

29.12.2014

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
“Good Governance”
2014—2020

Final version

December 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

SECTION 1. STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION.....	3
SECTION 2.A. DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY AXES NOT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ARTICLE 96 (2)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)	32
SECTION 2.B. DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ARTICLE 96 (2)(C) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)	77
SECTION 3. FINANCIAL PLAN OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME.....	89
SECTION 4. INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT – ARTICLE 96(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013.....	94
SECTION 5 SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS EXPOSED TO THE HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (ARTICLE 96(4)(A) OF THE COMMON PROVISION REGULATION)	94
SECTION 6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS AND PERMANENT NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS (ARTICLE 96(4)(B) OF THE COMMON PROVISION REGULATION)	95
SECTION 7. AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN CHARGE OF MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS (ARTICLE 96(5) OF THE COMMON PROVISION REGULATION)	95
SECTION 8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, EAFRD, EMFF AND OTHER NATIONAL AND EU FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AS WELL AS WITH THE EIB — ARTICLE 96(6)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013	100
SECTION 9. PREREQUISITES — ARTICLE 96(6)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013.....	106
SECTION 10. REDUCING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES — ARTICLE 8(6)(C) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013.....	179
SECTION 11 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES — ARTICLE 96(7) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013.....	179
SECTION 12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS PRESENTED AS ANNEXES IN THE PRINTED VERSION OF THE DOCUMENT.....	182
XIII. ANNEX – GENERAL INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOME FOR ESF INVESTMENTS	

SECTION 1. STRATEGY ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME TO THE EU STRATEGY FOR INTELLIGENT, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND ACHIEVING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1. Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion

The vision of the Operational Programme “Good Governance” (OPGG) is based on the understanding that strong, effective and transparent state institutions and judiciary have a direct horizontal impact on achieving all objectives defined in the Europe 2020 strategy, as they are interrelated. Strategic Priority 4 of the Partnership Agreement (PA): *Good governance and access to quality administrative services* was consciously established as a horizontal priority, i.e. it has an impact on achieving the objectives of all other priorities. Key weaknesses of Bulgaria identified in the SWOT analysis of the PA and addressed by the OPGG are: “Relatively unattractive administrative environment and judiciary, incl. share of shadow economy and corruption”, and “Incomplete reforms in the sectors ..., judiciary, public administration”.

The 2014 European Commission (EC)’s Annual Growth Survey defines five priorities which Member States should follow in order to achieve renewed growth. Of these, Priority 5 concerns modernizing public administration through:

- further deployment of e-government services and enhancing the use of ICT by public administrations, including for tax collection systems and single points of contact under the Service Directive;
- simplifying the business environment and reducing red tape through facilitating procedures and simplifying regulatory regimes.

At national level the OPGG is directly linked to achieving the objectives of Priority 6 “Strengthening the institutional environment for higher efficiency of public services for citizens and businesses” of the National Development Programme “Bulgaria 2020” (NDP Bulgaria 2020), which is the basic document linking the Bulgaria’s national priorities to the EU 2020 objectives. Again, the measures for administrative reforms are highlighted as the backbone of all other sectoral measures within the three other objectives of the NDP “Bulgaria 2020”. E-governance, open governance and optimized and competent administration are defined as the leading factors for competitiveness and growth, on which policies are focused. The OPGG will support the NDP “Bulgaria 2020”’s objectives through enhancing the human capital in the administration, speeding up the introduction of information and communication technologies, introducing complex administrative service delivery, increasing the scope of e-services and increasing the transparency of the administrative sector.

At the same time the National Reform Programme (NRP) (as of 2014 г.) defines better business environment and reduced administrative burden as the priority areas, which contribute the most to higher living standards as the ultimate goal of the economic policy. Good governance and access to quality services (implementation of the “good governance” concept — e-government and e-justice, quality and effective services for citizens and businesses, as well as a high professional and motivation levels of the human resources in the administration and the judiciary) is the NRP’s fourth priority to be funded by the ESIF in the context of Europe 2020 Strategy. In order to achieve these objectives, OPGG is focused on improving the functioning of government institutions through supporting the following growth factors (GF):

- GF 1 “Improving the efficiency of public spending and ensuring the reallocation of public spending to activities that increase the growth potential of the economy”;
- GF 3 “Addressing weaknesses in the business environment and improving administrative efficiency, including at the regional and local level”.

The approach chosen is in line with the recommendations made in the Position of the Commission services on the development of a Partnership Agreement and programmes in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020 (Position of the Commission) – the ESIF should be focused on interventions in integrated administrative services (complex administrative services, e-government and e-justice), e-procurement, improving professionalism and integrity of civil servants and magistrates, efficient management of public policies and greater accountability of the administration, improving the work of the judicial system, including enhancing the capacity of judicial and law enforcement authorities to effectively investigate and administer cases of organized crime and high-level corruption, and combating shadow economy.

In order to achieve results and avoid stretching resources, a clear number of objectives has been defined aimed at developing the administration, the judiciary and the technical assistance for the structures implementing the ESIF, as well as the participation of civil society in governance. Based on the principle that only through well targeted investments in institutional efficiency and sustainability will we be able to create a prosperous society, capable of achieving Europe 2020’s national objectives defined in the National Development Programme “Bulgaria 2020”, the OPGG covers 5 priority axes and the following 2 components:

Component 1: Modernizing state administration

This component addresses one of the main challenges that Bulgaria faces, namely a persistently *low efficiency of administrations in providing quality, fast and affordable services for all groups of society*. The OPGG will support overcoming this challenge through measures grouped in three interconnected strands: 1) empowering citizens to request and obtain the services they need at a suitable location, with minimal time and costs, 2) final implementation of e-government, including sectoral systems — e-procurement, e-customs, e-health, etc. — in the administration, and 3) improving the quality of services and competence of the staff in the administration.

The analysis carried out on the objectives of the Partnership Agreement, as well as other analyses and studies, clearly show that outstanding issues concerning the quality of administration impact all aspects of state efficiency, both internally – in the relations between

the state and its citizens and businesses, as well as in terms of its international positions. Despite reforms initiated in the administration which were targeted at applying the good governance principles, as of 2010 Bulgaria remains in the group of states with lowest results in terms of good governance in the EU.¹ Compared with the other Member States, Bulgaria takes the penultimate place on the indicators “bureaucratic efficiency” (with an index of -1.9, the minimal value in the EU being -2.2) and “transparency of governance” (with an index of -2.1, the minimal value in the EU being -2.2). Our country also ranks last in the EU-27 on the complex index for good governance.

Apart from having a direct impact on the everyday life of every Bulgarian citizen, the work of the administration in Bulgaria affects the business environment in the country and its competitiveness on a global scale. In its Global Competitiveness Report for 2014-2015¹ the World Economic Forum highlights institutions and the institutional environment as the first of the 12 pillars of competitiveness of a given economy. The report states that excessive bureaucracy and red tape, overregulation, corruption, dishonesty in dealing with public contracts, lack of transparency and trustworthiness, as well as the inability to provide appropriate services for the business sector result in significant economic costs to businesses and slow the process of economic development. The dependence of the judicial system and management of public finances are also listed among the main factors affecting the economy. The assessment of the first pillar places our country 112th out of 144 countries. According to the report the four most problematic factors for doing business in Bulgaria are: corruption; red tape; access to funding; unstable policies. It is important to point out that in terms of the indicator for administrative burden the country ranks 102nd, meaning that it is necessary to carry out a regulatory reform to reduce administrative burden. *Administrative services* do not yet have the necessary efficiency and quality due to the limited progress of the administrative reform. Services are not provided through various channels, services of the life events/business events type are not provided at all, and too few e-services are developed to the level of transactions. Developing e-government has been carried out slowly and the capacity to provide services electronically is still unsatisfactory. In this respect businesses would benefit from implementing a single point of access to administrative electronic services (SPA) and from electronic administrative services. Assessments showⁱⁱ that a further streamlining of the SPA procedures could lead to a growth of up to 0.2—0.3 % of GDP in the mid- to long-term. However, some technical functions of the SPA are not fully operational yet. The progress in facilitating cross-border service delivery is closely linked to the progress in implementing and connecting common resources and systems in order to create a working e-government.

The World Bank “Doing Business” report for 2014 places our country 38th out of 189 economies studied regarding the ease of doing business. The progress of Bulgaria on facilitating business start-ups is noted (49th place), but regarding the indicators for construction permits and access to electricity our country ranks 101st and 125th respectively. The data show that the country has made some progress on the conditions for doing business regarding some indicators but a lot still remains to be done, more specifically to reduce administrative and regulatory burden and ease relations between businesses and the administration.

The structural aspects of the business and competitive environment still discourage investors. We should not overlook the fact that improving the business environment is closely linked to

¹ http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2014-15.pdf

creating jobs and economic growth. The *inefficient monitoring by the control and regulatory authorities* is among the difficulties identified concerning the business environment. Both the proper implementation of pan-European policies, as well as the competitiveness of the internal market and the protection of service users depend on their work. Simplifying the regulatory procedures and creating a stable, predictable and simplified environment for investments, as well as simplifying procedures and reducing red tape are consciously highlighted as priority themes in the Commission Position.

These issues are addressed in the OPGG through measures intended to stimulate reforms in order to implement a regulatory reform with a view to achieving better regulation, reducing administrative burden, supporting capacity strengthening and improving the work of the control and regulatory authorities, as well as implementing e-procurement in anticipation of the new package of Directives in the area of public procurement. These measures are intended to lead to a significant improvement in the conditions for doing business which will directly affect economic development and thus align the economic indicators of the country with the EU average.

OPGG directly contributes to the implementation of the following specific Council recommendations on Bulgaria's 2014 National reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Bulgaria's 2014 Convergence programme (COM(2014) 403 final):

- Specific Recommendation 1 to implement a comprehensive tax strategy in order to strengthen tax collection, tackle the shadow economy and reduce compliance costs;
- Specific Recommendation 5 to continue to improve the business environment, in particular for SMEs, by cutting red tape, promoting e-government, streamlining insolvency procedures and implementing the legislation on late payments. Improve the public procurement system by enhancing administrative capacity, strengthening the ex-ante checks performed by the Public Procurement Agency and taking concrete steps for the implementation of e-procurement. Enhance the quality and independence of the judiciary and step up the fight against corruption.

The OPGG provides support to ensure a sufficient capacity of the PPA to carry out ex-ante controls on public procurement procedures for specific projects co-funded by the ESIF, adequate and timely methodological support, monitoring, creating and developing e-procurement systems, and thus it directly corresponds to the Specific Recommendation.

The Bulgarian administration faces problems resulting to a large extent from *weaknesses in the process of strategic planning, developing, implementing and monitoring of policies, as well as separation of functions and the coordination between administrative structures*. The unstable legislative framework combined with a low degree of inter-institutional coordination affect business climate and productivity. Administrative structures are fragmented, impeding coordination and the implementation of sectoral and horizontal policies and demanding an optimization of structures. Subpriority 3.1.: "Building a capacity for strategic planning at all territorial levels" of the NDP Bulgaria 2020 is targeted at achieving better coordination between structures at the central level and local structures (regional and municipal) in order to improve the process of strategic planning. The low quality of policy-making processes is due to the lack of regulatory impact assessment, policy monitoring and evaluation and to an unclear separation of functions between the central, regional and local level of administration.

In order to overcome the above weaknesses and to achieve high quality services for citizens and businesses, the interventions under OPGG will emphasise on: register reform; regulatory reform; optimizations of structures on the basis of policy functional reviews; reorganization of service delivery based on life events/business events and introduction of complex administrative services (CAS) pursuant the baseline model developed and implemented in three pilot administrations under an OP “Administrative Capacity” (OPAC) project; unification and standardization of municipal services and other user-centered measures. CAS depend on register interoperability and automation of service delivery processes. The inter-institutional registry exchange between primary data controllers is difficult. 32 registers key to administrative service delivery have been connected under an OPAC project. Another 78 registers will be connected under other OPAC projects.

Another element necessary to achieve a modern and efficient administration is the *good human resources management*. The following areas in need of improvement have been identified and presented in a number of national and European documents (Report on the State of the Public Administration 2013, the Commission Position, etc.):

- Internal organization and management practices;
- Training officials and building the capacity of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), non-coordinated investments in human capital;
- Professional development and career management practices;
- Recruitment and knowledge transfer mechanisms.

The OPGG addresses these problems by implementing measures that cover the entire human resource management cycle – from recruiting quality staff to ensuring an adequate career development and orientation, to continuous improving of their qualifications. Both organizing the training sessions and ensuring an efficient learning environment are provided for, linking the knowledge and skills acquired with the nature of the work and the needs of the administration itself. The strategic perspective to reforming the human resources management units and improving the quality of policy-making in this area is also taken into consideration. Finally, for the purposes of the latter, the information and data necessary to promote quality policy have also been provided for.

The following were identified as the main challenges during the 2007-2013 period: insufficient strategic planning competences, insufficient knowledge about the current legal framework, especially in the area of public procurement and construction, lack of sufficient funds for training and lack of sufficient administrative capacity and experience of beneficiaries in the project management, control and reporting. Weaknesses were also identified in the quality of the training carried out which should be addressed through implementing an effective monitoring and control system.

Thus a synergy effect was sought when planning the measures intended and the results to be achieved. They are based on the Public Administration Development Strategy 2014-2020 which highlights four main strategic objectives that the administrative reform needs to address, namely achieving:

- effective governance and rule of law;

- governance in partnership with citizens and businesses;
- open and responsible governance;
- professional and expert governance.

In its analytical part the strategy also outlines the main problems impeding the effective functioning of the state administration in Bulgaria that need to be resolved:

- frequent changes in the legislation hindering both entrepreneurs as well as citizens and the judiciary;
- lack of legislation impact assessment;
- weak control on compliance with the law;
- insufficient sanctions for law offenders in the administration;
- diverging act interpretations;
- fragmented national strategic framework;
- lack of legal rules and standards on drafting strategic documents;
- lagging behind in real programme budget implementation;
- insufficient emphasis on the territorial dimension of strategic documents;
- insufficient monitoring of the implementation of strategic documents;
- unsatisfactory work of the administration regarding signals, complaints and suggestions of citizens;
- systematic complaints are not analysed, neither are risk analyses or societal distress generator analyses carried out;
- fragmentation and insufficient transparency of the civil society structures;
- the administration has not achieved the necessary level of openness;
- open data initiative has not been introduced in government;
- lack of standardization and unification when implementing e-government in the institutions;
- the information systems of the institutions are incompatible;
- the existing fragmentation of the administration leads to duplicating and overlapping functions and impedes implementing sectoral and horizontal policies;
- carrying out separate functional analyses of individual administrations leads to limited changes concerning only the internal organization;

- relatively significant size of the general administration;
- relatively low capacity of the state regulatory and control authorities;
- high administrative tax and social insurance collection costs;
- insufficient capacity and systems for local revenue collection;
- best practices on assessment and self-assessment of the work of administrative structures have not been integrated. The administrations encounter difficulties in using indicators, target values and cost-benefit analyses;
- the systems and procedures for assessment and monitoring of implemented policies are not used in a way that would enable improving the efficiency and public actions;
- inadequate sanctions for unsatisfactory or poor implementation of legal acts by the administrative officials
- the delivery of a number of administrative services in remote areas is hindered, thus depriving certain groups of the population from receiving adequate administrative services;
- poor progress in the introduction of complex administrative services and lack of integrated services of the type life events/business events;
- the administrations require too much information as well as documents already available in institutional databases;
- relatively high administrative and regulatory burden for businesses;
- lack of standardization of procedures, documents, deadlines for providing administrative services by municipalities;
- significant costs for developing certain information systems and lack of interoperability between them;
- clumsy public procurement procedures;
- insufficient administrative capacity for implementing public-private partnerships;
- ineffective planning of human resources;
- lack of adequate work environment for disabled persons;
- clumsy procedures on carrying out competitions for vacancies in the administration;
- inefficient mechanism for the selection of senior officials;
- ineffective implementation of the mobility principle;
- lack of effective mechanisms for retaining qualified staff;
- relatively low number of young staff;

- lack of rules for knowledge transfer from more experienced staff to younger colleagues;
- lack of a unified information system for human resources management in the state administration;
- inadequate training system for the state administration.
- lack of a comprehensive assessment of the trainings offered by the IPA;
- participation in the EU decision-making processes is not sufficiently active.

OPGG interventions targeted at the administration are entirely based on the Strategy for the development of the administration and the Roadmap for its implementation in particular. More specifically, within the framework of Strategic Objective 1 “Effective governance and rule of law” OPGG directly implements the following sub-objectives:

- creating a sustainable legal framework;
- strengthening controls on law compliance and limiting the areas of unregulated and corrupt practices;
- enhancing planning as well as programme and result-oriented budgeting;
- improving the institutional structure;
- improving the coordination and structure of the administration at the local level;
- improving the work of the control, regulatory and revenue authorities;
- implementing quality management and control systems linked to the financial management and control systems in the public sector.

In the period 2007-2013, a number of steps for improvement of the institutional structure have been carried out under the OPAC on funding the functional analyses of the National Health Insurance Fund and the National Social Security Institute, central and municipal administrations.

In order to improve the work of revenue authorities the OPGG will build on the basis already achieved as a result of the projects implemented by the National Revenue Agency and the National Customs Agency.

Implementing these sub-objectives, the OPGG will contribute to achieving the following expected outcomes of the Strategy:

- clear strategic planning legislative framework and establishing synergies between strategic documents;
- reduced number of national strategic documents;
- consolidation of administrative structures;
- implementation of the principle of joint inspection activities by control authorities;

- delegating the control functions on compliance with the rules of national legislation acts and regulations from central to local authorities;
- 30 central administrations with introduced and functional performance management systems;
- implementing an effective risk assessment and management system in all control and regulatory authorities;
- at least 3 programme and result-oriented budget reviews carried out for programme effectiveness and efficiency;
- implementing quality management and control systems in additional 144 administrative structures;

Strategic Objective 2 “Governance in partnership with citizens and businesses” is presented in the OPGG through the implementation of the following sub-objectives:

- efficient dialogue with citizens and their associations;
- improving service delivery processes;
- partnership for better regulatory environment through reducing administrative and regulatory burden and implementing mechanisms to avoid increase, as well as standardizing and unifying services at the municipal level.
- developing a cooperation mechanism with the NGOs.

The results within the scope of this objective target:

- implementing a system for handling complaints, suggestions and signals by citizens;
- reducing the administrative burden for citizens and businesses by at least 20%;
- reducing the number of regulatory regimes by 10%;
- optimizing and reengineering of administrative service delivery business processes;
- creating single administrative service delivery centers;
- at least 10 municipal services for businesses with standardized and unified procedures and documents;
- reducing the service delivery time to citizens and businesses.

3 sub-objectives of Strategic Objective 3 “Open and responsible governance” fall within the scope of the programme:

- improving data exchange and public awareness, open data;
- enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of the policies implemented;
- increasing the accountability of managers and staff and ethical standards compliance;

Intended results are targeted at:

- enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of policies implemented;
- implementing an open data approach which enables civil society to be more actively involved in governance;
- developing and implementing a system to monitor how the administration achieves its objectives;
- developing a methodology to monitor and control whether officials comply with ethical rules, as well as measures and procedures to impose sanctions in case of violations.

Strategic Objective 4 “Professional and expert governance” will be achieved through OPGG by:

- assessing and planning staff needs;
- improving recruitment procedures;
- career development policies;
- improving skills;
- developing human resources units and introducing new technologies in the work process.

The OPGG will contribute to achieving the sub-objectives identified through:

- implementing a mechanism for planning and assessment of human resources needs in the administration;
- developing and implementing tutor and mentor programmes for young civil servants in at least 50 administrations;
- developing a mechanism for competence assessment;
- implementing continuity planning programmes in at least 50 administrations;
- developing and implementing a mechanism to predict and limit staff turnover;
- implementing a centralized staff training management in the administration;
- performing six annual reviews in order to update the contents of training courses offered by the IPA;
- developing alternative forms of training;
- increasing the number of employees included in advanced training each year by 20%.

The development of public e-government and e-services are embedded as horizontal policies in NDP Bulgaria 2020. At the same time this is the main mechanism to increase public

confidence and satisfaction with the administration, achieve transparency of its actions and obtain an objective toolbox for monitoring and control, including prevention of fraud and corrupt practices. It should be emphasised that in the UN E-government Readiness Index Bulgaria ranks 60th out of 190 states.

The core of the selected strategic approach in the OPGG programming is overcoming the delay in the real e-government implementation, a weakness expressly identified in the analysis annexed to the PA. The OPGG aims to help solve some of the main organizational, technical and structural problems identified that hinder the implementation of e-government in Bulgaria. The insufficient use of specialized software systems, the lack of a single administrative information system aimed at organizing and managing service delivery processes, simplifying working processes for administrative services, which preserve their bureaucratic nature even when delivered electronically, result in a high prime cost of e-services and thus high costs for citizens and businesses. A new Strategy for the development of e-government in the Republic of Bulgaria was adopted for the 2014-2020 period². The main objective featured in the strategy is to align the e-government development to the EU average. The strategy defines 3 main strategic objectives:

- providing quality, effective and accessible e-services to citizens and businesses;
- digitalising the administration through integrating information processes;
- promotion, access and participation to overcome the national weaknesses identified in the eGovernment Benchmark report.

The strategy covers all four main e-government strands:

- “Administration – citizens” – includes modern internet and intranet web-based solutions in combination with traditional means for wide access resulting in quality changes in the communication and service delivery to citizens;
- “Administration – business” – includes modern solutions which optimize processes and business relations between the administration and various economic entities;
- “Administration – administration” – includes developing information technologies in a national and international aspect with a view to achieving effective interaction between administrations;
- “Internal effectiveness and efficiency” – includes organizing and optimizing business processes, relations between the administrations and the staff and communications within administrations.

User-centric approach is applied in the development of these processes.

The OPGG covers investments in the four strands of the Strategy. The selected prioritization approach is fully in line with the Roadmap for its implementation, which includes the measures and activities for achieving the Strategy’s objectives, as well as the responsible institutions and the necessary financial resources. The OPGG will provide a solution to the

² https://www.mtitc.government.bg/upload/docs/2014-03/1_StrategiaRazvitieEU_RBulgaria_2014_2020.pdf

main problems listed in the Strategy and in a number of documents and analyses, reflected in the Roadmap measures regarding the launch of e-government:

- coordination between the general administrative service delivery policy and the delivery of e-services;
- interoperability between registers and information exchange;
- e-ID;
- optimizing processes and resources in the administration as a basis for a coordinated, standardized and practical development of e-government;
- simplifying the administrative service delivery processes; comprehensive provision of e-services, including delivery and payment;
- promoting e-services and increasing citizen awareness;
- fully integrating the data in the administration and achieving full interoperability among existing systems and systems currently under development;
- information security and data safety;
- finding an effective solution to comply with the principle of the “official start”, i.e. collecting the information once and using it multiple times by the state and municipal administration;

An important part of implementing e-government is archiving electronic documents in the administration. On the basis of methodological meetings with fund generators, a Methodological Code was created as part of a project under the OPAC which is a core document on archiving, storing and using archives. A new section in the Code concerning e-government is particularly important for the e-government implementation. The introduction of new rules on archiving, storing and access to electronic documents is directly related to the e-government policy.

Solving the above-mentioned problems is key for the actual implementation of complex administrative services in the country. The work in this direction has already started in the previous programming period through several key OPAC projects of the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications (MTITC) - e-ID for Bulgarian citizens, interoperability between key registers and the architectural groundwork for e-government were developed in the framework of those projects, and the process will be logically continued and completed with OPGG support.

OPGG is a core instrument supporting the implementation of the e-government vision in the Republic of Bulgaria – by 2020:

- efficient business models to be introduced in the administration– from routine activities to citizens and businesses oriented services;
- digital administration to be achieved – administration structured in line with modern management technologies and achievements in the area of information and communication technologies;

- interoperability at national level to be achieved– from fragmented and closed solutions to integrated and technologically independent ones;
- a mechanism for coordinated planning and implementing all e-government initiatives to be introduced;
- administrative services to be delivered through the single e-government portal at any time, from any place and via different devices.

The e-government will contribute to achieving open and flexible relations between the administration and citizens and businesses. This will result in continuously improving the administrative services and increasing their public value which lies at the core of knowledge-based economy.

In view of the above, OPGG is focused on e-government as an instrument to enhance administrative processes and reduce costs. Improving services will contribute significantly to social cohesion through targeted measures aimed at increasing the digital competences of the population and overcoming the digital divide. Special emphasis will be placed on improving service delivery to disadvantaged people by facilitating their access to the administration and thus reducing their social isolation.

In addition to horizontal e-government systems, particular attention has been paid to the implementation of sectoral systems such as e-procurement, e-health, e-customs, etc. *Public procurement* process is a major focus, as it is a main tool for disbursing a significant part of the state budget. An average of BGN 5 billion are spent annually through public procurement procedures. Developments in the public procurement legislation in recent years and the practical observations of the contracting authorities' activity, including EC recommendations, outline the following common problematic areas:

- lack of understanding and misapplication of the public procurement legislation by contracting authorities resulting in heterogeneous practices;
- insufficient administrative capacity – insufficient staff allocated to the methodology and ex-ante control authorities, as well as the contracting authorities on all levels in proportion to work load; lack of sustainability (staff turnover) due to frequent personnel changes, low levels of salaries, complexity of the matter; lack of highly qualified experts mainly due to the lack of quality training.

A National strategy for the development of the Public procurement sector in Bulgaria in 2014-2020 was adopted, together with an Action plan for its implementation. It is based on the set of new EU Directives and aims at solving the specific problems for this sector. The new directives were adopted by the EU Parliament and the Council and were published in the Official Journal of the European Union. As a Member State, Bulgaria shall incorporate these directives in its national legislation not later than April 18th 2016. OPGG will support the achievement of the central strategy objective – enhancing the efficiency and the legal compliance in the public procurement awarding through investing in the introduction of the e-procurement, the public procurement portal and the public procurement register. An important consequence of the implementation of this process is the facilitated collection of statistical information on market development trends and the public procurement procedures, supporting the audit processes and further controls, as well as increasing public confidence in the system. Eliminating the conventional "paper" public procurement methods will support

the green economy development, which in addition to its environmental protection value will ensure the effectiveness and promptness of the business processes. The scope of the Programme covers also the measures on strengthening the administrative capacity and professionalism in the sector. OPGG will support the delivery of horizontal public procurement trainings for the employees in the central, regional and local administrations.

The introduction of e-procurement, the provision of entirely electronic communication up to and including the e-submission stage will lead to higher transparency, faster procedures and greater competitiveness, generating significant economic benefits.

Last, but not least, OPGG focuses on the *quality and result-based ESIF implementation and control in the programming period 2014-2020*. The need to strengthen the capacity for ESIF implementation and control by incorporating the lessons learned in the preceding programming period 2007-2013 should not be overlooked.

The Commission's Position emphasizes the lack of adequate administrative capacity of the local authorities, which affects their ability to develop quality projects and absorb EU funds. Limited administrative capacity and inefficient absorption of EU funds are major barriers impeding growth.

OPGG will provide the support necessary for increasing the capacity and reducing the risks of inefficient management and implementation of ESIF during the programming period, through measures in three main areas:

- 1) Capacity for effective and efficient functioning of the ESIF management system, including performance and capacity of the CCU, NF (CA), AEUF (AA), as well as structures and employees directly involved in certain aspects of ESIF's functioning (AFCOS, State Aid Unit to the Ministry of Finance, NSI, PPA, NAMRB – for building capacity at local level, etc.)
- 2) Information, publicity and transparency in the implementation of the ESIF and greater awareness of the beneficiaries and all stakeholders (through support to the the structures coordinating the information and publicity policy and the Regional Information Centers, information and communication campaigns, and other actions necessary to ensure information and publicity);
- 3) Technological support to the functioning of the system through the development of UMIS 2020 and the Single information web portal www.eufunds.bg.

Component 2: Achieving equity and quality of justice

Quality, independence and efficiency of the judiciary are important structural elements of sustainable growth and social stability. It is essential for the effective implementation of the legislation. With this regard interventions under OPGG Priority Axis 3 directly correspond to Council recommendation № 5 for enhancing the quality and independence of the judiciary and stepping up the fight against corruption. The 2014 EC Annual Growth Survey stipulates that the improvement of the quality, independence and efficiency of the judiciary, including through providing guarantees that the claims are settled within a reasonable period of time, as well as the modernization of the national insolvency legislation, are considered among the factors which would significantly improve the business environment.

According to the EU Justice Scoreboard the perception for independence of justice in Bulgaria ranks third among the worst results in the EU. This can be a factor reducing the investment as the independence of the judiciary provides predictability, security, justice and stability of the legal environment in which businesses operate. This problem becomes evident in the data from other reports as well, for instance the above Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum, which ranks our country 126th out of 144 reviewed countries on the indicator "Judicial independence".

The results of the scoreboard show areas where Bulgaria performs poorly compared to the other Member States, such as training of judges, perception of independence of the judiciary, the lack of a system for evaluation of the judiciary and of quality control systems, existence of adequate statistics and alternative dispute resolution methods. Bulgaria is also under the EU average regarding electronic communications between courts and litigants and e-justice tools that can help reduce delays and costs for citizens and businesses by facilitating access to justice.

Inefficiency of the judiciary in Bulgaria, including weaknesses in the practices of investigation and justice administration related to the fight against organized crime and corruption, transparency of appointments, high-level corruption have been pointed to in a number of documents, including the Position of the Commission, the reports under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, etc. The latest Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Progress in Bulgaria under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism of 22.01.2014 (COM (2014) 36 final) has pointed to the need to make decisive progress in the areas of³:

- Tackling corruption;
- Matters of organized crime and high-level corruption;
- Disciplinary practice and integrity of magistrates;
- Appraisal, promotions and appointments in the judiciary;
- Consistent practice of the judicial authorities;
- Overloading and delays of cases;
- Weaknesses in coordination between the authorities and the allocation of responsibilities;
- The need to improve capacity for financial investigation of organized crime;
- The need to continue working on e-justice implementation.

In this regard, progress has been made through initiating a reform of the judiciary and the establishment of an independent Supreme Judicial Council. The report has noted some progress in various respects, e.g. steps have been taken to improve the allocation of cases and

³ http://ec.europa.eu/cvm/docs/com_2014_36_en.pdf

optimize workload, but it also indicates that public confidence in the Bulgarian judicial system and its independence is still not high. The efforts of the Bulgarian Government to improve the judicial system should be continued, leveraging on the latest OPAC achievements in the fields of magistrates' and judicial staff training, introduction of programme budgeting, transparency of the judicial system, etc. This would remove the impression of ineffective justice, of poor quality and insufficiently equitable justice. This is precisely the essence of Country-specific Recommendation No 5 of the Council.

Over the last couple of years there are clear indications for ever more active involvement of judges and prosecutors with particular problems of the units in which they work and of the judiciary as a whole. Often small groups of volunteers work on specific projects, the involvement in appointment procedures becomes more active, the professional debate on issues related to the condition of the judiciary is enhanced, professional unions are at the forefront of the efforts to preserve and discuss its independence. Further development of this trend should be encouraged by establishing the institutional and procedural methods needed to increase its significance for the judiciary.

There is a need for investment in judicial reform measures, directly related to economic growth and improving the business environment. In this regard, the PA highlights the following general challenges facing the judiciary:

- lack of qualitative and unified statistical information;
- need for additional capacity to formulate, implement and evaluate policies in the judicial system;
- lack of readily available and promoted alternative dispute resolution methods, including given the need to reduce the workload of specific courts;
- insufficient capacity, coordination and institutional cooperation, especially in the fight against organized crime and prevention and countering of high-level corruption;
- lack of consistency and financial resources for the implementation of the Human Resources Management Strategy in the sector, including the number of staff by regions, functions and duties of judicial staff, assistants and others who provide technical support to the magistrates;
- lack of e-justice, ensuring faster judicial process and security of information.

Criminal proceedings are often too long. It is necessary to improve the capacity for more efficient pre-trial investigation. The EU Justice Scoreboard for 2014 shows specific slowdown with regard to the insolvency proceedings. There is some workload disparity between Sofia courts and other courts in the country. This disparity leads to serious delays in many courts, especially in the exposure of judicial reasoning. It is therefore necessary to pursue a human resources policy that can ensure a balance between system requirements and magistrates' workload.

As regards the courts, in the recent years there has been a clear trend of increasing their workload: the total number of cases for consideration in 2012 was 837,000 compared to 677,410 cases in 2010 and only 594,633 in 2007. This trend further necessitates the development of alternative ways to hear and resolve cases – mediation and arbitration,

preparation of an adequate strategy for human resources management in the judicial system; implementation of workload management measures by optimizing the structure of the individual judicial districts, and determining the workload rate of magistrates.

The chosen strategic approach complies with the challenges outlined by covering all aspects of the reform process in the judiciary – strategic and structural development, human resources management, implementation of e-justice as a key tool for improving and modernizing the activities.

With regard to the planned judicial reform the interventions stem from the Updated Strategy on the Continuation of the Judiciary Reform, as well as the Roadmap for its implementation, outlining the specific measures under the six objectives of the Strategy until 2020. Priority axis 3 of OPGG includes interventions pursuant to the roadmap, which contribute to all six strategic objectives of the Strategy (with their corresponding specific objectives):

- 1. Ensuring the independence of the court and the other judicial authorities through effective measures against corruption, political and economic influence and other dependencies;
- 2. Human capital of the judiciary - major asset and focus of the reform: status of the judges, prosecutors and investigators;
- 3. Effective administration of the judiciary;
- 4. Modern and effective penal policy
- 5. Guarantees for the rule of law;
- 6. Increasing the public confidence in the judiciary through public participation and transparency

These objectives will be achieved with OPGG support guided by the roadmap, where the investments are prioritised. Initially all necessary detailed analyses, including international expertise, will be performed, laying the foundations for the subsequent activities reforming the structure, procedures and organization of the judiciary. The reform shall take shape through amendments to the Judicial System Act. The external monitoring on the activity of the judiciary needed is also envisaged. The real programme budgeting will significantly increase the transparency of expenditures, made by the separate judiciary units. The structural, procedural and organizational reform measures in the judiciary will be accompanied by investments in the introduction of e-justice, aimed at both facilitating the access to justice and as an anti corruption measure.

The Commission's Position is focused on strengthening the capacity of the judicial system by highlighting the important role of the NIJ in creating conditions for the participation of judges in exchange programmes and specialised trainings. The Institute's training policy is in compliance with the EU priorities in the field of justice, freedom and security, and in particular of judicial training, which are stated clearly in the Stockholm Programme: *"In order to foster a genuine European judicial and law enforcement culture, it is essential to step up training on Union-related issues and make it systematically accessible for all professions involved in the implementation of the area of freedom, security and justice. This will include judges, prosecutors, judicial staff, police and customs officers and border*

guards. The objective of systematic European Training Schemes offered to all persons involved should be pursued. ...”

Ongoing investments have been envisaged to improve the professional development of magistrates and judicial staff, so as to create opportunities for exchange of experience with other Member States and participation in cooperation networks. The highlights of the strategic development of judicial training are related to the development and improvement of technological and information systems relating to judicial “e- learning” as well as strengthening the training of trainers and implementation of best European practices.

The support for the National Institute of Justice as the major institution responsible for delivery of quality and tailored trainings to the magistrates and judicial staff is based on the Basic Guidelines for the activity of the National Institute of Justice 2014-2020, approved by the NIJ Managing Board in May 2014, as well as on the European documents in the area of judicial training. Communication from the Commission to the EU Parliament and the Council "Building trust in EU-Wide justice. A new dimension to European judicial training ". (COM (2011) 551 final) highlights that the creation of a European judicial culture that fully respects subsidiarity and judicial independence is central to the efficient functioning of a European judicial area and the judicial training is a crucial element of this process. This Communication sets the objective of the European Commission to enable half of the legal practitioners in the European Union to participate in European judicial training activities by 2020 through the use of all available resources at local, national and European level, in line with the objectives of the Stockholm Programme.⁴

The European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2012 on judicial training (2012/2575(RSP)) focuses on the possibilities for utilization of the new technologies in the judicial training, as well as on the need of multilingual training and the need of coordination of the provided training at the European level.⁵

The Communication from the Commission of 11 March 2014 (COM(2014) 144 final) “The EU Justice Agenda for 2020 – Strengthening Trust, Mobility and Growth within the Union” on its part directs the attention toward the important topic of the training of the legal practitioners in EU law – a topic which is entirely covered by the OPGG interventions. The same Communication also reviews the benefits of the e-justice introduction in the judiciary system.⁶

The identified deficits in view of service quality, reliability, transparency, accountability and the rule of law will be overcome, and the opportunities for overall improvement of the judicial authorities will be used through the development and implementation of the components of e-Justice, completion of the Unified Information System for Counteracting Crime (UISCC), ensuring interoperability, workflow optimization, etc.

For the successful implementation of the e-justice a Strategy for the introduction of e-governance and e-Justice in the "Justice" sector 2014-2020 was developed and adopted. It is an underlying document for the unified arrangement, planning, implementation, coordination and monitoring of the Justice sector policy, implemented by the state authorities in

⁴<http://www.parliament.bg/bg/eudocs/ID/17815>

⁵<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P7-TA-2012-0079+0+DOC+PDF+V0//BG>

⁶http://ec.europa.eu/justice/effective-justice/files/com_2014_144_en.pdf

cooperation with the citizens, business and trade unions. The document has been developed in compliance with the programmes of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the e-governance development and the “i2020” initiative of the European Commission and embodies the importance of the processes for development of accessible and efficient e-justice.

The Strategy reviews the introduction of e-governance and e-justice in the sector as a set of mutually connected tools, enabling:

- The operation with e-cases and documents by the judiciary authorities;
- Online real-time access to the national registers;
- Improving the interface between and integration of the information systems of the legislative, judicial and executive powers in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Interfacing national legislation and registers with their EU counterparts;
- Delivery of e-administrative services;
- Increasing the general judicial culture of citizens;
- Technological and semantic interoperability;
- Accessible justice in favour of citizens and businesses.

The judicial institutions consider the accelerated e-justice development as one of their major priorities. Its introduction is being implemented in parallel with organizational changes and knowledge transfer with the aim of improving the public services and democratic processes and facilitating the establishment and implementation of the judicial policy.

The specific measures in the implementation of the ambitious aims, set by the Strategy, are covered by the Roadmap for its implementation outlining tasks and resources needed until 2020. OPGG is the main financial instrument for the implementation of the roadmap and of the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria, resulting from the EU e-Justice Strategy.

The implementation of a complete solution related to the introduction of information technologies in the judicial system will lead to its more effective functioning, enhanced transparency in its operations, and better services for citizens and businesses. Besides the economic effects on the system, through the implementation of paperless justice, the problems of loss of cases, the need to store huge paper archives, etc. will be solved. The ultimate goal is to achieve an effective legal system and maximum convenience for citizens and businesses. A unified information system should be developed and provided to the judicial authorities. Through the introduction of information technologies in the justice sector the accountability and transparency will improve, the system for random distribution of the cases and time limits will be optimized; higher level of coordination and unification of the court practice will be ensured. The information technologies have significant contribution as an instrument intended for a complete reform.

Meanwhile, OPGG keeps the focus on one of the most significant horizontal challenges facing the administration and the judiciary – *prevention and counteraction of corruption and conflict of interest*. This issue is addressed in Council Specific Recommendation No 5 and concerns both OPGG components. Its importance is stressed by the fact that Bulgaria ranks last in the EU in the indicators of control of corruption and rule of law, and the World Economic Forum considers corruption in the country as a major obstacle for foreign investors doing business in Bulgaria (in this indicator the country occupies the unenviable 134th place, we also rank last in terms of public confidence in politicians – 130th out of 144 countries.). As

mentioned above, the corruption was pointed out as the first of the main problematic factors against doing business in Bulgaria. The Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Progress in Bulgaria under the Co-operation and Verification Mechanism of 22.01.2014 (COM(2014) 36 final) is also particularly critical of the topic, pointing out that “Overall, the results of previous efforts have been very limited”, “anti-corruption efforts are diffuse”.

Data provided by a 2013 Eurobarometer survey for the first Anti-Corruption Report of the EU (COM(2014) 38 final) lead to the conclusion that " Fighting corruption has long been a declared priority for Bulgaria. Legal and constitutional reforms have resulted in the establishment of new structures. However, corruption remains a serious challenge. The European Commission proposes to Bulgaria to ensure effective coordination of anti-corruption institutions, shielding them from political influence and appointing their management in a transparent, merit-based procedure. Random assignment of cases in courts should be ensured through a single, effective nationwide system The EC proposes also a the adoption of a code of ethics for Members of the National Assembly and the effective application of dissuasive sanctions for corruption in public procurement at national and local level.⁷

The Eurobarometer study underpinning the Report still shows that the impression for corruption is significantly over the EU average. 84 % of the Bulgarians think that the corruption is widespread in the country (compared to an EU average of 76%). Only 16% of the respondents consider the efforts of the authorities in the fight against corruption effective.

In this respect, the programme includes a wide range of activities, being built on the understanding that the biggest anti-corruption effect is that of the measures for “opening” the administration and the judicial system, process optimization for the purpose of minimizing the subjective factor, and particularly the e-governance development and e-justice introduction. E- governance and sectoral systems such as e-procurement, e-health, e-justice, etc. will improve the processes of interaction within the system of public administration and the judicial system and in their relations with citizens and businesses, facilitate access to information, reduce the potential for undue influence and lead to a more effective and transparent allocation of resources. Other horizontal actions that also have a significant potential for anti-corruption effect are the implementation of “open data”, improvement of the process of strategic planning and management of the resources of the administration and the judiciary, complex administrative services and e-services delivery, reduction of the regulatory and administrative burden, interaction with the civil society and ensuring an effective civil monitoring of the activities of the administration.

In addition to these horizontal measures, OPGG envisages measures targeted specifically to finding and implementing practical solutions to combat corruption, prevent conflicts of interest and abuse of office.

The measures for fight against corruption and conflict of interests are prioritized and specified in the current strategic documents / draft strategic documents in the administrative sector and judiciary. For example strategic objective 1, specific objective 3 “Systematic policy on prevention of corruption in the judiciary” of the Updated Strategy on the

⁷http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption/docs/acr_2014_en.pdf

Continuation of the Judiciary Reform, envisages a number of specific OPGG-financed activities, which should produce tangible results in this area.

Another focus of OPGG Priority axis 4 is the fight against fraud, concerning ESIF spending. Currently a National strategy for prevention and combatting irregularities and fraud damaging the financial interests of the European Union for the period 2014-2020 is in a process of public consultations and is to be finally adopted. The adoption of this strategy extends the measures undertaken by the Bulgarian authorities for protection of the financial interests of the EU, presented in the preceding national strategic documents and is in accordance with the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria pursuant to art. 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the judicial policy. The major aim of the National Strategy is to improve in the 2014 – 2020 programming period the prevention, disclosure and counteraction of irregularities and fraud, by focusing on the increasing of the efficiency of the investigation, achieving higher of recovery of unduly paid EU budget funds and imposing proportionate and restraining sanctions upon observing the legislation and defining the responsibilities of the institutions.

Programming and implementation of the measures related to the achievement of the objectives set out in OPGG take into account the need for integration of environmental policy and climate change policy. In accordance with the new trends in the field of environmental policy and climate change policy (resource efficiency, mitigation of the effects of climate change and adaptation to it, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management), the measures relating to administrative efficiency and quality judicial system will include training in risk prevention and management for the administration, as well as “green” initiatives and initiatives to achieve energy efficiency in the implementation of e-governance and e-justice. Measures for horizontal integration of environmental policy and climate change policy in the national development policies will be supported. The provision of access to information for official use and e-services will reduce the use of paper carriers. Green administration initiatives have been explicitly developed in the Strategy for the Development of Public Administration 2014-2020, which states that since the principles of environmental protection are still underused in the public administration, it is necessary to build a culture and set up an organization for reducing the use of paper, implementing separate collection of wastes, using recycled paper and conducting other initiatives for environmentally responsible administration.

Lessons learned from the 2007-2013 programming period

As already mentioned hereabove, OPGG is to a large extent based on the results produced by OPAC and OPTA in the 2007-2013 programming period. A great number of the OPGG interventions are a direct multiplication of the activities commenced under the two OPs. For instance, the functional analyses of the administrative structures, carried out under OPAC’s Priority axis 1 “Good Governance” will grow into functional policy and area reviews under the OPGG. Due to the fact that the major part of the administrations have already implemented organisational development measures as a result of OPAC-financed functional analyses, the experience so far shows that it is time to undertake the next step under the OPGG by implementing reviews not only of separate structures, but of entire areas/policies. This action is also interlinked to the rest of the OPGG actions, concerning the regulatory reform, the simplification of the regulations and the reduction of the administrative burden.

A similar approach of succession and multiplication while incorporating the lessons learned from the OPAC and OPTA actions is taken towards the rest of the OPGG interventions as

well. Within the area of human resources management the aim will be to build on and multiply the results achieved through funding under the OPAC targeted at: procedures for selection and career development, as well as development of the Unified system for human resources management and its integration with the other administration management information systems. The competences of the public administration staff have been developed through many successful projects under the OPAC. These actions will be continued under the OPGG through the planned investments in the framework of priority axis 2. Regarding the training of the staff in the administration in the 2007-2013 period, the IPA was unable to deploy the necessary capacity and cover fully the necessary training for the administration. As a result the MA of the OPAC was forced to announce a large number of competitive selection procedures in order to satisfy the needs for specialized training of central, regional and municipal administrations. Based on the conclusions drawn, more active work is planned under the OPGG on capacity-building for the IPA while simultaneously allowing for administrations to submit independent project proposals for specialized trainings not provided by the IPA. The training of the administration will be based on the training needs analysis which will be endorsed by the Administrative Reform Council and will follow unified standards regarding topics and quality of the training provided.

An important result from the CoM project under OPAC is the elaboration of a set of standard career management mechanisms. These mechanisms, although successfully created, have yet to be implemented in the administrative structures. Therefore, the OPGG shall have a pivotal role in their widescale introduction.

Last, but not least, the e-governance interventions under OPGG are based on the results laid down in the 2007-2013 period. For instance, the state hybrid private cloud is launched under an MTITC project with the support of the OPAC. The same project, together with several others, have resulted in the establishment of the basic instruments and architecture of the e-governance in Bulgaria, which will be further developed with the assistance of the OPGG.

One of the most important 2007-2013 lessons is that when dealing with issues horizontal to the reforms a much better result is achieved through the implementation of a systemic approach via integrated horizontal projects (in particular with regard to the e-governance and its sectoral systems, the administrative service delivery, the administrative regulation and the judiciary and e-justice) rather than the isolated and uncoordinated projects of individual administrations. The experience shows that fragmented financing of individual institutions can only produce partial results, which, however effective, cannot result in systemic change. Thus the new programming period shall be focused on strategic and horizontal projects aiming at comprehensive improvement of the entire administration. These projects will cover all public services and administrations.

The entire OPGG programming stems from this systemic integrated approach. The OPGG is much more focused than the two previous programmes and demonstrates consolidation and clear consistency of the actions, as evidenced by the intervention logic of OPGG's PA 1, 2, as well as 3. All actions aimed at the judiciary, including judicial reform, human resources management and e-justice are integrated in a separate priority axis rather than, as was the case in the previous programming period, dispersed between different axes. This approach allows for much higher consistency and integration between the individual actions. OPGG will ensure multiplication of the many successful trainings for magistrates and judicial staff, delivered by the NIJ via OPAC. OPGG shall also support the actions necessary for the continuous strengthening of NIJ's capacity in its function as the main training institute for the judiciary.

It can be concluded that by a set of planned strategic objectives and measures to achieve them, OPGG will help strengthen the public component in all three areas of growth:

1. Smart growth is associated with the active introduction and implementation of new information and communication technologies and the development of digital society which is addressed by OPGG with planned investment in completing the process of implementation of e-governance in the administration and e-justice in the judicial system;
2. Sustainable growth is based on the promotion of more effective, green and sustainable economy, and here OPGG contributes to strengthening the capacity of institutions and the judicial system to establish a stable business environment and achieve the measures related to the effectiveness of the economy;
3. Though inclusive growth mainly concerns high levels of employment, modernization of labour markets and fight against poverty (measures which are not covered by OPGG), the contribution of the programme to achieving this priority can be found in the opening of the administration to citizens and businesses, measures that promote the empowerment of citizens for participation in governance through active involvement in the process of policy-making, targeted training of members of the administration, the judiciary and the NGOs, all of which together help build a coherent society.

1.1.2. Argumentation of the selection of topical targets and their corresponding investment priorities, considering the Partnership Agreement based on the outlined regional and when suitable - national needs, including the necessity of handling the challenges, indicated in the respective country-specific recommendations, adopted in accordance with art. 121, para. 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the related recommendations of the Council adopted according to art. 148, para. 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, taking into consideration the preliminary evaluation.

Table 1: Rationale of specific objectives and investment priorities selection

Selected specific purpose	Selected investment priority	Rationale
<p>Specific objective 11: Strengthening of the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and, efficient public administration</p>	<p>Investment priority 1: Investment in institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local level, with a view to implement reforms resulting in better regulation and governance.</p>	<p>Country Specific Recommendations to the Member State – 1 and 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific Recommendation 1 – Implement a comprehensive tax strategy to strengthen tax collection, tackle the shadow economy and reduce compliance costs; - Specific Recommendation 5 – Continue to improve the business environment, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, by cutting red tape, promoting e-government, streamlining insolvency procedures and implementing the legislation on late payments. Improve the public procurement system by enhancing administrative capacity, strengthening the ex ante checks performed by the Public Procurement Agency and taking concrete steps for the implementation of e-procurement. Enhance the quality and independence of the judiciary and step up the fight against corruption. Commission's position on the establishment of partnership agreements and programs in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020 <p>Position of the Commission services on the development of a Partnership Agreement and programmes in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020</p> <p>EC Cooperation and Verification Mechanism reports</p> <p>Identified investment needs for improvement of the administrative service delivery, including through e-governance –Strategy for the Development of the</p>

		<p>Public Administration 2014-2020; Strategy for e-governance development in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020.</p> <p>Identified investment needs for Judicial Reform support – Updated Strategy on the Continuation of the Judiciary Reform; Strategy for the introduction of e-governance and e-justice in the Justice sector 2014-2020</p>
--	--	---

DRAFT

1.2. Rationale of funds distribution

The resource of priority axes 1, 2 and 3 is concentrated entirely under Thematic objective 11 "Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration", Investment priority – Investment in institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance.

DRAFT

Table 2: Operational program investment strategy review

Priorit y Axis	Fund name	EU support – (euro)	Share (%) of the total EU support for OP program (per funds and PA)	Specific objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives correspondent to investment priority	General and program-specific performance indicators with defined target value
PA 1	ESF	118124605	41,37%	Thematic objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	Investment in institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Reduction of administrative and regulatory burden on citizens and businesss and introduction of services based on "life events" and "business events" SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Increase of e -services available to citizens and businesses	Number of implemented "life events" and "business events" services Number of standardised municipal services, introduced in all municipal administrations Number of supported priority e-services, including inter-service, at transaction- and / or payment level, based on the government HPC, used over 5000 times a year Functioning e-procurement system Functioning NHIS
PA 2	ESF	64907000	22,73%	Thematic objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	Investment in institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Increase the number of the administrations, implementing organizational development mechanisms and result-based management SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Improvement of the specialized knowledge and skills of the administration staff and development of career development mechanisms	Number of administrations supported for implementation of organizational development mechanisms and result-based management Employees that have successfully completed the trainings upon receipt of a certificate Number of administrations

						SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: Increase of citizen participation in policy-making and control	supported for the introduction of career management mechanisms Recommendations made by NGOs and NGO networks in the policy-making, implementation and monitoring process
PA 3	ESF	30195500	10,58%	Thematic objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	Investment in institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Increase of transparency and acceleration of judicial proceedings through structural, procedural and organisational reforms in the judiciary SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Improve the accessibility and the accountability of the judiciary through the introduction of e-justice SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: Extension of the scope and improvement of the quality of training in the judicial system	Introduced new and improvement of existing tools for modernization of the judiciary Number of cases led electronically Magistrates, court staff and employees of the investigating authorities under CPC who successfully completed training with a certificate
PA 4	ESF	61690058	21,70%	NA	NA	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Support for horizontal structures responsible for the management and implementation of ESIF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Ensuring effective functioning of UMIS 2020 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: Increase of public awareness on the ESIF opportunities and results in Bulgaria, and improvement of beneficiary capacity	Annual turnover of the beneficiaries' staff Satisfaction of participants with trainings delivered Satisfaction of UMIS users Share of the population of 15+, aware of the EU Cohesion policy
PA 5	ESF	10344500	3,62%	NA	NA	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Effective and efficient management of OPGG	

						SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Increase capacity and awareness of OP beneficiaries	
--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--

SECTION 2. PRIORITY AXES

Section 2.A. DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ARTICLE 96 (2)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

PRIORITY AXIS 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY AND E-GOVERNANCE

2.A.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIORITY AXIS COVERING MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY OF REGION, THEMATIC OBJECTIVE OR FUND (WHERE APPLICABLE) (ARTICLE 96 (1) REGULATION (EC) № 1303/2013)

Not applicable. The priority axis covers only Thematic Objective 11 “Enhancing the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration”

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	Not applicable

2.A.3 FUND, CATEGORY OF REGION AND CALCULATION BASIS FOR UNION SUPPORT

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ESF</i>
<i>Category of region</i>	<i>Less developed regions</i>
<i>Calculation basis (public funds)</i>	<i>118 124 605</i>
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>

2.A.4 INVESTMENT PRIORITY

<i>Investment priority</i>	<i>INVESTMENT PRIORITY: Investment in institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good</i>
----------------------------	--

2.A.5. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES CORRESPONDING TO THE INVESTMENT PRIORITY AND EXPECTED RESULTS (ART. 96 (2) (B) (I) - (II) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: *Reduction of administrative and regulatory burden on citizens and business and introduction of services based on "life events" and "business events"*

Administrative service delivery has improved in recent years, but the integration and coordination between administrative structures in providing them is still weak. Citizens and businesses are required to provide information or documents already available within the administration. Only 23% of the administrations obtain such documents through official channels, but only for certain administrative services. 61 central, 22 regional and 163 municipal administrations do not obtain the necessary documents and information via official channels.⁸

Based on agreements, NRA regularly exchanges information with the NSI, and NSSI exchanges information with NRA, the SAA and EA. Pursuant the Basic model for complex administrative services (CAO) developed under OPAC only 12 complex administrative services have been deployed in three pilot administrations. In view of the weaknesses identified, the initiatives will lead to the introduction of complex administrative service delivery and “life events” and “business events” based services. Administrations shall regularly take into account customer preferences in terms of access channels and satisfaction with the service.

Business is severely hampered by the lack of standardization of municipal services in terms of procedures, documentation and deadlinesⁱⁱⁱ. Thus a strategic intervention in this area shall be implemented.

The administrative and regulatory environment for doing business is relatively cumbersome (780 modes at the central level). Procedures are clumsy and require time and finances. Through the programme the principles of smart-regulation shall be introduced.

Impact assessments will be carried out, including impact on micro, small and medium enterprises. A review of all regulatory regimes will be performed. The aim is to minimize the administrative burden, including by limiting gold plating in the transposition of EU legislation.

Improvement of efficiency, transparency and accountability of the public procurement system will be a specific objective.

Effective control over the implementation of legislation will also be supported. The independence of regulatory authorities and their optimal functioning are crucial to the business environment and therefore they will be supported. Organizational and analytical capacity of central and municipal revenue authorities will also be developed in order to improve revenue collection and reduce administrative burden. Sustainable mechanisms and practices for joint inspections by control and inspection authorities, including risk-based inspections will be encouraged. Measures to reorganize control and inspection activities will be implemented, so as to increase coordination between responsible institutions and prevent

⁸ According to the Report on the Administration Status for 2013.

shadow economy. Initiatives will lead to improved the decision-making process and efficient public spending.

As a result of the interventions, predictable and stable regulatory framework and effective regulatory and control activities will be achieved.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: *Increase of e -services available to citizens and businesses*

Some of the most important registers are not completely digitalised and/or do not provide for automated exchange of structured information, which is a major challenge. Therefore the implementation of this objective will lead to the establishment of an operational mechanism for inter-service structured information exchange.

The progress in the the re-use of public sector information is insufficient. Therefore sources of information will be opened and access to structured information for the collection and generation of which public funds have been used („open data”) will be provided.

30% of the administrations (168 out of 517) declare they provide e-services, but 77.80% of those services are at levels 1 and 2. Transactional e-services are only approximately 5%.

In 2013 only 27% of the citizens in Bulgaria have used e-government services, the EU average being 41%. This is due to not only to the small number of e-services available, but also to the high proportion of people, who have never used the internet (41% compared to 20% EU average), as well as the lack of digital skills.iv No front offices have been created to provide e-services in areas at risk of digital exclusion and population with predominantly low ICT culture. 83% of the businesses (EU average of 87% v) use e-services, mainly those of NRA, the Commercial Register and NSI.

The establishment of a state hybrid private cloud (HPC) has begun, but a Single systems integrator is lacking. Bulgaria's Single access portal to electronic administrative services (SAPEAS) and the Single Point of Contact do not yet function as a single entry point for access to services. Bulgaria is lagging behind in terms of indicators for user-centric e-government and transparent e-government. The most significant gap is in the areas of: e-safety; e-documents; authentic data sources; e-ID. Universal e-ID is lacking. Various institutions provide different ID codes for access to their e-services. The e-ID developed under the OPAC will be upgraded and horizontally introduced.

These challenges will be addressed through strategic interventions in line with the registry and regulatory reforms which will optimize the business processes in the administration.

In addition to e-services, special attention will be paid to e-procurement, e-customs and e-health, as well as e-archiving.

Under OPTA PPA works with the EBRD to develop an e-procurement model consistent with the national requirements.

Systems such as electronic personal health record by NHIF have been set up. Steps are taken for the creation of electronic prescription by the MoH and an electronic sick leave document by the NSSI. Unification and further development of existing systems in a centralized National Health Information System (NHIS) has been planned. NHIS will be a tool for obtaining up-to-date management information on the implementation of the national health policy, and a basis for the provision of services in the health sector, including hospital and non-hospital care.

The optimization of the corporate architecture of the Customs Agency is not yet complete. The implementation of the EU Customs Competency Framework will contribute to the creation of a fully functioning model and the harmonization of actions within the EU. The use

of the standards set will contribute to the proper implementation of the 2016 Union Customs Code. In order to ensure higher revenue collection, the NRA will be supported to further develop its information systems. Thus, the efforts for modernization of the two administrations launched within OPAC will be completed.

Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (art. 96.(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) № 1303/2013)

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement Unit for Indicator	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline Value	Measurement Unit for Baseline and Target	Baseline Year	Target Value ⁹ (2023)			Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
								M	F	T		
R1-1	Number of implemented "life events" and "business events" services	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	0	<i>Number</i>	2014			10	<i>Reports and monitoring</i>	<i>Annually</i>
R1-2	Number of standardised municipal services, introduced in all municipal administrations	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	27	<i>Number</i>	2014			47	<i>Reports and monitoring</i>	<i>Annually</i>
R1-3	Number of supported priority e-services, including inter-service, at transaction- and / or payment level, based on the government HPC, used over 5000 times a year	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	193	<i>Number</i>	2014			418	<i>Reports and monitoring, List of the unified designations of the administrative services</i>	<i>Annually</i>
R1-4	Functioning e-procurement system	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	2014			<i>yes</i>	<i>PPA, reports and monitoring</i>	<i>2018, 2021, 2023</i>
R1-5	Functioning NHIS	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	2014			<i>yes</i>	<i>MoH, reports and monitoring</i>	<i>2018, 2021, 2023</i>

2.A.6. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED UNDER THE INVESTMENT PRIORITY

⁹ This list includes those common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme specific result indicators. The target values for common result indicators have to be quantified and for programme specific result indicators they can be qualitative or quantitative. The target value can be presented either as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender.

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Specific objective 1:

To ensure sustainability of the results, effectiveness of investments and building on previous efforts, the following logic of intervention is envisaged:

Activities related to regulatory reform will be supported; sectoral reviews to simplify, revise and consolidate the existing legislation will be carried out. To avoid overregulation or burdensome administrative procedures partnership projects for better coordination of policies and legislation will be supported. All regulatory regimes established by a special law will be reviewed, and their impact will be assessed. Impact assessments of legislation will be supported. Particular emphasis will be placed on the sectors included in the Smart Specialization Strategy, as well as on those resulting in a significant reduction of the administrative burden.

A concept for reform of the existing model of organization and maintenance of registers in public administration will be developed, and a comprehensive review of existing registers will be carried out with a view of consolidation, elimination of redundant registers, avoiding data redundancy. All instances where access to registers is required will be identified.

Audit of all administrative services will be carried out, followed by streamlining of the information and data exchange between the institutions and public service providers. Standardization and unification of municipal services will be supported, with a particular focus on services to businesses, cutting red-tape, time, and information requirements.

With view to introducing complex administrative services, administrations at central, regional and local level will be supported to optimize and reengineer their administrative service delivery business processes, pursuant a single methodology developed by the Council of Ministers under OPAC.

Service delivery will be mapped and reorganized, including for the introduction of services based on "life events" and "business events". User-centric services will be available through various channels.

Mobile groups providing services to people with disabilities and in remote areas with ageing population will be established.

Proactive measures and mechanisms to improve revenue collection at central and municipal level will be encouraged. Support will be provided to the regulatory, control and revenue authorities, including for administrative capacity building, streamlining of procedures and practices, introduction of effective risk management, coordinated and joint inspections, etc., in support of the planned regulatory reform.

Effective cooperation mechanisms to ensure coherence between the PPA and the ex-post control authorities – Bulgarian National Audit Office and Public Financial Inspection Agency will be developed. Activities in support of the new framework Public Procurement Act and the necessary implementing regulations will be supported in implementing the new EU directives. To reduce the administrative burden and support compliance with the legal framework, a number of measures are envisaged, such as the development of standard forms of documents, preparation of practical guides (manuals) and issue of methodological guidelines.

The PPA functions for methodological support and control of public procurement, including the development and implementation of uniform requirements to contracting, will be also supported.

Specific objective 2:

To ensure sustainability of the results, effectiveness of investments and building on previous efforts the following intervention logic is envisaged:

Initial audit of IT structures, human resources and budgets, as well as ICT systems and technical infrastructure in the administration will be carried out to establish the baseline situation.

In parallel to the audit, existing territory-based IT systems and e-services will be migrated to the HPC, set up with the support of OPAC and the state budget.

HPC will be developed through provision of the necessary equipment, including servers, disk systems, archiving and communication devices, licenses, virtualization activities, expanded communication channels, etc. On the basis of the analysis a phased upgrade of the HPC capacity will be planned, based on the established needs, including measures related to information security and cybersecurity, as well as personal data protection.

Building on the achievements from the previous programming period, the e-ID system developed under OPAC will be integrated to the existing systems delivering e-services and the transition from pilot to production environment will be implemented within the priority axis.

Currently, an OPAC-funded project is being implemented to upgrade e-payment systems to various administrations by developing a single point of contact. Through OP "Good Governance" funding the systems developed will be integrated in various administrations. For implementation of complex administrative service delivery, state-fee settlement systems will be upgraded so as to provide integrated services by multiple administrations.

In line with the ongoing registry reform, activities (design, development, upgrade and digitalization) to set up registers and to implement automated inter-service services in machine-readable structured format with a time stamp in order to provide certification data in the administrations at all levels will be supported. Information systems and databases for registers management will be created and further developed. Integration of administrative information systems, automation of intra and inter-service information exchange; implementation of automated real-time services will also be supported.

Register digitisation and interoperability will depend upon the opening of data in machine-readable format for public use. Efficient use of public sector information will be achieved through the provision of access to various data (geographical, statistical, demographic, etc.). This will ensure transparency and opportunity for citizens and businesses to create innovative information products and services.

The development of e-services through optimised processes will be funded in line with the reform of the model of administrative service delivery, with prioritisation based on frequency of use and availability. The pilot reference municipal services developed under OPAC and introduced in Sofia Municipality will be deployed horizontally – via the HPC.

The delivery of services through the HPC will be supported, as well as other key cross border services. In parallel, e-services related to ICT applications for management of protected areas under Natura 2000 will be developed.

Measures will be also implemented to increase digital competences of the population through training modules and self-learning, on-line courses, etc.

The establishment and development of a Single system integrator (SSI) will be supported. It will be entrusted with the coordination, development and maintenance of ICT applications and ICT infrastructure for the digital environment.

The phased introduction of e-procurement will be funded. E-Submission will be made available by 2016. Model documentation will be developed in support of contracting authorities. By 2020, Bulgaria will introduce all subsequent e-procurement stages consistent with accepted European practices. Green procurement will be included in the e-procurement system pursuant the National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020 and its Action plan.

Health sector systems and procedures will be audited with state budget resources. OP „Good Governance“ will support with priority the establishment of centralised health information standards and classifications as the basis for the NHIS. In line with the registry reform the consolidation and optimisation of key registers in the sector will be supported, including in view of the provision of services based on "life events" and "business events". Complete health records for all Bulgarian citizens, including persons without health insurance, will be established. Subsequently, the development of additional administrative and specialised registers, publication of electronic health services on SAPEAS, development of risk analysis mechanisms, medical audits, e-prescription, and analytical capacity will be supported. The existing requirements for interoperability at European level will be incorporated in the system.

Further development of e-customs will include activities aimed at optimisation of corporate architecture and organisation of fragmented processes, both automated and manual, in an integrated environment, reengineering of existing software and systems planned for implementation by 2021. Activities will be implemented in line with the national implementation of the EU Customs Competency Framework, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

NRA will receive support for the development of its information infrastructure, which is a key factor to increase tax collection. Targeted integrated support will be provided at municipal level to improve local revenue collection and to build/ upgrade effective revenue management systems.

NSSI will receive support to develop and completely digitalise citizens' social security data.

The necessary preconditions for the transfer of e-documents to the National Archives Fund and their storage and accessibility will be provided. Procedures will be developed to digitalise the information available in the administrations with priority on data and processes related to e-services. National procedures will be amended to include the unified structure of data and information in order to ensure automated data exchange and interoperability.

Citizens and businesses will be more actively involved in the policy-making and legislative process through innovative ICT-based solutions. To this end, the democratic decision making platform, developed OPAC, will be utilised.

Identification of main target groups

The administrations at all levels under art.38 of the Law of Administration¹⁰; employees under civil service and labour contracts in the administrations at all levels; citizens; businesses.

¹⁰ Official Gazette (OG) issue 130 of 5.11.1998, in force as of 6.12.1998; Decision No 2 of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria of 21.01.1999 – issue 8 of 29.01.1999; complemented., issue 67 of 27.07.1999, in force as of 28.08.1999, as amended, issue 64 of 4.08.2000, in force as of 4.08.2000, issue 81 of 6.10.2000, in force as of 1.01.2001, as amended and complemented., issue 99 of 20.11.2001, in force as of 20.11.2001, as corrected, issue 101 of 23.11.2001, as amended., issue 95 of 28.10.2003, as amended and complemented, issue 19 of 1.03.2005, issue 24 of 21.03.2006, issue 30 of 11.04.2006, in force as of 12.07.2006, issue 69 of 25.08.2006, as amended, issue 102 of 19.12.2006, as amended and complemented,

Specific target territories

Projects must benefit the programme area and may be implemented on the entire territory of the country and of the other EU Member States.

Types of beneficiaries

Central, regional and municipal administrations

In view of their specific role in achieving the objectives of PA1, priority will be given to: Administration of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications, Ministry of Health, Public Procurement Agency, Archives State Agency, Customs Agency, National Revenue Agency, National Social Security Institute, National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Indicative eligible activities:

Specific objective 1:

- Reviews and optimization of regulatory regimes
- Reviews of legislation in force in relation to regulatory reform
- Impact assessments of legislation
- Thorough review of registries and registry reform
- Business processes reengineering with a view to complex administrative service delivery
- Municipal administrative services standardization and unification and establishment of reference models for key municipal services
- Establishment of Single administrative service delivery centers
- Establishment of mobile groups providing services to people with disabilities and in remote areas with ageing population
- Administrative capacity building, streamlining of procedures and practices, implementation of effective risk management system, coordinated and joint inspections etc. Improvement of the activity of the control, regulatory and revenue authorities.
- Methodological support for the public procurement process

Specific objective 2:

issue 46 of 12.06.2007, in force as of 13.06.2008, as complemented., issue. 78 of 28.09.2007, issue 43 of 29.04.2008, as amended and complemented., issue 94 of 31.10.2008, in force as of 1.01.2009, as amended, issue 35 of 12.05.2009, in force as of 12.05.2009, as complemented, issue 42 of 5.06.2009, as amended and complemented, issue 24 of 26.03.2010, as amended, issue 97 of 10.12.2010, in force as of 10.12.2010, issue 69 of 8.09.2011, in force as of 8.09.2011, as amended and complemented, issue 15 of 21.02.2012, as amended, issue 82 of 26.10.2012., issue 15 of 15.02.2013, in force as of 1.01.2014, as complemented., issue 17 of 21.02.2013.

- IT audit in the administrations
- Upgrade of the State HPC
- Phased migration of administrative e-systems and services to the HPC
- Digitalization of administrative registers and archives and conversion to electronic structured information
- Ensuring interoperability and automated data exchange between information systems and registers
- Development and completion of information systems and services in accordance with the reform of the administrative service delivery model
- Opening to the general public of registers and information in machine-readable format, collected and generated through the use of public resources (“open data”)
- Establishment of online system and call center supporting e-services users
- Organisational establishment and development of the Single Systems Integrator ¹¹
- E-public procurement implementation
- Upgrade of e-customs
- Development of a National Health Information System

2.A.6.2. Guiding principles for selection of operations (Art. 96 (2) (B) (III) of Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013:

Only operations with activities fully compliant with the defined specific objectives of the programme will be funded. Quality of operations will be guaranteed by compliance with the following basic principles in the selection process:

(1) Compliance with the specific objectives of the programme and the relevant national and EU strategic documents.

Management and control systems will ensure that the programming process is not only compliant with the specific objectives of the programme but that it also reflects current needs and priorities of the administration and the judiciary, as evidenced by the relevant strategic documents at the national level. Programming will take into account the current trends within the EU in the respective field, the common interoperability guidelines and the participation of the country in corresponding European initiatives. Priority will be given to operations the implementation of which is prioritized in strategic documents relevant to the programme’s specific objectives. The Guidelines for Applicants under the operation will include mandatory indicators that are part of the OPGG system of indicators.

¹¹ In case it is established as an administrative structure

Specific criteria for selection of IT operations under the OPGG have been developed. They are uploaded as annex to the OP.

(2) Transparency and stakeholder involvement

The necessary transparency in the development of the criteria for selection of operations will be guaranteed. The criteria will be approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee will include representatives of all stakeholders.

(3) Consistency and upgrade of achieved results

Given the specifics of the programme, the focus will be placed on the implementation and deployment of already achieved results. Sectoral operations in the field of e-governance will be implemented subject to the use of all developed or planned for development relevant horizontal e-governance systems of to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

(4) Efficient achievement of objectives and results of operations

Efficient achievement of objectives and results is one of the important indicators of operation quality. At the stage of programming and at the stage of project selection a summary analysis of maximum and recommended prices for the acquisition of goods or services from external suppliers, based on a survey of market prices will be available. The analysis will be updated on a three-year basis.

(5) Gender equality and non-discrimination.

Financial support under the programme will be provided to operations that guarantee as minimum non-discrimination and gender equality.

(6) Compliance with the sound financial management principles

During the selection of operations the MA shall ensure that all grants will be disbursed in respect of the principles of best value for money, effectiveness and efficiency. The investments shall contribute to the achievement of the programme indicators. At the same time the relation between the project's objectives, activities and expected results shall be observed, as well as the correspondence between the result achieved and the resources spent.

2.A.6.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate) (Art. 96 (2) (B) (III) of Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013

Not applicable.

2.A.6.4. Planned use of major projects (where appropriate) (Art. 96 (2) (B) (III) of Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013

Not applicable.

2.A.6.5. Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF)

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023) ¹²			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	F	T		
01-1	Number of supported administrative regimes, reviewed for simplification	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			700	Reports	Annually
01-2	Number of regulations with impact assessments	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			65	Reports	Annually
01-3	Administrations, supported to introduce complex administrative service delivery	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			103	Report on the state of the administration	Annually
01-4	Number of municipal services supported for standardization	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			20	Report on the state of the administration	Annually
01-5	Control, revenue and regulatory authorities, supported to develop organizational and analytical capacity, including to carry out joint inspections	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			15	Reports	Annually
01-6	State hybrid private cloud development projects	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			4	Reports	Annually
01-7	Number of supported registers	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			100	Reports	Annually
01-8	E-services supported, available in transactional regime	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			850	Report on the state of the administration, reports.	Annually
01-9	Number of projects for development of e-governance sectoral systems (e-procurement, e-health, e-customs, e-archiving, e-insurance, etc.)	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			15	Reports	Annually

¹² For the ESF, this list includes those common output indicators for which a target value has been set. The target value can be presented either as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and CF gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant.

2.A.7. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE ESF, WHERE APPLICABLE (UNDER PRIORITY AXIS BROKEN DOWN BY REGION): SOCIAL INNOVATION, TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THEMATIC OBJECTIVES 1-7

The priority axis includes a number of activities, which will directly contribute to the achievement of the following thematic objectives from Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013 of the European parliament and the Council (General regulation):

- *Thematic objective 2: Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT:* the planned activities correspond to the difficulties identified in terms of insufficient availability of integrated and coordinated e-governance services of, including e-health, e-procurement. Enrichment of online services for citizens and businesses, development of PSC, investment in administrative and technical capacity to develop e-governance, e-procurement, e-health, etc. is foreseen.
- *Thematic objective 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and of the fishery and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF) – OPGG* indirectly supports this objective by concentrating on improving the competitive environment. Priority axis 1 includes explicit actions aimed at reduction of the administrative burden and optimizing business regulations through streamlining the procedures for requesting and obtaining permits and licenses and other activities that will have an impact on the business environment in general and SMEs in particular. This effect will be complemented by the implementation of e-governance in the government-business relations, which will significantly reduce the time and costs for SMEs service demand and delivery, thus creating an opportunity to focus more efforts to increase their sustainability and competitiveness. Last but not least, the actions in the field of public procurement, including introduction of e-procurement and the resulting transparency and efficiency of contract awarding procedures, are also an important tool providing new opportunities for businesses and especially for SMEs. The introduction of a national solution in the field of e-procurement will contribute to the unified enforcement of the public procurement legislation, decreased the administrative burden, economy of time and resources and easier access to the market for the stakeholders. Thus, competition will be enhanced and higher value for money will be achieved.
- *Thematic objective 4: Support the shift towards low-carbon economy in all sectors –* The widescale implementation of e-services will mobilize ICT potential for transition to energy efficient economy and lowering of the greenhouse gas emissions. The development and introduction of always-on IP-based networks and services needs investments in intelligent technology, capable of controlling its energy usage depending on the work-load.
- The actions foreseen related to Natura 2000 support the implementation of *Thematic objective 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency* in regard to capacity building of the institutions responsible for Natura 2000 and awareness raising of stakeholders. In addition e-services for ICT applications for management of the NATURA 2000 sites will be developed.

2.A.8. PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B) (V) AND ANNEX II OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and category of region)

Priority axis	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023) ¹³			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
								M	W	T		
1	Product	O1-3	Administrations, supported to introduce complex administrative service delivery	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	28			103	Report on the state of the administration	
1	Product	O1-4	Number of municipal services supported for standardization	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	5			20	Report on the state of the administration	
1	Product	O1-7	Number of supported registers	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	20			100	Reports	
1	Product	O1-8	E-services supported, available in transactional regime	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	150			850	Report on the state of the administration, reports	
1	Financial	F-1	Certified expenditure	EUR	ESF	Less developed regions	17 896 438,53			118 124 605	MA	

¹³

Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

2.A.9. CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B) (VI))

Table 7-11: Categories of intervention (by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	119	118124605

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	01	118124605

Table 9: Dimension 3 –Territory type		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	01	110364244
1	02	7760361

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	07	118124605

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme (ESF only)		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	05	92599105
1	08	25525500

2.A.10.10 SUMMARY OF THE PLANNED USE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INCLUDING, WHERE NECESSARY, ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF

AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE PROGRAMMES AND BENEFICIARIES (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B), (VII) OF REGULATION (EC) No. 1303/2013)

The funding under PA 5 will be used for IT expertise in support to the Managing Authority in relation to the project evaluation committees under the priority axis, checking procurement project documentation (ex-ante and ex-post control), supporting the monitoring of physical and financial project implementation, including the provision of the required IT expertise. Analysis on axis-specific topics will be funded so as to lay out Guidelines/Instructions for applicants in a most efficient manner. Assessments will be carried out, including impact evaluations of interventions under the axis, given the large amount of resources concentrated in it.

Within the framework of technical assistance, the Managing Authority will conduct information days, where the beneficiaries will be provided with practical information on how to apply under a specific call for proposals, including how to fill in the application form, and how to structure the project budget.

Immediately following approval of projects the Managing Authority will organise trainings for beneficiaries, where detailed information on the implementation of projects under the priority axis will be provided: reporting, preparation of requests for payment, preparation of public procurement procedures under the project by the beneficiary and supervision by the MA and the PPA. Trainings for beneficiaries under the priority axis will include a module in which IT professionals train beneficiaries in the project management specifics with a significant IT component, examples of best practices and mistakes made in such types of projects, etc

PRIORITY AXIS № 2 EFFECTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE BUSINESS

2.A.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIORITY AXIS COVERING MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY OF REGION, THEMATIC OBJECTIVE OR FUND (WHERE APPLICABLE) (ARTICLE 96 (1) REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013)

Not applicable. The Priority axis covers only Thematic objective “Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration”

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational	Not applicable

cooperation, or both	
----------------------	--

2.A.3 FUND, CATEGORY OF REGION AND CALCULATION BASIS FOR UNION SUPPORT

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ESF</i>
<i>Category of region</i>	<i>less developed regions</i>
<i>Calculation basis (public funds)</i>	<i>64907000</i>
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<i>not applicable</i>

2.A.4 Investment priority

<i>Investment priority</i>	<i>Investment in institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance</i>
----------------------------	---

2.A.5. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES CORRESPONDING TO THE INVESTMENT PRIORITY AND EXPECTED RESULTS (Art. 96 (2) (B) (I)-(II) OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: *Increase the number of the administrations, implementing organizational development mechanisms and result-based management*

Interventions are related to the quality of development and implementation of administrative policies and their result orientation. Administrations often lack the necessary complete and reliable information to formulate quality and result-oriented policies. Many of the existing strategic documents are not backed up with adequate sources of funding. In view of the above, with the support of the program a unified and standard practice for strategic planning will be developed. Methodological and information support for the introduction and reporting of result-oriented state budget will be provided. Greater accountability and feedback to the process of planning and decision making will be respected.

Specific focus will be set on improving the coordination in the implementation of sectoral policies. OPGG shall provide support to improve the processes of strategic planning and policy implementation, which are inter-sectoral by nature. Inter-sectoral cooperation mechanisms at the national level (working groups, common actions etc.), as well as the cooperation between the national, regional and local levels of administration will be stimulated. Strategic interventions will improve the monitoring of policy implementation.

Administrations will receive support for providing better link between the objectives at individual and institutional level with the relevant strategic documents, which will lead to better policy implementation and focus. Thus, management implementation systems will be introduced based on clear performance indicators at all levels – key indicators at the organizational level, indicators at Directorate level. Administrative effectiveness is directly

29.12.2014

linked to quality management systems (QMS). In 2012, 206 administrations have implemented QMS.

In order to improve the development and implementation of policies, the structure of the administration will be consolidated and optimized providing for better separation of functions between central, regional and local level.

The transfer of functions from central to local level is closely linked to the updated Decentralization Strategy 2006-2015. In this area results are not tangible enough. Decentralization will be specifically supported in order to achieve efficient allocation of functions in the administration.

Outsourcing of functions from the administration to the business and NGO sector is a major opportunity for more effective delivery of services. Its significant potential will be more widely used.

OPGG shall support actions related to the implementation of the thematic ex-ante conditionalities only and exclusively in the cases where these actions are horizontal by nature and fall within the intervention scope of the priority axis – for ex. capacity building actions through horizontal trainings unrelated to the specifics of the separate ESIF programmes; impact assessments; sectoral functional reviews etc. All other actions on the implementation of the ex-ante conditionalities are subject to interventions under the technical assistance priority axes of the operational programmes concerned.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Improvement of the specialized knowledge and skills of the administration staff and development of career development mechanisms

In the field of human resources management there are a number of challenges. The average age of employees in the administration is increasing and young employees are less than 10%. In 2012 the number of competition procedures terminated due to lack of candidates is increasing – from 49 in 2011 to 59 in 2012.¹⁴ Effective planning and needs assessment methods in the selection process will be introduced.

Since personnel planning and career management is not at the required level, and mobility is underutilized as a tool for career development, interventions will be supported in this area. Programmes to identify and develop talented employees will be supported. HR Units will act as human resources consultants, providing individual guidance to employees.

Knowledge and skills will be transmitted to younger servants by their more experienced colleagues through mentoring and coaching programs.

The total number of employees trained in 2012 was 44,104, compared to 31 656 in 2011. 80.3% of them are in the central administration.¹⁵ Trainings supported under the programme will be preceded by training needs analysis so that trainings can be tailored to the needs and functions of institutions and employees.

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) will receive funding to increase its capacity to act as the major tool for delivering trainings to the administration and as analytical center. The

¹⁴ Report on the status of the administration for 2012,
http://www.government.bg/fce/001/0211/files/DOKLAD_admin2012.pdf

¹⁵ Report on the status of the administration for 2012,
http://www.government.bg/fce/001/0211/files/DOKLAD_admin2012.pdf

foreign policy and EU-related qualification of the administration, the qualification and selection and career development of employees of the Ministry of Interior, the capacity at municipal level will be enhanced through specific trainings.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: *Increase of citizen participation in policy-making and control*

This specific objective is focused on building a working partnership between the state, civil society organizations and businesses.

An important element in the functioning of an effective institutional environment in Bulgaria is the full-fledged participation of the civil society in the public policy making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. The non-governmental sector in Bulgaria does not have enough influence in policy-making and implementation. The dialogue between the civil society and the state is of volatile nature.¹⁶

Civic monitoring of activities and policies implemented by the administration will have a strong anti-corruption effect and encourage ethical and responsible employee behaviour. Additional initiatives will be funded to find practical solutions in the fight against corruption, prevention of conflict of interest and abuse of office. Administrative capacity for the management of complaints, prevention of cases and administrative arbitration should be improved.

Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (Art. 96.(2)(b)(ii) OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013)

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement Unit for Indicator	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement Unit for Baseline and Target	Baseline Year	Target value (2023) ¹⁶			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
								M	F	T		
R2-1	Number of administrations supported for implementation of organizational development mechanisms and result-based management	Less developed regions	Number	Not applicable	206	Number	2013			400	Report on budget implementation, reports	Annual
R2-2	Employees that have successfully completed the trainings upon receipt of a certificate	Less developed regions	%	Not applicable	80%	%	2014			85%	Reports and monitoring	Annual
R2-3	Number of administrations supported for the introduction of career management	Less developed regions	Number	Not applicable	0	Number	2014			50	Reports and monitoring	Annual

¹⁶ Civil Society Index 2008-2010: Civil Society in Bulgaria: civic activity without participation, http://www.osf.bg/downloads/File/Civil_Society_in_Bulgaria_BG.pdf

	mechanisms											
R2-4	Recommendations made by NGOs and NGO networks in the policy-making, implementation and monitoring process	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	30	<i>Number</i>	2014			400	<i>Reports and monitoring</i>	<i>Annual</i>

2.A.6. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED UNDER THE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

2.A.6.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE AND EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED AND THEIR EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES INCLUDING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN TARGET GROUPS, SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED AND TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES

Specific objective 1

Partnership strategic planning and subsequent implementation initiatives will be supported to assist the coordination of policies led by multiple institutions. Strategic planning at municipal level will be supported. To address weaknesses in the monitoring of strategic documents and policies, public policy monitoring and evaluation system will be developed and implemented. Statistical and sociological information necessary for good governance will be obtained. Effective mechanisms will be established to collect information and create databases for decision-making purposes.

The process of introduction of results-oriented budget will be methodologically and informationally supported. Best budget management practices and stricter control over public spending will be introduced.

Bulgarian institutions will gradually introduce performance management systems; the fulfilment of the administrative units' objectives will also be assessed on a regular basis.

Support will be provided for public policy sectoral reviews and organizational development of the administrative structures for the purposes of administrative reform. The standardization of the general administration and the establishment of centralized units providing shared services to first level budget spenders will be given a priority. In view of more efficient spending of public resources, at local level municipalities will be encouraged to utilize the opportunities of shared services between several administrations, following the approach at central level.

The process of introduction and improvement of quality management practices and standards will be supported. The implementation of quality management systems, especially those based on the Excellence Model of the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) will be funded.

Further decentralization activities will be carried out. Local level capacity building for managing decentralized functions will be a priority. Unified structure of the territorial units of the central administration will be established.

The functions and activities that can be outsourced to the private sector and NGOs will be identified.

The Integrated public administration information system will be further developed. A dynamic catalog of all administrative services including inter-institutional services and those of public service providers will be created with respect to the "life events" and "business

29.12.2014

events". A centralized system for submission, processing and analysis of citizens' complaints, proposals and signals shall be a priority, in order to ensure proper follow-up.

In the field of state aid and public-private partnership OPGG will emphasise on the development of the existing legal framework and the upgrade of the state aid and de minimis register.

Specific objective 2

Support will be provided to human resources management in the administration and enhancing the professionalism of civil servants. Mechanisms encouraging the entry into service of young and qualified professionals will be developed and implemented. Effective career management mechanisms, including mobility will be set up. The career development mechanisms developed under OPAC will be implemented. The capacity of the HR units to provide career guidance to the employees will be strengthened. In this regard, competency profiles of employees will be developed and deployed. To achieve continuity in the public service, effective mechanisms for transfer of knowledge and skills by the more experienced employees will be established. Special mentoring and coaching programs will assist young professionals entering service. Thus the young employees will easily adapt to the new working environment and the potential of the experienced staff will be fully utilised.

The structure and content of the training programmes of IPA will become more practically oriented. Alternative forms of trainings, including based on new technologies will be more widely used. IPA's expert capacity will be strengthened turning it into an information and research center and driver of administrative development. Special support will be provided to training needs assessment, improved curricula; development of new up-to-date educational methods; monitoring of the effectiveness of trainings; creating an online library with training and information materials; support to ensure the necessary training conditions.

The capacity of the Training Academy to the Ministry of Interior, the Diplomatic Institute and the NAMRB will be strengthened enabling them to function as information and training centers for the development of the respective administrations and staff of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the municipalities. The Institute of Psychology to the Ministry of Interior will be supported to improve the methods for the recruitment of officials in the Ministry of Interior. To achieve synergy, trainings need to be coherent and coordinated.

Competencies in the public procurement sector will be enhanced through training events for the methodology and control bodies, trainings of judges and others. Specific trainings for contracting authorities, including small rural municipalities with insufficient administrative capacity, will be delivered. Trainings on the implementation of the new framework public procurement act will be provided to the authorities with competencies in the field of public procurement.

The problems identified above will be addressed by funding various types of trainings for the administration at all levels in the country and in other EU Member States. Exchange of best practices with other EU Member States in various fields, including through internships and traineeships, will be actively promoted.

Internal capacity will be built in the administration to tackle topics of horizontal importance, such as conducting impact assessments, working with disadvantaged people; full-fledged participation in EU level policy-making and evaluation, state aid and de minimis aid, incl. information campaigns, etc.

Knowledge and skills of the employees will be improved through additional trainings supplementing the compulsory state-funded trainings. Cooperation with European training institutes will facilitate the transfer of best practices. The priority axis will ensure funding for

all necessary trainings on key topics related to: conducting impact assessments, development and improvement of leadership skills, strategic planning and implementation of policies, information technologies, other specialized trainings for all central, regional and local administrations with respect to their specific functions and powers. The beneficiaries under the ESIF programmes will be trained on horizontal topics such as project management, public procurement, state aid, EU policies, etc. All other specific trainings concerning the relevant programmes will be delivered under their TA priority axes.

The capacity of administrations at all levels for and risk prevention and management will be strengthened, with special emphasis on emergencies, natural disasters and accidents, climate change mitigation etc. This intervention will build on the results of a successful pilot project under the OPAC. A system for monitoring the training effectiveness will be established in order to ensure a consistently high training quality, and to steer continuous improvement and follow-up on results.

E-applications for training and capacity building for planning and implementation of investment decisions based on the development of green infrastructure under Natura 2000 will be developed. A system and mechanism for information exchange between stakeholders (entrepreneurs, national and local authorities and NGOs) in the field of sustainable tourism in Natura 2000 sites) will be established.

Specific objective 3

Integrated initiatives for civil monitoring and control over the administration will be promoted. Citizens and users of administrative services will evaluate the administration's activity on a regular basis. Projects of NGOs and social and economic partners for the elaboration of analyses and proposals on improving the business environment, changes in regulations, structures and policies at national and local level will receive priority support. Transparent and efficient standards for NGO involvement in the strategic planning process will be established. The conditions for citizen involvement in the governance in cooperation with the civil sector will be improved. To raise public awareness and public participation in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and legislation, wide-scale information campaigns at NUTS 0-2 level are planned.

The participative governance established under the priority axis will have a strong anti-corruption effect and will ensure implementation and compliance with the highest ethical standards. Particular attention will be paid to measures for conflict of interests and abuse of office prevention. Control of administrative service delivery and regulations will be encouraged.

Identification of the main target groups

Administrations at all levels, according to Art. 38 of the Administration Act; employees under civil service and labour contracts in the administrations at all levels; citizens; business; magistrates (for PPA-related trainings).

Specific target territories

Projects must benefit the programme area and may be implemented on the entire territory of the country and of the other EU Member States.

Types of beneficiaries

Central, regional and municipal administrations, civil society organizations and their associations, social and economic partners

In view of their specific role in achieving the objectives of PA2, priority will be given to: the Administration of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, National Statistical Institute, National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of

29.12.2014

Bulgaria, the National Audit Office, Institute of Public Administration, Diplomatic Institute to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Training Academy to the Ministry of Interior, Institute of Psychology to the Ministry of Interior, Public Procurement Agency

Indicative eligible activities:

Specific objective 1:

- Implementation of tools and systems for quality management, performance management, assessment and self-assessment of the administrative activities and monitoring of public policies
- Concentration of functions and policies and optimization pursuant functional reviews of public policies
- Support to the decentralization and deconcentration process
- Development of Integrated public administration information system

Specific objective 2:

- Development of expedient and effective civil servant recruitment methods
- Development of career management tools, including mobility (permanent and temporary), mentoring, and coaching programs, systems ensuring continuity in administrations
- Strengthening the capacity of training institutions - IPA, the Training Academy to the Ministry of Interior and Institute of Psychology to the Ministry of Interior, the Diplomatic Institute to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and NAMRB in relation to the priority's objectives
- Organization and delivery of trainings for the administration at all levels
- Establishment of a system for monitoring the effectiveness of training
- Development of transnational cooperation and coordination with other EU Member States and EU institutions

Specific objective 3

- Analyses, studies, assessments, trainings and other activities by NGOs or networks / coalitions / platforms of NGOs and social and economic partners, to improve the business environment and the process of policy making, implementation and monitoring
- Joint actions between authorities and NGOs for the implementation of public policies
- Establishment of a system and mechanism for information exchange between stakeholders (entrepreneurs, national and local authorities and NGOs) in the field of sustainable tourism in Natura 2000 sites
- Development and implementation of new tools and methodologies, as well as dissemination of best practices to obtain in-depth knowledge on specific issues and/or solutions to combat corruption, conflict of interest and abuse of office

2.A.6.2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTION OF OPERATIONS (ART. 96 (2) (B) (III) OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013:

Only operations with activities fully compliant with the defined specific objectives of the programme will be funded. Quality of operations will be guaranteed by compliance with the following basic principles in the selection process:

(1) Compliance with the specific objectives of the programme and the relevant national and EU strategic documents.

Management and control systems will ensure that the programming process is not only compliant with the specific objectives of the programme but that it also reflects current needs and priorities of the administration and the judiciary, as evidenced by the relevant strategic documents at the national level. Programming will take into account current trends within the EU in the respective field. The Guidelines for Applicants under the operation will include mandatory indicators that are part of the OPGG system of indicators. Priority will be given to financing operations the execution of which is prioritized in the strategic documents that fall within the scope of the specific objectives of the programme.

(2) Transparency and stakeholder involvement

The necessary transparency in the development of the criteria for selection of operations will be guaranteed. The criteria will be approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee will include representatives of all stakeholders.

(3) Consistency and upgrade of achieved results

Given the specifics of the programme, the focus will be placed on the implementation and deployment of already achieved results. Sectoral operations in the field of e-governance will be implemented subject to the use of all developed or planned for development relevant horizontal e-governance systems of to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

(4) Efficient achievement of objectives and results of operations

Efficient achievement of objectives and results is one of the important indicators of operation quality. At the stage of programming and at the stage of project selection a summary analysis of maximum and recommended prices for the acquisition of goods or services from external suppliers, based on a survey of market prices will be available. The analysis will be updated on a three-year basis.

(5) Gender equality and non-discrimination.

Financial support under the programme will be provided to operations that guarantee as minimum non-discrimination and gender equality.

(6) Compliance with the sound financial management principles

During the selection of operations the MA shall ensure that all grants will be disbursed in respect of the principles of best value for money, effectiveness and efficiency. The investments shall contribute to the achievement of the programme indicators. At the same time the relation between the project's objectives, activities and expected results shall be observed, as well as the correspondence between the result achieved and the resources spent.

2.A.6.3. PLANNED USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (ART. 96 (2) (B) (III) OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013

Not applicable.

2.A.6.4. PLANNED USE OF MAJOR PROJECTS (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (ART. 96 (2) (B) (III) OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013

Not applicable.

2.A.6.5. OUTPUT INDICATORS BY INVESTMENT PRIORITY AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE BY CATEGORY OF REGION

Table 5: COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS (BY INVESTMENT PRIORITY, BROKEN DOWN BY CATEGORY OF REGION FOR THE ESF)

ID	Indicator (<i>name of indicator</i>)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023) ¹⁷			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	F	T		
CO20	Number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organizations	Number	ESF	<i>less developed regions</i>			350	reports	Annual
O2-1	Administrations supported for the introduction of quality management systems	Number	ESF	<i>less developed regions</i>			144	reports	Annual
O2-2	Number of sectoral/ policy functional reviews carried out	Number	ESF	<i>less developed regions</i>			10	reports	Annual
O2-3	Partnership projects for the development and / or implementation of key policies and legislation	Number	ESF	<i>less developed regions</i>			34	reports	Annual
O2-4	Number of administrations supported for the introduction of mentoring and coaching programs for employees	Number	ESF	<i>less developed regions</i>			50	reports	Annual
O2-5	Number of new / updated training modules for the administration supported	Number	ESF	<i>less developed regions</i>			100	IPA, NAMRB, Academy of the Ministry of Interior, Diplomatic Institute	Annual
O2-6	Total number of trained state administration employees	Number	ESF	<i>less developed regions</i>	75000	100000	175 000	reports	Annual

2.A.7. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE ESF, WHERE APPLICABLE (UNDER PRIORITY AXIS BROKEN DOWN BY REGION): SOCIAL INNOVATION, TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THEMATIC OBJECTIVES 1-7

The planned transnational cooperation activities are related to the use of the opportunities for two-way transfer of best practices with EU Member States on the topics covered by the priority axis, including the organization of internships and exchanges. The emphasis will be

¹⁷ For the ESF, this list includes those common output indicators for which a target value has been set. The target value can be presented either as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and CF gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant.

placed on interaction with European training institutes and on the need for exchange of experience in EU policies and legislation.

The Priority axis includes the following actions that will directly contribute to achieving the following thematic objectives of Regulation (EC) № 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (General Regulation):

- *Thematic objective 5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management* will be covered by OPGG by means of conducting specialized training for administrations at all levels, especially for those administrations that have direct responsibilities in this respect, as well as drills within the emergency planning and emergency response zones on facilities working with and/or storing hazardous substances and materials. Improving specialized training for those working in disaster protection will have a direct impact on ensuring a high level of protection for citizens and the environment in Bulgaria, as well as better coordination between the competent authorities and institutions. Supporting the development of environmentally friendly administration (non-paper activities, “green” public procurement, etc.) contributes to this thematic objective as well. OPGG includes activities for integration of environmental policy and climate change policy into the policies of the administration.
- The activities planned in Natura 2000 sites support the implementation of *Thematic objective 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency* in relation to capacity building of the institutions responsible for Natura 2000 sites and raising awareness of stakeholders.
- In terms of *Thematic objective 7 Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures*, the activities planned under OPGG can support the strengthening of the capacity of the respective administrations

2.A.8. PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B) (V) AND ANNEX II OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013)**Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis**

Priority axis	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023) ¹⁸			Source of data	Explanation of the importance of indicators as appropriate
								M	W	T		
2	Product	CO20	Number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organizations	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	50			350	reports	
2	Product	O2-1	Administrations supported for the introduction of quality management systems	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	48			144	reports	
2	Product	O2-5	Number of new / updated training modules for the administration supported	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	20			100	IPA, NAMRB, Academy of the Ministry of Interior, Diplomatic	

¹⁸ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

29.12.2014

											Institute	
2	Product	O2-6	Total number of trained state administration employees	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	30000	75 000	100000	175 000	reports	
2	Result	R2-2	Employees that have successfully completed the trainings upon receipt of a certificate	%	ESF	Less developed regions	82%			85%	reports	
2	Financial	F-2	Certified expenditure	EUR	ESF	Less developed regions	9 832 875,22			64 907 000	MA	

DRAFT

2.A.9. CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION (ARTICLE (2) (B) (VI))

Table 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	119	64907000

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	01	64907000

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	ESF	
Priority axis	Code	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	01	48680250
2	02	6490700
2	03	3245350
2	06	6490700

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	00	64907000

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme (ESF only)		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	01	3245350
2	05	3245350
2	08	58416300

2.A.10 SUMMARY OF THE PLANNED USE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INCLUDING, WHERE NECESSARY, ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE PROGRAMMES AND BENEFICIARIES (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B), (VII) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

The funding under PA 5 will be used for expertise in support to the Managing Authority in relation to the project evaluation committees under the priority axis, checking procurement project documentation (ex-ante and ex-post control), supporting the monitoring of physical and financial project implementation. Analysis on axis-specific topics will be funded so as to lay out Guidelines for applicants in a most efficient manner. Assessments will be carried out, including impact evaluations of interventions under the axis, especially for projects of NGOs and social and economic partners.

Within the framework of technical assistance, the Managing Authority will conduct information days, where the beneficiaries will be provided with practical information on how to apply under a specific call for proposals, including, how to fill in the application form and how to structure the project budget.

Immediately after the approval of projects the Managing Authority will conduct trainings for beneficiaries, where detailed information on the implementation of projects under the priority axis will be provided: reporting, preparation of requests for payment, preparation of public procurement procedures under the project by the beneficiary and supervision by the MA and the PPA. Trainings for beneficiaries under the priority axis will include a module with examples of best practices and mistakes made in such types of projects, etc.

PRIORITY AXIS № 3 TRANSPARENT AND EFFICIENT JUDICIARY

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable) (Article 96(1) of REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

Not applicable. The Priority axis covers only Thematic objective "Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration"

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	Not applicable

2.A.3 FUND, CATEGORY OF REGION AND CALCULATION BASIS FOR UNION SUPPORT

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ESF</i>
<i>Category of region</i>	<i>Less developed regions</i>
<i>Calculation basis (public funds)</i>	<i>30195500</i>
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>

2.A.4 Investment priority

<i>Investment priority</i>	<i>Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance</i>
----------------------------	--

2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results (Art. 96(2) (b) (I)-(II) of Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013)**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Increase of transparency and acceleration of judicial proceedings through structural, procedural and organisational reforms in the judiciary**

Efforts will be focused on improving the performance of the judiciary in order to achieve faster, impartial and more efficient justice. This cannot be achieved without optimization of the structure of the judiciary and availability of court statistics, improvement of the strategic planning and management of the judiciary. The regulatory framework for transparent and efficient justice will be updated in order to fulfil these objectives. The SJC is currently building the necessary capacity under OPAC for the introduction of programme budgeting in the judiciary. The pilot institutions are NIJ, SAC and the Prosecutor's Office of Bulgaria. The efforts will continue with introduction of programme budgeting in all bodies of the judiciary.

OPGG will support key areas of the judicial reform, including juvenile justice and legal aid. The excessive length of criminal proceedings and the absence of effective legal remedies are a major problem. The statutory deadlines for preparation of judicial acts have not been complied with. It is important to emphasize the consistency of case law. The statistics of the European Court of Human Rights shows that Bulgaria has the highest number of judgments awaiting enforcement among all Member States.

The reforms in the sector are also hampered by the absence of a monitoring and evaluation system. According to the 2014 EU Justice Scoreboard the Bulgarian judicial system can rely solely on performance and result indicators, which should be improved within the programme by introducing a regular system of evaluation and quality standards.

Bulgaria is among the three EU Member states, where alternative dispute resolution methods are least developed. The programme will support initiatives in the field of out-of-court mediation, conciliation and arbitration. These can significantly reduce the number of new cases and the duration of the handling of cases by the courts. The workload of the courts and

prosecutors is imbalanced. No comprehensive policy in the field of human resources exists. The current system does not guarantee the professional development of magistrates according to their professional merit and ethical behavior. The performance assessment procedures and disciplinary regulations are still insufficiently effective in ensuring positive career selection and motivation. Although the introduction of competitions was an important step, their organization still raises doubts about their objectivity. The widespread practice of transferring of magistrates has become a parallel career process. The overcoming of these challenges will be supported within the specific objective.

Another specific area of intervention is the coordination and cooperation with different institutions, especially those involved in preventing and combating corruption and organized crime.

Limiting the systemic deficiencies in the legal framework, the judicial practice and the practice of the prosecution will increase the number of successful cases against corruption at the highest levels of power and will speed up those legal proceedings. It is necessary to develop an integrated policy to prevent conflicts of interest and corruption in the judiciary.

The SJC is developing and introducing an automated system for random distribution of cases under an OPAC project. OPGG will finance the implementation of the system in all courts and the regular independent reviews of the functioning of the system.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Improve the accessibility and the accountability of the judiciary through the introduction of e-justice

The introduction of e-justice and e-governance in the sector is key priority of the Ministry of Justice. E-justice is a tool to increase the transparency of the judicial authorities and to facilitate the access of citizens and business to justice.

The Bulgarian judiciary is lagging behind in terms of the provision of electronic communication and exchange of information between courts and litigants. In 2014 the regulatory framework does not provide for a possibility to use electronic documents, electronic signatures or to exercise procedural rights in electronic form. The actual launch of e-Justice^{vi} for the citizens and the business is possible only after the adoption of the necessary amendments in several legislative acts – Judicial System Act, Civil Procedure Code, Administrative Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code, etc.

Besides the economic effects of the system the introduction of paperless justice will address the problems with the storage of huge paper archives, loss of data on cases, loss of evidence, etc. The introduction of e-justice will contribute to improving the quality of service delivery, the reliability, the transparency, the accountability and the rule of law. The centralization of the access to electronic services in the judiciary will facilitate their use by citizens, administrative bodies and legal persons and will reduce their cost. The identity of users will be verified using the e-ID of Bulgarian citizens.

In 2013, the SJC is working through OPAC on the analytical aspects of the system, including the development and implementation of a single access portal, as well as the basic operating requirements of e-justice. The portal will also include a module for electronic random distribution of cases and an electronic voting system for direct election of SJC members from the judicial quota. The portal will provide centralized and authorized access to the content of electronic cases in real-time, publication of electronic communications and electronic subpoenas, access to standardised websites of the courts, etc.

There are possibilities for the overall optimization of the activity of the justice sector to ensure the interoperability, the optimization of the work processes, to improve the current

29.12.2014

regulatory framework, etc., through the development and implementation of a unified e-justice system.

The development of the Unified Information System for Combating Crime (UISCC) will be completed.

The introduction of e-justice for citizens and businesses will provide high quality of and accessibility to justice and services 24/7, as well as economy of time and money. For the judicial authorities there will be limitation of the possibilities for corruption through objective means of control and analysis, objectivity in the allocation of cases and centralization of all information services, their management and control.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: Extension of the scope and improvement of the quality of training in the judicial system

Most of the judges, prosecutors and investigators have a good general training and experience. According to the SJC 62% of the judges, prosecutors and investigators are aged under 45, which suggests a significant generational renewal of the human resources in the institutions of the judiciary. Many of these magistrates entered the judiciary with competitions and have high motivation to work. This increasingly applies also to the administrative staff.

The availability and access to professional trainings for magistrates and judicial staff however is inadequate, especially as regards continuing training. Bulgaria^{vii} is among the eleven EU Member States where the only mandatory training for magistrates is the initial training. Given the complexity of the matter handled by magistrates, court officials and employees in the investigative bodies and the high dynamics of social and legal relations, the investments in the human factor improve the efficiency of justice.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the institution to which the training of the staff in the judicial system is assigned by the Judicial System Act^{viii}.¹⁹ During the previous programming period the Institute constantly raised the quality and expanded the scope of the provided educational services in terms of their types, forms, topics and audiences, mainly thanks to the support of OPAC. There is need for continued investments to strengthen and expand the capacity of the NIJ, so that it would be able to adequately meet the growing needs of the judicial system for training to overcome the identified weaknesses, shortcomings and deficits.

In this relation NIJ needs to expand its activity while simultaneously support should also be provided by the programme to trainings not covered by NIJ.

Trainings for increasing the professionalism of the investigating authorities under the CPC will be conducted to address the weaknesses in the pre-trial phase of justice.

With regard to juvenile justice, actions will be taken to improve its effectiveness through training of magistrates. The Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme and the Norwegian Mechanism will be used to finance mainly structural and legislative changes in the field of juvenile justice and to build capacity at national level for implementation of the Convention on human rights, including to overcome delays in the administration of justice.

¹⁹ NIJ conducts mandatory initial training of candidates for junior judges and junior prosecutors, and provides training to maintain and improve the qualifications of judges, court clerks and other persons referred to in Art. 249, para. 1 of the Judicial System Act. In its report of 18.07.2012 to the EP and the Council, the European Commission points out that the NIJ has grown from a training center into an autonomous training institute and underlines that NIJ has been constantly increasing the access to training (including distance training) of magistrates and court clerks in the country.

Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (Art. 96 (2) (b) (ii) of Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013)

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement Unit for Indicator	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline Value	Measurement Unit for Baseline and Target	Baseline Year	Target Value ²⁰ (2023)			Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
								M	W	T		
R3-1	Introduced new and improvement of existing tools for modernization of the judiciary	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	13	<i>Number</i>	2014			43	<i>Reports and monitoring</i>	<i>Annually</i>
R3-2	Number of cases led electronically	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	0	<i>Number</i>	2014			250000	<i>Statistics of SJC</i>	<i>Annually</i>
R3-3	Magistrates, court staff and employees of the investigating authorities under CPC who successfully completed training with a certificate	<i>Less developed regions</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	9101	<i>Number</i>	2013			29101	<i>Reports</i>	<i>Annually</i>

2.A.6. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED UNDER THE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

2.A.6.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE AND EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED AND THEIR EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES INCLUDING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN TARGET GROUPS, SPECIFIC TERRITORIES TARGETED AND TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES

Specific objective 1

Pursuant the Updated Strategy for Continuing the Reform in the Judiciary the optimization of the structures of the judiciary, including the judicial map and the introduction of real programme budgeting will be supported, allowing for the integration of the budget process with the strategic planning in areas such as human resources, workload, units' performance and e-justice. Measures for further optimization and reorganization of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, including partnership projects for joint training, networking and cooperation with other EU Member States will be supported.

Support will be provided to activities for implementation and enforcement of appropriate rules and procedures for recruitment, appraisal and career development of magistrates and court staff. Activities for evaluation and optimization of human resources in the judiciary will be implemented. Financing will be provided for the design and implementation of a human resources strategy based on needs and workload analysis, the changes in the structure of the courts and the recruitment and training.

²⁰ This list includes those common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme specific result indicators. The target values for common result indicators have to be quantified and for programme specific result indicators they can be qualitative or quantitative. The target value can be presented either as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender.

29.12.2014

Financing will be provided for analysis and unification of jurisprudence and the practice of the SJC in disciplinary proceedings.

The improvement of internal rules and the introduction of quality management methodologies and systems in the judiciary, as well as a system for management and control of the quality of judicial training and the improvement of e-records will be funded in order to improve the quality of justice. The introduction of a regular system to evaluate the judiciary will be encouraged.

A comprehensive review of the system of court fees will be encouraged and the opportunities for its amendment will be analyzed.

OPGG will support the introduction of an effective system for monitoring and sanctions of conflicts of interests, as well as mechanisms for disclosure of assets and an appropriate system of inspections. Electronic records will be created to disclose a broader range of circumstances and a methodology for carrying out regular inspections of the magistrates and the court administration for presence of corruption factors will be established. A system of ethical self-regulation and a regularly updated system of training on particular cases specific to the work of the judges, prosecutors and investigators will be introduced. The improvement of the work of local professional ethics commissions will be supported, the good practices will be summarized and exchanged and further training will be provided to the local ethics commissions.

To ensure the sustainable reduction of the length of criminal and civil proceedings a strategy will be developed and implemented to limit the cases of delay in the preparation of judicial reasoning and the ways to tackle this problem, including by promoting alternative methods for legal dispute resolution will be analyzed in depth. The introduction of similar methods in most courts in the country will be prioritized in order to achieve a real reduction of the significant workload of the court system. Support will be given to projects for providing information to the general public about the alternative dispute resolution methods and for strengthening the capacity of the specialized bodies.

Activities related to the updating of the penal policy and the reform and development of the bodies of investigation will be financed. Particular emphasis will be placed on the support to measures for optimization of the model of expert reports. The focus will be on activities to increase the trust in the judiciary through public participation and transparency, including through the institute of jurors.

The investigative bodies under the CPC and the magistrates will be able to improve their capacity for analysis of complex economic, financial and other specialized issues. The prosecution will be supported in planning and conducting complex investigations. There will be support for measures for inter-institutional coordination in the field of statistical reporting including the reporting related to the detection of crime.

The introduction and promotion of distributive justice in order to achieve effects without sanctions will be encouraged. To improve the access to justice the development of the system of legal aid will be supported.

The reform of juvenile justice for introduction of international and European standards in that field will be supported.

The focus will be on projects aiming to improve the interaction and collaboration between police and prosecutors and the interaction between the judiciary and the executive authorities and other specialized bodies, in particular with regard to the fight against corruption, tax and customs offenses, trafficking of people and valuables, laundry and forgery of money, forfeiture of illegal assets, etc.

A priority will be the supporting of the open participation of all NGOs active in the field and the professional organizations in the development, monitoring and evaluation of reform strategies and proposals for improvements of the judicial sector. Priority will be placed on projects that offer transfer of good practices and innovative solutions for eliminating the deficiencies in the structure, management, staff, training, cooperation and professional practices.

Specific objective 2

The support for the modernization of the judicial system through the introduction of e-justice will be continued.

Analysis will be performed of the legal framework, the existing technological processes, the methods of collecting and compiling statistical information as well as of the initiatives in the field of e-justice and the existing strategic and legal documents at European level. A priority intervention at the beginning of the period will be the inventory taking and the analysis of the IT and the communication infrastructure, the information systems and the services of the judiciary.

The necessary technological tools for monitoring, management and capacity planning, including compliance with the standards in the field of information security will be supported institutionally as a result of the conducted analyses. Centralized rules and policies for the use of IT resources will be introduced and cloud infrastructure will be developed for the justice sector. Activities for technological and organizational optimization, reengineering of work processes, preparation or modification of internal rules and others will be supported in order to reach the necessary level of preparedness of the various judicial bodies and the investigative authorities for inclusion in the e-justice system in accordance with the rules laid down by the SJC. Trainings for improving the qualification of employees and magistrates in the field of IT will be financed in connection with the implementation of the e-justice system.

A virtual private network covering the buildings in the sector, ensuring reliable and secure exchange of information will be developed at the same time. After reliable connectivity has been provided gradual migration of the existing allocated resources, systems and services will begin towards the state hybrid private cloud supported under Priority axis 1. Newly-developed or upgraded system and application services will operate directly on the hybrid private cloud.

The required high level of security and reliability of the channels for access to e-justice and e-services will be ensured through modern electronic means (kiosks, etc.) as well as through mobile access for the citizens in the justice sector buildings.

The design and content of the web-sites of the structures in the justice sector will continue to be unified. The number of portals will be reduced and the individual websites of the structures will be migrated to the single e-justice portals of the judiciary and the executive authorities.

A single information system of courts (SISC) will be created to serve as the basis of e-justice and a prerequisite for achieving the result indicator set. Magistrates and court staff will be trained to work with it. The information systems in the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office of Bulgaria will be redesigned to ensure a reliable environment for paperless document turnover and operation with electronic content. Activities involving development and upgrade of internal and external information systems related to the judicial sector, improving the security of information and the interoperability will be supported.

The Unified Information System for Combating Crime will be further developed building upon the efforts from the previous programming period under OPAC by providing public access to information at the core of the system associated with the Open Data Initiative as well as in the provision of complex administrative services. The optimization of the Unified

Information System for Combating Crime in terms of its functionality and efficiency and its connection to the systems of e-Government and e-justice will also be supported.

After the implementation of pilot initiatives under OPAC and in the presence of adequate legal regulations the next step will involve greater use of videoconferencing in the phases of pre-trial and trial proceedings and cross-border cooperation in justice matters. 30 rooms are to be equipped for that purpose.

Specific objective 3

NIJ activity expansion will be supported in the direction of its turning into analytical and research center for the judiciary, including publication activities. NIJ will be financed to expand the scope of the trainings with regard to topics, forms, quantity and audience, as well as to develop its regional training programme. For a more complete coverage of the target groups by the current training, the practice for conducting training sessions for a mixed audience and for intensified training of specific target groups will continue. Simultaneously, the training forms will be diversified through a wider use of IT and other technological solutions, implemented in the training activity; combining attendance forms with on-line training and teaching materials publication; e-learning; regional training; mentorship scope expansion; training and internship at European judicial institutions; foreign language training. This will guarantee as a minimum one training per each magistrate by the end of the programming period.

The conducting of the mandatory trainings compliant with Chapter 11 of the Judiciary System Act (JSA), for which national budget funding is ensured, does not fall within the scope of the OPGG. The programme will provide support to all remaining trainings, which ensure capacity development and increase in the qualification of magistrates and court staff. OPGG will also support specialized trainings, targeted to magistrates and court staff with managerial and administrative functions, as well as to investigating bodies according to the Penal Procedure Code (PPC) and inspectors from the Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council (ISJC). Trainings of legal practitioners will also be financed. Internship programmes for magistrates and court officials will be organized. The capacity of the teaching staff of the Institute will be strengthened, so that they can update, improve and adapt the syllabuses to the training needs of the magistrates and court staff.

For compliance of the proposed trainings with the needs of the target groups, partners' projects for conducting joint trainings as well as for establishing networks and cooperation for training purposes with other EU Member States, as well as with national training and educational institutions, will be encouraged.

Identification of the main target groups

Magistrates, court staff, members of the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC), ISJC inspectors, investigating bodies pursuant to the PPC, employees of the Ministry of Justice (MJ), legal practitioners, citizens, business, members of the Program Council and NIJ teaching staff.

Specific target territories

Projects must benefit the programme area and may be implemented on the entire territory of the country and of the other EU Member States.

Types of beneficiaries

Supreme Judicial Council, Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council, Supreme Court of Cassation, Supreme Administrative Court, Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, General Directorate "Execution of Penalties", National Legal Aid Bureau, State Agency for Child Protection, Training Academy to the

Ministry of Interior, Commission for Withdrawal of Criminal Assets, National Institute of Justice, non-governmental and professional organizations, operating in the field of justice.

Indicative eligible activities:

Specific objective 1

- Analyses, studies, methodologies and evaluations, supporting the implementation of a reform in the structure, procedures and the organization of the justice sector, including the aim to increase the independence of the judiciary
- Analysis and evaluation of the existing system for statistical reporting and creation of a new statistical reporting model of the bodies in the justice sector
- Judicial map optimization
- Build-on and expansion of the scope, as well as introduction of programme budgeting in all judicial bodies
- Measures to balance the work load of the magistrates
- Evaluating and reforming the procedures for recruitment, individual performance assessment and career development of the magistrates and the court staff
- Developing set of tools to evaluate the efficiency of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Council to uniform the courts' practice for achieving predictable and quality justice
- Restructuring of the disciplinary proceedings in observation of the international standards and recommendations
- Preventing the conflict of interests and corruption within the judiciary through creation of electronic registers for disclosure of a broader range of circumstances and through efficient control mechanisms, including regular checks for the existence of corruption risks
- Developing and widening the implementation of alternative dispute resolution methods, including through information campaigns
- Reforming the penalty and penitentiary policy to limit the criminal repression through administrative penalties
- Developing new system and organization of the expert reports
- Developing mechanisms and tools for citizen feedback on the use of services provided by the judicial bodies;
- Joint activities of the judicial bodies and the executive bodies involved with regard to specific topics of the penal and administrative jurisdiction (e.g. tax and customs offenses, trafficking of people and valuables, laundry and forgery of money, etc.)
- Activities to improve the interaction with the non-governmental and professional organizations for more active inclusion in the process of development, monitoring and evaluation of the reform strategies and of the proposals for judiciary improvement.

Specific objective 2

- Inventory taking and the analysis of the IT and the communication infrastructure, the information systems and the services
- Delivery and installment of communication equipment to further develop the virtual private network covering the buildings in the sector, ensuring reliable and secure exchange of information

- Migration of the existing resources, systems and services to the e-governance hybrid private cloud
- Development and implementation of paperless Single information system of courts (SISC), training of magistrates and employees to use the system
- Development of new and upgrade of existing e-services delivered by the justice sector
- Further development of the Unified Information System for Combating Crime (UISCC) and its interface with e-governance and e-justice systems, including the institutional Automated Information Systems (AIS), which ensure data and information exchange
- Applying video-conferencing technologies in the justice sector

Specific objective 3

- Improvement and expanding the scope of NIJ syllabuses, including regional and distance training, training of trainers (ToT), and adoption of best European practices
- Exchange programmes for magistrates and court staff, including on-the-spot visits, internships at European judicial institutions
- Research and analytical activities and publications in the field of justice for the needs of the training
- Development and improvement of “e-learning” technological and IT systems, including improvement of the electronic registers
- NIJ organizational development, including introduction of judicial training quality management and control system and development of judicial training communication strategy
- Development and establishment of institutional relations with European and national networks and institutions in the field of judicial training
- Enhancing NIJ capacity for management and implementation of European judicial training instruments
- Preparation, organization and delivery of trainings (including distance and other innovative training forms), seminars, round tables, etc. for magistrates, court staff and investigating bodies pursuant to PPC, as well as for MJ employees and for legal practitioners.

2.A.6.2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTION OF THE OPERATIONS (ART. 96 (2) (B) (III) OF REGULATION (EU) No. 1303/2013:

Only operations with activities fully compliant with the defined specific objectives of the programme will be funded. Quality of operations will be guaranteed by compliance with the following basic principles in the selection process:

(1) Compliance with the specific objectives of the programme and the relevant national and EU strategic documents.

Management and control systems will ensure that the programming process is not only compliant with the specific objectives of the programme but that it also reflects current needs and priorities of the administration and the judiciary, as evidenced by the relevant strategic documents at the national level. Programming will take into account current trends within the EU in the respective field. The Guidelines for Applicants under the operation will include mandatory indicators that are part of the OPGG system of indicators. Priority will be given to

29.12.2014

financing operations the execution of which is prioritized in the strategic documents that fall within the scope of the specific objectives of the programme.

Specific criteria for selection of IT operations under the OPGG have been developed. They are uploaded as annex to the OP.

(2) Transparency and stakeholder involvement

The necessary transparency in the development of the criteria for selection of operations will be guaranteed. The criteria will be approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee will include representatives of all stakeholders.

(3) Consistency and upgrade of achieved results

Given the specifics of the programme, the focus will be placed on the implementation and deployment of already achieved results. Sectoral operations in the field of e-governance will be implemented subject to the use of all developed or planned for development relevant horizontal e-governance systems of to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

(4) Efficient achievement of objectives and results of operations

Efficient achievement of objectives and results is one of the important indicators of operation quality. At the stage of programming and at the stage of project selection a summary analysis of maximum and recommended prices for the acquisition of goods or services from external suppliers, based on a survey of market prices will be available. The analysis will be updated on a three-year basis.

(5) Gender equality and non-discrimination.

Financial support under the programme will be provided to operations that guarantee as minimum non-discrimination and gender equality.

(6) Compliance with the sound financial management principles

During the selection of operations the MA shall ensure that all grants will be disbursed in respect of the principles of best value for money, effectiveness and efficiency. The investments shall contribute to the achievement of the programme indicators. At the same time the relation between the project's objectives, activities and expected results shall be observed, as well as the correspondence between the result achieved and the resources spent.

2.A.6.3. PLANNED USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B) (III) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013

Not applicable.

2.A.6.4. PLANNED USE OF MAJOR PROJECTS (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B) (III) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013

Not applicable.

2.A.6.5. OUTPUT INDICATORS BY INVESTMENT PRIORITY AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE BY CATEGORY OF REGION

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF)

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO20	Number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organizations	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			50	Reports	Annually
O3-1	Analyzes, research, studies, methodologies and assessments related to the operation of the judiciary supported	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			50	Reports	Annually
O3-2	Projects for the implementation of joint actions	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			7	Reports	Annually
O3-3	Judicial authorities supported for the introduction of program budgeting	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			180	Reports	Annually
O3-4	Projects for the promotion and development of alternative dispute resolution methods	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			5	Reports	Annually
O3-5	Number of institutions with IT and communication infrastructure audits	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			180	Reports	Annually
O3-6	Number of supported e-services of the judiciary	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			5	Reports	Annually
O3-7	SISC designed	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			1	Reports	Annually
O3-8	Trained magistrates, court officials, officials of the investigating authorities under the CPC	Number	ESF	Less developed regions			25 000	NIJ reports	Annually

2.A.7. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE ESF, WHERE APPLICABLE (BY PRIORITY AXIS, BROKEN DOWN BY CATEGORY OF REGION): SOCIAL INNOVATION, TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THEMATIC OBJECTIVES 1-7

The planned transnational cooperation activities are related to the use of the opportunities for sharing best practices with EU Member States on the subjects covered by the axis, including the organization of internships and practices. To ensure that proposed trainings match the

29.12.2014

needs of the target groups, networking and cooperation in joint trainings with other EU Member States will be encouraged.

The Priority axis comprises a series of actions that will directly contribute to achieving the following thematic objectives of Regulation (EC) № 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (General Regulation):

- *Thematic objective 2: Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT:* the planned activities address the difficulties identified with relation to the introduction of e-justice, including investment in administrative and technical capacity.

DRAFT

2.A.8. PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B) (V) AND ANNEX II OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

Priority axis	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023) ²¹			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
								M	W	T		
3	Product	O3-1	Analyzes, research, studies, methodologies and assessments related to the operation of the judiciary supported	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	20			50	Reports	
3	Product	O3-6	Number of supported e-services of the judiciary	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	1			5	Reports	
3	Product	O3-7	Trained magistrates, court officials, officials of the investigating	Number	ESF	Less developed regions	4000			25 000	NIJ Reports	

²¹ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

29.12.2014

			authorities under the CPC									
3	Financial	F-3	Certified expenditure	EUR	ESF	Less developed regions	4 576 850,85			30 195 500	MA	

DRAFT

2.A.9. CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B) (VI))

Table 7-11: Categories of interventions (by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	119	30195500

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	01	30195500

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	01	24341175
3	02	2284775
3	06	3569550

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	07	30195500

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme²² (ESF only)		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	

²² Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	05	15125000
3	08	15070500

2.A.10. SUMMARY OF THE PLANNED USE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INCLUDING, WHERE NECESSARY, ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE PROGRAMMES AND BENEFICIARIES (ARTICLE 96 (2) (B), (VII) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

The funding under PA 5 will be used for providing IT expertise in support of the Managing Authority in relation to the project evaluation committees under the priority axis, checking procurement project documentation (ex-ante and ex-post control), supporting the monitoring of physical and financial project implementation. Analysis of axis-specific topics will be funded so as to most efficiently lay out Guidelines for applicants. Assessments will be carried out, including impact assessments of interventions under the axis, given the important role of the rule of law to provide a favourable business environment.

Within the framework of technical assistance, the Managing Authority will conduct information days where the beneficiaries will be provided with practical information for applicants who apply under a specific call for proposals, including how to complete the application form and how to structure the budget of the project.

Immediately following the approval of projects the Managing Authority will organise trainings for beneficiaries, where detailed information on the implementation of projects under the priority axis will be provided: reporting, preparation of payment requests, preparation of public procurement procedures under the project by the beneficiary and supervision by the MA and the PPA.

2.B Description of the priority axes for technical assistance**PRIORITY AXIS № 4 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ESIF****2.B.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIORITY AXIS COVERING MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY OF REGION, THEMATIC OBJECTIVE OR FUND (WHERE APPLICABLE) (ARTICLE 96 (1) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/ 2013)**

Not applicable.

2.B.3 FUND AND CATEGORY OF REGION

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ESF</i>
<i>Category of region</i>	<i>Less developed regions</i>
<i>Calculation basis</i>	<i>61960058</i>

2.B.4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS**Specific objective 1: *Support for the horizontal structures responsible for the management and implementation of ESIF***

At the end of 2013, 1647 employees work in the units for management and implementation of SCF, EAFRD and EFF. Turnover remains at low levels (6.4% for 2013). After the reform in 2012, remuneration in the system does not differ from that of other civil servants. Analysis of the existing model of remuneration is necessary, to eliminate distortion of its implementation in three consecutive years in terms of employees working in the ESIF.

The OPTA interim evaluation recommends conducting comparative evaluations of OPs, meta-assessments and evaluation of the implementation of horizontal policies or systems of indicators. Gaps have been identified in the monitoring and evaluation capacity, which have delayed the reprogramming actions.

General ex-ante conditionalities are a challenge for Bulgaria, therefore funds will have to be allocated to improve the capacity and coordination. OPGG will finance the implementation plans of all general ex-ante conditionalities. In 2007-2013 weaknesses have been identified in the field of public procurement and state aid. A significant part of ESIF is spent under the Public Procurement Act. PPA plays a key role in this field due to its legal functions related to legislation, methodology and preliminary control. A significant development of preliminary control is needed to limit the risk of errors and reduce the percentage of financial corrections. In addition to the training and qualification of personnel, methodologies and rules for standardization of processes should be developed.

The "Real Sector Finance" Directorate at Ministry of Finance is responsible for compliance with the rules on state aid. It is only in 2014 that the administrative capacity of the unit is partially strengthened through trainings under the OPTA. EC requires about 90% of the aid measures to be assessed by national authorities (RSFD). The majority of the de minimis and state aid measures in Bulgaria are implemented with EU funds. The continuous support will consist in: training and qualification; development of methods and rules for standardization of processes; increasing the coordination and guidance provided to the managing authorities

29.12.2014

concerning the applicable state aid regime, in particular with regard to priority projects financed through ESIF.

The established system of indicators has been assessed as weak by the evaluations of the NSRF and the OPs. NSI is the institution responsible for the relevant ex-ante conditionality and as such will play a key role both in the preparation of the Bulgarian proposal to the European Commission for the allocation of the performance reserve in 2019 and in the coordination of the implementation of the programmes. In order to develop horizontal coordination it is necessary to develop a statistical validation framework, as well as procedures for collecting and processing microdata needed to evaluate the contribution of the activities to the specific objectives of each OP. NSI's website needs to be developed in order to track the implementation of Europe 2020; trainings for experts validating the indicators of the ESIF programmes need to be delivered.

The AFCOS Directorate is a specialized structure within the Ministry of Interior, exercising control and performing information and coordination activities for the protection of EU financial interests. It is a national contact point with OLAF.

The follow-up of the PA and the ESIF programmes' contribution to the implementation of horizontal policies such as environmental policy and climate change policy, as well as to the measures under the National Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 will be a challenge.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Ensuring effective functioning of UMIS 2020

Since 2009 a unified management information system (UMIS) is used in Bulgaria for all operational programmes funded by SCF 2007-2013. The unified information system allows access to digital services for all beneficiaries. Bulgaria will continue to use UMIS and the system will be further developed. The OPTA interim evaluation has identified the following opportunities to improve the system: better navigation in the system, development of a more user-friendly interface, wider automated report functions, better options to attach files in the system.

The information system for the period 2014-2020 will be named UMIS 2020. In order to ensure better ESIF management and coordination in Bulgaria, an interface between UMIS 2020 and the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) will be developed and maintained as in the programming period 2007-2013.

Since expanded functionalities of UMIS 2020 will be operational at the end of 2015, subsequent trainings need to be delivered in the period 2015-2020. Significant increase in the trainings for the users and trainers of the system is necessary to meet the requirement for e-communication between beneficiaries and managing authorities and the access of beneficiaries to UMIS 2020.

E-communication through UMIS 2020 will reduce the administrative burden on all applicants and beneficiaries. The options for e-application and e-reporting have been developed in the programming period 2007-2013. The services offered by the system need to be upgraded with new functionalities. The experience accumulated in the UMIS development and operation indicates that the business processes and procedures of the MAs undergo frequent changes, which need to be introduced in the information system. This entails 24/7 maintenance of the system, as well as the development of new functionalities.

UMIS 2020 upgrade with different applications will expand its functionalities and will make it accessible to a wide range of users. The OPTA-funded system help desk will ensure smooth transition between UMIS and UMIS 2020 and will supplement the users trainings. This desk

29.12.2014

will assist the system users through advice and information. It will also support the system's maintenance and upgrade through provision of information on software problems identified, most common errors, reaction time for correction of identified problem etc.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: Increase of public awareness on the ESIF opportunities and results in Bulgaria, and improvement of beneficiary capacity

The Single Information Web Portal on EU Structural funds in the Republic of Bulgaria (www.eufunds.bg) provides up-to-date and user-friendly information. The portal will be maintained, updated and upgraded on a regular basis and will provide information on all ESIF programmes.

The network of 28 information centers for EU Cohesion policy promotion in Bulgaria is operational since 2012. The Regional Information Centers (RIC) function as one-stop-shops and actively assist the MAs in conducting regional information campaigns. The network actively cooperates with the local administrations, Employment Offices and Regional Education Inspectorates, as well as with the universities and high schools ensuring that the information on the SCF reaches all potential beneficiaries, including the youth. This cooperation should be continued in the period 2014-2020 in support of the implementation of EU priorities for encouraging youth employment. RIC collaborate closely with the "Europe Direct" Centers and coordinates on a regular basis with Europe Enterprise, Global Libraries, National Agricultural Network and Network of the MA information and publicity officers. The network partners with regional media and regularly publishes columns in electronic media.

Until July 2014 the RIC network has organized 3187 public events with 89503 participants. The network offices have been visited by 37197 people, which is an increase by 45% between 2012 and 2013 and with additional 8% by the middle of 2014. These results lead to the conclusion, that RIC are one of the contributing factors for the increased SCF absorption in the period 2011-2014.

Eurobarometer study from December 2013^{ix} shows that in the period 2010-2013 the Cohesion policy awareness in Bulgaria has increased by 18%, which is the top result among all 27 EU member-states, and at the end of 2013 stands at 62%. This is the period when the RIC network was established and became operational. A study held by the network in 2013^x shows it to be among the three major information channels (along with the OP web sites and the Single Information Web Portal on EU Structural funds).

In the period 2007-2013 the network provided information on the SCF co-funded programmes only. 232 from a total of 265 municipalities in Bulgaria are potential beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme. Thus, the RIC need to provide specific information on that programme and the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Programme as well.

In view of the excellent results achieved and in order to maintain and develop the capacity and partnerships already established, in 2014-2020 the network should be further developed and its scope should be widened to encompass all ESIF-funded programs. In this way all Bulgarian citizens will obtain access to user-friendly information on ESIF.

EU Cohesion policy and its objectives in Bulgaria will be promoted through the implementation of the National Communication Strategy (NCS) for the programming period 2014-2020. Activities related to the development of the National Network of the MA information and publicity officers (incl. trainings, participation in international events etc.)

29.12.2014

will be funded. The preparation for the next programming period 2021-2027 will also be promoted through various activities.

2.B.5. RESULT INDICATORS

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) – art. 96 (2) (c)(ii) of Regulation (EC No.1303/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value ²³			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
R4-1	Annual turnover of the beneficiaries' staff	Share	6.4%	2013			5%	Unified information system on human resources management in the state administration/ Integrated information system of the state administration, verification from beneficiaries at annual basis	Annually
R4-2	Satisfaction of participants with trainings delivered	Share	80%	2013			85%	Polls, reports, questionnaires	Annually
R4-3	Satisfaction of UMIS users	Share	79%	2013			83%	Polls, questionnaires	Annually
R4-4	Share of the population of 15+, aware of the EU Cohesion policy	Share	62%	2013			70%	Sociological studies	2018, 2021, 2023

2.B.6. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED AND THEIR EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES – ART.96 (2) (C) (III OF REGULATION (EC) No. 1303/2013

PA4 will support horizontal activities to combat corruption by implementation of effective and proportionate measures for effective detection and reporting of irregularities. The priority axes for technical assistance under the other ESIF programmes will support the activities of the Managing Authorities for the period 2014-2020 pursuant art.125 of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013.

The National strategy for prevention and combatting irregularities and fraud damaging the financial interests of the European Union for the period 2014-2020 implements the EC

²³ Target values may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values may be adjusted accordingly. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

29.12.2014

Guidance for Member States and Programme Authorities for fraud risk assessment and effective and proportionate antifraud measures.

PA4 will fund: development of platforms and mechanisms for presenting and discussing the most frequent errors and disseminating best practices in the administration of irregularities; development of models for prevention of irregularities and fraud damaging the financial interests of the EU; development of analytical and risk assessment capacity regarding EU funds and national budget abuse; delivery of information campaigns, public forums, press conferences, seminars etc. for the general public on matters related to combatting irregularities and fraud damaging the financial interests of EU; development and implementation of publicly accessible “Irregularities” module in UMIS; establishment of simplified procedures for interaction of the Managing authorities with the NRA in view of non-voluntary recovery of funds in case of non-compliance etc.

The TA priority axes under the other ESIF programmes will cover: the remuneration of at least two interchangeable “irregularity officers”; staff trainings on the EU regulations for the programming period 2014-2020 and the national regulatory framework; improvement of the organizational structure and streamlining of the prevention activities; strengthening the ability of beneficiaries to detect and prevent errors and irregularities during projects preparation and implementation; maintenance of unified registers with signals and cases of irregularities; informing the AFCOS Directorate on any registered irregularities and frauds; developing of MA internal rules for the programming period 2014-2020 on the recovery of amounts unduly paid under the respective programmes.

The TA priority axes of the other ESIF programmes fund the validation and monitoring by the NSI of the achievement of the respective programme indicators. PA4 funds horizontal methodologies applicable to all ESIF programmes, horizontal studies and research by the NSI in relation to the implementation of the Partnership Agreement.

PA4 covers information and publicity activities for ESIF-funded programmes, including dissemination of information on the programmes and on calls for proposals through the RIC network and the Single Information Web Portal, increasing the public awareness on the ESIF funding opportunities, and coordination of information activities between the programmes. The specific information activities on projects application, beneficiary trainings, dissemination of best practices and programme results will be supported by the TA priority axes of the individual ESIF programmes.

PA4 includes activities on coordination, control and management of all ESIF programmes in the Republic of Bulgaria. Remuneration, trainings and participation in coordination mechanisms of the officers of CCU, CA, AA, NSI, PPA, the state aid unit within the MF, the national structure for integration of the environment and climate-change policy and for coordination and control for the implementation of the National Priority Action Framework measures, the AFCOS Directorate in MoI are eligible, when related to the ESIF programmes. The development and strengthening of the capacity of the national structure for integration of the environment and climate-change policy will be supported through co-financing of remuneration and training of the officers working under the ESIF programmes. The management structure, role and functions of this body will be determined on the basis of an analysis which will be carried out under OPE 2014-2020.

- *Consultancy services, including ongoing evaluations of strategic documents related to the ESIF management and implementation.* Information on ex-ante conditionalities fulfilment will be provided and the implementation of national strategic and legislative acts will be analyzed. The activity directly relates to SO 1.

- *Organization and participation in coordination events between the OPs.* The activity directly relates to SO 1.
- *Annual update and dissemination of manuals, guidelines and procedures of CCU, CA, AA, PPA and structures coordinating the information and publicity policy.* The MAs and the beneficiaries will be provided with adequate ESIF management guidelines. The effect directly relate to SO 1 and 3.
- *Carrying out on-the-spot audits and inspections by the CA, AA and AFCOS Directorate in MoI in the MAs and the beneficiaries, including the cross-border cooperation programmes.* The expected effects directly relate to SO1.
- *Providing for the monitoring activity of CCU and the structures coordinating the information and publicity policy with respect to the implementation of the ESIF programmes, including on-the-spot checks.* The PA Monitoring Committee will be also supported. The monitoring information will be used for annual update of the CCU manuals and guidelines . The expected effect will directly relate to SO1.
- *Reduction of the excessive administrative burden on beneficiaries, including during control activities.* The expected effect will directly relate to SO1.
- *Delivery of trainings for the staff of CCU, CA, AA, NSI, PPA, the state aid unit in the MF, the national structure for integration of the environment and climate-change policy and for coordination and control for the implementation of the National Priority Action Framework measures, the AFCOS Directorate in MoI, the structures coordinating the information and publicity policy; organization and participation in training courses, workshops, study visits, conferences and seminars on ESIF management.* The knowledge accumulated will strengthen their expert capacity. This directly relates to SO1, as the knowledge acquired will be utilized on the job.
- *Remuneration and other social security costs due by the employer for the horizontal units staff – CCU, CA, AA and the structures coordinating the information and publicity policy for ESIF implementation.* The activity will help preserve the existing capacity within the ESIF management system by reducing staff turnover. The expected effect directly relates to SO1.
- *Remuneration and other social security costs due by the employer for the staff of NSI, PPA, the state aid unit within the MF, the national structure for integration of the environment and climate-change policy and for coordination and control for the implementation of the National Priority Action Framework measures, the AFCOS Directorate in the MoI for ESIF implementation.* The activity will help preserve the existing capacity within the system by reducing staff turnover. The expected effect directly relates to SO1.
- *Support for the participation of staff of the CCU, CA, AA, AFCOS Directorate in the MoI and the structures coordinating the information and publicity policy in the coordination mechanisms related to ESIF management, including participation in working groups and exchanges of experience.* The exchange of experience will contribute to the dissemination of best practices from other EU Member States. The activity directly relates to SO1, 2 and 3.
- *Purchaes, maintenance and update of software, hardware and specialized office equipment for the needs of the horizontal units.* The activity directly relates to all specific objectives.

- *Support for the activity of the UMIS 2020 help desk.* The activity directly relates to SO2.
- *Delivery of hardware and software, IT and telecommunication equipment necessary for the UMIS 2020 upgrade and maintenance.* The activity will guarantee the necessary communication capacity, as well as the optimal system security and data recovery in emergencies. The activity directly relates to SO2.
- *UMIS 2020 maintenance and upgrade.* The activity will expand the functionality of the system and will allow its use by larger range of users. The 2007-2013 UMIS system will be maintained until the document storage deadline. The activity relates to SO2.
- *Development of information system for programming period 2021-2027.* The activity will ensure smooth transition to the next programming period. The activity relates to SO2.
- *Training of the users of UMIS 2020 and the information system for programming period 2021-2027.* The activity will ensure familiarity with the information systems and increased competences of all their users. The activity relates to SO2.
- *Maintenance of the documentary fund for operational programmes 2007-2013.* The activity will ensure the availability of an adequate audit trail for the documents related to the implementation of the operational programmes and will assist the closure process. The activity relates to SO3.
- *Maintenance and development of the Single Information Web Portal www.eufunds.bg providing access to general and specific information on ESIF management in Bulgaria.* The activity relates to SO 3.
- *Maintenance and development of the 28th information centers.* The activity relates to SO 3.
- *Organization of information events, seminars, trainings, conferences, exhibitions, meetings and direct communication, including internet campaigns.* The activity relates to SO 3.
- *Targeted media relations to promote ESIF implementation in Bulgaria.* The activity relates to SO 3.
- *Support for the activities and training of the members of the National network of ESIF information and publicity officers.* The activity aims the improvement of the coordination, as well as the development of the expert capacity of the network and exchange of experience with other EU Member States. The activity relates to SO 3.
- *Development of NAMRB capacity for priority assistance to the small municipal administrations in developing public procurement documentation for ESIF-funded projects.* The expected result relates to SO 3.
- *Development of the NAMRB Municipal Resource Coordination Center.* The expected effect relates to SO 3.

2.B.6.2. OUTPUT INDICATORS EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESULTS (BY PRIORITY AXIS) (ART.96 (2) (C) (IV) OF REGULATION (EC) No. 1303/2013)

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis)

ID	Indicator ²⁴	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) ²⁵ (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
O4-1	Employees trained	Number			2600	Reports
O4-2	Information materials published by type (handbooks, guidelines, books, booklets, information flyers etc.)	Number			60	Reports
O4-3	Number of public information events	Number			90	Reports
O4-4	Number of employees, whose remunerations are co-funded by technical assistance	Number			250	Reports
O4-5	Projects contributing to the reduction of administrative burden	Number			7	Reports

2.B.7. CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION (ART. 96 (2) (C) (V) OF REGULATION (EC) No.1303/2013) (BY PRIORITY AXIS)

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	121	38030658
4	122	4675000
4	123	19254400

Table 15: Dimension 2 – Form of finance	
Fund	ESF
Category of region	Less developed regions

²⁴ For the ESF, this list includes all common output indicators for which targets have been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

²⁵ Target values for output indicators under technical assistance are optional. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	01	61960058

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	01	61960058

2.B.1. PRIORITY AXIS (REPEATED FOR EACH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRIORITY AXIS)

PRIORITY AXIS № 5 – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.2. REASONS FOR ESTABLISHING A PRIORITY AXIS COVERING MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY OF REGION (WHERE APPLICABLE) (ART.96 (1) OF REGULATION (EC) No.1303/2013)

Not applicable.

2.B.3 FUND AND CATEGORY OF REGION (REPEATED FOR EACH COMBINATION UNDER THE PRIORITY AXIS)

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ESF</i>
<i>Category of region</i>	<i>Less developed regions</i>
<i>Calculation basis</i>	<i>10344500</i>

2.B.4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: *Efficient and effective management of OPGG*

For OPGG's MA employees capacity building activities are key to successful management and implementation. Support under the priority axis will be focused on activities facilitating the implementation and assessing the impact of OPGG activities in the light of efficient and effective absorption of ESF support.

It is necessary to provide conditions for OPGG management and implementation (programming, project selection, control, monitoring, evaluation, etc.). The main focus should be on reduction of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and simplification of the procedures for application, project implementation and reporting, as well as on ongoing strengthening of the administrative capacity of MA employees. Facility maintenance, as well as HR and technical support will be financed. The successful performance of MA employees and of the functions of the Monitoring Committee (MC) of OPGG requires delivery of trainings enhancing their capacity. Appropriate conditions should be created for the functioning of the MC. In order to preserve and improve the quality of MA staff and to maintain low turnover rates of high quality staff, investments in MA human resources should be continued, incl. by extension and development of the system of incentives (incl. intangible incentives) related to performance.

For OPGG management and implementation all necessary procedures, guidelines, manuals and documents need to be elaborated and improved. In addition, support should be provided for the preparation of documentation for the new programming period and for the closure of OPAC and OPTA 2007-2013. The technical assistance provides for various types of activities, services and supplies aimed at highly effective planning and management processes of co-financed projects and OPGG overall implementation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: *Enhancing the capacity and the awareness of the beneficiaries of the OP*

Activities under the priority axis will also be directed at providing information and publicity under the programme in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations. Potential beneficiaries will be informed about the financing opportunities provided by the European Social Fund through OPGG, while beneficiaries will be informed about their responsibilities in OPGG implementation. The expected outcomes from this objective involve raising public awareness of OPGG implementation and of the positive role of the European Community in the process of building an efficient and competent administration and judicial system in the Republic of Bulgaria; improving the knowledge of beneficiaries about the programme, which will result in improved quality of project proposals.

Development and implementation of OPGG Communication Plan and its update is a MA major responsibility in line with the Regulations. The priority axis will fund the implementation of OPGG communication activities as laid down in the National Communication Strategy and in the OPGG Communication Plan by using various communication means, which should be applied jointly to maximise the effect. The best way for raising public awareness of the Programme and for attracting beneficiaries' interest in applying with high quality project proposals is to carry out broad information campaigns, with all the supplementary information and communication activities and presentations of OPGG implementation and results to the public and the media. The activity will be performed in close coordination with RIC.

2.B.5. RESULT INDICATORS

Table 12: PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC RESULT INDICATORS (BY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE) – Art. 96(2)(c)(ii) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value ²⁶			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		

2.B.6. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED AND THEIR EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (BY PRIORITY AXIS) – ART. 96 (2) (C) (III) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

²⁶ Target values may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values may be adjusted accordingly. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

The priority axis aims to strengthen and enhance the institutional capacity of the Managing Authority, and the capacity of the beneficiaries when applying with and implementing high-quality projects under the OPGG.

Indicative eligible activities:

- MA logistic support, including the implementation of measures aimed at reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries;
- Technical support, gathering, aggregating and analyzing information and statistical data, conducting surveys, consultations, analyses, studies, etc., necessary for the proper management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPGG;
- Providing specific expertise to the MA as regards the preparation of calls for proposals (including IT expertise, state aid, sustainable development, market prices analyses, etc.) and evaluation of the project proposals submitted;
- Evaluation of OPGG implementation (ongoing evaluation as well as impact assessment);
- Support for closure of the Operational Programmes "Administrative Capacity" and "Technical Assistance" 2007-2013 (preparation of surveys, analyses and assessments related to verification, control and audit activities, final reports and declarations of closure; communication activities and information and publicity activities in regard to OPAC and OPTA closure, including final meetings of the Monitoring Committees (MC), etc.)
- Support for EU funds programming in the next programming period (after 2020) (gathering, aggregating and analyzing information and statistical data, drafting documents, reports and papers, conducting surveys, consultations, studies, guidelines, etc.)
- Support for financial control and audit (including on the spot checks and related reports, internal control systems, compliance with public procurement procedures, etc.);
- Support for project assessment and selection (setting up and running evaluation committees, databases with independent experts with the necessary technical knowledge and expertise, hiring of experts, etc.), independent evaluations of projects;
- Funding the work, running costs and trainings of OPGG Monitoring Committee;
- OPGG MA staff trainings (study visits, workshops, exchange of good practices, etc.);
- Participation of MA employees engaged directly in the programming, management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPGG at business meetings, working groups, committee sessions, networks, etc.;
- Periodic reviews, analyses and studies of beneficiary capacity and awareness;
- Periodic reviews, analyses and studies of general public awareness of OPGG and results achieved under OPGG in the context of ESF and the EU Cohesion Policy;
- Website development and maintenance, interviews in the media, information films and TV clips, advertisements and liaisons with the press;
- Publications, bulletins, brochures, posters, manuals, etc.;

- Events (conferences, round tables, information days, workshops, etc.) to raise beneficiary awareness, knowledge and skills (potential and actual);
- Public information events (conferences, round tables, information days, seminars, etc.) for raising public awareness of OPGG and its results in the context of the European Social Fund and the EU Cohesion Policy;
- Remunerations and bonuses of OPGG MA employees, incl. relevant social and medical security contributions and other contributions due under the effective legislation.

2.B.6.2 OUTPUT INDICATORS EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESULTS (BY PRIORITY AXIS)
(Art. 96 (2) (C) (IV) of REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis)

ID	Indicator ²⁷	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) ²⁸			Source of data
			M	W	T	
O5-1	MA staff and MC members trained	Number			2400 ²⁹	Reports
O5-2	MC meetings held	Number			20	Reports
O5-3	Evaluations of OPGG, priorities, procedures, etc.	Number			10	Reports
O5-4	Analyses, studies, reports and other items facilitating the implementation of OPGG and the preparation for the next programming period	Number			5	Reports
O5-5	Information materials by type elaborated (printed, electronic and	Number			15	Reports

²⁷ For the ESF, this list includes all common output indicators for which targets have been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

²⁸ Target values for output indicators under technical assistance are optional. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

²⁹ The value is calculated on the basis of the number of trainings carried out for the whole period (as one official /member of the MC undergoes more than one training).

	audiovisual)					
O5-6	Number of public information events	Number			150	Reports
O5-7	Number of employees, whose remunerations are co-funded by technical assistance	Number			62	Reports

2.B.7 CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION (ARTICLE 96 (2) (C) (V) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013) (BY PRIORITY AXIS)

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	121	7369500
5	122	1275000
5	123	1700000

Table 15: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	01	10344500

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	ESF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	01	10344500

SECTION 3 FINANCING PLAN

3.1. FINANCIAL APPROPRIATION FROM EACH FUND AND AMOUNTS FOR PERFORMANCE RESERVE (ART. 96 (D) (I) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

Table 17

	Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018 r.		2019 r.		2020 r.		Total	
			Main allocation ³⁰	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
(5)	ESF	In less developed regions	33845805	1674260	35579384	1760065	37477071	1853880	39035479	1931020	40565900	2006637	42059870	2080627	43509463	2152202	272072972	13458691
(6)		In transition regions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(7)		In more developed regions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(8)		Total	33845805	1674260	35579384	1760065	37477071	1853880	39035479	1931020	40565900	2006637	42059870	2080627	43509463	2152202	272072972	13458691
(9)	YEI-specific allocation	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(10)	Cohesion fund	Not applicable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(11)	EFRD	Special allocation to outermost regions or northern sparsely populated regions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(12)	Total		33845805	1674260	35579384	1760065	37477071	1853880	39035479	1931020	40565900	2006637	42059870	2080627	43509463	2152202	272072972	13458691

30

Total allocation (Union support) less allocation to performance reserve.

3.2. TOTAL FINANCIAL APPROPRIATION BY FUND AND NATIONAL CO-FINANCING (EUR) (ART. 96 (D) (II) OF REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)**Table 18a: Financing plan**

Priority	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support	National counterpart	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding	Co-financing rate	For information EIB contributions	Main allocation (total funding less performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding	National private funding (1)				Union support	National counterpart	Union support	National counterpart ³¹	
				(a)	(b) = (c) + (d)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (a) + (b)	(f) = (a)/(e)(2)	(g)	(h)=(a)-(j)	(i) = (b) - (k)	(j)	(k)= (b) * ((j)/(a))	(l) = (j)/(a) * 100
Priority axis 1	ESF	Less developed regions	138970124	118 124 605	20 845 519	20 845 519	0	138 970 123	85%	0	110 554 955	19 509 698	7 569 650	1 335 821	6,41
Priority axis 2	ESF	Less developed regions	76361177	64907000	11 454 177	11 454 177	0	76 361 176	85%	0	60 799 689	10 729 357	4 107 311	724 820	6,33
Priority axis 3	ESF	Less developed regions	35 524 118	30 195 500	5 328 618	5 328 618	0	35 524 118	85%	0	28 413 770	5 014 195	1 781 730	314 423	5,90
Priority axis 4	ESF	Less developed regions	72 894 186	61 960 058	10 934 128	10 934 128	0	72 894 186	85%	0	61 960 058	10 934 128	0	0	0
Priority axis 5	ESF	Less developed regions	12170000	10344500	1 825 500	1 825 500	0	12 170 000	85%	0	10 344 500	1 825 500	0	0	0
Total	ESF	Less developed regions	335919605	285531663	50 387 942	50 387 942	0	335 919 603	85%	0	272 072 972	48 012 878	13 458 691	2 375 064	
Total	ERDF	Transition regions													
Total	ERDF	More developed													

31

The national counterpart is divided pro-rata between the main allocation and the performance reserve.

Total	ERDF	regions Special allocation to outermost regions or northern sparsely populated regions													
Total	ESF ³²	Less developed regions													
Total	ESF ³³	Transition regions													
Total	ESF ³⁴	More developed regions													
Total	YEI ³⁵	Not applicable													
Total	CF	Not applicable													
Total			335919603	285531663	50387940	50387940	0	335919603	85%	0	272 072 972	48 012 877	13 458 691	2 375 063	

Table 18b: Youth Employment Initiative – ESF- and YEI specific allocations (where appropriate)

Not applicable

Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective

Priority axis	Fund ³⁶	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
---------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------	----------------------	---------------

³²ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.³³ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.³⁴ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.³⁵Includes the YEI special allocation and the matching support from the ESF³⁶ For the purposes of this table, the YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered as a fund.

Priority axis 1	ESF	Less developed	Thematic objective 11	118 124 605	20 845 519	138970124
Priority axis 2	ESF	Less developed	Thematic objective 11	64907000	11 454 177	76361177
Priority axis 3	ESF	Less developed	Thematic objective 11	30 195 500	5 328 618	35 524 118
Priority axis 4	ESF	Less developed		61 960 058	10 934 128	72 894 186
Priority axis 5	ESF	Less developed		10344500	1 825 500	12170000
TOTAL	ESF	Less developed		285531663	50 387 942	335919605

Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (art. 27(6) of REGULATION (EU) № 1303/2013)

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Priority axis 2	3 818 059,00	1.34%
Total	3 818 059,00	1.34%

Section 4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT – ARTICLE 96(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

OPGG has a horizontal impact. The planned interventions will have effect throughout the country. Quality administrative services and efficient judiciary system will support the territorial development of all regions in the country.

4.1. COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (Art. 96 (3 (A) of REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

Not applicable

4.2. SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (WHERE APPROPRIATE)(Art. 96 (3 (B) of REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 and Art. 7 (2) and (3) of REGULATION (EC) No 1301/2013)

Not applicable

4.3. INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENT (ITI) (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (Pursuant to Art. 96 (3) of REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable

4.4. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERREGIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL ACTIONS, WITHIN THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME, WITH BENEFICIARIES LOCATED IN AT LEAST ONE OTHER MEMBER STATE (WHERE APPROPRIATE)(Pursuant to Art. 96 (3) of REGULATION No 1303/2013)

Not applicable. Foreign partners participating in activities associated with cross-border cooperation will be identified by the beneficiaries under OPGG depending on the specifics of the given project.

4.5 CONTRIBUTION OF THE PLANNED ACTIONS UNDER THE PROGRAMME TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA-BASIN STRATEGIES, SUBJECT TO THE NEEDS OF THE PROGRAMME AREA AS IDENTIFIED BY THE MEMBER STATE (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (Pursuant to Art. 96 (3) of Regulation No 1303/2013)

Within Priority Axis 2 of OPGG, support will be provided for activities associated with the implementation of the 4th pillar of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region: “Strengthening the Danube Region (e.g. enhancing the institutional capacity and improving cooperation to tackle organised crime)“, objectives 5 “Management of environmental risks”, 9 “Investment in people and skills” (particularly in the public sector), 10 “Stepping-up institutional capacity and cooperation” and 11 “Working together to tackle security and organised crime”.

The trainings under the axis related to risk management and prevention of incidents, accidents and natural disasters will contribute to the Strategy objective : “Implementation of Danube wide flood risk management plans - deadline in 2015 under the Floods Directive – significant reduction of flood risk not later than 2021“.

SECTION 5. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (ARTICLE 96(4)(A) OF THE COMMON PROVISION REGULATION)

29.12.2014

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination

Operational Programme Good Governance has a horizontal scope and the planned interventions shall have an effect over the territory of the entire country. The good administrative servicing and the effective judiciary system shall render assistance to all the regions of the country.

5.2. Strategy to address the specific needs of geographical areas/target groups most affected by poverty, and where relevant, the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement

OPGG has a horizontal impact. The planned interventions will have effect throughout the country. Quality administrative services and efficient judiciary system will support the territorial development of all regions in the country.

SECTION 6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE) (ARTICLE 96(4)(B) OF THE COMMON PROVISION REGULATION)

OPGG has a horizontal impact. The planned interventions will have effect throughout the country. Quality administrative services and efficient judiciary system will support the territorial development of all regions in the country.

SECTION 7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS (ARTICLE 96(5) OF THE COMMON PROVISION REGULATION)

7.1. Relevant authorities and bodies (Article 96 (5) (A) and (B) REGULATION No 1303/2013)

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/organization	Title of the authority/ and department or a unit	Manager of the authority / the organization (position or a post)
Managing Authority	Administration of the Council of Ministers	Prime Minister
Certifying Authority	Ministry of Finance, "National Fund" Directorate	Director of "National Fund" Directorate
Audit Authority	Executive Agency "Audit of the European Union Funds"	Executive Director
Body to whom payments will be made by the Commission	Ministry of Finance, "National Fund" Directorate	Director of "National Fund" Directorate

7.2. Involvement of relevant partners (Pursuant to Art. 96 (5) (C) of REGULATION No 1303/2013)

7.2.1. Actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

Partnership is one of the underlying principles in the implementation of the Common Strategic Framework of the European Union and a key priority in the Europe 2020 Strategy. Partnership is a key element of all ESIF interventions. The partnership principle will be promoted as a key element of good governance. In accordance with Art. 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013 involvement and access of social and economic partners and other stakeholders in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ESF support will be guaranteed.

Within the OPGG, the partnership principle covers every stage of the project cycle. Partnership entails close cooperation between public authorities at national, regional and local levels with the business and NGO sectors. Application of this principle leads to improved mechanisms for knowledge and expertise exchange among different stakeholders, strengthens capabilities for a more creative problem solving, allows multi-dimensional and effective management of actions (including a wide range of stakeholders or perspectives) at many levels of intervention (national, regional and local) and ensures a high level of correspondence between selected actions and actual needs.

By CMD № 328/ 25.04.2012, supplemented by CMD № 57/31.01.2013 and CMD № 595/ 4.10.2013 the Council of Ministers determined the lead unit for the preparation of Operational Programme “Good Governance” 2014-2020. In this regard, pursuant to Art. 5 of CMD № 5 of 18 January 2012, by Order № P-67/07.03.2013 a thematic working group has been set up for the preparation of the OPGG 2014-2020.

The representatives of the academic community were selected according to a mechanism designed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science and coordinated with the Minister of EU funds management.

In accordance with the mechanism for selection of non-governmental organisations whose representatives are to participate in the working groups for development of the Partnership Agreement and the programmes of the Republic of Bulgaria for the programming period 2014 – 2020, which was approved by the Minister of EU Funds Management, representatives of 10 organisations active in the following areas have been included in the thematic working group:

1. Organisations working in the field of education, science and culture;
2. Organisations working in the field of development policies;
3. Environmental organisations;
4. Social organisations.

The Thematic Working Group (TWG) held its first meeting on 21.03.2013, in result of which the TWG members sent their motivated proposals for measures and activities to the secretariat of the OPGG TWG, i.e. the Operational Programme “Technical Assistance” Directorate within the Administration of the Council of Ministers. Given the need of detailed development of OPGG priority axes, by a decision of the TWG 5 working sub-groups have been set up: for enhancing the institutional capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of public administration, for integrated administrative service delivery, including e-governance, for judicial system and development of e-justice, for efficient and effective absorption of EU funds, and for promoting civil society participation in governance.

The second session was held on 25.07.2013. The results achieved under OPAC and OPTA were presented together with demarcation between the measures in OPGG 2014-2020 and the other operational programmes for the programming period 2014-2020, an indicative schedule

29.12.2014

for the development of OPGG and a draft of a strategic framework of the programme were approved.

The working sub-group for promoting civil society participation in governance held several meetings and many NGO proposals were included in the OPGG document. In addition, the TWG secretariat held meetings with NGOs outside the scope of the TWG to address specific aspects of the administrative and judiciary reforms in the period October-November 2013.

Pursuant to CMD №171/15.08.2013 amending and supplementing the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers and Its Administration, effective as of 27.08.2013, the Programming of EU Funds Directorate is responsible for coordinating the development of the OPGG 2014-2020. The order for the composition of the TWG was updated to accommodate personal changes in many administrations represented at the TWG and in relation to changes in the secretariat of the TWG by Order № P-219/28.10.2013.

On 7.11.2013 a third meeting of the TWG was held, and texts on the first two priority axes of OPGG were presented. The TWG members received an updated indicative schedule for the OPGG preparation.

In the period October 2013 - February 2014 the Secretariat undertook intensive communication with the stakeholders in order to sum up the ideas received between March – September 2013 from the TWG members and to streamline the OPGG draft with the developed strategic framework at a national level (the OPGG draft and the strategic framework are developed in parallel). The programme texts incorporate a summarised version of the specific needs submitted by the administrations/ NGOs members of the TWG. All proposed amendments to the programme texts are summarised in harmonisation tables indicating the options for their inclusion in the scope and the objectives of the programme.

The proposals of the NGOs and the social and economic partners (SEP) were exceptionally useful and shaped the structure and the contents of the Programme. TWG accepted the proposal of the NGOs that the OPGG should focus on e-governance and the improvement of the administrative service delivery to the citizens and the business. Consequently, two priority axes were differentiated for the administration, the first one focusing around the approach proposed by the NGOs. The proposals made by the NGOs and the SEP to include activities on review, analysis and impact evaluation of the regulatory regimes currently in effect and maximal simplification of all types of regimes, including through legislative amendments were integrated in specific objective 1 of PA1. The proposal for standartisation of the municipal administrative service delivery procedures through introduction of the e-governance principles in partnership with the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria was included there as well.

At the proposal of the NGOs and the SEP the second priority axis title's focus was shifted towards governance in partnership with the civil society and the business and a third specific objective of the axis was redrafted - "Increase of citizen participation in policy-making and control". The TWG also approved the proposal of the NGOs the funds for NGO and SEP projects to be implemented through global grant managed by an NGO and not the administration. The third specific objective of the second priority axis was modified to include the following proposals of NGOs and SEPs: organization of discussion forums, workshops, focus-groups, public discussions, online-voting and other innovative approaches for citizens involvement in policy-making and elaboration of strategic plans and documents in partnership with the institutions; pool the efforts and the capacity of the NGOs in the implementation of civil monitoring; development of standards for presentation of draft legislation to the general public; standards for consultation and discussion of draft legislation and decisions with the stakeholders. The proposal for implementation of the public private

29.12.2014

partnership principles at central and regional level was also integrated in the second priority axis.

The proposals of SEPs and NGOs on Monitoring Committees, publicity and civil control over EU Funds are integrated in the national legislation for the programming period 2014-2020.

Significant correspondence has been carried out with the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications in the process of shaping the e-governance measures. The basic guidelines on e-governance need to be developed in detail in the E-governance development strategy, the road map for its implementation, a new e-governance act and specific estimates of the investments needed.

All the official proposals of the representatives of the administration, the judiciary and the NGO sector with a specific outcome and falling within the OPGG scope, have been included in the Programme. Feedback and justification on the refusal was provided for the ones which were not incorporated. The continuous and detailed correspondence with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences may be indicated as an example.

The fourth session of the TWG was held on 03.02.2014 where the first complete OPGG version was presented and approved prior to its sending to the EC for informal comments on 14.02.2014.

The fifth session of the TWG was held on 22.05.2014 in relation to the decision of the Council for EU Funds Management Coordination taken on 13.05.2014 regarding the official sending of all the operational programmes to the EC for official negotiations by the end of May 2014. The main conclusions and recommendations of the OPGG ex-ante evaluation preliminary report, the amendments to the programme texts made on the basis of the EC informal comments were presented. The open questions for each priority axis as well as the indicative negotiations timetable with the EC were also discussed.

The Monitoring Committee for the OPGG will have similar members as those of TWG and will include representatives of all stakeholders, including representatives of the academic community, social and economic partners and non-governmental organisations. Pursuant to Art. 13, p. 3, (9) of DCM № 79/10.04.2014 public benefit NGOs participate in the OPGG Monitoring Committee of as voting members. Pursuant Art. 12, p 8, (8) and p. 9 of DCM № 79, NGOs functioning in the field of the activities included in OPGG will also take part in the OPGG MC.

The Monitoring Committee approves the criteria for selection of operations, the annual progress reports on the programme's implementation, the findings and recommendations of the evaluations on the programme, so that stakeholders will have accurate and timely information and will be able to act on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OPGG. The members of the MC will be trained in the context of amendments to the legal and strategic framework at national and European levels in the field of administrative and judicial reform and e-governance. The indicative annual working programme will be based on project ideas submitted to the MA by direct and potential beneficiaries, as well as on the basis of MA assessment of progress in implementation of the programme's objectives. Guidelines for applicants for grant schemes will be published on the MA website for public consultations before launching the grant schemes.

SEP and NGOs participating in the OPGG MC shall have a leading role in impact evaluations under OPGG Priority axes 1-4, which shall be included in the 2019 OPGG Annual Implementation Report, as well as in the planning of evaluations of the administrative burden on beneficiaries and the functioning of the OPGG management and implementation system. To this end, an evaluation sub-committee will be established within the OPGG MC with stakeholder participation, which shall develop the OPGG evaluation plan, the technical

29.12.2014

specifications for selection of external independent evaluators. It shall also monitor the implementation and the modification of the evaluation plan on an annual basis.

7.2.2. Global grants (for the ESF, where appropriate) (Art. 6 (1) of REGULATION No 1304/2013)

Some of the activities under Specific Objective 3 of Priority Axis 2 of the OPGG, more specifically the activities of NGOs and social and economic partners for civil monitoring and control over the actions of the administration, assessment by users of administrative services, development of analyses and proposals for amending laws, structures and policies at national and local levels, etc. will be implemented through a global grant of EUR 10 million. The organisation playing the role of an Intermediate Body for this global grant will be a non-governmental organisation selected through competition based on its capabilities and track record in managing NGO projects with donor funding. The Intermediate Body provides evidence of its solvency and competences in the relevant field as well as for its capacity for administrative and financial management and enters into a written agreement defining its rights and obligations under the global grant with the Managing Authority.

7.2.3. Earmarking for capacity building (for the ESF, where appropriate) (Art. 6 (2) and (3) of REGULATION No 1304/2013)

Funding of NGO projects is split in two of the OPGG priority axes.

Within Specific Objective 3 of OPGG Priority Axis 2 the capacity of NGOs and social and economic partners will not be strengthened in projects specifically targeted to that end. Publicly relevant projects of NGOs and social and economic partners will be funded for civil monitoring and control over the actions of the administration, assessment by users of administrative services, development of analyses and proposals for amending laws, structures and policies at national and local level. These projects will consolidate the communication channels between the administration and NGOs and social and economic partners.

Trainings of NGO and SEP employees, participation in networks, including NGO networks at European level, will be eligible in the framework of the projects described and costs for these activities will be eligible up to 10% of total eligible project costs. Given the planned 10 million EUR funds for a global grant for NGOs and SEP, the maximum allocation for capacity-building activities would amount to 1 million EUR.

Within Specific Objective 1 of OPGG Priority Axis 3 all active NGOs and professional organisations within the Civil Council to SJC will be supported for development, monitoring and evaluation of the reform strategies and proposals for improvements of the judiciary. NGO projects for independent analysis of low quality of proceedings, analysis of the weaknesses of both investigation and prosecution, including protection of witnesses, economic and financial analysis, collection of evidence by the police and cooperation between the judiciary and the executive power will be supported. Preferential treatment will be granted to projects which, based on independent analysis, propose transfer of best practices and innovative solutions for addressing weaknesses in the structure, management, human resources, trainings, cooperation and professional practices.

Trainings of NGO employees, participation of NGOs in networks, including NGO networks at European level, will be eligible in the framework of the projects described and eligible costs for these activities will be up to 10% of total eligible project costs. Given the planned 2.5 million EUR for NGO projects in the judiciary, the maximum allocation for capacity building activities would amount to 0.25 million EUR.

SECTION 8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB — ARTICLE 96(6)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

Coordination of the Operational Programme “Good Governance” 2014-2020 with the programmes at EU and national levels will be ensured as follows:

1. Coordination with the programmes, co-financed by the ESF

1.1 Demarcation and complementarity with Operational Programme “Human Resources Development” (OPHRD)

Both programmes envisage investments in capacity building in the administration for the provision of quality public services to citizens and businesses. OPHRD shall support initiatives focused on building the capacity of public institutions in the field of the labour market, safety and health at work, social services and healthcare only in relation with fulfilling directly their duties in terms of the policies within their responsibility. In this regard, improving the professional qualification of civil servants in the institutions responsible for the labour market, working conditions and social and health services will be funded under the OPHRD.

Training will also be funded under the OPHRD for employees of the local government administration, but only in cases where the latter is responsible for the provision of social and health services and the trainings are focused on providing more affordable and quality social and health services; in regard to measures for strengthening the capacity of the local government administration to plan, implement and manage local policies aimed at: (1) reforms in the social sphere; (2) social inclusion of vulnerable groups; (3) improving the interaction and coordination between stakeholders in terms of the social inclusion and poverty reduction policies; in cases where employees of the local government administration are part of the target group of transnational cooperation projects under OPHRD.

OPGG shall finance investments to increase the institutional capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the administration and the judiciary. OPGG will support the development of systems and key registers of e-health, but all other activities in the field of healthcare fall within the scope of OPHRD and OPRG, including health infrastructure and equipment, maternal and child healthcare, campaigns for prevention of chronic non-communicable diseases, etc. OPGG shall finance only horizontal registers of national importance in the health care system and their interoperability with key registers at national and European level. OPGG shall not support hospital records and systems, nor the deployment and integration into the national health information system of general practitioners and healthcare institutions.

OPHRD shall support the planning, management and adaptation of policies in the field of the labour market, working conditions, social inclusion and healthcare; the coordination within and between the institutions in the field of the labour market, working conditions, social services and healthcare; the establishment and development of information and communication systems at national and local level; improvement of the human resources management in the administrative structures in the field of the labour market, working conditions, social services and healthcare; support for the activities of the services of the European Employment Services Network (EURES) that are responsible for Bulgaria; promotion of networks and partnerships for the implementation of new approaches for developing the transnational labour mobility.

OPHRD will enable municipalities, in their capacity as an employer, to hire unemployed persons, which also includes the costs of training and labour mobility. These possibilities shall be available only for the local government administration and not for the state government administration at central level.

Both operational programmes shall support projects of partner organizations outside the state authority. The initiatives for capacity building and joint actions of social partners shall be supported under OPHRD, while under OPGG measures are envisaged in order to promote the participation of civil society (incl. social partners) in the strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of the governance, administrative services and administration of justice.

In the field of juvenile justice, OPHRD shall finance measures to increase the capacity of social workers working in the "Child Protection" departments concerning: the international and European standards on justice for children and juvenile justice, work on cases of child victims or witnesses of crime, including preparation of reports for the court and escorting child witnesses during the court proceedings, work on cases involving children in conflict with the law, including the preparation of a social report and a needs assessment report, which includes assessment of the criminal environment and the risk of relapse. OPHRD shall support the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) in updating the national coordination mechanisms for working on cases involving children who are victims of violence and domestic violence, the national referral mechanism for victims of human trafficking, etc., as well as in improving the cross-sectoral cooperation at national and local levels between the SACP, Ministry of Interior (MI), child pedagogic rooms, Local Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency in Minors (LCCJDM), Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) and judicial authorities in dealing with cases of child victims or witnesses of crime/violence, including human trafficking, cybercrimes, a mechanism for missing children, etc. as well as cases of children in conflict with the law through joint trainings on children's rights, communication with children, juvenile justice and up-to-date terminology in line with the European standards. OPGG shall assist the judiciary authorities in creating specialized departments, incl. by creating specialized children's chambers in the courts and appointing specialized prosecutors, establishing internal rules and standards for their work, creating mechanisms for friendly hearing of children, creating well-functioning coordination mechanisms at the local level together with the prosecution, police, "Child Protection" department, child pedagogic rooms, local commissions for combating antisocial behaviour of minors and others structures related to juvenile justice. OPGG shall finance actions for increasing the capacity of the judiciary and the judicial officers working on juvenile justice issues as well as for increasing the capacity of police investigators in regard to the international and European standards on justice for children and juvenile justice.

1.2 Demarcation and complementarity with Operational Programme „Science and Education for Smart Growth“ (OP SESG)

OPGG provides support to the NGO sector in order to achieve better governance, including policy-making and implementation, whereas OP SESG provides for measures to support NGOs for cooperation in the field of educational policies. Capacity building of NGOs implementing activities under priority axes 2 and 3 of OP SESG will be financed through horizontal measures under OP SESG.

OPGG encompasses measures for e-governance development. OP SESG supports systems for distance learning and e-learning. OP SESG won't finance activities not related to the creation of e-content of documents concerning the educational system. OPGG shall not finance e-education measures.

Student practices in a real working environment, including in cases where the employer is the central or local administration, will be financed only under OP SESG. OPGG shall support internships and experience exchange visits of administrative officials and magistrates in leading institutions in Bulgaria and other EU Member States.

2. Coordination with the programmes, co-financed by the ERDF

2.1. Demarcation and complementarity with Operational Programme „Innovation and Competitiveness“

OPGG invests in the institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services, including better regulation, development, implementation and evaluation of policies.

OPGG aims at increasing the transparency, integrity and accountability in the administration and the judiciary and at reducing the regulatory burden and improving the business environment, including by strengthening the capacity of the supervisory and control bodies.

OPGG shall contribute to a more favourable business environment and competitiveness through better regulation and focus on the quality and timeliness of public services for citizens and businesses, including further development of e-governance.

Operational Programme „Innovation and Competitiveness“ (OPIC) shall provide direct support to enterprises (vouchers, grants and financial instruments), relying on the complementarity with the support under OPGG for achieving a better business environment and better quality services, incl. e-services. OPIC provides the opportunity to carry out a limited number of good quality projects of institutions (agencies, departments, etc.) or partnership projects (e.g. with business organizations) that have direct benefits for the business development in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship and competitive SMEs, and energy and resource efficiency.

2.2. Demarcation and complementarity with Operational Programme „Regions in Growth“

OPGG shall support the development of systems and registers of e-health, but all other activities in the field of healthcare fall within the scope of OPHRD and Operational Programme „Regions in Growth“ (OPRG), including health infrastructure and equipment, etc.

OPGG shall finance the elaboration of municipal development plans for the next programming period.

2.3. Demarcation and complementarity with Operational Programme „Environment“

OPGG shall support activities concerning the environmental and climate change policies (EP and CCP): preparing/updating documents, studies, analyses, assessments, etc. for integrating the requirements of the environmental and climate change policies; strengthening the administrative capacity, including training plans and materials and trainings on the effective implementation of the environmental and climate change policies, information campaigns, exchange of experience with networks in other EU Member States, information systems for effective implementation of the environmental and climate change policies, etc.

OPGG shall support the implementation of the National Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 (NPAF) through additional funding of the NPAF Management and Coordination Unit. OPGG shall support building and strengthening the capacity of the horizontal structure which is to ensure the integration of strategic policies within the environmental and climate change policies and biodiversity conservation through co-financing the remuneration and

training of the staff working on programmes funded by the ESIF. The management approach, role and functions of this structure will be determined on the basis of an analysis that will be prepared with support from Operational Programme „Environment“ (OPE) 2014-2020.

OPGG shall provide funding for the development of ICT applications for the management of Natura 2000 protected sites – e.g. development of applications for the management of Natura 2000 protected sites, including the interoperability between the Natura 2000 GIS systems and the databases and systems at national and regional level; development of ICT applications to promote learning opportunities and to strengthen the capacity for planning and implementing investment decisions based on the development of green infrastructure.

OPGG shall finance monitoring and survey related costs – e.g. preparation of monitoring plans, methods and equipment, staff training; planning, development of a monitoring component to assess the state of the green infrastructure elements.

OPGG shall also finance campaigns under the National Information and Communication Strategy on Natura 2000 through the regional information centres. OPGG shall not finance NGO projects for analysis, monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity or development of NATURA 2000 sites, green infrastructure, etc. These activities build on Priority Axis 3 "Natura 2000 and Biodiversity" of OPE 2014-2020 and shall be implemented in close coordination between the two managing authorities.

OPE 2014-2020 supports only measures to strengthen and increase the capacity of the Managing Authority and the programme beneficiaries by providing practical trainings that cover specific topics, including best practices and lessons learned related to the project preparation requirements and the subsequent (sustainable) asset/result management under OPE. Upon detection of recurrent issues and/or omissions timely trainings shall be organized regarding the controversial issues identified. All measures to increase the staff capacity, general trainings concerning the implementation of the general ex ante conditionalities (such as public procurement, state aid, project management, etc.) and the improvement of the administrative services delivery to citizens and business through service standardization, as well as the introduction of complex administrative service delivery, implementation of e-governance and human resource management shall be supported under OPGG.

2.4. Demarcation and complementarity with Operational Programme „Transport and Transport Infrastructure“

No relation is established between the two programmes. OPGG supports the overall strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficient public administration and public services of predefined eligible beneficiaries, none of which is included in Operational Programme „Transport and Transport Infrastructure“ (OPTTI). The administrative capacity building activities planned to be financed by OPTTI are aimed specifically at the programme beneficiaries.

3. Demarcation and complementarity with the Rural Development Programme (RDP)

OPGG shall finance horizontal trainings of the administration on state aid, public procurement, etc. Under the RDP trainings on the implementation of the programme will be provided to potential and real beneficiaries. Regarding the socio-economic analyses on the territory of the municipalities, the OPGG and RDP Managing Authorities shall conduct consultations about the lack of overlapping and double funding for the measures proposed for financing.

29.12.2014

Under sub-measure 7.3. „Broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government solutions“ of the RDP, broadband infrastructure shall be developed in the rural areas. It will enable the local administrations to participate in e-government, which shall be financed within the OPGG.

All activities under Measure 7 “Basic services and village renewal in rural areas” of the RDP fall outside the scope of OPGG: energy infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, recreational and cultural infrastructure, and tourist infrastructure. OPGG finances only administrative services of municipal administrations, including those in rural areas.

The activities under Priority Axes 1, 2 and 4 of OPGG related to Natura 2000 complement Measure 12 "Payments under Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive" of the RDP with no overlap between the programmes both in terms of eligible activities and in terms of target groups.

As in the previous programming period, an interface between the UMIS 2020 and the information systems of the RDP shall be provided. To ensure coordination in the ESIF management, OPGG shall finance the development and maintenance of an interface between UMIS 2020 and IACS similarly to the 2007-2013 programming period.

The activities for the implementation of the National Communication Strategy and for RIC development under Priority Axis 4 of OPGG include information on the RDP, which builds on the information and publicity activities set out in the RDP. The RDP shall finance remuneration of one official and the equipment for one workstation in each regional information centre to enable these officials to answer questions about the RDP.

Under Priority Axis 4 of OPGG the remuneration, trainings, on-site inspections costs, etc. will be covered for the employees in the “Audit of EU Funds” Executive Agency, PPA, NSI, NPAF Horizontal Unit and AFCOS Directorate of the Ministry of Interior who work on operational programmes as well as on the RDP.

4. Demarcation and complementarity with the Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (PMAF)

The activities under Priority Axes 1, 2 and 4 of OPGG related to Natura 2000 complement Activity 5 „Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems“ of the PMAF with no overlap between the programmes both in terms of eligible activities and in terms of target groups.

As in the previous programming period an interface between the UMIS 2020 and the information systems of the PMAF shall be provided.

The activities for the implementation of the National Communication Strategy and for the RIC development under Priority Axis 4 of OPGG include information on the PMAF, which builds upon the information and publicity activities set out in the PMAF.

Under Priority Axis 4 of OPGG the remuneration, trainings, on-site inspections costs, etc. will be covered for the employees in the “Audit of EU Funds” Executive Agency, PPA, NSI, NPAF Horizontal Unit, and AFCOS Directorate of the Ministry of Interior who work on operational programmes as well as on the PMAF.

5. Demarcation and complementarity with the National Multiannual Programme under the Internal Security Fund

29.12.2014

OPGG shall finance activities to enhance the capacity only of the police investigators, the managerial and executive staff of Directorate General "Fire Safety and Protection of Population" and the general administration in the law enforcement structures. Specialized trainings for all other law enforcement officials shall be financed in the framework of the Internal Security Fund.

Enhancing the security of the European Critical Infrastructure sites on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be financed by the Internal Security Fund. The development of the e-government security system shall be financed under OPGG.

The training of the first response teams in the municipal and regional administrations in case of disasters and accidents shall be financed under OPGG. Infrastructure measures regarding the field site for practical exercises and trainings on how to respond to disasters and emergencies shall also be financed under the Internal Security Fund.

6. Complementarity with "Horizon 2020"

The third priority "Social Challenges" of the EU programme "Horizon 2020" has as a major objective to promote the modernization of the EU public sector through interdisciplinary research, technological development and innovation. The main focus here is on the development, validation and deployment of innovative products, applications and public services (incl. e-services) of high public interest and with European added value in areas such as governance, healthcare, social services and social inclusion, public security, justice and others.

OPGG shall provide support for increasing the efficiency of administrations by: 1) enabling citizens to request and receive the services they need at a suitable location, with minimum allocation of time and resources; 2) finalisation of e-government, including sectoral systems - e-procurement, e-customs, e-health, etc.; 3) improving the quality of service; and the efficiency of the judiciary through the "opening" of the administration and the judiciary, optimizing processes and implementing e-justice, but it shall not support research and development projects, which is the main line of demarcation.

The OPGG activities shall increase the capacity of Bulgarian institutions to participate in major European projects implementing innovative public services at the European level. Accordingly, the results (innovative products, applications, services, best practices, specifications, standards, etc.) obtained through participation in "Horizon 2020" projects shall be used/multiplied with priority in projects funded under OPGG.

7. Complementarity with the Connecting Europe Facility

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) enables projects of common interest to be prepared and implemented within the framework of the policy on Trans-European networks in the sectors of transport, telecommunications and energy, aimed at the development and construction of new infrastructures and services or at the upgrading of already existing ones in the three sectors. Projects of common interest for the Telecommunications sector are defined in Regulation (EU) № 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure and are generally divided in two categories: digital service infrastructures and broadband networks.

Demarcation will be carried out in regard to the implementation of activities related to e-government – under OPGG activities only at national level shall be financed whereas under

29.12.2014

the Connecting Europe Facility projects of common interest at trans-European level having European added value shall be financed.

As regards digital services under the Connecting Europe Facility, grants will be awarded to build the infrastructure needed to roll-out e-ID, e-procurement, electronic healthcare records, the European Digital Library Europeana, e-justice and other services only for projects of common interest at trans-European level. The funds allocated will ensure interoperability and meet the costs of building the European infrastructure, linking up Member States' infrastructures. To provide modern high-speed connections and access to effective, high quality and secure e-services, including cross-border services, a project under the Connecting Europe Facility has been prepared to build a backup infrastructure of the National Information Data Centre.

OPGG interventions for e-government development at national level as well as preparatory activities to ensure cross-border interoperability of key services will increase the capacity of national administrations to participate in projects of common interest under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) at trans-European level. As a result, wider participation in the CEF and more successful projects with Bulgarian participants are expected.

The OPGG activities in the field of e-government can be built upon and complemented through financial instruments (loans, projects, bonds, etc.) envisaged in the Connecting Europe Facility.

SECTION 9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES — ARTICLE 96(6)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

9.1. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

For OPGG a specific ex ante conditionality is applicable under Thematic Objective 11 pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 “Administrative efficiency of Member States: The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member States' administrative efficiency including public administration reform“. This ex ante conditionality is not currently implemented - detailed information is presented in Tables 24 and 25.

The ex-ante conditionality under Thematic Objective 11 pursuant Regulation (EU) No1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 “Administrative Efficiency of Member States: The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member States' administrative efficiency including public administration reform” applies to OPGG. This conditionality is currently not fulfilled. More detailed information follows in Tables 24 and 25.

In addition, the following general ex-ante conditionalities also apply to OPGG:

1. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds
2. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds
3. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCPRD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC
4. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.

29.12.2014

5. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.
7. The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.

DRAFT

Table 24: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Applicable ex-ante conditionality for which national authorities are responsible	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria:	Criterion fulfilled: Yes/No	Reference (if fulfilled) (reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents articles or paragraphs, accompanied by a hyperlink or other access to the full text)	Explanation (where appropriate)
11. The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member States' administrative efficiency including public administration reform	PARTIALLY	<p>A strategic policy framework for reinforcing a Member State's public authorities' administrative efficiency and their skills with the following elements are in place and in the process of being implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — an analysis and strategic planning of legal, organisational and/or procedural reform actions; — the development of quality management systems; — integrated actions for simplification and rationalisation of administrative procedures; — the development and implementation of human resources strategies and policies covering the main gaps identified in this field; — the development of skills at all levels of the professional hierarchy within public authorities; — the development of procedures and tools for monitoring and evaluation. <p>-</p>	NO	<p>Strategy for Development of the Public Administration 2014-2020. http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=891</p> <p>Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Public Administration 2014-2015 http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=891</p> <p>The strategy was adopted by Decision № 140 / 17.03.2014. The Plan was adopted by Decision № 302 of the Council of Ministers of 15 May 2014.</p> <p>Draft Roadmap for Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Public Administration 2014-2020</p> <p>The Strategy for Development of the Public Administration 2014-2020 contains an analysis and strategic planning of actions on the rights, organizational and/or procedural reforms based on basic needs and goals.</p>	<p>Basic model for complex administrative services http://www.strategy.bg/Publications/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&categoryId=&Id=155&y=&m=&d adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria in June 2013 after extensive public consultations. http://www.strategy.bg/PublicConsultations/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=904. Methodology to improve business processes for providing administrative services http://www.strategy.bg/Publications/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&categoryId=&Id=165&y=&m=&d The Methodology is adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria in September 2013 after extensive public consultations. These two documents are fundamental to the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Public Administration to 2020. The documents identify the main needs and objectives in relation to the simplification and streamlining of administrative procedures. There are integrated actions for simplification and streamlining of administrative procedures, including e-</p>

				<p>The analysis is part of the Strategy for Development of the Public Administration 2014-2020 is based on a study of the existing regulatory framework, organizational structure and / or procedural rules in order to increase efficiency. It was used the following data and information from functional analysis, reports for the administration for the period 2003 - 2012, reports of the World Bank and the European Commission on Bulgaria, index of property rights, the best country for business of Forbes, etc.</p> <p>The Strategy for Development of the Public Administration 2014-2020 provides for the establishment of a mechanism for coordination and dialogue between the authorities responsible for the preparation and implementation of actions under the reform. The mechanism includes the implementation of a systematic review of the activities and progress of individual institutions involved in the implementation of the strategy. The monitoring will establish the status and will track the progress in the implementation of its individual goals and objectives. The main points to be observed in the implementation of this strategy are: compliance with the prescribed schedule, achieving results and real impact of the activities carried out on the target groups.</p> <p>The Council of Ministers will adopt</p>	<p>government solutions. Integrated actions to simplify and streamline administrative procedures include broad interaction with business organizations, mayors, district administrations, agencies, ministries and other institutions through which procedures are streamlined by stages.</p> <p>A procedure for the assessment of the administrative burden which is included in the policy development at national level is introduced.</p> <p>Amendments in the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers and its Administration require to perform standard assessment of the impact on economic activity and employment, which includes an assessment of the administrative burden in the development of legislation at the national level (see Appendix No 1 to Art. 30a para. 2, item 6 of the Rules of Procedure).</p> <p>Currently, an updated Guidance for assessing the impact of legislation is prepared.</p> <p>A regular review of administrative burden is introduced</p> <p>http://www.strategy.bg/Publications/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&categoryId=&Id=170&y=&m=&d=</p> <p>During the period May 2013 - February 2014 was made a review and analysis of the administrative and regulatory burden as a result of which:</p> <p>The first package of measure is adopted by the Council of Ministers by Decision No. 484 of August 2013.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	--

			<p>plans for implementation of the strategy upon a proposal and after consultation with interested parties. Annual yearly reports will be made, which within April will be proposed for approval of the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>The preparation of the reports will be implemented under the coordination and methodological guidance of the Administrative Reform Council. The reports will also mention the links with the National Reform Programme and other strategic documents, which specify the action on the modernization of the administration. Interim evaluation of the results of implementation of strategy and the impact on citizens, businesses and administrations will be made in 2017 with the participation of NGOs. Coordination and monitoring of progress will be carried out by the Administrative Reform Council to the Council of Ministers with the assistance of NGOs. In the monitoring process will be ensured publicity, as information about the implementation will be disclosed by cooperation established between the government and the media, the Portal for Public Consultation.</p> <p>The strategy is subject to ex-post evaluation of the impact after its completion.</p> <p>The Strategy for Development of the Public Administration 2014-2020</p>	<p>http://www.strategy.bg/PublicConsultations/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=1063)</p> <p>The respective legal changes are prepared for the implementation of 23 measures.</p> <p>After public consultations http://www.strategy.bg/PublicConsultations/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=1043) the Council of Ministers adopted (CoM Decision No. 635 October 2013) a second package of measures to reduce administrative burden with 88 measures. Third package for reducing the administrative and regulatory burden containing 26 measures was also adopted by Council of Ministers Decision No. 90 of 17 February 2014. At present, 36 measures are fulfilled, of which the more important are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o With the adoption of the amendment of the Labour Code (Official journal No. 27 of 25 March 2014): <p>-There is no longer existence for keeping and certification of the audit book by employers. Employers had a duty to have kept revision book. This book acts entered for administrative violations of the employer where it can be found at the registered office of the company. The provision was ineffective because the practice of Executive Agency "General Labour Inspectorate" indicates that this option is used occasionally. The proposal will affect all employers in Bulgaria. Facilitated is the regime for the issuance of an order terminating the employment contract of an employee when the employee is unable to submit an</p>
--	--	--	---	--

				<p>provides for the preparation of a detailed analysis of past experience in introducing quality management systems in about 200 administrations. The analysis will focus on the actual benefits to the people, resources and processes within the organization. As a result of the analysis, an action plan will be prepared in order to introduce appropriate management and quality control systems to address the solution of specific problems; the policy for the introduction of sustainable systems for quality management will be detailed.</p> <p>Special focus until 2020 will be put on the implementation of the European Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the excellence model of the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) in central and local administrations.</p> <p>Under the Strategy for Development of Public Administration until 2020 are established the basic needs and objectives in relation to the simplification and streamlining of administrative procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for the Development of Public Administration 2014-2020 incorporates the Strategy for Human Resources Management in Public Administration 2006 - 2013 and the Strategy for Training of State Officials, updated in 2006. The Strategy identifies the main issues in the development of human resources, 	<p>application for termination of employment with the employer- it is envisaged an opportunity for the application by mail through a licensed postal operator or electronically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reduced fees collected by the Registry Agency - an amendment to the Tariff of state fees collected by the Registry Agency (Official journal, 14 February 2014.) has reduced fees for services under the Commercial Register, Company register (so called BULSTAT) and the Property register. Overall reduction of the reduced fees amounted up to 21%, saving the citizens and businesses about 4.1 million levs per year. o The required documents has dropped off , now they are obtained through official channels, and are facilitated the procedures in providing a range of services of the central administration. o Increased the duration of the validity of the objects with the fire safety requirements from 3 to 5 years. o Reduced fee and simplified procedure judgment approving the site for designing object of agricultural land. o Simplified procedure for registration of farmers. Instead of an annual re-introduce, a single registration regime is introduced. o Introduced a faster refund when filing annual tax returns with barcode because no further manual filling and processing of the data is needed. o Implementing the measures of the legislative packages are made or
--	--	--	--	--	---

			<p>as well as the planned steps and actions to improve the overall process of human resources management in the public administration. A separate strategic objective related to professional and expert management was set therein.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy specifies the preparation of an analysis of existing needs in terms of training of state officials, and to set targets aimed at effective development of expert potential, increasing their motivation to work and keeping them in the administration. • The strategy provides for the periodic updating of the catalog of training courses proposed by the Institute of Public Administration. This will ensure the development of skill at all levels of the occupational hierarchy. Alternative forms of conducting the training courses will also be introduced; prerequisites for non-formal education, self-learning and knowledge sharing in work environment will also be created. In order to ensure the availability of resources, training institutions and procedures necessary to implement the plan, the strategy provides a reform of the training institutions in the administration. The aim is to achieve unified management of trainings for state officials and to transform the Institute of Public Administration into the leading training institution and a 	<p>prepared the following important regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adopted a Law for amending the APC (Official journal March 25, 2014) It adopted the principles of integrated administrative services. With this type of service the applicant shall submit a single application without any substantive documents already available in the administration. Implementation of complex services in more administrations will result in a significant economic impact and convenience for citizens and businesses. o Decision of the Council of Ministers № 59 of 04.02.2014 approved the Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism, which is submitted to the National Assembly 04.02. 2014 o Decision of the Council of Ministers № 123 of 11.03.2014 was approved Law on Amendments to the Law on Commodity Exchanges and Markets (CEM), which provides for the closure of the State Commission on CEM, which is submitted to the National Assembly. o Adopted a new public finance law, which addresses the development of program budgeting in Bulgaria. (Official journal No. 15 of 15 February 2013, Effective 01.01.2014) <p>New e-services were introduced in the Customs Agency and the National Revenue Agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent actions to implement the Plan to reduce the regulatory burden on
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>center for training of state officials. With the Strategy have been identified needs and objectives in relation to the introduction or development of tools for monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Strategy for the Development of E-governance in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020. http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=892</p> <p>Strategy for the introduction of e-governance and e-justice in the Justice Sector 2014-2020; - Adopted by Government Decision №532.</p> <p>Updated strategy for judicial reform, adopted by Government Decision №825/18.12.2014 г.</p> <p>Action plan by strategic objectives for the implementation of the Strategy.</p>	<p>business, adopted by Decision № 808 of 2012 of the Council of Ministers are currently being conducted: http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=771). Over half of the actions have already been implemented, and for most of the remaining ones the relevant draft legislation and regulations are prepared and consistently adopted by the Council of Ministers. As a result of this initiative there will be implemented nearly 200 measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to ensure full transparency in real-introduced incentives for citizens and businesses, a list of all the measures implemented to reduce the administrative and regulatory burden is posted on the website of the government. Since June 2013 it was reported a total of 91 performance measures. • http://www.government.bg/cgi-bin/cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0211&n=79&g • Methods for managing human resources in public administration http://www.strategy.bg/Publications/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&categoryId=&Id=162&y=&m=&d=O <p>Administrative Reform Council has already approved methodology for managing human resources in public administration, which administration can work in its work and to improve the implementation of human resource policies.</p> <p>The National Institute of Justice is in</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<p>charge of the mandatory initial training of the candidates for junior judges and junior prosecutors, as well as the maintenance and upgrade of the qualifications of magistrates, judicial officials and others, outlined in Art. 249 of the Judicial Power Act.</p> <p>the field of the judiciary have been prepared the following acts:</p> <p>Roadmap for implementation of the recommendations of the report of the European Commission in January 2014, under the Mechanism for Cooperation and Verification - Adopted by Decision № 326 of the Council of Ministers of 21 May 2014; - https://mjs.bg/81/</p> <p>Strategy for the introduction of e-governance and e-justice in the sector "Justice" 2014-2020 " - Adopted by Decision № 532 of the Council of Ministers of July 21 2014 - https://mjs.bg/15/</p> <p>Roadmap for implementation of the Strategy for the introduction of e-governance and e-justice in the sector "Justice" 2014-2020 " - http://www.strategy.bg/PublicConsultations/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=1476;</p> <p>Analysis of the Strategy for continuing the reform of the judiciary in terms of membership in the European Union; - https://mjs.bg/107/</p> <p>Updated Strategy for judicial reform and Action Plan for implementation of the strategy developed on the basis of the strategic objectives - http://mjs.bg/107/;</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<p>chedule for implementation of the measures envisaged in the Strategy for preventing and combating corruption in the judicial system in 2014; - Http://www.vss.justice.bg/bg/antikorupcia.htm</p> <p>Annual program of work of the SJC in 2014, consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Commission; At present, the working group was established to prepare a medium-term strategy for human resources in the judicial system and the development of methods to assess the workload of the judicial power.</p>
1. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds	YES	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund-related activities;	YES	<p>-Protection against Discrimination Act (http://www.kzd-nondiscrimination.com/layout/index.php/layout-over-40-positions/normativni-dokumenti/zakon-za-zashtita-ot-diskriminacia) fully transposes EU directives on equality: 2000/43/EC, 78/200/EC, 75/117/EEC, 97/80/EC and 76/207/EEC, and ensures the protection of all citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria against discrimination, while assisting in the prevention of discrimination and establishes measures for equal opportunities.</p> <p>- Commission for Protection against Discrimination</p> <p>Under the provisions of Article 40 of the Protection against Discrimination Act, in 2005 the Commission for Protection against Discrimination is created, which is an independent</p>	

				<p>specialized state body for prevention of discrimination, protection from discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities. The Commission monitors the implementation and compliance of Bulgarian and international anti-discrimination rules governing equal treatment and for its activities it is accountable to the highest authority of the legislature - the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) is accredited body for human rights protection to UN, with status "B" in relation to responding to the Paris Principles.</p> <p>-As a platform for consultation and involvement of the authorities responsible for anti-discrimination, the Commission holds annually seminars with senior officials from the central government - MoI, MLSP, MoC, etc..., The judicial system - judges and prosecutors, the territorial municipal administrations, as well as representatives of media and NGOs.</p> <p>-To facilitate the active participation of CPD in the equitable treatment of all people in the preparation and implementation of programs and activities of the EU, Rules of Proceedings before CPD are adopted and implemented An amendment of Protection against Discrimination Act will be made The Draft was approved by the Council of Ministers by Decision № 735 of 11.22.2013, and is submitted to the National Assembly on</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>25.11.2013, under № 302-01-46. The amendment will set new minimum requirements for preferential referral of CPD in order to implement the principle of equal treatment and prevention of discrimination.</p> <p>The shape of the consultation and involvement is through participation in various coordination procedures under the Rules of Procedure of CoM and working groups such as WG 13 "Social Policy and Employment", etc.</p> <p>According to Article 5, para. 4 of the Decree of CoM No. 5 of January 18, 2012 to develop strategic and program documents of the Republic of Bulgaria to manage funds under the Common Strategic Framework of the European Union for the programming period 2014-2020, the composition of the thematic working groups for program development for the new programming period must include representatives of the CPD and national representative organizations of and for people with disabilities recognized by the Council of Ministers under the Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act; In all programs in the new programming period the horizontal principles of gender equality and non-discrimination will be observed.</p>	
		Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti-discrimination law and	YES	- This criterion is implemented at several levels: through the Training Plan of the Training Centre of MLSP, project activities of CPD, the activities of the Agency for People with	

		policy.		<p>Disabilities (APD), the Ombudsman, NGOs, social partners and other stakeholders, aimed at raising awareness and capacity in the field of law and anti-discrimination policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CPD annually conducts training on EU legislation and anti-discrimination policy through thematic workshops where as guest speakers representatives of the EU institutions are invited. <p>Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Additional Protocol is within the training programmes at the National Institute of Justice regarding safeguards against discrimination</p> <p>A public lecture was held with the participation of a judge in the EC Court of Justice in Luxembourg on "The practice of the Court of Justice on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. Application of the Charter in the Member States.". The program of the event included anti-discrimination legislation and relevant case-law of the EC Court of Justice. In the public lecture were involved 63 participants /48 judges, 9 prosecutors, investigators, 2 representatives of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, one representative of the Sofia University and one representative of the Union of Jurists in Bulgaria/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshops cover a wide area of responsible employees from the central 	
--	--	---------	--	---	--

			<p>government authorities - MoI, MLSP, MES, MoC etc., the territorial municipal administrations as well as representatives of the media and NGOs.</p> <p>- Within the scope of project activities MLSP conducts training regarding anti-discrimination policies and relevant legislation. This includes training for social partners, employers' organizations, the structures of the Employment Agency (EA), the structures of the Agency for Social Assistance (ASS) , trade unions, employers, NGOs, etc., aiming at a real impact and change on the labor market in the direction of reducing inequality under all discriminatory signs. Five workshops were held within the project "Combating discrimination - of a just society (JUST/2012/PROG/AG/AD/3710) program PROGRESS (2007-2013).</p> <p>Another area in which the MLSP is operating is conducting trainings for prevention of discrimination in homes for children deprived of parental care.</p> <p>In March, were prepared the third roundtable on Central region and training seminars in Plovdiv and Burgas for the teams working with children in institutional care.</p> <p>In March and April 2014 were held two roundtables at regional level, with the participation of employers, young people leaving institutions for</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

				<p>children, local government, regional structures of the Employment Agency and the Agency for social support. Roundtables aimed to change public attitudes and the realization of the labor market for young people in social institutions who are in their final year of study. In april 2014 a National Campaign was held to raise awareness and increase public sensitivity in relation to Council Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC - in Kardzhali and Balchik. Project activities were completed with organizing the final conference in Sofia during the month of May 2014.</p>	
2. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds	YES	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities;	YES	<p>According to Art. 20 Directive 2006/54/EC, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination is defined as a national equality body.</p> <p>-Protection against Discrimination Act (in force since 01.11.2004) fully transposes EU directives on equality: 2000/43/EC, 78/200/EC, 75/117/EEC, 97/80/EC and 76/207/EEC, and ensures the protection of all citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria against discrimination, while assisting in the prevention of discrimination and establishes measures for equal opportunities. Under the provisions of Article 40 of the Protection against Discrimination Act, in 2005 the Commission for Protection against Discrimination is established, which is an independent specialized state body for prevention of discrimination, protection from discrimination and</p>	<p>With Order No ПД01-727 of 09.27.2013 of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy was established an interdepartmental working group, which aim is to prepare a draft law on gender equality.</p> <p>The Draft addresses the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria in international and European treaties to which it is party.</p> <p>The draft law defines the institutions and mechanisms for the implementation of state policy on gender equality and regulation of opportunity, incl. regulates the institutional mechanism for gender equality.</p> <p>Ministers adopted Decree № 104 of 10 May 2014 amending the Decree № 313 of the Council of Ministers in 2004 to establish the National Council on Equality between women and men, the Council of Ministers.</p>

			<p>ensuring equal opportunities. The Commission monitors the implementation and compliance of Bulgarian and international anti-discrimination rules governing equal treatment and for its activities it is accountable to the highest authority of the legislature - the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.</p> <p>Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) is accredited body for human rights protection to UN, with status "B" in relation to responding to the Paris Principles.</p> <p>The state policy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of gender equality and non-discrimination on the ground of "sex" is a horizontal policy which is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy at national level. A sustainable model for cooperation is achieved between the institutions and the social partners and civil society through their participation in the National Council on Equality between Women and Men at the Council of Ministers. Chairperson of the Council is the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. The strategic document of the Bulgarian government, defining the policy framework is the National Strategy for Promotion of Gender Equality for the period 2009 - 2015, which was adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of Europe, the strategic documents of the European Union and the principles underlying the UN conventions on</p>	<p>The Decree amends the Rules for the structure and organization of the National Council on Equality between women and men to the Council of Ministers. The Rules are adopted in the annex to the Art. 2 of the Decree № 313 of 2004</p> <p>Amendments to the Rules relating to reflect structural changes in the Council of Ministers and to strengthen national institutional mechanism for the implementation of the policy on equality between women and men. According to Article 5, para. 4 of the Decree of CoM No. 5 of January 18, 2012 to develop strategic and program documents of the Republic of Bulgaria to manage funds under the Common Strategic Framework of the European Union for the programming period 2014-2020, the composition of the thematic working groups for program development for the new programming period must include representatives of the CPD.</p> <p>In addition to all programs in the new programming period the horizontal principles of gender equality and non-discrimination will be observed.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>human rights and women's rights. In fulfillment of this basic strategic document, each year, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy develops annual national action plans for the promotion of equality between women and men involving in the consultation process all responsible authorities for the implementation of gender equality. Through national plans it is aimed to consolidate the efforts of all institutions for the implementation of measures and activities to achieve equality between women and men in all spheres of economic, political and social life. In fulfillment of the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European and international treaties to which it is a party, and the adopted by the Council of Ministers Decision No 438 of 25 July 2013 Action Plan for the implementation of the final recommendations to the Republic of Bulgaria made by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a Gender Equality Act will be developed. The aim is to create legal guarantees concerning measures to ensure equal opportunities for women and men and to strengthen institutional mechanisms / structures for implementation of the state policy in this area. The Action Plan is developed by an interdepartmental working group with the participation of representatives of all ministries, agencies, public authorities, social partners, non-governmental</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>organizations working in the field of gender equality and organizations for protection of human rights. The following measures are provided for based on the recommendations made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparation of a Draft Law on Gender Equality; - strengthening the National Mechanism on Gender Equality; - activities to overcome gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices; - thematic studies and analyses; - of magistrates, investigating police officers, teachers and social workers; activities to promote the participation of women in different spheres of social life, etc. 	
		<p>Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.</p>	YES	<p>The Action Plan for the implementation of the final recommendations to the Republic of Bulgaria made by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women includes the following measures in accordance with the recommendations, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training for capacity building of civil servants on gender equality, including laws and policies on gender equality; • conducting awareness and information activities, incl. among women from disadvantaged groups to promote the UN Convention on the Elimination of All 	<p>In the catalog of the Center for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives, to MLSP 2014 is set to conduct a two-day training in July on "Practical guidelines for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" . The training is designed for senior management and expert positions in MLSP and other central and local administrations, social partners and NGOs. The objectives of the training are: Understanding the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with final recommendations to the Republic</p>

				Forms of Discrimination against Women and others.	of Bulgaria made by the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the resulting obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria; Improve the capacity of public administration to implement the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and related documents; Building skills to implement an integrated approach to the implementation of the Action Plan; Improve administrative competence. Yet to be fully developed course content for training.
3. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC (1)	YES	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes;	YES	On 26.01.2012, the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted the Law on ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is the first major human rights treaty of the 21st century policy for people with disabilities. By Decision No 868 of 19 October 2012, the Council of Ministers adopted an Action Plan containing measures to bring the Republic of Bulgaria legislation and policies for people with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2013 -2014). The Action Plan aims to take effective steps for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key areas in need of legal reform and take consistent steps on 	In implementing the Action Plan, an interdepartmental working group is established to develop an independent mechanism under Art. 33.2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including the establishment of a body and implementation of an independent mechanism. The working group on coordination for the implementation of the Action Plan, development of a coordination mechanism for monitoring and independent monitoring mechanism under Article 33 of the Convention, as well as for determination of implementation authorities continues its operation. The Action Plan identifies the participants from various institutions, as well as the non-government sector in the field of integration of people with disabilities. The plan shows the various steps

				<p>input requirements of the Convention;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define and implement a coordination mechanism and monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention, with clearly defined roles, tasks and responsibilities of the involved institutions; • Capacity-building of government officials and experts from different fields to correctly apply the provisions of the Convention; • Widely promote the principles of the Convention in the public and civil society involvement in the process of its implementation; • Provide periodic update of activities to implement the Convention and monitor the application of the provisions of the Convention. 	<p>governing leading institutions and their partners in the development of concepts for regulatory changes in various areas covered by the Convention.</p> <p>Currently, a review has been carried out. Therefore were developed and adopted Concepts for legislative changes in relation to the application of article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, article 12 - Equality before the law, article 14 - Freedom and personal security, article 18 - Freedom of movement and nationality, article 19 - Independent living and inclusion in the community and article 24 - Education from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in implementation of the Action Plan. The adoption of a concept in terms of accessibility to the built environment (article 9) is forthcoming.</p> <p>The plan regulates accordingly the deadlines for implementation of the measures set out in it.</p> <p>By Orders No ПД01-186 of 28.02.2013, subsequent Order ПД01-353 of 04.23.2013 on the cancellation of the first and Order ПД01-602 of 08.02.2013 on the amendment and supplementation Order ПД01-353 of 23.04.2013 of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, an interdepartmental working group is established on coordination of the implementation of the Action Plan, containing measures to bring the legal framework and policies for people with disabilities, in accordance with the</p>
--	--	--	--	---	--

					<p>provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as the Coordination Group). The Coordination Group includes representatives of all government institutions and NGOs involved in the policy for people with disabilities. Regarding civil society representatives, in particular organizations representing people with disabilities in the Republic of Bulgaria to cooperate in the development and implementation of policy on the integration of people with disabilities, a National Council for the Integration of People with Disabilities is set up to the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, and deputy chairpersons - the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy and the Deputy Minister of Health and a representative of the nationally represented organizations of people with disabilities and a representative of the nationally representative organizations for people with disabilities, selected on a rotating basis for a period of one year. The National Council for the Integration of People with Disabilities is an advisory body to the Council of Ministers, which shall consist of : representatives of the state, nominated by the Council of Ministers, nationally representative organizations of and for people with disabilities, nationally representative organizations of employees, nationally representative organizations of employers and the National Association</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>of Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria. National Council for the Integration of People with Disabilities opinions on all draft legislation, strategies, programs and plans affecting the rights of people with disabilities and their integration.</p> <p>According to Article 5, para. 4 of the Decree of CoM No. 5 of January 18, 2012 to develop strategic and program documents of the Republic of Bulgaria to manage funds under the Common Strategic Framework of the European Union for the programming period 2014-2020, the composition of the thematic working groups for program development for the new programming period must include mandatory representatives of the CPD and of the nationally representative organizations of and for people with disabilities, recognized by the Council of Ministers under the Integration of People with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>In addition, all programs in the new programming period will include the horizontal principles of gender equality and non-discrimination.</p>
		<p>Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as</p>	YES	<p>The Action Plan for the purposes of Art. 8 of the Convention "Raising awareness and changing attitudes on the rights of people with disabilities" operational objective is set "Increasing the capacity of local, regional and central government and others related to the provisions of the UN Convention." In this connection seminars are envisaged for employees</p>	

		appropriate;		<p>of public administration, the judiciary, doctors and medical professionals, seminars for teaching staff, other forms for people with disabilities, etc. On 11-12 November 2013 in Sofia, a seminar was held with international participation on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Action Plan for its implementation. It was a place to exchange experiences and best practices internationally and to present the Bulgarian experience in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The initiative provided an opportunity to raise the capacity of the representatives of the administration on the trends in the policy for people with disabilities in the context of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Europe and it will ensure implementation of the measures in the two-year Action Plan for Implementation of the Convention. Expansion of the knowledge for the national institutional framework for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - a mechanism for coordination, monitoring and independent monitoring; Studies and exchange of foreign experience in reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - principles, approaches, sources of information, methods of data processing, analyses; comprehensive information was received on the</p>	
--	--	--------------	--	--	--

				<p>guidelines for the preparation of the national reports as well as acquiring practical knowledge and skills approaches and techniques for the preparation of the national reports. On 12 and 13 June 2014, the Center for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives of MLSP was held a training of officials from local, regional and central government and NGO experts working on issues for people with disabilities "Application the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities and the participation of local, regional and central government.". Purpose of the training was to increase the capacity of the staff of local, regional and central government on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and update their knowledge related to integration policies for people with disabilities.</p>	
		<p>Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.</p>	YES	<p>The Action Plan for the purposes of Art. 8 of the Convention "Raising awareness and changing attitudes on the rights of people with disabilities" operational objective is set "Increasing the capacity of local, regional and central government and others related to the provisions of the UN Convention." In this connection seminars are envisaged for employees of public administration, the judiciary, doctors and medical professionals, seminars for teaching staff, other forms for people with disabilities, etc. On 11-12 November 2013 in Sofia, a seminar was held with international</p>	

				<p>participation on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Action Plan for its implementation. It was a place to exchange experiences and good practices internationally and to present the Bulgarian experience in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The initiative provided an opportunity to raise the capacity of the representatives of the administration on the trends in the policy for people with disabilities in the context of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Europe and it will ensure implementation of the measures in the two-year Action Plan for Implementation of the Convention. Expansion of the knowledge for the national institutional framework for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - a mechanism for coordination, monitoring and independent monitoring; studies and exchange of foreign experience in reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - principles, approaches, sources of information, methods of data processing, analyses; comprehensive information was received on the guidelines for the preparation of the national reports as well as acquiring practical knowledge and skills approaches and techniques for the preparation of the national reports.</p>	
4. The existence of	Partially	Arrangements for the effective	NO	National Strategy for the Development	Measures in this direction will be

<p>arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.</p>		<p>application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms;</p>		<p>of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020. http://www.government.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0211&n=99&g Adopted with CoM Decision 498/11.07.2014. The strategy foresees measures for improving effectiveness in awarding of contracts and establish guarantees of compliance with EU legislation in the field.</p> <p>EU legislation on public procurement (Directives 2004/18/EC, 2004/17/EC, Directives 89/665/EEC, 92/13/EEC and 2007/66/EC and 2009/81/EC and the Regulations associated with their implementation) has been fully implemented in the PPA. Different from the PPA, the regulations on public procurement contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules for the Implementation of the PPA; • Ordinance on competitions projects in the planning and investment design, approved by Decree № 75 of 2009 of the Council of Ministers, promulgated SG. No. 26 of 2009; • Ordinance under Art. 13, para 3 of the Public Procurement Act (PPA) for the criteria and procedures for determining the presence of vital national interests in security and defense within the meaning of Art. 346 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the procedures to sign contracts, approved 	<p>further strengthened. It provides measures to use a uniform practice among the Public Procurement Agency, MA of OP, National Audit Office, SFIA, CPC and SAC and coordination of their activities. It will also include measures to further expand the scope of the ex-ante control by the Public Procurement Agency for effective cooperation between supervisory authorities in order to standardize the practices and streamlining ex-post control. There will also be measures to increase the effectiveness of judicial protection.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>by Decree № 180 of 22.08.2013, promulgated SG № 75 of 2013.</p> <p>http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/ZOP_15_02_2013.pdf</p> <p>http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/PPZOP_09032012.pdf</p> <p>http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/Naredba_konkursi.pdf</p> <p>http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/Naredba_27082013.pdf</p> <p>In relations to amendments to the public procurement legislation - the PPA in effect has been adopted in 2004. Since then five major amendments are made. Three of them introduce the applicable European Directives (Directive 2004/17/EC and Directive 2004/18/EC, Directive 2007/66/EC and Directive 2009/81/EC), while the other two - the preliminary control by the Public Procurement Agency and the approved government concept related to changes in public procurement legislation. Apart from those, a number of amendments have been made that comprise specific provisions of the law. The definition of the public law organization in the PPA is in full compliance with the applicable directives. Public law organizations are specifically regulated in Art. 7 § 3 of the PPA as the term is defined in § 1, item 21 of the Additional provisions to the PPA.</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>In terms of institutional arrangements - there are several bodies that operate in the field of public procurement. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Procurement Agency - a national body which supports the Minister of Economy and Energy to implement the policy in the field of public procurement, issues methodological guidelines under the PPA, ex-ante control over certain procedures, etc.• OPs Managing Authority who also supervises the public procurement procedures and gives guidance to contracting authorities - beneficiaries on the operational programs.• Bulgarian National Audit Office and the Public Financial Inspection Agency - bodies to carry out further control over the implementation of the PPA.• CPC and SAC - appeal bodies that settles disputes on the legality of the public procurement procedures. Although some mechanisms for imposing a uniform practice, it is necessary to work for a uniform interpretation of the law by those bodies. <p>There have been introduced different forms of control at all stages of the public procurements, including at the stage of their implementation, as well as procedures for the imposition of a uniform practice.</p> <p>Since 2009, the Public Procurement Agency exercises ex-ante control over procedures for awarding public</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>contracts financed in full or in part by the EU funds (Art. 19, para 2, item 22 and Art. 20a of the PPA). The amendments to the Public Procurement Act, in force since 26.02.2012, this control is carried out in two phases - before and after the announcement of the procedure, as there was introduced a mechanism for feedback by monitoring the implementation of the recommendations made.</p> <p>Pursuant to Art. 19, para 2, item 1 of the PPA, the Executive Director of the Public Procurement Agency issues a general methodological guidance on the application of the law and its implementing rules. When these guidelines are agreed with the controlling authorities under law - Bulgarian National Audit Office and the State Financial Inspection Agency (SFIA), they become mandatory for them in carrying out their checks. Methodological guidelines are published on the Public Procurement Portal.</p> <p>http://rop3-app1.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL</p> <p>Article 123, para 1 of the PPA provides that the Bulgarian National Audit Office and the State Financial Inspection Agency shall carry out further control over the contracted public procurements. PPA provides an administrative penalty part (art. 127 - Art. 133 of PPA). It provides for</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

			<p>violations for which the contracting authorities are imposed with fines. http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/ZOP_15_02_2013.pdf</p> <p>Every Ops Managing Authority provides a procedure for ex-ante, ongoing and ex-post control concerning the public procurement procedures.</p> <p>Measures have been taken to address the main types of errors found in procurement, as follows: Decree № 134 of the Council of Ministers of 5.07.2010 introduces a Methodology for determining financial corrections to be applied to expenses associated with the implementation of operational programs co-financed by the structural instruments of the European Union, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund. The authorities responsible for the implementation of the methodology are the contracting authorities (MA/ IB) under the operational programs financed by SCF RDP OP “Fisheries “ and the audit bodies on SCF, EAFD and EFF.</p> <p>Decree № 18 of the Council of Ministers of 4.02.2003 establishes a Council to coordinate the fight against infringements affecting the financial interests of the European Union.</p> <p>Decree № 285 of the Council of</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

				<p>Ministers of 30.11.2009 adopts the Ordinance laying down the procedures for the administration of irregularities in funds, instruments and programs financed by the European Union. http://www.eufunds.bg/bg/page/119</p> <p>Instructions issued by the Minister of Finance - ДНФ 7/22.12.2010 regulates the process associated with the write-off and recovery of undue payments and overpayments and unduly or improperly spent funds on projects co-financed by the Structural and Cohesion Funds of the European Union. The guidelines are published at: http://www.minfin.bg/bg/page/10?q=%D0%94%D0%9D%D0%A4</p> <p>OPs Managing Authorities keep records of financial corrections imposed in the implementation of public procurement procedures. Each MA disposes of specific employees who have in their job descriptions responsibilities on public procurement. The Law Amending and Supplementing the PPA, promulg. SG, issue 40, 2014, in force since 01.07.2014, extends of the ex-ante control carried out by the Public Procurement Agency regarding procedures for public works contracts financed with funds from the national budget and above a certain threshold. PPA regulates the two-instance appeal of the decisions of contracting authorities issued in relation to</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>procedures for the award of public contracts. First instance is the Commission for Protection of Competition, which is an administrative body, and the second and final instance is the Supreme Administrative Court. There is a two months period for both instances to take a decision. In terms of the CPC – there is no delay in hearing the cases. In terms of SAC – there is some delay, taking into account that the statutory one month period to rule is inconsistent with the rules of procedure for dealing with cases of this Court.</p> <p>http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/ZOP_15_02_2013.pdf</p> <p>The planned action "Review of the appeal system and proposals for its optimization (eg. Safeguards against abuse of the right of appeal, etc.)" has been completed.</p> <p>Received were letters from the responsible authorities (CPC and SAC) with proposals to streamline the system of appeals. With the suggestions taken the implementation of activities 14.1, measure 14 of the Implementation Plan of the National Strategy for development of the sector procurement in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020 year will be accepted as completed.</p> <p>Proposals of CPC and SAC will be discussed in connection with the preparation of new legislation on</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				public procurement.	
		Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures;	YES	<p>http://rop3-appl.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93,408251&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL</p> <p>http://rop3-appl.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93,1488254&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&url=687474703A2F2F77772E616F702E62672F657365617263685F7070322E706870</p> <p>http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/ZOP_15_02_2013.pdf</p> <p>http://www.aop.bg/fckedit2/user/File/bg/Normativna%20baza/PPZOP_09032012.pdf</p> <p>http://rop3-appl.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL</p> <p>Contracts with a value below the thresholds for applicable European directives are awarded under procedure provided for in the PPA (art. 14, para 1 of the PPA). The procedure is similar to that set out in the European Directives, with some exemptions.</p> <p>For the award for contracts of very low values, the PPA provides a procedure that respects the principle of publicity and transparency (Article 101a -101 g of the PPA). According to this procedure, the contracting authorities are required to collect bids by publishing public calls on the Public</p>	<p>Measures in this direction will be further strengthened. In this connection, regarding the introduction of e-procurement – in the National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020 envisages by the end of 2016 to introduce entirely electronic communication to the stage of e-offer, including.</p> <p>For this purpose, a contract for services was signed between the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Ministry of Economy and Energy, which was ratified by the 42th National Assembly, by law, adopted on 24 January 2014, promulgated SG No. 11 2014. As a result of the implementation of the contract, it will be proposed a model for e-procurement based on European best practices and consistent with national specification.</p>

				<p>Procurement Portal, which is supported by the Public Procurement Agency. There is a minimum period for public access to the call, which may not be shorter than 7 days. Thus, all stakeholders have the opportunity to see the contracts which the contracting authorities intend to award. Decree № 69 of 11 march 2013 provides the conditions and procedures for determining the contractor by candidates for grants or beneficiaries of contracted grants from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund of the European Union, Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea Basin 2007 - 2013", financed by the European Instrument for Neighbourhood and Partnership, Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and Norwegian Financial Mechanism.</p> <p>The principle of publicity and transparency is also guaranteed by the Public Procurement Register (PPR), which is maintained by the Public Procurement Agency (Article 21 - 22a of the PPA).</p> <p>The Register is part of the Public Procurement Portal and is a unified electronic database, which contains information about all open public procurement procedures, the results of their award and implementation. Besides the information required under the European directives and regulations (notice for OP, contract information, etc.). PPR also contains information that stems from the</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>national requirements (information on the implementation of the contract, the decision to negotiate without notice, information on the progress of appeal). http://rop3-app1.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93.158263&dad=portal&schema=PORTAL</p> <p>The Public Procurement Portal also contains public calls based on which contracting authorities collect bids under Art. 101a – 101g of PPA. http://rop3-app1.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93.1488254&dad=portal&schema=PORTAL&url=687474703A2F2F777772E616F702E62672F657365617263685F7070322E706870</p> <p>Contracting authorities are able to provide through the Public Procurement Portal documentation electronically, to exchange questions and answers with the participants electronically and publish clarifications. Through the Public Procurement Portal is given the opportunity to fully communicate in electronic form between the participants and contracting authorities, through to preparation and submission of the bid. http://rop3-app1.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93.1&dad=portal&schema=PORTAL</p> <p>PPA regulates a number of additional measures relating to publicity and transparency. Some of them are related</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>to: the ability to attract external persons as members of the committees who are from a list maintained by the Public Procurement Agency, public opening of tenders and envelopes with the price offered, the announcement of the evaluation of tenders by other indicators - under criterion "most economically advantageous tender", publication of information on opening negotiated procedures without notice and for their awarding, posting opinions on progress monitoring of negotiated procedures without notice and information on the implementation of contracts, etc.</p> <p>http://rop3-appl.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93,1488254&dad=portal&schema=PORTAL&url=687474703A2F2F77772E616F702E62672F657365617263685F7070322E706870</p> <p>According to the recent amendments in the Public Procurement Act, promulgated. SG. 40 of 2014, contracting authorities are obliged to publish at its buyer profile all documents related to the implementation of these procedures - procurement contracts, additional agreements thereto, information about each payment, the public calls, the opinions of the Executive Director of the Agency on requests of the contracting authority and other useful information. The obligation to publish these documents is set in Art. 22b of the PPA and enters into force from 10.01.2014.</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

		<p>Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds;</p>	<p>NO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •According to reports of the Public Procurement Agency and OPs Managing Authorities, a number of suitable trainings for MA experts are provided on the effective implementation of the public procurement legislation, avoidance of the risk of imposing financial corrections and administrative penalties in the conduct of award procedures. •According to information from OPs Managing Authorities through their websites they provide to interested parties the necessary information, incl. via developed documents, manuals, instructions, handbooks, etc. in the field of public procurement. •In the National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement sector it is envisaged to include activities related to the training of persons involved in the preparation and conduct of public procurement procedures, as well as officials from the Public Procurement Agency and the OPs Managing Authorities. <p>Public Procurement Agency supports centralized information system (Public Procurement Portal), which gives access to all aspects of public procurement. It provides information on:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all operational programs financed by the Structural and Cohesion Fund is used a unified Management Information System (MIS). The system is fully implemented as a web based application and stores a complete history of all changes in the data and enables the generation of historical references and full traceability of the chronological sequence of changed records, each of which contains evidence of actions performed. • Within State Fund Agriculture was developed and is currently functioning an Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). The access, operation and storage of information in the system is applied in accordance with the information policies of State Fund Agriculture. <p>Information and Systems for Management of EU funds Directorate to the Administration of the Council of Ministers supports a Single Information Portal through which information is provided for all operational programs, sample documents, calls for project proposals, etc.</p> <p>Information from the Central Coordination Unit on the trainings related to public procurement in MAs of OPs (2013):</p> <p>For MA of OPHRD were conducted 10</p>
--	--	--	-----------	---	---

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislation in the field of public procurement; • Public Procurement Register (PPR); • general methodological guidelines concerning the application of the law; • issued practical guidance related to completing the document templates, batch creation and a unique PPR number, sending information to the agency, etc.; • list of the entities to be used as external experts; • published public calls; • opinions of the preliminary control of negotiated procedures without notice; • other information. <p>The National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020 envisages measures for effective cooperation between the authorities responsible for functions related to the methodology and control of public procurement with a view to establishing a uniform practice.</p>	<p>training sessions, the total number of trained employees is 115. For IB – Employment Agency were conducted 3 trainings, the total number of trained employees is 10. For IB - ASA is conducted 1 training, the total number of trained employees is 2. For IB - MES were conducted 11 training sessions, the total number of trained employees is 11. From February to October 2013 were 65 times in Bulgaria or abroad of experts in the MA and IB OPHRD participated in trainings on implementation of the PPL and introduction to current developments within the European procurement rules. For November no planned training on the topic. Through official correspondence and the website of the MA is submitted required information through manuals, instructions and guides. In Handbook of HRD OP is the declaration of the officers familiar with the changes; guidelines have been prepared with the most common errors in the award.</p> <p>In 2012 16 employees of the OPE MA participated in 45 training courses on to procurement issues and from the IB 30 employees participated in three training sessions. Since the beginning of 2013 was conducted on public procurement were trained 16 experts from the MA in 4 courses and 4 experts from IB in 1 course.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	--

					<p>In 2014 5 experts from GD "OPE" at MOEW have participated in 3 trainings on public procurement.</p> <p>In the matters of PP is engaged department "Ex-post control and procedural representation" after the restructuring of IB and MA of OPE into GD "OPE" in the end of March 2014.</p> <p>MA OPE has posted on its web site a number of guidelines and supporting documents to beneficiaries related to public procurement (mainly published in "Documents / Manuals / Instructions / Manuals):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most common violations related to the award and implementation of contracts: http://ope.moew.government.bg/files/uruploads/files/documentation/ukazania/narushenia_obshtestveni_porachki.pdf 2. Documents relating to errors and violations and current issues of the PPA: http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg/pages/dopuskani-greshki-i-narushenia/67#1 3. In section manuals, guidelines, manuals / Implementation of projects financed by the OPE - Additional section 1 "Procurement" with additional supplies, incl. model forms http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg/pages/narachnitsi-ukazania-rakovodstva/66#1 <p>As a new measure to help increase the capacity of beneficiaries in the field of public procurement, quarterly</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>Managing Authority will prepare a newsletter with practical examples and descriptions of the different types of violations found during verification. The newsletter will be sent by email and will be posted on the official website of the program. The first newsletter was published in July 2014 (http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg/pages/dopuskani-greshki-i-narushenia/67#1). The second one is under preparation.</p> <p>Various trainings on Public Procurement Act for the period from 2007 to present have visited 50 officials from OPT.</p> <p>In 2012 there were 3 trainings on procurement, which have trained a total of 9 employees MA OPDCBE. Planned are two trainings which will train 64 employees of MA OPDCBE. Arrangements for training is regulated by Chapter 18 of the Manual of Operational Programme "Competitiveness" and the Internal Rules on the organization and conduct of training and qualification of employees in MEE. Earlier this year, the MA approve annual training plan for employees which shall be developed based on their personal learning plans. Training of the "Public procurement financed by EU funds 2013" and in practice of the application of the Public. Pending the training on "Tender procedures PPA regulations on public</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>procurement."</p> <p>period 2008-2012 were conducted 7 trainings on procurement of a total of 23 employees from OPTA MA. OPTA MA carried out preliminary control procedures under the LPP funded OPTA with a view to identifying any gaps still at the stage before the start of the procedure; 2. OPTA MA maintains constant communication with beneficiaries and holds regular meetings with them regarding the progress of the projects / implementation of activities, which includes a discussion of current and planned procedures under the PPA.</p> <p>10 employees of the MA-OPAC have undergone four courses related to public procurement. Ahead are two trainings on procurement.</p> <p>In the period 2011 - October 2013 were held 18 trainings for beneficiaries - municipal, regional, central administration and the judiciary, through which information and practical exercises are carried out on the application of the rules governing Procurement under projects financed by ESF-OPAC. By the end of 2013 provides for an additional 2 pieces trainings for beneficiaries.</p> <p>Through its website, the MA provides information on public procurement, including in the form of documents elaborated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of indicators for assessing the bids using the criterion of "most economically advantageous tender"
--	--	--	--	--	---

				<p>when awarding service training;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for ex-ante control of procurement funded projects OPAC; • Common Errors and irregularities in the drafting of documentation and tendering; • Instructions for completing the schedule of public procurement; • Examples of violations; • Guide for beneficiaries. <p>Within OPAC taken and implemented are the following measures to improve communications available between the managing authority and the beneficiaries in the implementation of the Public Procurement Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular trainings to beneficiaries after the conclusion of contracts; • providing advice and clarification of the beneficiaries; • maintenance of the special section "For beneficiaries" on the website of the program. <p>Various trainings on Public Procurement Act for the period from 2009 have participated 71 employees MA of OPRD. Planned training on procurement of 28 employees of the MA of OPRD.</p> <p>Eight experts from the Directorate General "Programming of Regional Development" took part in three training sessions on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice of the Court of Auditors, APFI, CPC and PPA on implementing PPL; • Practice and changes in public
--	--	--	--	---

DRAFT

					<p>procurement in 2013;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC of public procurement. <p>Information for 2014</p> <p>Two experts from DG "Programming of Regional Development" took part in training on "How to assign a lawful and effective procurement"</p> <p>Conducted an internal workshop of experts from DG "Programming of Regional Development" on "New approach of the audit authority on procurement from beneficiaries of OP" Regional Development "2007-2013</p> <p>Six experts from DG "Programming of Regional Development" took part in two training sessions on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Practice of Public Procurement" - Expected changes in the PPA. Practical problems of procedures for the award of the OP. Practice of Public Procurement Agency. " - "Act amending the Public Procurement Act (promulgated SG. 40 2014)" - analysis and interpretation. Preparation and an open procedure. New practices of the CPC and SAC in application of the law. " <p>Forty-three experts from the Directorate General "Programming of Regional Development" took part in three training sessions on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Up-to-date amendments to the Law on Public Procurement" - Eighteenth national seminar "Practice of public procurement" - "Recent amendments to the PPA. Process management in procurement under the
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<p>new rules. Practice of the Public Procurement Agency";</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar on "Improvement of the control systems in MA to ex-ante and ex-post control procedures for procurement by the Beneficiary under the Operational Programme "Regional Development" 2007-2013 <p>Eight experts from GD "PRD" participated in three training sessions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - „Act amending the Public Procurement Act (promulgated SG. 40 2014)" - analysis and interpretation. Preparation and an open procedure. New practices of the CPC and SAC in application of the law."; - „New moments in the control and appeal of PP"; - „Improvement of control systems in MA in relation to execute ex-ante and ex-post control procedures for procurement by the Beneficiary of the Operational Programme "Regional Development" 2007-2013" <p>In the period 28-29.07.2014, MA organized and conducted a training seminar for MA staff and practical training of beneficiaries on lawful public procurement with participation of representatives of the audit unit of DG "Regional and urban policy" and representatives of DG "Internal Market and Services" by the EC and of the Public Procurement Agency. Seminar participants were presented best practices and also errors in the procurement, taking preventive actions to prevent violations.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

				<p>OPRD MA maintains systems to exchange information to help participants in the implementation and monitoring of the program as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing guidance to assist the beneficiaries, such as general and in relation to specific cases.; • Maintain an updated summary of the practice of admitted violations in awarding obshtestveniporachki established by the audit authorities to audit the MA of OPRD and related recommendations, preparing updated information published on the website of OPRD, and is provided as indication to the experts MA performing pre and post-control. The information is updated according to the audits; • Established practice for continuous exchange of experience and good practice between experts from the RE department "Zorn" and department «Monitoring» in connection with implementing the preliminary and follow-up. <p>Regarding procurement 4 officers of MA RDP participated in trainings. IB MA of OP Fisheries - In 2010 a study was conducted in conjunction with PPL for employees from the "Fisheries and aquaculture." In 2013, training in connection with the PPA will involve two experts from the same department. In 2012, six employees of MA RDP trained on PPL that are organized by "European Training Center" Ltd.; also in 2012, were trained 29 employees MA</p>
--	--	--	--	--

					<p>RDP on PPL training being organized by a contractor on a project funded under the measure "Technical assistance" 'RDP (2007-13); State Fund "Agriculture" - During 2012 and early 2013, seven people from the "Control of procurement and implementation of local development strategies" have been trained concerning the PPA. At the end of 2011, all employees of the department CPILDS responsible for processing procedures on procurement have undergone training related to the upcoming changes in the PPA subsequently entered into force on 26.02.2012.</p> <p>NAFA Employees of the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture have undergone trainings related to the application of the procurement rules of the EU at all relevant levels. In addition, at the end of November 2013 provided is training on "Public Procurement Act - a practice of application". Measures to improve the communication channels between the managing authorities and beneficiaries in the implementation of the Public Procurement Act will be included in the Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries from 2014 to 2020.</p> <p>Public Procurement Agency During the period 2007 - 2013 the Public Procurement Agency has organized and participated in conducting 85 training of persons</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>involved in the process of procurement. By Decision № 41 from 27.12. 2012 is approved for funding under the Operational Programme "Technical Assistance" a project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the Public Procurement Agency, improving the system of ex-ante control procedures financed by EU funds' with beneficiary the Public Procurement Agency. The project aims to increase the efficiency of the Agency ex-ante control on procedures financed by the EU. The project provides 4 courses in the field of public procurement of 200 employees of the Managing Authorities, Intermediate Bodies and the Public Procurement Agency.</p> <p>Information for 2014: Three of the planned project trainings are held, having trained 128 employees. In annex to the OPTA project contract is provided an option for organizing and conducting two additional training for 80 people. Agency's employees participated as lecturers in three trainings organized by the IPA. In relation of the latest changes in PPL, in force since 01.07.2014 г., PPA experts participated as lecturers in 14 trainings as 11 of them are organized by IPA, 2 by MRD and 1 from National Association of Labor-Productive Cooperatives.</p>
		Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	NO	http://rop3-app1.aop.bg:7778/portal/page?_pageid=93,168247&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL	At present, in order to ensure personnel for preliminary control, the Agency implements a project under OP Technical Assistance that ensures funds

			<p>The Public Procurement Agency is established with the Public Procurement Act (promulgated in SG, issue 28 of 2004, effective from 01.10.2004). It is a legal entity with the status of an Executive Agency to the Minister of Economy and Energy and assist him in the implementation of the state policy in the field of public procurement.</p> <p>The functions of the Agency are described in Art. 19, para. 2 of PPA. The most important of them are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drafting of legislation in the field of public procurement for the implementation of European Directives and Regulations and national rules; • methodological support by giving opinions on inquiries of contracting authorities; • issuing common methodological guidance on the application of PPA and the rules for implementation of PPA; • ex-ante control of procedures for the award of public contracts financed entirely or partially under the EU funds; • opinions of the ex-ante control of negotiated procedures without notice; • maintaining the Public Procurement Register (PPR) and the Public Procurement Portal etc. <p>Each MA has certain employees who have in their job descriptions</p>	<p>for 10 additional staff positions. It is envisaged in the draft Partnership Agreement, the Public Procurement Agency to be included as a beneficiary under OP Good Governance to strengthen the administrative capacity of the Agency.</p> <p>Information from the CCU on the administrative capacity of the MA OP (2013):</p>
--	--	--	---	---

				<p>responsibilities on public procurement issues. Adequate training on various topics are held.</p> <p>The National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 - 2020 provides measures for strengthening and stability of the administrative capacity of the Public Procurement Agency,</p> <p>According to Art. 19, para. 2, items 1 and 2 of the PPA, the Public Procurement Agency issues general methodological guidelines to the unification of practices in the application of PPA and the rules on the implementation of PPA and provides methodological support to contracting authorities by providing opinions on their queries. Methodological guidelines are published on the Public Procurement Portal.</p> <p>According to the changes in PPA, effective from 10.01.2014, the contracting authorities are obliged to provide in the preparation of technical specification and assessment methodology the participation of at least one expert who has the professional competence related to the subject of the order. When you do not have such a specialist, they can provide such a person from the list of external experts, supported by the PPA. In this list are included persons, proposed by the professional associations and organizations in the respective sector or by the bodies as</p>	<p>The OPT has 8 employees who have in their job descriptions responsibilities on public procurement.</p> <p>In MA OPDCBE has 119 employees who have responsibility on public procurement.</p> <p>In OPTA MA has 2 employees who have responsibilities related to public procurement.</p> <p>The OPAC MA has six employees who have responsibilities on pa procurement.</p> <p>MA RD - In job descriptions of employees in "Legal and information services" has included responsibilities in relation to public procurement. Ministry of MA of OP Fisheries (Directorate "Fisheries and Aquaculture" State Fund "Agriculture") - no employees whose job descriptions to include responsibilities relating to public procurement.</p> <p>In the OP MA - the "Rural Development" Directorate - has no employees with responsibilities concerning the issues of public procurement;</p> <p>State Fund "Agriculture" - Paying Agency: In the job descriptions of the 49 employees of the SFA-PA, the "Implement measures to Rural Development", " Control over the procurement and implementation of local development strategies "is written handling public procurement</p>
--	--	--	--	---	--

			<p>per art.19 of Law on Administration or those who have submitted an application for self-registration.</p> <p>According to information by OPs Managing Authorities through their websites they provide to interested parties the necessary information, incl. under the form of developed documents, manuals, instructions, guidance and more in the field of public procurement.</p> <p>The National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020 provides measures to ensure technical assistance to those who apply the rules on public procurement.</p>	<p>procedures.</p> <p>In MA of OPRD has 89 employees who have responsibility on public procurement.</p> <p>In Manual for the management and implementation of the Operational Programme "Regional Development" 2007-2013 Chapter 20 Technical Assistance are written procedures for the award of public procurement orders for the provision of grants for projects with specific beneficiary departments DG "RDP" under the PPA. There are teams for the development of the documentation for the award of the OP. Schedules is how to control the procurement process conducted by the departments of DG "RDP" which takes place on various stages of conducting the procedure.</p> <p>As of 04/28/2014, the adopted amendments to the checklist for performing the preliminary and follow-up of open procedures and negotiated procedures without notice; checklist to follow when contracting under Chapter "Eight" and the PPA / most used / - Version 9.1. Changes are made to strengthen control mainly concerning the legality of the removal of participants/candidates in the procedures and the legality of the assessment methodology and their application to the work of Combs for review, evaluation and ranking of bids. The control of Expert 2 is strengthened - in terms of conformity with technical specifications from the documentation</p>
--	--	--	---	---

					<p>and requirements in public procurement to those in grant contracts and the subsequent need for compliance of offers with these requirements.</p> <p>In connection with the violations found during routine audit mission from 04.07.2014 -11.04.2014, in a letter from DG "Regional and urban policy", European Commission, received on 06/03/2014, in OPRD Managing Authority, having regard to identified violations committed by OPRD beneficiaries in procurement that provides the basis for determining financial corrections and in view of the need to improve the control systems, the MA of OPRD has taken the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- on 20.06.2014 were adopted amendments to Chapter 13 Monitoring of Handbook on MIOPRD (effective from 01.07.2014 years), including with respect to: checklists for implementing ex-ante and ex-post control of procedures for the award of public procurement; checklist for ex post control in procurement by public invitation under Chapter Eight "a" of PPA – Version.- conducting internal training of MA experts responsible for conducting ex-ante and ex-post control, work with advanced checklists of Handbook on MIOPRD-26-27.06.2014 on;- Supplement the directives issued to beneficiaries published on 25.06.2014 on the website of MA of OPRD, in order to prevent irregularities in procurement;
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<p>- Practical training of beneficiaries in relation to the new control mechanisms implemented by the MA of OPRD.</p> <p>- In the period 28-29.07.2014, MA organized and conducted a training seminar for MA staff and practical training of beneficiaries on lawful public procurement with participation of representatives of the audit unit of DG "Regional and urban policy" and representatives of DG "Internal Market and Services" by the EC and of the Public Procurement Agency. Seminar participants were presented best practices and also errors in the procurement, taking preventive actions to prevent violations.</p> <p>- on 28.07.2014 was held technical meeting at expert level with participation of Head of MA of OPRD, EC representatives, the national audit body and the certifying authority on which were discussed the concrete steps that need to be undertaken for restarting of payments on the two axis of the programme, recommendations were made for supplementing control sheets for ex-post control with control questions regarding risk spheres in awarding;</p> <p>- MA of OPRD elaborated an analysis of statements on violations in awarding of PP by beneficiaries with view and readiness for constant improving of the management and control system.</p> <p>- execution of contracts for the provision of specialized legal services for MA of OPRD in order to support the process of ex-ante and ex-post-control,</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<p>the administering of denunciations and support of the MA in the case of proceedings under Art. 100 of Regulation № 1083/2006 by the Council.</p> <p>MA OPHRD - 6 employees with responsibilities relating to issues of procurement and 32 employees with responsibilities related to inspection activities, some of which are public procurement procedures; IB - EA - 15 employees with responsibilities in matters of public procurement; IB - SAA - 34 employees with responsibilities in matters of public procurement; IB - Ministry of Education and Science- 25 employees with responsibilities related to public procurement issues. In addition to the above control mechanisms, information entities as part of the control and the involvement of external expertise where such missing in the OP.</p> <p>In 2012 16 employees of the OPE MA participated in 45 training courses on to procurement issues and from the IB 30 employees participated in three training sessions. Since the beginning of 2013 was conducted on public procurement were trained 16 experts from the MA in 4 courses and 4 experts from IB in 1 course. In 2014 5 experts from GD “OPE” at MOEW have participated in 3 trainings</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>on public procurement.</p> <p>In the matters of PP is engaged department "Ex-post control and procedural representation" after the restructuring of IB and MA of OPE into GD "OPE" in the end of March 2014.</p> <p>MA OPE has posted on its web site a number of guidelines and supporting documents to beneficiaries related to public procurement (mainly published in "Documents / Manuals / Instructions / Manuals):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most common violations related to the award and implementation of contracts: http://ope.moew.government.bg/files/useduploads/files/documentation/ukazania/narushenia_obshtestveni_porachki.pdf 2. Documents relating to errors and violations and current issues of the PPA: http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg/pages/dopuskani-greshki-i-narushenia/67#1 3. In section manuals, guidelines, manuals / Implementation of projects financed by the OPE - Additional section 1 "Procurement" with additional supplies, incl. model forms http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg/pages/narachnitsi-ukazania-rakovodstva/66#1 <p>As a new measure to help increase the capacity of beneficiaries in the field of public procurement, quarterly Managing Authority will prepare a newsletter with practical examples and descriptions of the different types of violations found</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					during verification. The newsletter will be sent by email and will be posted on the official website of the program. The first newsletter was published in July 2014 http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg/pages/dopuskani-greshki-i-narushenia/67#1). The second one is under preparation.
5. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds..	YES	Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules;	YES	<p>The national legislation on state aid is available at: http://stateaid.minfin.bg/</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Aid Act (SAA) - Art. 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13; (CoM Decree 86/2006 in effect since 1.1.2007, amended CoM Decree 16/2008) 2. Rules for the Implementation of SAA - notification procedures; (CoM Decree 26/2007, amended CoM Decree 97/2007, CoM Decree 10/2009, CoM Decree 3/2010) 3. Procedure to ensure the transparency of financial relations between public authorities and local governments and state and municipal enterprises and transparency within certain undertakings - the transposition of Directive 2006/111 (EC) (CoM Decree 99/2006, effective from 1.1.2007) <p>The current SAA regulates national procedures for the implementation of Art. 107 and Art. 108 TFEU, as well</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All aid measures - notifiable or exempt from notification, except for de minimis, are subject to mandatory coordination. • Cumulation rules are directly applicable to the requirements of the aid measures. National legislation does not contain specific regulations, because accumulation is an element of specific aid measures and is obligatory checked when coordinating the measure. Compliance with the rules for accumulation are monitored by the administrator through: - determining at the programming phase whether the measures are / are not eligible for accumulation - check of the maximum amount of the aid on a specific project - in ex-ante and ex-post control of the project. • Clause "Deggendorf" is legally regulated in Article 9, para. 3 of the Rules for Implementation of SAA. It is applicable to all aid administrators. • According to § 1, point 5 of the SP of SAA, any amendment of an aid shall be treated as new aid and it is subject to the same rules of coordination and approval.

				<p>as the powers of the Ministry of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the nature of the procedures, information exchange and coordination. It establishes a framework for compliance with the regime at national level, incl. with respect to the notifiable aid, aid exempted from notification and aid de minimis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regardless of the way of management of the financial instrument, the State aid rules are applicable to the aid administrator. Objectives, content and specific parameters of any new state aid are developed by the administrator and submitted to the Ministry of Finance. In case of doubt or ambiguity the Ministry of Finance provides recommendations. Regardless of the form and the instrument for support, grant / financial instruments, state aid legislation is applicable to each administrator (MA). In case of multi-phase schemes, the latter is applicable to each of the participants. The aid element may be missing at a particular level of the measure but it may appear on another level. Exceptions and / or special derogations from the procedure for notification and assessment in case of repayable assistance are not provided for. • National law governs the procedure for recovery of illegal and incompatible aid under the Tax Insurance Procedure Code (TIPC) by NRA. NRA acts are subject to appeal before the competent national courts. Effective and timely recovery is governed by the procedures for the collection and provision of public debts. Decisions of the Commission for recovery of unlawful State aid shall be enforceable under the TIPC. Additional measures are taken to improve the legal framework to allow immediate and full implementation of the decisions of the Commission for recovery.
--	--	--	--	--	---

				<p>• The compliance with General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) is regulated in SAA. The Minister of Finance shall consider the information received and shall issue an opinion. In the event that there is uncertainty about the application of the measure or discrepancy, the administrator has 14 days to correct the project. In case where the administrator does not bring state aid in alignment within the prescribed period, the MoF shall inform the administrator that the aid does not meet the criteria for block exemption. A state aid administrator not accepting the opinion of MoF and grants the state aid is responsible for its legality. The state aid administrator shall inform the Ministry within three days of the delivery of any state aid covered by GBER and will publish information on the Internet.</p> <p>• The exchange of information on state aid and de minimis aid at national level are governed on two levels that are sufficiently accurate and timely. Data to the Commission are provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - based on specific requests from the European Commission; - regular data exchange - annual report, thematic reports etc. <p>At present, the EU legislation does not have a requirement for a central de minimis aid registry, this is an option only for the aid under Regulation 1998/2006. Special separate statement is included in the new GBER (Regulation No 651/2014, 17.06.2014). The</p>
--	--	--	--	--

					<p>Bulgarian state aid legislation empowers MoF to request information related to the state aid and provides for sanctions in case of non-delivery by the administrator.</p> <p>The SAA obliges the state aid administrators to maintain their own registers of state/de minimis aid and they bear the responsibility for the reliability of the data and upon request allow access to the registers. To ensure transparency and reporting, MoF supports an Internet based Information system "State Aid and De Minimis Register" available at: http://minimis.minfin.bg. The Register is completed directly by the state aid and de minimis administrators that submit the same information on hard copy to the MoF. The register allows for drawing various types of public reports. The information for state aid is only on the basis of the new GBER requirements. In a subsequent revision of the European legislation in the field of state aid, requiring additional registers for information, such will be created.</p> <p>According to the document "Procedure for managing user access to Information system "Register of state aid", approved by Order of the Ministry of Finance ZMF-925 of 15.08.2014, the system provides access at two levels - user part (for aid administrators) and administrative part (for employees of the Ministry of Finance). User part serves to the administrators</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>for input and processing the necessary information about the types of aid measures and beneficiaries, and the administrative one - to provide access to administrators. The system has a public module for (accessible to all), which at the moment is extended in order to retrieve data under different criteria, according to the new GBER requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft for the amendment of SAA is prepared. It was preliminary coordinated with the relevant administrative bodies but it will be sent to the Council of Ministers. Before CoM the draft will again be sent for consultations. The amendments seek technical refinement and updating of the rules so as to improve the procedures and interaction between the parties in the process of state aid since its planning until the time of its actual use. The main version of the State Aid Act is of 2006, respectively comes into effect on 01.01.2007 and currently does not reflect the development of the system at European level. Substantial changes in the bill over the status quo are: The new SAA draft does not amend conceptually the order and regime at a national level, but rather refines texts and procedures. The novelties are: 1. Introducing a special procedure for recovery of illegal and incompatible aid when recipients and amounts of aid are not predefined in the EC decision for recovery. SAA currently does not
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>regulate this specific case, the provision defines only that the aid be recovered pursuant to the decision of the European Commission.</p> <p>2. Provisions are made to ensure sufficient capacity for planning, development, notification, management, reporting and control of the granting of state and minimum aid by aid administrators. The proposal creates a connection between previously existing legal obligation for administrators and its practical implementation, ensuring maintenance of administrative capacity at all levels, providing state aid. Currently there are no provisions for capacity in the SAA.</p> <p>3. The functions of the MF to provide methodological guidance to administrators and to take measures to improve the regime are expanded. In the current SAA functions of MF do not allow issuing of guidelines, only opinions to help administrators.</p> <p>4. Improved is the coordination and monitoring of state aid by suggesting compilation of acts for establishing violations be carried out by officials of the Agency for State Financial Inspection. Under the current SAA policy violations are established by acts issued by officials authorized by the MF. With the proposed change the existing control mechanism is improved which ensures the applicable enforcement of the regime and clearly separates control from the methodological functions. Control is delegated to a subject with control</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<p>functions.</p> <p>To improve control, a change is suggested in the Public Financial Inspection Act in terms of functions. Until now Art. 5 of PFIA regulates control over the utilization of state aid and spending of expedient subsidies, after the change control should cover the provision, utilization and spending.</p> <p>5. Terminological and practical refinement of the law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- introduction of basic principles that must comply when providing aid. This is in the context of European legislation on state aid, as it requires provision of aid to be necessary, appropriate, efficient and transparent, also to have an incentive effect in certain cases. These are defined according to the criteria laid down in the relevant act by the law of the European Union, on which aid is granted.- moving the requirement to comply with the Degendorf criteria from the regulation to the Act;- creating a framework regulating the establishment and maintenance of an IT system for monitoring and coordination of state aid held at central, regional and municipal level. The current SAA does not have such provisions. Currently, the system of coordination takes place in Working Group 6 to Decree 85/2007 or through targeted initiatives on specific problem. The purpose of this change is not to significantly change the existing system but to improve its performance by regularity and raising awareness.- refined are aid exempt from
--	--	--	--	--	---

					notification on grounds other than the block exemption by Regulation 1370/2007 and EC decision SGEI 2012. - introducing the obligation for aid administrators to inform recipients about the type, size and compatibility of the aid, as well as obligations arising from the arrangement. Until now, the current SAA does not regulate particular order.
		Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds;	YES	<p>Sources of specialized information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://stateaid.minfin.bg/ 2. http://minimis.minfin.bg/ 3. http://www.minfin.bg/en/page/12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All MA have undergone trainings on state aid in the School of Public Finance at the Ministry of Finance, and some of them within the framework of OPs technical assistance. School of Public Finance at the Ministry of Finance (http://www.minfin.bg/bg/page/12) organizes trainings in state aid on requests several times a year. Any training program is formed according to the objectives and needs of the trainees. The trainings are free-of-charge. • Maintenance of information and publicity of state aid is implemented through two information channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ general - specialized Internet page on State Aid legislation http://stateaid.minfin.bg/ and within WG 6 to the Council of European Affairs (CEA). ○ thematically by the MoF, as 	<p>MoF supports specialized web page for information related to State aid, where the Bulgarian and the legislation of EU, the procedures and initiatives of EC are available.</p> <p>Information system "State aid and de minimis register" is maintained by MoF. It is completed by the administrators of state aid.</p> <p>The Institute of Public Administration/School on Public Finance provide training for each administrator and/or public authority under issues related to state aid.</p> <p>In order to strengthen the regime the proposal for amending SAA provides for additional obligations for state aid administrator, which are developed, in order to build and maintain sufficient administrative capacity to plan, develop, inform, manage, report and control state aid and grant de minimis aid.</p>

				<p>appropriate and in accordance with different cases, such notification shall be made by official correspondence or e-mail and via the FAQ page of the State Aid;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system of exchange of information on state aid at the level of each administrator (MA) is carried out according to the specifics of its activities - for example by internal rules. MoF may issue thematic guidance on various topics aimed to clarify specific issues. Each relevant MA (OPHRD, OPE, OPRD, OPCBE) has certain employees who are responsible for public procurement issues which responsibilities are included in their job descriptions. 	
	Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	YES	<p>The national and European legislation on state aid is available at: http://stateaid.minfin.bg/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the national legal framework, MoF is the national body responsible for the monitoring, transparency and coordination of state aid at national, regional and local level, with the exception of aid schemes or individual aid in the agriculture and fisheries, where the competent body is MAF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The competences of the Ministry of Finance regulate the issuance of specific opinions and prior coordination of aid measures. In the draft new SAA refining 	<p>Since 01.09.2014 is in force new functional characteristics of Real Sector Finance Directorate at MoF, as part of the State Aid Department functions are transferred to the other departments of RSFD with which they are entitled competences and specific functions from the state aid field. This is aimed at creating additional capacity. State Aid Department is renamed to "Methodology, monitoring and coordination of state aid". Prepared changes in SAA explicitly require any aid administrator, as OPMA, to build and maintain sufficient capacity for planning, development, notification, management, reporting and control of the granting of state and de</p>	

				<p>of the functions of the coordination unit are planned by preparing methodological guidelines and taking measures for the development of the regime in the field of state aid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoF has experience in issuing publications, manuals and instructions for the benefit of aid administrators, including MA. Beyond regular opinions of the State Aid Department in the MoF, since 2007 thematic guidelines in favor of MA are issued / updated as well. All current national guidelines and EU publications that would be useful for administrators are published on a specialized website. • In the draft amendment to the SAA an introduction of a specific obligation for aid administrators is envisaged (including OPMA) to build, maintain, and provide sufficient capacity for the planning, development, notification, management, reporting and control of granted state and de minimis aid. Measures for the implementation of the latter are determined individually by each aid administrator. • Each relevant MA (OPHRD, OPE, OPRD, OPCBE) has certain employees who are responsible for public procurement issues which responsibilities are included in their job descriptions. 	<p>de minimis aid.</p> <p>Provisions are envisaged for each aid administrator to individually determine the measures for the implementation of these activities, according to the volume and specifics of the administered aid, including at least technical security and staffing and measures for data protection.</p> <p>The draft provides for each state aid and de minimis aid, the administrator to determine the persons responsible for carrying out the planning, development, notification, management, reporting and control of the granting of state aid and de minimis aid.</p> <p>The bill contains a change in the functions of MoF. New functions are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on the preparation of methodological guidelines for the implementation of this Act and the legislation on state aid; - on the measures for the development and improvement of the system in the field of state aid and to ensure transparency. - on building and maintaining of information system for monitoring and coordination of state aid at central, regional and municipal level; the system will represent a set of measures for exchange of information, building and maintaining administrative capacity in order to improve the transparency of state aid at all levels. <p>These functions are intended to clarify the legal framework in which MoF shall provide specific recommendations and guidance to help administrators.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>Until now, such recommendations are provided on the basis of the general powers of the Minister of Finance as a national coordinating body for monitoring and ensuring transparency and does not have a unified and binding nature for the administrators.</p> <p>With the adoption of the proposed regulatory changes MoF will be able to issue thematic instructions to the administrators. The amendments in the SAA will not change the obligatory character of the issued instructions. The current model is being kept – the administrator of aid to carry responsibility of the legal conformity of the aid given. The instructions of the MoF regarding the aid, subject to notification as per art.108/3/TFEU and regarding de minimis aid are methodological, not obligatory. Obligatory are the standpoints regarding the aid exempted from notification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The change in the legal framework will allow the MoF to provide thematic and practical instructions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparation of Internal Rules for the preliminary assessment of the aid and the phases in which the support measures are coordinated; - development of internal rules for assessing the eligibility of cumulation of aid and for effective control of the same. - development of individual mechanism by which to check the compliance of the provision of Art. 9, para. 3 of the Implementing Rules ("Deggendorf"); - Description of a specific procedure by
--	--	--	--	---

					<p>steps of the modification of already published / approved aid measure and arrangements for coordination with the Ministry of Finance, and if necessary - to notify the European Commission (eg pursuant to Art. 4 of Regulation 794/2004 and Regulation 800/2008).</p> <p>- for inclusion in MA procedural manuals of specific provisions (steps) to ensure awareness and dissemination of information on the rules on state aid at all levels.</p> <p>In the context of the new operational programmes, the need for specific actions related to the capacity of the MA is evaluated after the Ministry of Finance starts the coordination of specific procedures, the measures for assistance and/or other relevant information, and where PFIA provide information about the inspections / checks, in which there are findings and recommendations in the field of state aid.</p>
7. The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to	YES	Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: — the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation; — arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data;	YES	<p>European statistics Code of Practice http://www.nsi.bg/files/Quality/1.1.%20CoP_ALL_BG.pdf</p> <p>Declaration on the quality of the national statistical system of the Republic of Bulgaria: http://www.nsi.bg/files/Quality/QUALITY_NSI_Declaration.pdf</p> <p>Statistics Act: http://www.nsi.bg/dokument.php?P=64&SP=102&NSP=1#cont</p> <p>National Statistical Program for 2013: http://www.nsi.bg/dokument.php?P=6</p>	<p>To ensure the quality of results, harmonized national statistics are developed, produced and disseminated on the basis of harmonized standards and methods. The following quality criteria are applied:</p> <p>a) "relevance", which refers to the degree to which statistics meet current and potential needs of the users;</p> <p>b) "Accuracy", which refers to the closeness of estimates to the unknown true values;</p> <p>c) "Timeliness": refers to the period between the availability of the information and the event or</p>

undertake impact evaluation.				<p>4&SP=102&NSP=36#cont</p> <p>Rules for the dissemination of statistical products and services: http://www.nsi.bg/dokument.php?P=64&SP=102&NSP=20#cont</p>	<p>phenomenon it describes;</p> <p>d) "Punctuality", which refers to the period of time between the date of the release of the data and the target date (the date by which the data should have been delivered);</p> <p>e) "Accessibility" and "clarity": refer to the conditions and modalities by which users can obtain, use and interpret data;</p> <p>f) "comparability", which refers to the measurement of the impact of differences in applied statistical concepts, measurement tools and procedures where statistics are compared between geographical areas, sectoral domains or over time;</p> <p>j) "coherence", which refers to the adequacy of the data to be reliably combined in different ways and for various uses.</p> <p>NSI - leading to the provision of general for the programs performance indicators and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation.</p> <p>OPs Managing Authorities - leading to the development and maintenance of an effective system of indicators.</p> <p>For the systems developed to date, the information concerning indicators of individual programs will be available in the public UMIS, on the websites of the Managing Authorities of the respective programs.</p>
		An effective system of result indicators including: — the selection of result indicators for each programme	YES	List of standard statistical indicators: http://www.nsi.bg/img/uplf/StdInd2013.pdf http://www.nsi.bg/img/uplf_e/StdInd2	An effective indicator system has been developed for OPGG. Output and result indicators are related to and connected to the thematic priority

		<p>providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the establishment of targets for these indicators; — the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data; 		<p>013_en.pdf</p>	<p>axes, objectives and activities of the OP. Quantitative targets have been set.</p> <p>Performance of the criterion is linked to the complete development of the OPs. Indicators that will be developed during the implementation of OPs by MA or the beneficiaries will have to undergo statistical validation in accordance with the following procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the indicators are based on administrative data, the definitions and concepts used for administrative purposes should be close enough to those required for statistical purposes. 2. Sampling and assessment methods should be well justified. 3. Methods of data collection should be coordinated with NSI, and their application is observed in terms of compliance with the methodology. 4. Beneficiaries and MA cooperate with NSI to ensure data quality. <p>Defined are quantity and quality goals for result indicators, which content is coordinated between the EU programmes and other donors. For the indicators are defined quantity and quality targets that are in conformity with Europe 2020.</p>
■		- Procedures to ensure that all operations financed by the program adopt an effective system of indicators.	YES		<p>For OPGG 2014-2020 procedures have been introduced to guarantee that all operations financed by the OP are subject to effective system of indicators.</p> <p>For the ESF is provided collecting information on an individual level for each participant in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1304/2013 as</p>

					<p>well as at project level and priority level. Reporting will be accomplished through performance and result indicators set at the appropriate level of the operational programme for which the reporting and impact assessment are held.</p> <p>Monitoring data will be presented at each meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC) so that MC members can discuss issues that could hinder the proper implementation of the programme. Activities carried out in relation to the timely collection of microdata for participants will be reported in the annual implementation reports, as well as in the progress reports submitted to the MC.</p> <p>The data itself reflects all participants that directly used or benefit of ESF support, as in case of doubled participation in the same operation, the individual participant is counted only once. For reporting purposes (despite the fact that to the EC will be provided only aggregated data) personal data will be used for each participant (eg, gender, status on the labor market, education level, etc) including "sensitive" one (eg, disability, minority status, disability, etc.). Under the provisions of the Directive on the protection of personal data, each participant may refuse to give "sensitive" information, in which case the relevant management bodies of documentary programmes must establish that they have attempted to collect such data, and that was refused. Much like the common indicators in</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<p>Regulation 1304/2013, the Managing Authorities will provide clear and understandable definitions of specific indicators of individual programs with which to achieve a common understanding of them and to facilitate their subsequent reporting. Managing authorities build their systems for storage and reporting data on individual participants in electronic form, with regard not only to the formal implementation of the provisions of Article 56 of Regulation 1303/2013 and Article 5 and Article 19 of Regulation 1304/2013, but in order to effectively fulfill the obligations of the monitored and evaluation. For this purpose, they were built on the systems and procedures for monitoring the ESF in the 2007-2013 programming period, which, however, need additional settings and clarification as to comply with the requirements applicable to the programming period 2014-2020 and also to reporting indicators for immediate and long-term result, incl. on a sample basis.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable ³⁷

Table 25: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

³⁷ Tables 25 and 26 cover only applicable general and thematic ex-ante conditionalities which are completely unfulfilled or partially fulfilled (see Table 24) at the time of submission of the programme.

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
4. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms;	Action 1. Adoption of National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020 The draft Strategy envisages measures to raise effectiveness in public procurement and creation of guarantees for conformity with EU law in the field.	Deadline for Action 1: July 2014	MEE PPA
		Action 2. Adoption of a codified, sustainable and simplified legislation on public procurement through adoption of new PPA and secondary legislation acts on its application.	Deadline for Action 1: January 2016	MEE PPA
		Action 3. Design of reinforced management and control systems for ESIF, incl. effective cooperation in order to ensure consistency between the actions in the ex-ante and ex-post control	Deadline for Action 3: January 2016	MA CCU EA AEUF PPA Court of Auditors PFIA
		Action 4. Review of the appeal system and proposals for its optimization (ie safeguards against abuse of the right to appeal, etc.)	Deadline for Action 4: October 2014	CPC SAC
	Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Action 1. Design and implementation of training and development programme for staff involved in the management of ESIF (trainings on public procurement incl. by the Training academy on ESIF (IPA))	Deadline for Action 1: December 2016	IPA MA PPA
		Action 2 Revision and update of existing systems of dissemination and exchange of information between practitioners from Managing authorities and beneficiaries and other stakeholders on public procurement with a view to establishing a uniform practice.	Deadline for Action 2: December 2016	MA CCU EA AEUF PPA Court of Auditors PFIA

	Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Action 1. Strengthening and stability of the administrative capacity of the Public Procurement Agency through increase in personnel and conducting specialized trainings	Deadline for Action 1: December 2015	MEE PAA
		Action 2 Providing improved technical assistance to those who apply the rules of public procurement through organization and conduction of trainings and other needs identified from consultation of target groups	Deadline for Action 1: December 2016	IPA MA PAA

Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
11. The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member States' administrative efficiency including public administration reform	A strategic policy framework for reinforcing a Member State's public authorities' administrative efficiency and their skills with the following elements are in place and in the process of being implemented: — an analysis and strategic planning of legal, organizational and/or procedural reform actions; — the development of quality management systems; — integrated actions for simplification and rationalization of administrative procedures; — the development and implementation of human resources strategies and policies covering the main gaps identified in this field; — the development of skills at all levels of the professional hierarchy within public authorities;	Action 1 Action plan for implementation, maintenance and development of advanced management and quality control systems. The procedure for implementation of this part of the ex-ante conditionality is underway. However, more time than initially planned in the Partnership Agreement is needed. The deadline for the complete implementation is defined in accordance of the planning of the responsible institution – the administration of the Council of Ministers. The preparation of the plan will take 1 year.	Deadline for Action 1. December 2015	Council of Ministers, Modernization of Administration Directorate

		<p>Action 2 Analysis of existing needs in terms of training of civil servants.</p> <p>Targets will be set aimed at achieving an effective development of expert potential, increasing their motivation to work and keeping them in the administration.</p> <p>The procedure for implementation of this part of the ex-ante conditionality is underway. However, more time than initially planned in the Partnership Agreement is needed. The deadline for the complete implementation is defined in accordance of the planning of the responsible institution – the administration of the Council of Ministers. The preparation of the analysis will take 9 months.</p>	<p>Deadline for Action 2. September 2015</p>	<p>Council of Ministers, Modernization of Administration Directorate</p>

DRAFT

SECTION 10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES — ARTICLE 8(6)(C) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

Reduction of the administrative burden for beneficiaries is a horizontal priority, laid down in the applicable regulations and the Partnership Agreement, which will be in the focus of the Managing Authority during the preparation of the programme and the procedures for its implementation, as well as through the entire period of its implementation.

Key factors behind the administrative burden are identified within the timeframe of the programming period 2007-2013 and major effort has been employed to address them. A Control and Irregularities Department was set up at the Managing Authority of OPAC, which performs ex-ante and ex-post control over public procurement contracts related to project implementation. The on-site inspections were based on risk assessment of the projects (initial risk and risks arising during project implementation). Online submission of applications for direct beneficiaries was piloted. Applying for and reporting on projects were optimised in terms of required documents, which allowed faster evaluation of project proposals and faster verification. To speed up verification, external expertise was used for on-site inspections and for processing signals for irregularities and ex-post control over public procurement contracts. The measures undertaken will be further developed in the period 2014-2020.

It is necessary to find a balance between effective control on spending ESI funds and reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries. Administrative requirements should be proportionate to the potential risk of the intervention, which can be classified as “easy, normal and complex” interventions with the relevant package of requirements and procedures.

In the period 2014-2020 further measures will be taken to strike an optimum balance between effective control and reducing the administrative burden in accordance with the general framework for reducing the administrative burden, set out in the Partnership Agreement and in the national legal framework. The following specific measures are envisaged:

- Electronic submission and reporting of projects;
- Within the procedures for provision and reporting of financial assistance no documents will be required which have already been submitted and which are valid;
- More extensive use of the opportunities for simplified costs such as applying flat rate for indirect costs and/or standard scales of unit costs;
- Financial grants under the technical assistance priority axes will also be provided through budget lines within a cost estimate which will be updated annually instead of projects with relevant documentation.

All planned activities related to overall management and implementation of OPGG, incl. reduction of the administrative burden, will be laid down in detail in the procedure manual for the management and implementation of the Programme and management and control systems.

SECTION 11 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES — ARTICLE 96(7) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

11.1. Sustainable development

The OPGG 2014-2020 provides for specific measures aimed at environmental protection within relevant priority axes, as well as integration of environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management at horizontal level in the selection and implementation of projects under the programme. To this end actions will be undertaken as described in section 1.5. of the Partnership Agreement “Horizontal Principles and Policy Objectives for Implementation of the ESI Funds”.

In pursuance of the new requirements for integration of the environmental policy and the climate change policy into the EU funds for the programming period 2014 – 2020, developed by the Ministry of Environment and Water and approved by the Council of Ministers, the OPGG applies the principles and guidelines for integration of the EP and the CCP in the process of programming and implementation of the programme.

During the preparation and implementation of the OPGG the environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management are promoted, and they will be integrated in all actions under the programme, particularly in the activities under priority axes 1, 2 and 4.

PA 1 will support further elaboration of the information systems for NATURA 2000, ensuring interoperability of the Natura 2000 GIS systems with various databases and systems at national and regional levels, as well as development of information systems for effective EP and CCP delivery.

Under PA 2 the OPGG will finance trainings of employees from the administration for assessment of the status of the green infrastructure components and effective EP and CCP implementation, as well as development/update of documents related to studies, analyses and assessments, etc. to incorporate EP and CCP requirements, reinforce the administrative capacity for EP and CCP implementation and information campaigns on the subject, exchange of experience with networks in other EU Member States, etc.

Within PA 4, the OPGG will support implementation of the “National Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000” (NPAF) through additional financing for the unit to support the implementation of the NPAF measures in all operational programmes in relation to monitoring the costs for biodiversity, as well as key campaigns under the National Information and Communication Strategy for Natura 2000 (NICS) through the regional information centres.

The Managing Authority may envisage the following procedures:

- Guidelines/instructions for beneficiaries on the forms and ways of incorporating the sustainable growth principle in their project proposals;
- Incorporation of the principle in the process of evaluation and selection of projects and activities to be financed within the OPGG;
- Development and dissemination of various manuals, guidelines, presenting best practices;
- Campaigns among beneficiaries to raise public awareness on the integration of environmental policies.

11.2. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Application of the principles of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility are laid down in the Bulgarian legal and institutional systems and concern all aspects of social life, including employment, education and training, healthcare, property status, social protection, access to social services, economic activities, etc. These principles have been observed during the preparation of the OPGG as well. The general framework ensuring compliance with these horizontal principles covers: the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (Art. 6); the Law on Protection against Discrimination; the Law on the Integration of People with Disabilities; the National Strategy for Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities 2008-2015; the National Strategy for Promotion of Gender Equality for the period 2009-2015; the Long-term Strategy for the Employment of People with Disabilities 2011 – 2020.

Representatives of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD), the Nationally Representative Organisations of and for People with Disabilities and representatives of social NGOs are involved in the process of preparation of the operational programme and will be included as members of the Monitoring Committee of the programme.

In pursuance of Art. 87, p.3 of Regulation (EU) №1303/ 2013, at the various stages of OPGG implementation and particularly in respect of access to financing, specific actions and measures will be undertaken for promoting equal opportunities and preventing any discrimination based on gender, race, skin colour, ethnic affiliation or social origin, genetic quality, religion or belief, political or other views, property status, origin, disability, age or sexual orientation.

In compliance with Art. 8 of Regulation (EU) №1304/2013 access of people with disabilities and people vulnerable to the risk of discrimination will be one of the criteria that will be observed in determining the operations to be co-financed from ESF and which should be taken into account during the various stages of implementation of the operational programme.

11.3. Equality between men and women

Equality between men and women and integration of the principle of equal opportunities will be promoted at the various stages of OPGG implementation and particularly in respect of access to financing.

Supported within the programme will be actions promoting the reconciliation of professional life with personal and family life for the employees from the administration, promoting flexible forms of employment and flexible working hours, providing opportunities for distance learning and trainings for employees from the administration, as well as for magistrates and judicial staff, promoting economic activity and independence of women, etc.

Integration of the principle of gender equality is not limited to the implementation of certain actions targeted only at women but also aims to achieve equality, taking account of the impact of a given situation both on men and women.

During the implementation of the OPGG, compliance with the principles of equality between men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be ensured through the measures set out in section 1.5.2. “Promoting equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility” of the PA.

In addition, in order to ensure that the Managing Authority is capable of effectively implementing the principles of equal opportunities, gender equality and non-discrimination, the following procedures are envisaged:

- The principles of equal opportunities, equality between men and women, non-discrimination are subject to monitoring and evaluation both at individual project level and at priority axis level;
- Financing specialised studies and assessments of the effectiveness and impact of the horizontal principles, incl. equal opportunities, equality between men and women, and non-discrimination;
- Financing trainings on the role of the principle of equal opportunities, equality between men and women and non-discrimination. The trainings will target the Managing Authority, the Monitoring Committee, beneficiaries;
- Development and dissemination of various manuals presenting best practices and the basic principles of equal opportunities, equality between men and women and non-discrimination;
- Advising the beneficiaries on the forms and ways of incorporating the principles of equal opportunities, equality between men and women and non-discrimination in their proposals;
- Incorporating the principles in the process of project selection and evaluation.

SECTION 12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period (Article 96 (2) (e) of Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013)

Non applicable

12.2. Performance framework of operational programme

Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

Members of TSG are representatives of 40 administrations and 6 judiciary authorities, 4 universities, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and 10 non-government organizations.

Administration of the Council of Ministers (Directorate "Programming of EU funds", "Information and Management Systems EU funds", "Administrative and regional coordination", "Monitoring of EU Funds", "Coordination of EU issues", " Economic and social Policy" Directorate, " Operational Programme "Technical Assistance" Directorate, " Administration modernization" Directorate and advisers to the office of Deputy Prime Minister for Coalition Policy and State Administration and Deputy Prime Minister for EU Funds and Economic Policy)

Ministry of Finance,

Ministry Labour and Social policy,

Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications,

Ministry of Interior,

29.12.2014

Ministry of Justice,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Regional Development,
Ministry of Economics and Energy,
Ministry of Defense,
Ministry of Education and Science,
Ministry of Health,
Ministry of Culture,
Ministry of Environment and Waters,
Ministry of Agriculture and Food,
Ministry of Youth and Sports,
Supreme Judicial Council,
Supreme Court of Cassation,
Supreme Administrative Court,
Prosecutor's office of the Republic of Bulgaria,
Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council,
National Institute of Justice,
Institute of Public Administration,
National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria,
Center for Prevention and Countering Corruption and Organized Crime,
Public Procurement Agency,
State Agency for Child Protection,
Archives State Agency
State Fund Agriculture
"Audit of EU Funds" Executive agency
National statistical Institute,
Commission for Protection against Discrimination,
National Revenue Agency,
National Endowment Fund "13 Centuries of Bulgaria",
Regional Development Council of the North-Western Region
Regional Development Council of the North Central Region,
Regional Development Council of North Eastern Region,
Regional Development Council South Eastern Region
Regional Development Council of South Central region,
Regional Development Council for South Western Region

29.12.2014

Confederation of labour „Podkrepa“,
Confederation of Independent Trade Unions,
Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association,
Bulgarian Industrial Association,
Confederation of the Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria,
Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
National Represented Organizations of and for persons with disabilities,
Representatives of Academic community (representatives of higher schools and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences representatives),
representatives of Non-government organizations.

ANNEXES (uploaded to electronic data exchange system as separate files):

- Draft report of ex-ante evaluation with executive summary (mandatory)
(Reference: Article 55(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- Documentation on assessment of applicability and fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (as appropriate)

ⁱ Pursuant to a report of the Commission's DG Regional and Urban Policy "Measuring the quality of government and subnational variation", DG REGIO, 2010.

ⁱⁱ *The economic impact of the Services Directive: A first assessment following implementation*, see http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/economic_paper/2012/ecp456_en.htm.

ⁱⁱⁱ World Bank, Bulgaria: Administrative barriers to business at municipal level, 2013

^{iv} Digital Agenda Scoreboard 2013

^v Digital Agenda Scoreboard 2013

^{vi} E-justice means a shift from paper-based judicial system to paper-less justice. E-justice enables citizens and legal persons to exercise procedural rights in an electronic form, allows authorities in the judicial system to make certifying statements, and ensures the internal organisation of the work with electronic cases as well as the exchange of electronic documents with all stakeholders within and outside the judicial system.

^{vii} 2013 EU Justice Scoreboard.

^{viii} ЗСВ, обн., ДВ, бр.64/07.08.2007 г.

^{ix} http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_384_en.pdf

^x <http://www.eufunds.bg/bg/oicnews/6360/1>