

Implementation of the Structural funds in Bulgaria

Monthly brief, June 2011

Horizontal issues and legislative procedures

- A Decree amending the CoM Decree 70/2010 on the coordination of the EU Funds' management was adopted by the Council of Ministers on June 29, 2010. 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 the minister on the EU funds management. The minister is now given new functions related to the control of the OPs' implementation, as well as more instruments for the efficient coordination of the MAs, IBs, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority.
 - Changes in the statute and functions of the Council on the coordination of the EU funds - the Council will now be functioning as a consultative body supporting the minister on EU funds, its members being the deputy ministers responsible for the OPs' management and control in the line ministries.
- On 07 April 2011 an inter-ministerial working group was set up 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). 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 concept on the mechanism for financial support has been finalized. The highlights of the concept are:

 - the municipalities will have the opportunity to apply for financial support after the decision of the Contracting Authority for imposing financial corrections;
 - compensation will be up to 90% of the imposed financial correction amount;
 - defined criteria for awarding financial support;
 - establishment of a Consultative Council to the Minister on the management of EU Funds to administer the mechanism for financial support of municipalities.

The work on the elaboration of the respective normative act has been started. The first draft is to be sent by CCU to the working group members for coordination procedure.
- The demarcation of the sectors where the technical assistance will be provided by IFIs was finalized..
- The preparation of the mid-term additionality verification started through sending preliminary calculations to DG Regional policy.

- The selection of the UDF managers under JESSICA initiative was completed. Negotiations on certain contract clauses with the preferred bidders will commence in July 2011.
- In June, three meetings of the inter-institutional Working Group for Elaboration of the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 (NDP) were held. The Working Group discussed and approved the vision and the strategic goals of NDP. Later on, the Development Council approved the draft vision and strategic goals, as well. The discussions in relation to the NDP priorities will continue in July.
- A special task force within the inter-institutional Working Group for Elaboration of NDP tasked to determine the set of indicators of NDP was established. The task force is expected to present to the Working Group the draft set of indicators in July.
- In June, a Round Table “Vision, Strategic Goals and Priorities: Bulgaria 2020” with the participation of employers’ organisations, trade unions, academia, regional and local associations, think-tanks, as well as organisations representing vulnerable groups (like ethnic minorities, disabled, etc.), was held in the Council of Ministers. The main topic of the public discussion was related to the potential priorities and main areas of interventions of NDP.

The Unified Management and Information System (UMIS)

- In June, there were many developments concerning UMIS. The e-application of the electronic services module was launched and the first e-proposal was submitted (under OP “Technical Assistance”). The functionality received many positive reviews and e-submission of project proposals will become standard practice in the other Operational Programmes. The e-reporting part of the module has installed but its use will start in July. Other functionalities were also implemented. Among them are: the interface with the cross-border programmes managed by the Ministry of Regional Development, a report builder tool, data base editor, etc. As part of the efforts for the future development of UMIS an analysis was prepared and presented to the working group. The analysis is the stepping stone in preparing the terms of reference for the new developments of UMIS.

Information and Publicity, June 2011

- On 16 June 2011 in the presence of the media the electronic services of UMIS for beneficiaries were introduced. The public was able to trace the entire process - from submission of the proposal to the confirmation of acceptance by the Managing Authority. The basic steps for submitting and receiving documents through the module were also presented as well as the advantages of this new opportunity for the Bulgarian beneficiaries. The first, online submitted project proposal was "Help Desk for users of UMIS". Its purpose is to provide ongoing support for users of electronic services module.
- In June the Central Information Office created and started maintaining the profiles of the Single information portal for the Structural and Cohesion Funds in Bulgaria (www.eufunds.bg in the social networks Facebook, Twitter and You tube.). The goal is to reach specific community groups through the provision and maintenance of current and interesting information concerning EU Funds.

- Regarding the future update of the functionality of the Single information portal, the CIO uploaded a questionnaire on www.eufunds.bg, inviting its users to submit their recommendations to the vision, content and functionality of the portal.

Central Information and Coordination Office, June 2011

- The construction of the Central Information and Coordination Office and the reconditioning of the reception room of the Office were completed in June 2011: walls were constructed in order to separate the area of CICO, new windows were placed, and the walls were painted in the colors set in the requirements of the Conception for Branding and Vision of the 27 RIC. Further on, the reception room was furnished and supplied with main materials on the Structural and the Cohesion Funds, and the Operational programmes in Bulgaria. Official opening of the reception room is planned for July, 6.
- Databases with informational materials for the library of CICO have been created. First orders of information materials have been proceeded. The first deliveries of materials from DG REGIO were received in CICO. Cooperation with the European Information Center at the Representation of EC in Bulgaria has been discussed. Conversations about possible partnership with other libraries and documentation centers (the Library of Department “European Studies” at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”; the EDC of European College of Parma Foundation, etc.) have been held too.

Certifying Authority

- Certifying Authority performed **desk checks** on the regular Reports on Certification and Statements of Eligible Expenditures, submitted 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 finalized **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”. Results from the on-the-spot checks have been duly communicated to the relevant authorities.
- The Certifying Authority performed **on-the-spot check at the level of beneficiary** – under OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy”. Report from the performed on-the-spot check was sent to Managing Authority/ Intermediate Body for implementation of the recommendations;
- The Certifying Authority submitted to the European Commission **two Certificates** under OP “Transport” – one for ERDF and one for CF. The amounts claimed for reimbursement are as follows: 21 565 335.96 EUR – for OP “Transport” – ERDF, and 18 304 884.14 EUR for OP “Transport” – CF.
- In June 2011, 3 **interim payments from the EC** had been received referring to submitted Applications for payment under OP “Development of the Competitiveness

of the Bulgarian Economy” and OP “Environment” ERDF/CF. The total amount of funds received in June is 35 395 153 EUR.

| OP / FUND | Certified expenditure up to 30.06.2011 | Interim payments received from EC as per 30.06.2011 |
|---|---|--|
| ERDF | 457 444 617 € | 355 920 733 € |
| 1.OP Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy | 219 704 160 € | 175 406 681 € |
| 2. OP Regional Development | 125 690 778 € | 106 837 161 € |
| 3. OP Technical Assistance | 4 034 863 € | 3 429 634 € |
| 4. OP Transport | 105 014 736 € | 67 697 189 € |
| 5. OP Environment | 3 000 080 € | 2 550 068 € |
| CF | 66 207 568 € | 34 661 171 € |
| 1. OP Environment | 37 006 913 € | 29 605 531 € |
| 2. OP Transport | 29 200 655€ | 5 055 640 € |
| ESF | 99 724 193 € | 82 562 759 € |
| 1. OP Human Resources Development | 68 206 295 € | 55 993 148 € |
| 2. OP Administrative Capacity | 31 517 898 € | 26 569 611 € |
| Total | 623 376 378 € | 473 144 663 € |

Operational Programmes

OP Transport

- An official opening of the technical offers under the “Kurdjali-Podkova” Supervision Tender Evaluation was held on 03.06.2011.
- An official opening of the technical offers under the “Construction of Struma Motorway, Lot 1” Supervision Tender Evaluation was held on 03.06.2011.
- The Ninth regular session of the Monitoring Committee of OP Transport 2007-2013 (OPT) was held on June 7-8, in town of Pravets. The Monitoring Committee members ascertained that the amount of the funds contracted is over 2 billion BGN, which is 53% of the total budget of OPT. The payments to the final beneficiaries are up to 10%. The projects of the RIA and NRIC for the next programming period were also presented. The Annual report was submitted to the EC in the deadline.
- On 22.06.2011 the Paying Authority sent to the European Commission requests for payment with total amount of 40 000 000 Euro. The requests for payment concerned the “Construction of Trakia Motorway” and “Sofia Metro Extension, Stage I – “Road junction Nadejda - Central Railway Station - Sveta Nedelya square - Cherni Vrah blvd. and Stage II Lot 1 “Obelya – Nadezhda” and Lot 2 “Mladost I – Tsarigradsko Shose” Projects.
- An official opening of the price offers under the “Construction of Struma Motorway, Lot 1” Supervision Tender Evaluation was held on 24.06.2011.

OP Environment

- An official opening ceremony was held on 4 June 2011 on the project for construction of sewerage network in the town of Kavarna. The total amount of the project is BGN 9,4 million. Under the project was constructed 1,3 km. main sewer, 4,7 km sewerage network, 1,5 km potable water network. The new constructed network will be used from 2 500 habitants of the city in the future more 1 500 habitants will be connect to the network.
- Draft requirements for preparation of investment projects in agglomerations between 2000 PE and 10 000 PE. were published on the web site on OP Environment for comments.
- The Tenth regular session of the Monitoring Committee of OP Environment 2007-2013 (OPE) was held on June 10, in the town of Hisarya. The Monitoring Committee members discussed and approved the Annual report on the progress in the implementation of Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013 in 2010. In order to further the reform in water sector, the Committee approved a special body at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works to be a Beneficiary under the program. The Annual report was submitted to the EC in the deadline.
- 8 projects have been submitted under the procedure for development of management plans for special protected areas for birds not overlapping with the protected areas for habitats. The procedure is amounting to BGN 3 million and is financed by the European Regional Development Fund through Operational Programme Environment.
- Deputy-Minister of Environment and Water Evdokiya Maneva officially launched the biggest project in the biodiversity sector under Operational Programme Environment - Mapping and determining the conservation status of natural habitats and species - phase I". The total amount of the project is BGN 26 million.
- Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, Deputy Minister of Environment and Water Ivelina Vasileva and the Mayor of Troyan Minko Akimov opened the wastewater treatment plant in Troyan. The investment is co-funded by Operational Programme Environment and the municipality. The project finances also the construction of 1.3 km sewerage pipelines.
- The list of agglomerations eligible to receive funding under procedure BG161PO005/10/1.11/03/19 "Preparation and Implementation of Projects for Improvement and Development of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure for Agglomerations above 10 000 PE" was enlarged by an order of the Minister of Environment and Water. The agglomerations Galabovo, Sandanski and Kyustendil were added to it.
- Minister of Environment and Water Nona Karadjova signed the contracts with Elin Pelin for construction of water supply and sewage infrastructure and Vidin for the construction of the regional waste management system. The two projects are funded by Operational Programme Environment.

OP Regional Development

- On 1 June grant contracts in the amount of 16,5 MEUR were signed to support the prevention of floods in 34 municipalities under PA 4 of OPRD.

- On 1 June the Head of the MA approved a project in the amount of 335 407 EUR for the renovation of the St. Sofia Architectural Museum. The project was approved under the call *Support for providing adequate and effective state-owned culture infrastructure, contributing to the development of sustainable urban areas* with the Ministry of Culture as specific beneficiary.
- On 1 June grant contracts in the amount of 20,7 MEUR were signed to support the prevention of floods in 41 municipalities under PA 1 of OPRD.
- On 7 June the Eighth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of OPRD took place. The following decisions were taken:
 - the annual implementation report for 2010 was approved and accordingly officially sent to the EC;
 - a reallocation of 11,6 MEUR from PA 3 to PA 1 in order to increase the resource for the deinstitutionalization scheme was approved;
 - the MC also approved the newly formed Housing Policy Directorate within the MRDPW to become specific beneficiary for the call *Support for energy efficiency in multi-family residential buildings*, together with a housing fund-manager;
 - the list of indicative activities of operation 1.2 Housing was expanded to include provision of loans and guarantees;
 - the Head of the MA was granted a mandate to designate the municipalities, selected by the work group within the Council of Ministers to implement pilot projects to provide social housing for marginalized groups, as specific beneficiaries under the call *Support for delivery of modern social housing of good quality for vulnerable, minority and lower income groups and other disadvantaged groups*
 - the Head of the MA was granted a mandate to initiate a written procedure for the reallocation of 57,5 MEUR from PA 2 to PA 1 and PA 4 to fund reserve list projects after consulting with the concerned parties.
- On 8 June grant contracts in the amount of 33,4 MEUR were signed between the Head of the MA and the Minister of Health for the implementation of 7 projects under the call *Support for reconstruction of state-owned medical and health establishments in urban agglomerations*. The contracts were signed in the presence of the Prime Minister.
- On 15 June the requirements for identifying integrated projects for the construction of housing for marginalized groups were published on the Single Information Portal and the OPRD website. The 86 municipalities eligible under PA 1 of OPRD can apply and the deadline for submitting project ideas is 14 July.
- On 16-17 June the MA organized a technical meeting with the municipalities to discuss updated procedures in the new version of the procedure manual of the OP. Issues like ex ante control, public procurement, on-the-spot checks, amendment of grant contracts, irregularities, were discussed during the meeting.
- On 23 June grant contracts in the amount of 10,9 MEUR were signed with 36 municipalities for the elaboration of integrated plans for urban regeneration and development.

OP Technical Assistance

- Up to 20th of June 2011 was completed the project evaluation of 27 project proposals under direct awarding procedure №BG161PO002-3.3.02 “Establishment and operation of regional information centers”.
- The Evaluation report was approved on 21st of June 2011 by Minister of EU funds management and the Head of Managing Authority of Operational Programme “Technical Assistance” with Decision for grant awarding of non-reimbursable financial contribution №16/21.06.2011г. The total amount of approved for granting projects is 11 391 658.62 lv. (5 824 462, 56 euro). The signing of 27 grant contracts is envisaged up to 6th of July 2011 .
- During the reporting period continued the process of verification of expenditures according to received by beneficiaries request for payment;
- In June 2011 were issued two orders for granting of non-reimbursable financial contribution under the OP “Technical assistance”; signed one Grant contract and one Grant Contract Annex.
- In addition it is envisaged to be approved the Report of the Committee of Compliance Assessment of projects proposals under the Operational Programme by the Minister of EU funds management and Head of Managing authority of OP “Technical assistance” for proposing for financing and issuing a Decision on approval of the Report on two projects with beneficiary MA as follows:
 - “Further facilitation of reliable verification and check of project expenditures under the Operational Programme "Technical Assistance" for the period 2011 – 2013”;
 - “Implementation of mid-term evaluation of OP “Technical Assistance”.
- The Evaluation Committee is in process of evaluation of the proposals received under the public procurement with subject: „Evaluation of the implementation of Structural instruments, according to goals set up in NSRF 2007-2013” under the Project 0025 CCU-1.1 with beneficiary CCU.
- In the process of preparation are Dossiers/Document packages under the following three public procurements with beneficiary MA, assigned by civil contracts with:
 - “Updating of the Document – Manual of the beneficiary and organization and holding of trainings” (under the Project № 0038-MA-1.4);
 - “Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the operation of MA of OP “Technical Assistance” (under the Project № 0037-MA-1.4);
 - Provision of external professional expertise in ex ante control of public procurements, financed with the support of OPTA (under Project № 0037-MA-1.4).
- The revision/preparation of the documents for management and implementation of OPTA for transition to electronic application under the Programme by UMIS was completed.. Currently, application for OP is performed by UMIS.

OP Development of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy 2007-2013

- On 1st of June 2011 was hold hearing of OPC management representatives before the members of Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds.
- On 3rd of June 2011 was published List of project proposals, rejected on stage evaluation of administrative compliance and admissibility of project proposals, received under the Grant Procedure BG161PO003-2.1.11 "Technological modernization in small and medium sized enterprises". The number of rejected projects under this stage of evaluation process is 27.
- On 7th of June 2011 Managing Authority of OP Competitiveness published Analysis of appeals, received during the evaluation process of Grant procedures BG161PO003-2.1.06 "Technological modernization in small and medium sized enterprises", BG161PO003-2.1.07 "Technological modernization in large enterprises " and BG161PO003-2.1.08 "Compliance with international recognised standards".
- On 8th of June 2011 Managing Authority of OP Competitiveness published suggestions, suggestions, received during the public discussion of Project of Guidelines for Applicants under planed for launching grant procedure BG161PO003-2.1.12 „Compliance of international recognized standards and introduction of RP systems in enterprises” and MA comments on them.
- On 9th of June 2011 was launched public discussion of new revised Guidelines for Applicants and Documents under the Procedure BG161PO003-2.1.12 „Compliance of international recognized standards and introduction of RP systems in enterprises”;
- From 13.06.2011 to 22.06.2011 Managing Authority and Intermediate Body of OP Competitiveness launched information and awareness campaign under the open procedures of Priority axis 1 “Development of knowledge based economy and innovation activities”. The information events was hold in 8 Bulgarian cities as follows: Plovdiv, Bourgass, Varna, Russe, Gabrovo, Sofia, Blagoevgrad and Vratza;
- On 13.06.2011 was published examples of visualisation and information provided by beneficiaries of OP Competitiveness and EU funds;
- From 14 to 17 of June 2011 IB of OP Competitiveness launched training of beneficiaries under the Grant Procedure BG161PO003-2.1.08 "Compliance with international recognized standards". The accent of training was on procedures and details applied during the implementation of grant contracts under the procedure.
- 15th of June 2011 was launched written procedure for decision making of members of OPC Monitoring Committee for increasing the budget set in Operation 3.1.1 "Support for guaranty funds", Invitation № JER-009/2, with 4.4 million euro.
- On 16th of June 2011 CCU hold monthly meeting with representatives of MA and IB of OPC and Certification Authority. During the meeting were discussed issues, concerning the progress in implementation of OP Competitiveness.
- On 22nd of June 2011 MA of OPC had published list with project proposals, rejected on the stage evaluation of administrative compliance and admissibility under the grant procedure BG161PO003-2.1.10 „ Support for enterprises and cooperatives of disabled people. On this stage of evaluation process was rejected 6 project proposals.
- On 28th of June 2011 CCU hold meeting with representatives of MA, IB and Certification Authority in order to be discussed organization and preparation of forth coming technical meeting with representatives of European Commission.
- On 29th of June 2011 Managing Authority of OP Competitiveness had published suggestions, received during the second public discussion of Project of revised

Guidelines for Applicants of Grant procedure BG161PO003-2.1.12 „Compliance of international recognized standards and introduction of RP systems in enterprises”.

- On 29th of June 2011 MA and IB of OPC were launched Grant procedure BG161PO003-2.1.12 „Compliance of international recognized standards and introduction of RP systems in enterprises” with dateline for application 28th of 2011.
- On 29th of June 2011 was hold high level meeting between Minister of EU funds – Mr. Tomislav Donchev, Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism – Mr. Traicho Traikov, Deputy minister and Head of MA of OP Competitiveness – Mr. Evgeny Angelov and Mr. Jean Mary Seyler, Mr. Renaldo Mandmets and Mr. Atanasios Sofos from DG REGIO of European Commission.
- On 30th of June 2011 was hold technical meeting with DG REGIO representatives;

On 30th of June 2011 Mr. Jan Mary Seyler had visited the company “MD-2” EOOD, implementing Project “Production of quality frozen and chilled bakery products” under OP “Competitiveness”.

OP “Human Resources Development

- In the period 27 May – 14 June 2011 MA/IBs conducted series of information days throughout the whole country on the launched operations “Social innovations in the enterprises”; “Take life in your hands” and “New opportunities” which total budget is 78,881 mln.leva.
- 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). The received comments were reflected by the MA/IB and the procedure was completed on 28.06.2011.
- In June 2011 the following procedures were launched:
 - **BG051PO001-7.0.01** “Without Frontiers – Component 1”. The procedure was opened on 30.06.2011. The objective is to create platform which to allow all key organizations and institutions to use EQUAL experience and to exchange ideas and plans for better utilization of ESF funds in the areas of employment, education and training, social inclusion. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 30.09.2011, the total budget of the procedure is 33,482 mln.leva.
 - **BG051PO001-5.1.03** “Chance for all”. The objective of the scheme is to support the social inclusion of people with disabilities through support for specialized enterprises and co-operatives for people with disabilities for trainings for acquiring and enhancing professional qualification and ensuring employment for a period of at least one year. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 15.08.2011, the total budget of the procedure is 20 mln.leva.
 - **BG051PO001-3.1.05** “Improvement of the quality and incorporation of European instruments and practices in the professional education and training”. The objective is to improve the quality of the professional education and training through development and introduction of effective European methodologies and instruments, based on life-long learning. The direct beneficiary – Ministry of

Education, Youth and Science should submit respective project proposal until 15.08.2011. The budget is 3 mln.leva.

- **BG051PO001-3.1.04** “Improvement of the quality of the general education”. The objective is to improve the quality of the educational services through modernization of the state educational requirements for contents, plans and programmes for all educational levels; development of procedure for assessment of textbooks and manuals. The direct beneficiary – Ministry of Education, Youth and Science should submit respective project proposal until 15.08.2011. The budget is 10 mln.leva.
 - **BG051PO001-5.2.10** “Chance for happy future”: Component 1 – Preparation for restructuring of Centers for medico-social care of children. The activities will be implemented in the Municipalities on which territory will be restructured pilot Centers in the period 2011-2014. The direct beneficiary – Ministry of Health should submit respective project proposal until 25.07.2011. The budget is 2 mln.leva.
 - **BG051PO001-5.2.11** “Fostering”. The objective is to support the process of deinstitutionalization of children through realization of sustainable model of family-type services. The direct beneficiary – Social Assistance Agency should submit respective project proposal until 08.08.2011. The budget is 15 mln.leva.
 - **BG051PO001-6.2.14** “Development of electronic data base of the medical devices, paid with public funds”. The objective is to improve the control over the medical devices offered in Bulgaria through creation of electronic data base, managed by the Bulgarian Drug Agency. The direct beneficiary should submit respective project proposal until 22.07.2011. The budget is 0,150 mln.leva
- According to the requirements of CoM Decree No121, in June the Ministry of Education published Draft Guidelines for applicants for consultation with the general public on the procedure BG051PO001-3.3.07 “Support for the development of PhD students and PhD graduates, post-doctoral students, and young scientists”. The deadline for provision of comments on the guidelines expired on 17.06.2011. MLSP published Draft Guidelines for applicants for consultation with the general public on the procedures BG051PO001-7.0.02 “Without Frontiers – Component 2”. The deadline for provision of comments on the guidelines expired on 27.06.2011.
 - On 30.06.2011 were opened the financial offers under the open procurement procedure “Evaluation of the achievement of the strategic and specific objectives of OPHRD”. 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”

- On 10.06.2011 the VIII official meeting of OPAC Monitoring Committee took place. MC approved the OPAC Annual Implementation Report for 2010 with the comments and recommendations provided by the Central Coordination Unit and European Commission. The OPAC AIR 2010 was submitted to EC through SFC2077 on 29.06.2011. The MC also approved amendments in its Internal Rules, regarding the chairman of the Committee. The members were informed and agreed on proposed amendments of the Annual Indicative Working Programme for 2011 which were related to inclusion of two new procedures (**BG051PO002/11/1.2-05** for CoM Administration for increasing the administrative control in the administration and

BG051PO002/11/2.2-04 for IPA for increasing the qualification of the civil servants through trainings in foreign training centers) with total budget of 6,5 mln.leva as well as increasing the budget of the procedure **BG051PO002/11/1.3-06** (for central administration for improvement of the management of priority sectoral policies) from 3 to 6 mln.leva due to the great interest among the potential beneficiaries for applying with project proposals. The amendments in the Annual Working Programme were approved by the Minister for Management of EU Funds prior to the MC meeting. At the MC meeting were presented good practices under projects implemented by the National Assembly Administration, Public Prosecutor's Office and Gabrovo Municipality.

- On 21-22.06.2011 an international seminar took place in Pravets on identification and exchange of good practices in the area of e-government, organized by the OPAC Managing Authority in the course of the implementation of the international project "To face the challenges – how effectively to support the reform in the state administration with the European Social Fund" which leading partner is the Polish Government. In the seminar took part experts from Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain.
- The evaluation committee under BG051PO002/11/1.3-05 approved the project proposal of the Council of Ministers Administration "Charges Policy in conformity with the public relations – condition for good governance". No potential overlap was detected in the course of the procedure for avoidance of double financing so the project is approved and respective contract should be signed in due time.; The budget of the project is 1,85 mln.leva.
- The evaluation committee under BG051PO002/11/3.2-02 approved the project proposal of the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications "Improvement of the administrative service delivery through upgrade of the central systems of the e-government". No potential overlap was detected in the course of the procedure for avoidance of double financing so the project is approved and respective contract should be signed in due time.; The budget of the project is 11,997 mln.leva.
- In the reporting period the respective evaluation committee completed its work under the procedures 3.1-05 "Improvement of the service delivery to citizens and business, incl. through e-government development" where 27 project proposal were approved. The approved projects were submitted to the Central Coordination Unit for checks on potential overlap and double financing with other funds and Programmes. The respective analysis showed potential overlap between project proposals and other OPAC and Phare projects and in this respect further information and comparative tables were requested from MA (and beneficiaries respectively) in order to complete the coordination procedure and to present final standpoint on existence of double financing. The same is the situation under the procedure BG051PO002/10/2.5-01 "Transnational and Interregional Cooperation" where 20 project proposal were approved by the evaluation committee but the check within the CCU showed potential overlap between project proposals and other OPAC and Phare projects.
- On 29.06.2011, the Managing Authority published revised and updated version of the OPAC Beneficiary Guidelines.

Implementation of ex-ISPA/CF 1164

- The Ninth ISPA monitoring committee (CF 164/94) was held in the period between 28 and 20 June 2011 in "Boyana" Residence.
- Two final reports for closure of the Financing memoranda of Bourgas and Bourgas – Meden Rudnik were submitted to the EC.

Data on OPs financial progress is attached.

OP Implementation as of 30.06.2011

EURO

| OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME | Programme budget | | | Contracted | | | | Payments | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Total | EU Funding | National co-funding | Total as of 30.06.2011 | % implementation | EU funding | % implementation | Total as of 30.06.2011 | % implementation | EU funding | % implementation |
| OP Transport | 2 003 481 166 € | 1 624 479 623 € | 379 001 543 € | 1 074 182 524 € | 53,62% | 870 124 223 € | 53,56% | 231 765 518 € | 11,57% | 191 130 935 € | 11,77% |
| OP Environment | 1 800 748 085 € | 1 466 425 481 € | 334 322 604 € | 646 742 001 € | 35,92% | 520 574 524 € | 35,50% | 155 909 771 € | 8,66% | 125 450 028 € | 8,55% |
| OP Regional Development | 1 601 274 759 € | 1 361 083 545 € | 240 191 214 € | 946 358 417 € | 59,10% | 804 404 654 € | 59,10% | 229 308 460 € | 14,32% | 194 913 829 € | 14,32% |
| OP Competitiveness | 1 162 215 551 € | 987 883 219 € | 174 332 332 € | 427 731 603 € | 36,80% | 363 571 862 € | 36,80% | 247 178 074 € | 21,27% | 210 101 362 € | 21,27% |
| OP Technical Assistance | 56 819 427 € | 48 296 513 € | 8 522 914 € | 23 839 283 € | 41,96% | 20 263 390 € | 41,96% | 6 891 500 € | 12,13% | 5 857 775 € | 12,13% |
| OP Human Resource Development | 1 213 869 575 € | 1 031 789 139 € | 182 080 436 € | 610 683 253 € | 50,31% | 519 081 402 € | 50,31% | 128 778 630 € | 10,61% | 109 473 214 € | 10,61% |
| OP Administrative Capacity | 180 789 087 € | 153 670 724 € | 27 118 363 € | 89 308 410 € | 49,40% | 75 912 148 € | 49,40% | 46 562 512 € | 25,76% | 39 578 135 € | 25,76% |
| TOTAL | 8 019 197 650 € | 6 673 628 244 € | 1 345 569 406 € | 3 818 845 490 € | 47,62% | 3 173 932 203 € | 47,56% | 1 046 394 465 € | 13,05% | 876 505 278 € | 13,13% |