

Implementation of the Structural funds in Bulgaria

Monthly brief, August-September 2011

Horizontal issues and legislative procedures

- On 3rd August, a meeting of the Development Council was carried out. There was a discussion on the priorities of the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 (NDP), which were finally approved.
- On 20th September a meeting-discussion of the Inter-institutional Working group for the elaboration of the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 was held. The meeting included a presentation by an expert from the OECD, Mr. Jose Enrique Garcilazo, who presented some analytical findings of the publication Regional Outlook 2011, which provided important information that would be helpful in the process of preparation of the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020.
- On 27th September, a Round Table „From National Goals and Priorities of the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 to Partnership Contract for Development and Investments 2014-2020” was held in Sofia. A public discussion concerning the elaboration of the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020, its strategic goals and priorities, and the main areas of interventions, where the policy’ effects will be most important for the development of the country took place. The main participants of the academic society of the country were invited in the event and expressed their opinion on the process of preparation of the document.
- Regarding the financial corrections mechanism, a permanent interministerial work group for supporting the managing authorities will be established. The main tasks of the work group will be to discuss different cases where financial corrections will be imposed and to support methodologically the Managing Authorities regarding the process of imposing financial corrections under the OPs. The working group will include representatives of the Audit Authority, Certifying Authority, Bulgarian Audit Office, Managing Authorities, and Central Coordination Unit etc.
- At the moment the Government is preparing a second Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Bank outlining the exact scope of the services which will be provided by the bank. Separate agreements between the respective IFI and beneficiary will be signed for the provision of certain advisory services. The provision of advisory services by the IFIs will commence upon the execution of the foreseen amendments of the Public Procurement Act allowing direct awarding to IFIs. These amendments should be operational till the end of 2011.

The Unified Management and Information System (UMIS)

- The following actions concerning UMIS were undertaken:
 - A major addition to the financial module was made with the new functionality for partial certification of payment claims. The tender procedure for the new developer of UMIS was launched in August. The tender procedure for procuring new hardware for the system was finalized. The CCU is assisting the MA’s of OP Competitiveness and OP Human Resource Development in preparing the guidelines for two procedures that will allow electronic submission of application forms.

- The tender procedure for the further development of UMIS started. The procedure will be finalized in October. The contract for the delivery of new hardware for UMIS was signed and the new contactor begun his activities. The new hardware will be installed in the Council of Ministers in October. The CCU is assisting the MA's of OP Competitiveness and OP Human Resource Development in preparing the guidelines for two procedures that will allow electronic submission of application forms.

Information and Publicity

- In August and September 2011 the Central Information Office continued to provide up-to-date information related to EU Funds in the social networks Facebook, Twitter and You tube. By the end of the month, 411 users had joined the group of eufunds.bg in Facebook.
- The regular update of the information contained at the Single information portal www.eufunds.bg continued as ever increasing quantities of information are being stored, organized and made readily available to the general public. During the period, each step of the procedures for recruiting staff of the District Information Offices was published on the web- portal, starting from the announcements, continuing with the lists of approved candidates and ending with the finalists.
- In September the Central Information Office organized a meeting of the National Network of Information and Publicity Officers of the Operational Programmes. The topic of the meeting was coordinating forthcoming events of the managing authorities of the OPs, sharing information about public procurement related to communications and exchanging good practices.

Central Information and Coordination Office (CICO)

- In August 2011 started the procedures for recruiting staff in the District Information Offices in the country. The procedures were announced 30 days in advance in accordance to the provisions of the Labour Code and were based on the Procedure for staff selection in the 27 DICs, elaborated for the needs of CICO.
- All documents related to the conduction of the staff selection procedures were elaborated by the Central Information and Coordination Office: models of announcements to be used by each of the 27 municipalities, instruction for the conduction of the procedures, individual evaluation grids, evaluation tables for each phase of the competitions (documental check, test and interview) and templates of lists with results to be published on the Single information portal www.eufunds.bg , on the websites of the municipalities and elsewhere, as appropriate. The goal was to guarantee unified approach and to ensure that all procedures are conducted in accordance with the Procedure for staff selection in the 27 DICs.
- Again based on the Procedure, representatives of the Central Information and Coordination Office are taking part in all procedures for selection of managers of DICs. The first procedures started in the beginning of September, after the expiry of the 30-day term obligatory as per the Labour Code. Experts of CICO prepared a time schedule and ensured a representative in each individual competition. By the end of September, 20 municipalities launched staff selection procedures for DICs and they are gradually getting finalized.

Certifying Authority

- Certifying Authority carried out desk checks on Report on Certification and Statement of Eligible Expenditures, submitted in August by the Managing Authorities of OP “Technical Assistance” and OP “Regional Development” and those submitted in September by the Managing Authorities of OP “Environment”, OP “Transport” and OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy”. Desk check on some of the regular Reports on Certification and Statement of Eligible Expenditure, are ongoing and will be finalized in October.
- Certifying Authority performed in August regular on-the-spot checks at the Managing Authority of OP “Technical Assistance”, at the Managing Authority and Beneficiary of OP “Regional Development” as well as an ad hoc on-the spot visit at the Intermediate Body of OP “Human Resources Development”. In September regular on-the-spot checks were held at the Managing Authority of OP “Transport” and at the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Body of OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy”. Reports from the on-the-spot checks held in August are sent to the Managing Authority/ Intermediate Body for implementation of the recommendations, the others are under preparation
- The Certifying Authority performed on-the-spot checks at the level of beneficiary as follows: in August – one under OP “Environment” and in September - two under OP “Human Resources Development”, one under OP “Environment” and one under OP “Technical Assistance”. Reports from the on-the-spot check were sent to the Managing Authority/ Intermediate Body for implementation of the recommendations except the second report under OP “Environment” and the one under OP “Technical Assistance”.
- The Certifying Authority performed in August 3 ad-hoc on-the-spot checks as regard to the establishment and maintenance of Debtor’s Ledger at the Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies of OP “Regional Development”, OP “Environment” and OP “Human Resources Development”. Results from the first two on-the-spot checks have been duly communicated to the relevant authority. For OP “Human Resources Development” report with recommendations to the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies is under preparation.
- The Certifying Authority submitted to the European Commission three Certificates as follows: in August – two for OP “Transport”- CF and ERDF amounting to 71 465 009 EUR and in September – one for OP “Technical Assistance” amounting to 908 999 EUR.
- In August and September 2011, 5 interim payments from the EC were received as result to submitted Applications for payment under OP “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy”, OP “Environment” - CF and ERDF and OP “Transport” – CF and ERDF. The total amount of funds received in August and September is 85 561 646 EUR.
- For all seven OPs the Certifying Authority sent to the EC in August an updated forecast of the likely applications for payment for the current year and the subsequent financial year.

OP / FUND	Certified expenditure up to 30.09.2011	Interim payments received from EC as per 30.09.2011
ERDF	500 561 698 €	401 371 094 €
1.OP Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy	248 096 543 €	187 548 361 €
2. OP Regional Development	125 690 778 €	106 837 161 €
3. OP Technical Assistance	4 943 862 €	3 429 634 €
4. OP Transport	117 105 967 €	99 540 072 €
5. OP Environment	4 724 548 €	4 015 866 €
CF	143 303 346 €	114 642 676 €
1. OP Environment	54 728 914 €	43 783 131 €
2. OP Transport	88 574 432 €	70 859 545 €
ESF	110 546 523 €	91 395 874 €
1. OP Human Resources Development	79 028 625 €	64 826 263 €
2. OP Administrative Capacity	31 517 898 €	26 569 611 €
Total	754 411 567 €	607 409 644 €

Operational Programmes

OP Transport

- A “Ground Breaking” Ceremony for “Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1” was held on 02.08.2011. The Prime Minister Mr. Boyko Borisov, The Minister of Regional Development and Public Works Mr. Rosen Plevneliev and the Chairman of the Managing Board of the Road Executive Agency Mr. Sergey Mihalev were present at the event.;
- An official opening of the price offers under the “Dimitrovgrad-Svilengrad” Railway Project Tender Evaluation was held on 04.08.2011;
- The Application Form for the “Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1 and Lot 2” was sent by the CCU to the European Commission on 09.08.2011;
- An official opening of the technical offers under the “Construction of Struma Motorway, Lot 4” Tender Evaluation was held on 19.08.2011;
- An official opening of the technical offers under the “Construction of Struma Motorway, Lot 4” Supervision Tender Evaluation was held on 23.08.2011;
- The Contracts for construction and supervision under the “Kurdjali-Podkova” Project were signed on 30.08.2011;
- A “Ground Breaking” Ceremony for “Kurjali-Podkova” Project was held on 01.09.2011. The Prime Minister Mr. Boyko Borisov, The Minister of Regional Development and Public Works Mr. Rosen Plevneliev and the Minister of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications Mr. Ivaylo Moskovsky were present at the event.;
- The Application Form for the “Construction of Struma Motorway, Lots 1,2&4” was submitted by RIA to the MTITC on 07.09.2011;

- The Approval Procedure of the Application Form for “Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1 and Lot 2” was interrupted by the European Commission as first round of questions and comments concerning the Major Application were sent to the Bulgarian Authorities on 15.09.2011;
- An official opening of the price offers under the “Construction of Struma Motorway, Lot 4” Supervision Tender Evaluation was held on 15.09.2011;
- The Monthly Progress Meeting on OP “Transport” Projects was held in 15-19.09.2011 in the MTITC.
- An official opening of the price offers under the “Construction of Struma Motorway, Lot 4” Tender Evaluation was held on 20.09.2011;
- A “Ground Breaking” Ceremony for “Connection of Hemus Motorway to Sofia Ring Road” Project was held on 26.09.2011. The Prime Minister Mr. Boyko Borisov, The Minister of Regional Development and Public Works Mrs. Liliana Pavlova and the Minister of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications Mr. Ivaylo Moskovsky were present at the event.;

OP Environment

- On 11/08/2011 Gabrovo Municipality submitted a project proposal for construction of a Regional Waste Management System for Gabrovo and Tryavna. The indicative value is MEUR 15,5. The construction should be completed by the end of 2013.
- The contract for construction of a Regional Waste Management System in Burgas was signed on 31/8/2011 at the total amount of about MEUR 22. Partners under the contract are municipalities of Burgas, Aitos, Kameno, Karnobat, Nessebar, Pomorie, Rouen, Sredets, Sungurlare. The deadline for completion is end of 2014.
- The Municipalities of Lukovit, Levski, Panagyurishte, Pleven, Samokov and Yambol submitted their project proposals for construction of Regional Waste Management Systems on 31/8/2011. The total amount of the projects is MEUR 75.
- The Municipalities of Parvomay, Shumen and Cherven Bryag submitted their project proposals for construction of water infrastructure on 31/8/2011. The total amount of the projects is MEUR 75.
- The contract for reconstruction of WWTP and water and sewage network in Pazardjik was signed on 14.09.2011. The total amount is MEUR 25. The construction has to be completed by the end of 2014.
- Bansko Municipality submitted project proposal for construction of waste water treatment plant and rehabilitation of water supply and sewage network on 09/21/2011. The total project amount is MEUR 36,3. The project was prepared under ex-ISPA program. Deadline for completion is mid-2014.
- The contract for construction of WWTP in Tryavna was signed on 21.09.2011. The project is worth at EUR 12.7 million. Deadline for completion is end of 2014.

OP Regional Development

- Under the grant scheme BG161PO001/3.3-01/2008 "Support for an effective national tourism marketing and improvement of the information services" a new deadline for submission of project fiches was announced by the MA - October 31, 2011. Direct beneficiary under the scheme is the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism.
- The deadline under the scheme BG161PO001/3.1-04/2011 "Restoration and conservation of the Evksinograd palace and its adjacent park" was extended to May 30, 2012. Direct beneficiary - Council of Ministers Administration.
- On 08.09.2011 40 grant contracts were signed under the grant scheme BG161PO001/1.1-10/2010 "Support for the creation and promotion of innovative cultural events". The total amount of the contracts is 19,5 MEUR (16,6 MEUR ERDF)
- On 16.08.2011 the first major project under OPRD Support for integrated urban transport in Burgas was approved by the EC. The amount of the grant approved is 51,816 MEUR and covers the full amount of the financial deficit of the project.
- On 23.08.2011 the grant contract for "Sofia Integrated urban transport" project was signed by the MA and Sofia Municipality. The total value of the project is 62 MEUR.
- On 30.08.2011 the MA opened the scheme BG161PO001/1.2-02/2011 "Modern social housing for vulnerable, disadvantaged and minority population and other disadvantaged groups" with direct beneficiaries the municipalities of Burgas, Vidin, Devnya and Dupnitsa. The aim of the scheme is to support the social inclusion and integration of disadvantaged groups through provision of modern social housing. The budget of the scheme amounts to 8 MEUR.

OP Technical Assistance

- During the period the process of verifying costs received for payments requests of the beneficiaries continued;
- On August 26 was published information on the approval of the European Commission of the Annual Report on the Operational Programme "Technical Assistance";
- The recommendations of audit and control bodies in relation to managing and implementing the of the program have been implemented. A change in procedure for administrative review of the request for payment is performing, which will increase control in the course of verification costs;
- In September OPTA MA held a series of meetings and discussions with Archives State Agency, Public Procurement Agency and the State Agency for child protection in relation to the identified needs of agencies and had achieved the necessary arrangements and certain areas of intervention, setting agencies for specific beneficiaries.

OP Development of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy

- On 2nd of August 2011 the Monitoring Committee of OP "Competitiveness" (OPC) under a written decision making procedure approved selection criteria for new financial instrument -Seed fund under the Initiative JEREMIE and measures under Priority Axis 3 of the Programme – Invitation for expression of interest №JER-009/5.
- On 3rd of August 2011 in Ministry of economy, energy and tourism was hold meeting with representatives of business, science community and Ministry of Education, Youth

and Science for discussion of key elements of the Science and technology parks concept and the progress made by Ministry team in its elaboration.

- On 17.08. 2011 Managing authority (MA) of OPC published for public consultation the project of Guidelines for applicants and application documents package for planed for launching in September 2011 call: BG161PO003-2.1.13 „Technological modernization in small and medium sized enterprises”. From the beginning of 2010 such public consultation is held before to be launched the call.
- On 22.08.2011 the Monitoring Committee of OPC under written decision making procedure has approved proposed amendments in Indicative Annual Work Programme of OPC for 2011 and selection criteria for the following calls: “Technological modernization in small and medium sized enterprises”, „Green industry investments”, “Support for R&D activities of Bulgarian enterprises”, „Development of applied research in science organizations and Bulgaria” and. „Improvement of the national quality infrastructure”.
- With official letter from 26.08.2011 of DG REGIO gives comments on the content of Annual Implementation Report of OPC for 2010 and made conclusions and recommendations for overall management and implementation of the Programme.
- On 22.08.2011 with Decision of the Head of the Managing Authority of OPC was terminated call: BG161PO003-1.2.01 „Support for technical parks creation”. The call was launched in July 2009 as scheme without fixed deadline for project application. For this period were received 2 projects, both not approved for financing from the Assessment Committee. MA of OPC is in process of designing of new call for establishment of Science and technology parks.
- For the period of 31 of August 2011 – 2nd of September 2011 MA and Intermediate Body (IB) of OPC launched information campaign for presentation of opened calls under the Priority Axis 1. The campaign was held in Varna, Plovdiv and Sofia.
- On 29.08.2011 Holding Fund “JEREMIE” (EIF) and MA of OPC have announced the Invitation for expression of interest from financial intermediates № JER-009/5 for new financial instrument Seed fund. The deadline for expression of interest is 12 of October 2011.
- On 15th of September 2011 CCU hold regular monthly meeting for discussion the key issues (programming and calls design, absorption rate, optimization of the implementation), concerning the progress in implementation of OPC as well as organization of forthcoming technical mission of EC.
- On 19.09.2011 MA of OPC published proposals and comments made during the public consultation of the Projects of Guidelines of Applicants and Application documents for call: BG161PO003-2.1.13 „Technological modernization in small and medium sized enterprises”.
- On 19.09.2011 was launched the grant procedure: BG161PO003-2.1.13 „Technological modernization in small and medium sized enterprises”;
- EBRD has present for consultation with MA of OPC elaborated documents for the calls and terms of references for selection of verification expert, technical assistant and auditor under the Programme that have to be approved by the members of the Steering Committee of the Programme.
- On 20th of September was initiate written decision making procedure of Monitoring Committee of OPC for approval of increase of the budget of grant scheme BG161PO003-2.1.11 „Technological modernization in small and medium sized enterprises” with 1 337 617.59 BG lv. in order to be financed projects from reserved list of approved projects received higher score. The call was launched in the end of December 2010.

- On 29th and 30th of September 2011 DG REGIO hold regular technical mission for monitoring the progress of the implementation of OPC in the context of implementation of the Programme based on LOTHAR, design and launching of new calls, implementation of Mid-term evaluation, elaboration of Science and technology parks concept, preparation of Energy efficiency calls.

OP “Human Resources Development”

- In the period 26-28 September were conducted regular 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 30.09.2011 started the implementation of project “And I Have a Family” with direct beneficiary – the Agency for Social Support. The project is under the scheme BG051PO001-5.2.11 “Adopt Me”. The budget of the project is 14,989 mln.BGN.
- On 15.08.2011 the Employment Offices started receiving applications from persons wanting to be included in trainings under the scheme BG051PO001-2.1.14 “I Can More”. The trainings under the voucher mechanism will be on professional qualification, digital competences and foreign languages learning. The first session for submission of applications continued until 20 September 2011.
- According to the requirements of CoM Decree No121, in September the Employment Agency published Draft Guidelines for applicants for consultation with the general public on the procedure BG051PO001-2.3.02. The deadline for provision of comments on the guidelines expires on 09.10.2011.
- In July 2011 the following procedures were launched:
 - BG051PO001-6.2.16 “Development and introduction into exploitation of national system for electronic system for data exchange in the area of social security for the purposes of Regulations 883/2004 and 987/09 – EESSI”. Direct beneficiary – Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, budget – 3,900 mln.BGN, deadline for application – 17.10.2011. The procedure will be conducted through electronic application.
 - BG051PO001-6.2.15 “Improvement of the planning and assessment of the policies in the area of labor and social inclusion”. Direct beneficiary – Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, budget – 0,400 mln.BGN, deadline for application – 17.10.2011. The procedure will be conducted through electronic application.
 - BG051PO001-7.0.03 “Without Frontiers – Component 3”. The procedure was opened on 29.08.2011. 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 procedure is for direct beneficiary – Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the total budget of the operation is 1 mln.BGN. The deadline for application is 29.11.2011.
 - BG051PO001-7.0.04 “Without Frontiers – Component 4”. The procedure was opened on 16.09.2011. 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 procedure is for direct beneficiary – Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, the total budget of the operation is 1 mln.BGN. The deadline for application is 15.12.2011.

- BG051PO001-7.0.06 “Without Frontiers – Component 6”. The procedure was opened on 16.09.2011. 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 procedure is for direct beneficiary – Employment Agency, the total budget of the operation is 1 mln.BGN. The deadline for application is 28.12.2011.
- BG051PO001-3.1.06 “Improvement of the quality of education in the community schools through daily organization of the educational process”. Direct beneficiary – Ministry of Youth Education and Science, total budget – 180 mln.BGN, deadline for submission of proposal - 28.11.2011.
- BG051PO001-3.3.07 “Pupils and students practices”. Direct beneficiary – Ministry of Education, Youth and Science. Total budget 90 mln.BGN divided into two components: Component 1 – 30 mln.BGN through “Educational programmes and content” Directorate; Component 2 – 60 mln.BGN through “High Education”. Deadline for submission of proposal - 28.11.2011.
- BG051PO001-4.1.07 “Inclusive Education”. Direct beneficiary –Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, through “Access to education and development support” Directorate. The budget is 10 mln.BGN, the main objective is to ensure supportive environment for equal access to education and opening of the educational system in order to implement inclusive education. Осигуряването на подкрепяща среда за равен достъп до образование и за отваряне на образователната система с оглед осъществяването на включващо обучение. Deadline for submission of proposal - 28.11.2011.

OP “Administrative Capacity”

- The Managing Authority initiated amendments in the CoM Decree No231/2007 setting detailed rules for eligibility of expenditures under OP Administrative Capacity. The changes are related to fixing 10% ceiling of management costs under the projects (incl. indirect costs) and other amendments of mainly technical nature in order to streamline the regulations with these under CoM Decree 121.
- On 16.09.2011 the Managing Authority took a decision for cancellation of the procedure under budget line BG051PO002/10/3.1–05 “Improvement of the service delivery to citizen and business, including through e-government”. The reason for this is that 16 out of totally approved by the evaluation committee 27 project proposals are affected by various discrepancies, incl. overlap/double financing with EC pre-accession programmes, overlap of target groups, infringement of the demarcation with OPHRD Programme, ineligible activities/expenditures. The MA should take a decision whether to relaunch to procedure.
- With its decision form 30.09.2011 the Managing Authority extended the deadline for submission of project proposals under budget line BG051PO002/11/2.4-06 “Competent judiciary system and effective human resources management” (for direct beneficiary – National Institute of Justice) until 14 November 2011. The reasons are due to the necessity to amend the respective guidelines for applicants.
- 30 September the Managing Authority launched two calls for proposal in implementation of the Annual Working Programme for 2011:

- Sub-priority 1.5 “Transparent and effective Judiciary System”, budget line BG051PO002/11/1.5-03 for direct beneficiaries of the Judiciary system. The objective is to improve the organization of the work and increasing the effectiveness in the judiciary system. The budget is 3 mln.BGN and the deadline for submission of proposals is 30.11.2011;
- Sub-priority 1.3 “Effective coordination and partnership in policy-making and implementation of policies”, budget line BG051PO002/11/1.3-06 for beneficiaries from the central administration. The respective projects should support the improvement of the process of policies making and implementation as well as to improve of the legislation in partnership and coordination with all interested parties. The budget is 6 mln.BGN and the deadline for submission of proposals is 30.11.2011
- The evaluation committee under BG051PO002/11/3.03-03 “Improvement of the service delivery of judiciary bodies through information technologies development” completed its work with approved three project proposals. The projects were submitted to the CCU for checks on potential overlap and double financing with other financial instruments and Programmes. CCU had expressed some concerns on possible overlap with projects of the respective beneficiaries under Phare Programme and additional information and comparative tables are expected from the applicants in order to provide final opinion on the potential double financing.
- The same is the situation with the procedure BG051PO002/11/2.4–05 “Competent judiciary system and effective human resources management” where additional information is expected for the proposal of the Sofia Regional Court.
- The evaluation committee under BG051PO002/11/3.1-07 “Improvement of the service delivery to citizen and business, including through e-government” completed its work with approved three project proposals of the Council of Ministers Administration. No problematic issues were identified under the coordination procedure with the CCU and the conclusion of the respective contracts is expected in due time.
- In the reporting period the respective evaluation committee completed its work under the procedures BG051PO002/11/1.1-03 “Effective Structure of the State Administration” where 4 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.
- In the reporting period the respective evaluation committee completed its work under the procedures BG051PO002/10/1.6-02 “Transnational and Interregional Cooperation” where 52 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.

Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme

- The evaluation of the 111 received project proposals under the first call, launched on 28 September 2009 started. 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. Contracts with 47 LP were signed. Official launch of the projects in Haskovo on 4th of July 2011. First monitoring visits were held.
- The Second Call for Proposals was launched on September 8, 2011 with deadline December 8, 2011.

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 provisionally selected 48 projects for financing, with further 9 projects put on the reserves list. Pre-contracting visits and negotiations with the beneficiaries are finalized. Signing of the provisionally selected contracts is finalized in the end of July with official launch of the projects in Sofia on 1st of August 2011. After further negotiations with projects from the reserves list, the total number of signed contracts under the first Call for Proposals is 53. First monitoring visits have already been held.
- The bilateral Memorandum of understanding on implementation of the Programme was signed on 18.03.2011. Prior to its ratification, a need arose to prepare an addendum to the Memorandum, concerning the distribution of national co-financing by the two participating countries. Ministerial coordination procedure was initiated by the Managing Authority, and the Council of Ministers has adopted the proposed addendum on 28 September 2011. After completion of coordination and approval procedure in Republic of Serbia, and Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the two countries.

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 with 34 LP were signed. Official launch of the projects together with the training on project implementation was held on 3 of June 2011 in Kyustendil. First monitoring visits were held.

- The Second Call for Proposals was launched on June 14, 2011 with deadline September 14, 2011. 126 project proposals were received-122 within and 4 after the deadline. The Evaluation of the project proposals under Second Call started on 29th of September 2011.

Implementation of ex-ISPA/CF 1164

- The MTITC CF 1164/94 Managing Authority sent the Final Reports of 2001/BG/16/P/PA/001 “Danube Bridge- Technical Assistance Measure for the Recruitment of International Engineering and Management Consultant”, 2005/BG/16/P/PA/002 “Technical Assistance for the Modernization of the Vidin-Sofia Railway Line in Bulgaria” and 2006/BG/16/P/PA/002. “Technical Assistance for the Modernization of TEN-T Railway Lines in Bulgaria” Projects to the European Commission on 19.08.2011;
- The MTITC CF 1164/94 Managing Authority sent the Final Report of 2005/BG/16/P/PA/004 “Technical Assistance for the Rehabilitation of railway infrastructure along sections of the Plovdiv-Burgas and Mezdra-Gorna Oryahovitsa Railway Lines in Bulgaria” to the European Commission on 26.09.2011.
- In August the MRDPW, CF 1164/94 MA sent the Final Report of 2005/BG/16/P/PE/003 Integrated water project in the town of Bourgas to the Commission; the MoEW CF 1164/94 MA sent to the EC Final Report of 2002 BG 16 P PE 009 Bourgas – Meden Rudnik Wastewater Collection and Treatment project.
- In September the MoEW CF 1164/94 MA sent to the EC Final Reports for the following projects:
 - 2001 BG 16 P PE 005 Regional wastewater collection and treatment located in Gorna Oriahovitza in Bulgaria;
 - 2001 BG 16 P PE 008 Wastewater treatment located in Blagoevgrad in Bulgaria;
 - 2002 BG 16 P PE 015 Popovo Wastewater Collection and Treatment in Bulgaria;
 - 2002 BG 16 P PE 011 Lovech Wastewater Collection and Treatment in Bulgaria;
 - 2002 BG 16 P PE 014 Sevlievo Wastewater Collection and Treatment in Bulgaria;
 - 2002 BG 16 P PE 012 Montana Wastewater collection and treatment, in Bulgaria.
- Monthly Progress Meetings on Cohesion Fund 1164/94 projects for transport and environment sectors were held in the Council of Ministers on 13 and 14.09.2011 respectively.

Data on OPs financial progress is attached.

**OP Implementation as of 30.09.2011
EURO**

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Programme budget			Contracted				Payments			
	Total	EU Funding	National co-funding	Total as of 30.09.2011	% implementation	EU funding	% implementation	Total as of 30.09.2011	% implementation	EU funding	% implementation
OP Transport	2 003 481 166 €	1 624 479 623 €	379 001 543 €	1 380 580 117 €	68.91%	1 115 258 739 €	68.65%	345 547 999 €	17.26%	283 123 978 €	17.44%
OP Environment	1 800 748 085 €	1 466 425 481 €	334 322 604 €	855 141 550 €	47.49%	695 312 791 €	47.42%	185 774 817 €	10.32%	150 429 739 €	10.26%
OP Regional Development	1 601 274 759 €	1 361 083 545 €	240 191 214 €	984 638 076 €	61.49%	836 942 364 €	61.49%	267 409 702 €	16.7%	227 745 689 €	16.73%
OP Competitiveness	1 162 215 551 €	987 883 219 €	174 332 332 €	425 520 939 €	36.61%	361 692 797 €	36.61%	256 706 052 €	22.09%	218 200 144 €	22.09%
OP Technical Assistance	56 819 427 €	48 296 513 €	8 522 914 €	31 755 548 €	55.89%	26 992 216 €	55.89%	10 676 129 €	18.79%	9 074 709 €	18.79%
OP Human Resource Development	1 213 869 575 €	1 031 789 139 €	182 080 436 €	681 213 190 €	56.12%	579 031 848 €	56.12%	154 626 225 €	12.74%	131 443 670 €	12.74%
OP Administrative Capacity	180 789 087 €	153 670 724 €	27 118 363 €	97 801 395 €	54.1%	83 131 186 €	54.1%	49 040 031 €	27.13%	41 684 026 €	27.13%
TOTAL	8 019 197 650 €	6 673 628 244 €	1 345 569 406 €	4 456 650 815 €	55.57%	3 698 361 941 €	55.42%	1 269 780 954 €	15,83%	1 061 701 955 €	15,91%