the OP for 2010 was officially approved by the Council of EU Funds Management in accordance with the coordination procedure stipulated in the CM Decree N 202 and sent on 26 March to the Monitoring Committee of the OP for its further approval as well.
- On 18 March the Secretariat of the MC of the OP sent by e-mail to the MC the minutes of taking decision concerning the proposal of the MA for approval of new general selection criteria and for modification of general selection criteria for selection of procedures, presented on the Fourth and Fifth MC meetings, summary information for the received comments and positions on the MA proposal, as well as the final version of general selection criteria. On 26 March the Secretariat of the MC sent for approval modification of general selection criteria for selection of operations under procedure for financial assistance „Provision of consulting services for enterprises experiencing financial and economic impediments” and for approval of joint proposals of MA and IB concerning the implementation of the contracts for grant financial assistance under the OP, contracted in 2008-2009. Written opinions are expected till 9 April 2010.
- Regarding the MA’s letter sent to the EC on 13 January concerning the possibility the expenditures of the beneficiaries incurred prior to the date of submission of the application but after the date of publication of the selection procedure to be considered eligible for financing, a reply from the EC was received on 15 March. The MA elaborated draft of Council of Minister’s Decree amending and supplementing Council of Ministers’ Decree

N 236 and related documentation which have been proceeded for coordination within the MEET.

- On 19 March a meeting between the Secretary of the Council for EU Funds Management, MA, CCU and representatives of the employers' organisations in Bulgaria was held. The purpose of the meeting was to be discussed proposals for improvement of the whole project cycle under the OP.
- On 31 March 2010 a regular monthly meeting between the MA and IB of the OP was held. The main points of the Agenda were the monitoring of the implementation of the corrective measures discussed on previous monthly monitoring meetings, the progress of the implementation activities under the priority axes of the OP, discussion of identified problems occurred in the process of implementation of the activities under the priority axes of the OP.
- A training of the central and regional units of the IB was carried out in Sofia in the period 24-26 March. The main focus of the training was monitoring, subcontracting and financial management procedures.
- It is envisaged in a period of a month from the signing of the contract the beneficiary to be trained in technical and financial implementation and reporting of the contract.
- On 29 March a meeting with representatives of MA, IB, CA, CCU and DG Regio was held at the MEET. During the meeting the following main points were discussed: the implementation of interim payments; and the reasons for the overall slow implementation of payments under the OP.
- On 29 March (as it was provisionally envisaged in the Indicative programme) the MA launched the call "Development of innovative start-up companies". The call is without deadline for applications and with a total amount of 10 mln. euro. The other two calls for technology modernization of enterprises, provisionally scheduled to be launched in the period January - March, are expected to be launched until the end of April.
- On 25 March the MA published on its website a Decision signed by the Minister of Economy which provides for that the beneficiaries under the Axis 4 of the OP are no longer obliged to provide a Promissory note when they apply for advanced payments. The concrete beneficiaries under the Axis 4 are allowed to receive advanced payments of up to 20% of the amount set out in point 3.2 of the contract without providing a Promissory note. In a case in which the beneficiaries decide to take advantage of the new provision they have to send to the MA a written request for amendment of their contracts.
- Regarding JEREMIE both agreements will be amended and restated until mid April.

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

- Within the objective of accelerating implementation of existing projects, in March MA continued its cooperation with the beneficiaries in connection with requests for modifications of projects to successful implementation and execution of objectives and actions on them.
- In the period 11-13 March OPTA MA prepared and conducted specialized training for beneficiaries of the programme entitled "Simplification of rules and procedures". The training was attended by representatives of Central Coordination Unit, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority, OPTA MA. The trainer was an international expert with experience in the financing of activities by technical assistance. During the training



changes and facilities, made by the Managing Authority of Operational Programme Technical Assistance in the implementation process and reporting on projects, were presented.

- A new version of the methodology and instruction concerning the remuneration of experts involved in implementing “Technical assistance” projects was drafted, reflecting the recommendations made by the Audit Authority. The revised documents were submitted for consideration and discussion by the CCU and the other MA.
- Managing authority sent the comments on the findings of the EA AEUF presented in a preliminary report of its audit to assess the costs of salaries and bonuses paid for performance of activities of OPTA civil servants, under an employment contract and / or others.

### ***OP “Human Resources Development”***

- On 22.03.2010 the Managing Authority initiated tender procedure for awarding of contract for evaluation of the progress under 6 OPHRD grant schemes: BG051PO001/07/2.1-01 Qualification services and training of employed people; BG051PO001/07/3.3-01 Elaboration of mechanisms for school and student practices; BG051PO001/07/3.3-02 Support for the Development of PhD students and PhD graduates, Post-doctoral students, and Young Scientists; BG051PO001/07/4.1-01 Creation of favorable multicultural environment for practical application of intercultural education; BG051PO001/07/4.2-01 Making the school more attractive for young people; BG051PO001/07/5.2-01 Care in family environment for independent and decent living of people with different types of disabilities and people living alone – activities “Social Assistant” and “Domestic Assistant”. The deadline for submission of offers is 03.05.2010; the maximum budget of the contract is 102 258 euro.
- On 22.03.2010, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science opened the procedure for applying for scholarships and awards for the summer semester of the school year 2009/2010 under the project “Students scholarships and awards” financed by the OPHRD. The deadline for submission of electronic applications is 15.04.2010, while hard copies could be presented until 16.04.2010.
- Sufficient progress is detected under the the procedures which are targeted to implementation of certain anti-crisis measures on the labour market – prequalification of unemployed people; increase of qualification and key competences of employed persons. Under “I can” so far are received more than 36 000 applications while 12 000 vouchers are already within the final beneficiaries. By 30.03.2010, 436 working places are announced by employers under the “Development” scheme. For “Adaptation” scheme 150 applications were received from employers for workers on part-time employment.
- Under the “Science and Business” procedure, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science through its “Scientific Research” Directorate had submitted respective project proposal within the set deadline. The evaluation is forthcoming.

### ***OP “Administrative Capacity”***

- The evaluation of the received project proposals under the two procedures for direct beneficiaries (State Administration Directorate within the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications) was completed and the coordination procedure with the CCU for avoidance of double financing was

conducted. The proposal under the procedure with a direct beneficiary – the Public Administration Institute was returned for further elaboration. The next meeting of the Evaluation Committee is scheduled for 13.04.2010.

- On 31.03.2010, the Managing Authority launched five new calls for proposals. The deadline for submission of projects is 01.06.2010. The procedures are as follows:
  - Effective coordination and partnership in policy-making and implementation of policies. Beneficiary – central administration; budget - 3 579 043 euro;
  - Modern human resources management in the state administration. Beneficiary – state administration; budget – 2 556 459 euro;
  - Improvement of the service delivery to the citizens and the business sector, including through e-governance development. Beneficiary – central administration; budget - 5 112 919 euro;
  - Modern human resources management in the state administration. Direct beneficiary – Council of Ministers Administration; budget – 2 300 813 euro;
  - Transnational and interregional cooperation. Direct beneficiary – Ministry of Finance; budget – 511 292 euro;
- The competition procedure for appointment of new Director of the Managing Authority is not completed yet.

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

- Monthly progress meetings in Environment and Transport sectors were held respectively on 24 March 2010 and 25 March 2010.
- Mission of the European Investment Bank (EIB) was held in the period 15-18 March 2010. During the mission meeting for the Danube Bridge and Plovdiv-Svilengrad projects were held and representatives from MA, CCU, PA, PIUs, Contractors and Engineers staff were presented. Separate meeting with the new director within NRIC, who is responsible for Plovdiv-Svilengrad project, was also organized. On the spot check for the site visit of Danube Bridge project was held on 17 March 2010.
- During the period 22-24 March, 2010 the mission of EIB checked implementation of ISPA/CF Measures: Integrated project for improving water cycle of Sliven and Construction of WWTP located in the Maritza basin (Stara Zagora and Dimitrovgrad and Haskovo). The program included site visits in Sliven, Stara Zagora, Dimitrovgrad and Haskovo. EIB will provide technical assistance in risk management of water projects, financed by the Bank, according to Memorandum of Understanding for technical assistance for implementation of projects in Bulgaria, undersigned between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Investment Bank.
- In reply to the implementation of the recommendations given by the EC concerning ISPA/CF project for Regional Waste Management Center in Kardjali and the interruption of the 1st interim payment, the SCEUFM send a letter which comprises urgent actions initiated by the Managing Authority within the Ministry of Environment and Water to resolve the problems.
- Aiming to clarify the case and to reach mutually-acceptable agreement for EC Services and the Bulgarian Authorities a letter was send in relation with a procedure for suspension of funds for ISPA/CF project “Construction of Flue Gas Desulphurization Plants at Units 5 & 6 of TTP Maritza East 2 EAD”, initiated by Commission.

- On the spot check for Mezdra-Gorna Oriahovitza project was held on 5 March 2010 in the office of the consultant. Representatives from the Managing Authority and the CCU within the Council of Ministers were presented on the meeting.
- On 23 March 2010 meeting of the Joint Bulgarian-Romania Working Group for Danube Bridge project was held as regards choosing of the possible solution for setting up of a joint Bulgarian and Romanian entity for management and operation of the second Danube Bridge. Variant No. 3 was chosen from both Bulgarian and Romanian parties. Preparation for negotiations will start as soon as possible.
- Referring to p. 4, art. F of Annex II to Council Regulation (EC) 1164/94 on 31 March 2010 Annual Progress Report 2009 for Environment and Transport sectors were sent to the Commission.

*Data on OPs financial progress is attached.*