

# Implementation of the Structural funds in Bulgaria

## Monthly brief, May 2011

### Horizontal issues and legislative procedures

- In May, two meetings of the Inter-institutional Working group within the Development Council, for preparation of National Development Programme “Bulgaria 2020” (NDP) were held. The analytical part of the NDP, which consists of socio-economic analysis and SWOT analysis of the economy, was discussed and approved by the Inter-institutional Working group.
- A draft version of Vision, Strategic Goals and National Priorities was elaborated and discussed on the fifth meeting of the Inter-institutional Working group. The final version of the strategic part of the NDP is foreseen to be finalized by the end of June.
- In May, the public discussion with the socio-economic partners of the analytical part of the NDP was held. A public discussion with the socio-economic partners concerning the strategic part of the NDP is foreseen to be held by the end of June.
- Amendments in the CoM Decree 70/2010 on the coordination of the EU Funds’ management have been prepared and an interministerial coordination procedure has been launched. The amendments are aimed at optimizing the coordination mechanism of the Structural instruments’ management in Bulgaria and include:
  - Further elaboration of the functions and responsibilities of minister on the EU funds management;
  - Introduction of a mechanism and specific functions on the coordination of the technical assistance provided by the IFIs has been elaborated;
  - Changes in the statute and functions of the Council on the coordination of the EU funds.
- The Central coordination unit has sent to the Managing Authorities a letter with guidelines on the monitoring of the compliance of the EU-funded projects with the EU horizontal policies. Specific attention is paid to the difference between compliance with these policies, which is to be monitored for all projects; and contribution to them, which the MAs should evaluate and monitor depending on the objectives and activities of the specific project.
- An inter-ministerial working group to prepare a mechanism for financial support to municipalities unable to pay imposed financial corrections under the Methodology on financial corrections, which has to be applied to the expenditure of the Operational Programmes, co-financed by the SCFs, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and European Fisheries Fund (EFF), has been set up. The working group includes representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Central Coordination Unit within the administration of the Council of Ministers, the Managing Authorities of the Operational Programmes and National Association of Municipalities in Bulgaria. Implementation of the methodology raises the question of the need for financial assistance to municipalities, which have imposed financial correction that in some cases may exceed several times the budget of the municipality for the respective financial year.  
**Implementation status:** The first draft of the concept on the mechanism for financial

support has been prepared. The draft document was sent by CCU to the working group members. At the end of coordination procedure, the concept will be finalized and the work on elaboration of the respective normative act will be started.

- The Bulgarian participation in the informal meeting of the ministers, responsible for EU cohesion policy in Gyodyolyo (20 of May) was organized, by preparing a national position, which was approved by the national Council on EU Affairs and the Council of Ministers and presented by Minister Donchev.
- A project “Establishment of a mobile expert unit for support of the local and regional authorities in the implementation and management of projects financed under the SCF” to be financed from OPTA was submitted to the TA Managing Authority for assessment.

### **The Unified Management and Information System (UMIS)**

- The main activities of the CCU concerning UMIS in May were associated with the development and release of the e-services for beneficiaries. The e-services that will allow the e-application were put in place and will be released to the public in June. The e-services for reporting on approved projects were finished and will be tested in June so they can be released in July. The project under OPTA for financing UMIS trainings was finally approved by the MA. Active trainings will begin in September 2011.

### **Information and Publicity**

- On 12th May 2011 the winner of the Best EU Project Competition was officially announced by the Minister of EU Funds Management. “For a different daily school life - a pupils centre for arts, information and entertainment” Project received the most votes - 165 out of more than 600. The project was carried out under the Human Resources Development Operational Programme. During its implementation from July 2008 to December 2009, 278 students from 1 to 12 grade participated in the various clubs.
- The award of the 24 Hours Daily Newspaper “Eurooptimist” went to the Workshop of Dreams Project - a chance to secure employment and social inclusion in the community - Veliko Tarnovo with the financial support of OP Human Resources Development.
- Within the Best EU Project Competition the users of the Single Information Web Portal [www.eufunds.bg](http://www.eufunds.bg), together with the readers of the 24 Hours Newspaper submitted 26 projects, co-financed by EU Funds that changed their everyday life. All of them were uploaded on [www.eufunds.bg](http://www.eufunds.bg) and the newspaper published one-page articles with pictures for some of them.
- In the period 13 - 15 May 2011 the first international exhibition “Europe for us” took place in Sofia. All operational programs in Bulgaria, co-financed by the Structural and Cohesion Fund of the European Union, together with the Programme for Rural Development and the Operational Programme for the Development of the Fisheries Sector were exhibited in separate tents. Interested citizens were able to obtain information and materials from representatives of the programmes. The conference part of the event was attended by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Hungary to Bulgaria Judit Lang, the Head of European Commission Representation in Bulgaria Zinaida Zlatanova, the Minister of EU Funds Management Tomislav Donchev, Heads of the Managing Authorities of the Operational Programmes and other official guests.

- On 17th and 18th May 2011 the seventh official meeting of the Inform Network, coordinated by the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission took place in Sofia. Members of the network are the information and publicity officers of the operational programmes, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the EU Cohesion Fund. More than 90 representatives from 25 Member States of the European Union took part in the international forum. This was the first meeting of the network, which Bulgaria hosted and the second, held outside Brussels.
- The forum was opened by the minister for EU funds management Tomislav Donchev. Among the many topics of discussion were: ensuring transparency - the list of project beneficiaries and websites; annual major information activities; helping beneficiaries applying the information and publicity measures; work with the media; use of social networks in the communication process, etc.
- The official programme ended with a visit of the participants to the construction site of the Sofia Metro, which is financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

### **27 district information points on Cohesion Policy**

- In May the Central Information Office finalised the specifications for the acquisition of furniture and equipment of the 27 District Information Offices. They were forwarded to the public procurement department of the administration of the Council of Ministers to proceed with the acquisition.

### **Certifying Authority**

- Certifying Authority performed desk checks on the regular Reports on Certification and Statements of Eligible Expenditures, submitted in May by the Managing Authorities of four OPs - OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy”, OP “Environment”, OP “Transport” and OP “Human Resources Development”;
- Certifying Authority started preparation and performance of on-the-spot checks at the Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies of OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy”, OP “Environment”, OP “Transport” and OP “Human Resources Development”. The on-the-spot checks and the related reports are underway.
- The Certifying Authority performed three on-the-spot checks at the level of beneficiary – one under OP “Regional Development”, one under OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy” and one under OP “Administrative Capacity”. Reports from the performed on-the-spot checks are sent to Managing Authority/ Intermediate Body for implementation of the recommendations;
- The Certifying Authority submitted to the European Commission three Certificates one under the OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy” and two under OP “Environment” – one for ERDF and one for CF. The amounts claimed for reimbursement are as follows: 4 302 305.67 EUR for OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy”; 1 299 816.47 EUR – for OP “Environment” – ERDF, and 15 173 836.01 EUR for OP “Environment” – CF.
- One interim payment from the EC was received referring to submitted in April 2011 Certificate to the European Commission under the OP “Human Resources Development”. The total amount of funds received is 11 928 952.65 EUR.

<b>OP / FUND</b>	<b>Certified expenditure up to 31.05.2011</b>	<b>Interim payments received from EC as per 31.05.2011</b>
<b>ERDF</b>	<b>432 073 633 €</b>	<b>350 131 110 €</b>
1.OP Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy	219 704 160 €	171 104 375 €
2. OP Regional Development	125 690 778 €	106 837 161 €
3. OP Technical Assistance	4 034 863 €	3 429 634 €
4. OP Transport	79 643 752 €	67 697 189 €
5. OP Environment	3 000 080 €	1 062 751 €
<b>CF</b>	<b>43 326 463 €</b>	<b>5 055 640 €</b>
1. OP Environment	37 006 913 €	- €
2. OP Transport	6 319 550 €	5 055 640 €
<b>ESF</b>	<b>99 724 193 €</b>	<b>82 562 759 €</b>
1. OP Human Resources Development	68 206 295 €	55 993 148 €
2. OP Administrative Capacity	31 517 898 €	26 569 611 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>575 124 289 €</b>	<b>437 749 509 €</b>

### Operational Programmes

#### *OP Transport*

- In the period 3 - 4 May 2011 on-the-spot visit for Trakia Motorway, Plovdiv-Svilengrad and Svilengrad-Turkish border projects was held. The visit was chaired by EC and representatives by Council of Ministers, Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications participated in it.
- On 3 May 2011 a seminar organized by RASTIA regarding the absorption of OPT funds for railway projects was held. The event was chaired by Minister Tomislav Donchev and Minister Ivaylo Moskovski.
- On 9 May 2011 the National Railway Infrastructure Company announced the ranking of offers for each of the three lots for Modernisation of Septemvri-Plovdiv railway project.
- On 26 May 2011 the technical offers for the reconstruction and electrification of Dimitrovgrad-Svilengrad project were opened in the building of the National Railway Infrastructure Company.
- On 19 May 2011 the financial offers for additional design and construction of Kurdjali-Podkova project was opened.
- On 25 May 2011 the Managing Authority has finalized the evaluation of the Application Form for modernisation of Septemvri-Plovdiv railway section. The application form was submitted by the Central Coordination Unit through SFC system on 6 June 2011.
- On 30 May 2011 meeting about the ninth Monitoring Committee preparation was held in the Council of Ministers.

#### *OP Environment*

- Operational Programme "Environment" was presented in the first edition of the International Exhibition of projects on European and international programs "Europe for us", which took place from 13 to 15 May 2011 in Sofia.
- Managing Authority of OPE published a draft of the Annual Progress Report on the Operational Programme "Environment" for 2010 in its web site.
- The mayor of Kazanlak and representatives of the Managing Authority of Operational Programme Environment officially opened two sites for the project of Kazanlak - Construction of sewerage network, rehabilitation of water supply and road network of the district "Hristo Botev" and construction of wastewater pumping station at Ovoshnik village.
- A contract for the construction of water infrastructure in the town of Popovo was signed. The total amount is 28.5 million leva from the Operational Programme "Environment".
- The cities of Montana, Veliki Preslav and Lovech submitted projects for improvement of water infrastructure in the three cities. The total project amount is 71 million leva, provided by the Operational Programme "Environment". These projects are under evaluation.
- At 24 May 2011 a ground – breaking ceremony for the fourth stage from the Project for construction and modernization of water supply network in Blagoevgrad was held.
- Environment Executive Agency (EEA) submitted a project for conducting of field studies, which will make an overall assessment of endangered animals and plants in Bulgaria. Its value is 10 million provided by the Operational Programme "Environment" and the state budget.

### ***OP Regional Development***

- On 3 May 2011 the Head of the MA approved for financing 36 project proposals under the call Support for Integrated Urban Regeneration and Development Plans. The projects amount at 10,9 MEUR and will allow the elaboration of integrated plans for the 36 agglomeration centers in Bulgaria. Contracts with the beneficiaries will be signed in June.
- On 12 May 2011 the revised application form of the Burgas Integrated Urban Transport project was submitted to the EC via SFC2007. On 20 May the Sofia Integrated Urban Transport project was submitted to the MA for approval at national level and at present its evaluation is ongoing.
- On 16 May 2011 a meeting took place at the Council of Ministers between the Minister for Management of EU Funds, the Head of the MA of OPRD, representatives of the architectural, road, and construction associations, as well as representatives of the National Construction Control Directorate. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss options how to deal with the insufficient quality of the construction works in some OPRD projects. A particular emphasis was put on the need to calculate and impose corresponding financial corrections to the problematic projects.
- On 16 May 2011 an order of the Prime Minister was issued for setting up a work group with the aim to come up with a concept for an integrated project under OP Regional Development and OP Human Resources Development for the construction

of housing for marginalized groups. The work group is chaired by the Minister for MEUF and will select concrete beneficiaries under Operation 1.2 of OPRD, based on a preliminary selection process.

- On 31 May 2011 the Head of the MA approved for financing 7 projects under the call Support for reconstruction of state-owned medical and health establishments in urban agglomerations in the amount of 33,4 MEUR. Contracts with the Ministry of Health will be signed in June.

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

- The evaluation committee for evaluation of the proposals of the procedure "Construction and operation of regional information centers" started its work on 9 May 2011. The Commission should complete the evaluation and submit for approval of the Head of the OPTA MA report on the evaluation within 20 June 2011.
- On 12 May 2011 in Granite Hall of the Council of Ministers, was held 8th regular meeting of the Monitoring Committee of Operational Programme "Technical Assistance". At the meeting were voted Annual Report on Implementation of OPTA for 2010 and Communication Plan of OPTA 2007-2013. Information about the implementation of the program was presented and presentations were made by beneficiaries and Heads of the Certifying and Audit Authority.
- During the period continued the process of verifying the costs of beneficiaries from received requests for payments.
- In the process of approval are two projects in which the beneficiary is the MA:
  - Continue to ensure reliable verification and check of project expenditures under OPTA for the period 2011-2013;
  - Carrying out of med-term (interim) evaluation of the OPTA.
- As of 30 May 2011 in the OPTA MA has been registered the project proposal by Sofia Municipality in response to an invitation sent by OPTA MA on 29 April 2011.
- It was launched a public procurement with subject: "Evaluation of the implementation of structural instruments in accordance with the objectives of the NSRF 2007-2013 with beneficiary CCU.
- Civil contracts were contracted with contractors to prepare documentation of 3 public procurement procedures (with beneficiary MA) with subject:
  - Updating the Manual of the beneficiary and organizing and conducting trainings;
  - Strengthening capacity and improving efficiency in the work of the MA of OP Technical Assistance;
  - Providing external professional assistance in carrying out ex-ante control for awarding public procurements financed by OPTA.
- There is a statement of OPTA MA for received from the CCU for ex-ante control documentation for two public procurement with the subject:
  - Preliminary evaluation of the national development program - Bulgaria 2020;
  - Analytical support for the preparation of the NDP, strategic evaluations and activities for information and publicity.
- The revision and preparation of the documents for management and implementation of OPTA for applying electronically for the program through the UMIS started.

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

- On 9 of May 2011 CCU held meeting with representatives of MA, IB of OP Competitiveness and Certification Authority in order to be discussed the main issues of the agenda of forthcoming Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme "Competitiveness of Bulgarian Economy 2007-2013.
- On 11 of May 2011 in Sofia was held the eighth official meeting of the Monitoring Committee of Operational Programme "Competitiveness of Bulgarian Economy 2007-2013.
- On 16 of May 2011 the MA of the OP Competitiveness took a decision to apply written procedure for approval of the proposal for amendment in the General selection criteria of grant procedure BG161PO003-2.1.12 „Compliance with internationally recognized standards and introduction of management systems”.
- On 18 of May 2011 was published Operational Manual for implementation of contracts of grant procedure 2007BG161PO003/1.1.1-01/2007 "Support for creation and development of innovative start-up enterprises”.
- On 18 of May 2011 MA of OPC published call for participation in public procurement with the following subject: „ Provision of user right of software products on MICROSOFT SELECT PLUS AGREEMENT (SPA) or equivalent. Delivery of licenses”.
- On 20 of May 2011 was changed operational guidelines for implementation of grant contracts, concerning launching of procedures for determining contractor, pursuant to Decree № 55 of 12.03.2007 on following procedures:
  1. BG161RO003-02.01.2006 "Upgrade of technologies in small and medium enterprises”;
  2. BG161PO003-2.1.07 "Upgrade of technologies in large enterprises”;  
and
  3. BG161PO003-2.1.08 "Compliance with internationally recognized standards."
- On 26 May 2011 a team of representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Energy and Tourism, Ministry of Education and Science Minister, CCU and the Executing agency National “Industrial Zones” were discussed the new concept for establishment of the technology parks and absorption of funds for innovation of OP Competitiveness. The goal is to be prepared a concept for establishment of technological parks.
- On 26 May 2011 on web site of MA was published amendment of Guidelines on the following procedures: BG161PO003-1.2.02 "Creation of new and upgrade existing technology transfer offices and BG161PO003-1.2.03" Creation of new and upgrade existing technology centres”.
- On 27 of May 2011 was published list of rejected project proposals at the stage of assessment of administrative compliance procedure of grant procedure: BG161PO003-2.4.01 "Support for development of clusters in Bulgaria”.

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

- In the period 13-15 May 2011 in Sofia was conducted international exhibition of EU and international Programmes and Projects “Europe for us. On 14th May the OPHRD Managing Authority conducted the Annual Information Event under the Programme with participation from the EC Representation in Bulgaria, Heads of the MA and IBs, numerous beneficiaries and citizens. In the course of the event were presented the progress of the Programme, good practices and successfully implemented projects under all main Priority Axis of the OPHRD, also media briefing was conducted. On the open stage a concert was played from students from various schools – beneficiaries under the Programme.
- Referring to the decisions of the Monitoring Committee taken on its VIII official meeting, a written procedure was undertaken for coordination of two new criteria for selection of operations – “Educational integration of children and students from the ethnic minorities” and “Reintegration of students dropped-out from the educational system”. Within the deadline for comments – 30.05.2011, observations were received from several institutions (incl. CCU) which had to be reflected by the MA/IB in order to complete the coordination procedure and to launch the operations in due time.
- The Annual Implementation Report of OPHRD for 2010 was submitted to the European Commission through SFC2007 on 30.05.2011.
- In April 2011 the following procedures were launched:
  - **BG051PO001-6.2.13 “Development of the system for planning and provision of social services at regional level”**. The objective is to further develop the system for planning and management of social services in order to ensure flexible and individual support for social inclusion of vulnerable groups. The beneficiary is the Social Assistance Agency, the budget is 6 200 000 BGN and the deadline for submission of project proposal is 10.06.2011;
  - **BG051PO001-2.1.15 “Social innovations in the enterprises”**. The objective is to support the business to apply innovative strategies for human resources development in the companies, to introduce various flexible types of employment and to realize measures for sustainable employment of workers over 55 years of age. The budget of the operation is 38 000 000 leva and the deadline for submission of project proposals is 03.11.2011. The maximum grant per enterprise project is 390 000 BGN.
- In the course of the month were conducted working meetings organized by MA with representatives from the respective IBs, some of the direct beneficiaries and CCU. At the meetings were discussed the progress and problems detected in the implementation of the respective Priority Axis, results from management verifications conducted by MA, quality of the information uploaded in UMIS, financial forecasts for the payments in the forthcoming months. Based on the discussions were identified relevant corrective measures with set deadlines for their implementation.
- On 27.05.2011 were opened the financial offers under the open procurement procedure “Communication activities under OPHRD until the end of 2013). The respective committee should complete its work in due time and to proceed with conclusion of a contract with the chosen company.

***OP “Administrative Capacity”***



- In the period 13-15 May 2011 in Sofia was conducted international exhibition of EU and international programmes and projects “Europe for us”. On 13th May the OPAC Managing Authority presented the progress of the Programme, the established good practices and the opportunities for application with project proposals under current and forthcoming procedures. The information pavilion of the Programme was visited from more than 250 citizens who received actual information on the development and the opportunities for applying under OPAC.
- In the course of May, the Managing Authority had concluded 5 contracts with OPAC beneficiaries for more than 4 mln.leva: 1 contract with the Council of Ministers Administration under Sub-priority 1.1 for optimization of several institutions with budget of 2,178 mln.leva; 3 contracts under Sub-priority 2.1 with two Municipalities and one District Administration for increasing the effectiveness of human resources management with focus on the areas of healthcare and education with total budget of 871 100 leva; one contract with the National Revenue Agency for 961 871 leva for development and introduction of data warehouse in the Agency under Sub-priority 3.1.
- In the reporting period the respective evaluation committees completed their work under the procedures 2.5-01 “Transnational and Interregional cooperation” where 19 project proposal were approved and 3.2-02 “Standard information and communication environment and interoperability” where one proposal of the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications was approved. The approved projects are already within the Central coordination Unit for checks on potential overlap and double financing with other funds and Programmes. Under the project of the Ministry of Transport no potential overlap was detected which is already officially communicated to the Managing Authority thus the conclusion of contract with the beneficiary is forthcoming in near future.
- The checks on potential overlap and double financing with other funds and Programmes performed by the Central Coordination Unit under procedure BG051PO002/10/1.3-04 “Effective coordination and partnership in policy-making and implementation of policies” detected potential overlap with Rural Development Programme projects of some small Municipalities under LEADER approach as well as overlap between the target groups of some project proposals within this procedure. Respective correspondence is submitted to the MA for performing further checks on the issues raised. The procedure is ongoing.
- On 19 May 2011, the OPAC Managing Authority presented to the attention of EC its response to the draft audit report on Operational Programme “Administrative Capacity” which consist of action plan for implementation of the recommendations; response of the AC OP MA to the findings contained in the draft audit report; supporting documents to the response of the AC OP MA to the findings contained in the draft audit report.
- On 28 May, the Managing Authority submitted to the members of the Monitoring Committee invitations and relevant documentation on the forthcoming VIII official meeting of the MC which is scheduled on 10.06.2011. The main areas of the discussions will be the Annual Implementation Report for 2010, the progress under the Programme, the planned start of OPAC mid-term evaluation, presentation of successfully completed projects.

- After consultation July 1, 2010 was appointed as date for opening session of received project proposals of 1st Call for proposals under Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border programme. The administrative and eligibility check of the project proposals is finalized. The procedure for selection and appointment of independent assessors for technical and quality evaluation of project proposals is finalised. Technical evaluation is finalised. JMC meeting was held in Haskovo on March 23, 2011 – 50 projects approved for financing. Preparation of contracts is almost finished. Signing of the contracts is expected in the end of June with official launch of the projects in Haskovo on 4th of July 2011.
- On 18 of May 2011, the Managing Authority (MA) has published "Methodology of Programme Output and Result Indicators Assessment" document for the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme (CCI Number:2007CB16IPO008). This document treats the indicators on vertical level and also assists the potential applicants in drafting of their applications.
- On 30 of May 2011, the MA has published "Project Implementation Manual" (PIM) for implementation of the projects financed under the 1st call for proposals of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme.
- The bilateral Memorandum of understanding on implementation of the Programme was signed on 11.10.2010. Ratified by Parliament on January 26, 2011.
- The Description of Management and Control Systems is submitted by the AA to the EC on 26.11.2010. Accepted by the Commission on December 16, 2010.

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

- 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, started. The administrative and eligibility check is finalized. The procedure for selection and appointment of independent assessors for technical and quality evaluation of project proposals is finalised. Technical evaluation is finalized. JMC meeting on 13 May 2011 selected 48 projects to be financed. Pre-contracting visits and negotiations with the beneficiaries are undergoing. Expected signing of the contracts in July 2011.
- The bilateral Memorandum of understanding on implementation of the Programme was signed on 18.03.2011.
- The Description of Management and Control Systems is submitted by the AA to the EC on 25.03.2011. Accepted by the Commission on May 15, 2011.

#### ***Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme***

- 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 started. The administrative and eligibility check is finalized. The procedure for selection and appointment of independent assessors for technical and quality evaluation of project proposals is finalised. Technical evaluation is finalised.
- JMC meeting was held in Kyustendil on March 11, 2011 – 36 projects approved for financing. Contracts were signed.
- On 12 of May 2011, the Managing Authority (MA) has published Project implementation manual for implementation of the projects funded under the first call

for proposals of the IPA Cross-border programme between Bulgaria and Macedonia. The full package, which includes manual and annexes can be download from the web site of the Programme

- The bilateral Memorandum of understanding on implementation of the Programme was signed on 31.08.2010. Ratified by Parliament on December 17, 2010 – the Act is published in State Gazette No 101 on December 28, 2010.
- The Description of Management and Control Systems is submitted by the AA to the EC on 18.10.2010. Remarks from the Commission received mid of November and addendum to the Description of Management and Control Systems submitted on December 01, 2010. Accepted by the Commission on December 16, 2010.

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

- The organization of the Ninth Monitoring Committee has started on 27 April 2011. The preparation of monitoring sheets for each project were elaborated and submitted to EC on 1 June 2011 along with information on publicity measures.
- In the period 13-15 May 2011 Mr. Dirk Ahner visited Sofia. According to the agenda of the visit, meetings with representatives from the responsible Bulgarian institutions were held, as well as site visit in Danube Bridge 2 project and official opening of Ljulin Motorway.
- The elaboration of the Annual Report under Art. 12 of Council Regulation 1386/2002 have started with letter from the National Coordinator dated 27 April 2011. The draft version of the report was finalized by the end of May 2011 as the necessary information for its preparation is already collected.
- Monthly meetings in the Transport and Environment sectors were held on 20 and 26 May 2011 respectively.

Data on OPs financial progress is attached.

**OP Implementation as of 31.05.2011  
EURO**

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Programme budget			Contracted				Payments			
	Total	EU Funding	National co-funding	Total as of 31.05.2011	% implementation	EU funding	% implementation	Total as of 31.05.2011	% implementation	EU funding	% implementation
<b>OP Transport</b>	2 003 481 166 €	1 624 479 623 €	379 001 543 €	1 074 186 968 €	53,62%	870 128 000 €	53,56%	209 306 294 €	10,45%	172 680 768 €	10,63%
<b>OP Environment</b>	1 800 748 085 €	1 466 425 481 €	334 322 604 €	628 135 120 €	34,88%	505 693 641 €	34,48%	142 177 431 €	7,90%	114 429 608 €	7,80%
<b>OP Regional Development</b>	1 601 274 759 €	1 361 083 545 €	240 191 214 €	862 984 900 €	53,89%	733 537 165 €	53,89%	225 109 181 €	14,06%	191 344 442 €	14,06%
<b>OP Competitiveness</b>	1 162 215 551 €	987 883 219 €	174 332 332 €	419 995 753 €	36,14%	356 996 390 €	36,14%	241 891 747 €	20,81%	205 607 985 €	20,81%
<b>OP Technical Assistance</b>	56 819 427 €	48 296 513 €	8 522 914 €	22 076 597 €	38,85%	18 765 103 €	38,85%	7 079 727 €	12,46%	6 017 768 €	12,46%
<b>OP Human Resource Development</b>	1 213 869 575 €	1 031 789 139 €	182 080 436 €	580 698 225 €	47,84%	493 593 491 €	47,84%	127 250 740 €	10,48%	108 163 129 €	10,48%
<b>OP Administrative Capacity</b>	180 789 087 €	153 670 724 €	27 118 363 €	90 122 467 €	49,85%	76 604 096 €	49,85%	45 448 073 €	25,14%	38 630 862 €	25,14%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8 019 197 650 €</b>	<b>6 673 628 244 €</b>	<b>1 345 569 406 €</b>	<b>3 678 200 030 €</b>	<b>45,87%</b>	<b>3 055 317 887 €</b>	<b>45,78%</b>	<b>998 263 194 €</b>	<b>12,45%</b>	<b>836 874 562 €</b>	<b>12,54%</b>