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**CITIZEN'S SUMMARY OF ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF  
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT 2014-2020 (OPE 2014-2020)  
FOR 2018**

**At the end of 2018 under the Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020 109 contracts / issued orders for financial assistance grant (FAG) amounting to BGN 1.68 billion or 49% of the budget were signed. 97 projects with FAG close to BGN 1.64 million are in the process of implementation and 12 projects with a utilized resource amounting to BGN 45.7 million were successfully completed.**

**Under priority axis “Water” in 2018 two contracts were signed and 1 grant order was issued for a total amount of BGN 127 356 951.** In 2018 two projects were concluded – one of the Executive Environment Agency and the other of the municipality of Bansko, with which the completed projects on the axis become 4. A financial agreement was signed with the Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria EAD (FMFIB) amounting to BGN 282 736 722. An operational agreement was concluded between FMFIB EAD and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to finance investments in the water supply and sewerage sector in Bulgaria by providing public funds in the form of long-term loans to the water supply and sewerage operators, as well as guarantees to commercial banks providing loans for these purposes.

**In 2018 under priority axis “Waste” 25 contracts for financial assistance grant were concluded in the amount of BGN 375 400 459.** At the end of 2018, 32 projects were carried out at a total amount of BGN 468 871 349, including the financial agreement with the Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria amounting to BGN 52 431 582. Under priority axis 2 “Waste”, implementation of all milestones set out in the programme is reported.

**During the reporting period under priority axis “Natura 2000 and Biodiversity” 13 projects were agreed for BGN 34 046 494 and 1 project was completed.** In view of the delay in the regulatory establishment of Natura 2000 management bodies, targeted actions have been taken to review the Strategic Plan, with funding being proposed for conservation measures prior to the introduction of the management approach. As a result, the Monitoring Committee approved methodology and criteria for the evaluation of projects under 4 procedures: implementation of priority measures in wetlands, measures to improve the conservation status of birds, preparation / updating of action plan for species, conducting campaigns for building a shared vision for Natura 2000.

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**In 2018 under priority axis “Flood and Landslide Risk Prevention and Management” 7 projects were agreed for BGN 21 741 655.** One of the indicators of the implementation framework, namely “Risk prevention and risk management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures” is not achieved, while the implementation on the indicator “Reinforced landslide area” is significant - 174% of the milestone. The projects under the axis, implemented by the Road Infrastructure Agency and the Municipality of Lukovit, contribute to this value.

**In 2018 under priority axis “Improvement of Ambient Air Quality” no contracts for financial assistance grant were concluded, but 3 projects with beneficiaries - the EEA, the municipalities of Plovdiv and Blagoevgrad were successfully completed.** In 2018, the Managing Authority carried out a number of actions aimed at achieving the maximum volume of targets set out in the performance framework. A step in this direction was the revision of the financial indicator of the axis (EUR 743 161), thus reaching 101% or EUR 749 137. The indicator “Submitted projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx” was also overfilled - 3 project proposals were submitted by the municipalities of Sofia, Burgas and Montana with which grant contracts were concluded in 2019 that marks the start of the actual implementation of cleaner air measures.

**Between January and December 2018, three meetings of the Monitoring Committee** of OPE 2014-2020 were held, as well as two written procedures for decision-making in absentia.

**At the end of 2018 under OPE 2014-2020, BGN 552,324,477 was paid or 16% of the programme budget.** Certified funds to the European Commission amount to BGN 458 643 612, representing 13.2% of the programme budget, of which BGN 341 070 190 only for 2018.