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¹ Legend for the characteristics of fields:
type: N = Number, D = Date, S = String, C = Checkbox, P = Percentage, B = Boolean
decision: N = Not part of the Commission decision approving the operational programme
input: M = Manual, S = Selection, G = Generated by system
Maximum number of characters including spaces – “maxlength”
PA – Y = Element can be covered solely by the Partnership Agreement
TA – NA = not applicable in the case of operational programmes dedicated exclusively to technical assistance
YEI – NA = not applicable in the case of operational programmes dedicated exclusively to the Youth Employment Initiative
SME = applicable also to programmes dedicated to joint securitisation financial instruments for SMEs, implemented by the EIB.

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

(Reference: Article 27(1) and Article 96(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council)²

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.

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For the purposes of elaboration of Operational Programme Environment 2014 – 2020 and in order to identify the sectoral needs, the Managing Authority (MA) of the Programme in cooperation with the specialised MoEW directorates has prepared *an Analysis of the Current Situation in the sectors Environment and Climate Change, 2007 – 2012*. The analysis takes into account the European and national strategic documents and the legislative commitments in the field of environment and climate change and provides details with regards the country's commitments and the relevant deadlines. It illustrates the achievements in the period 2007–2012 and the needs to be financed from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) in the programming period 2014–2020. The document has been consulted with the working group responsible for the elaboration of OPE 2014–2020 and provides a basis for setting the priorities of the operational programme. The analysis has been submitted to the Central Coordination Unit within the Council of Ministers (CoM) for the purposes of elaboration of the Partnership Agreement of Republic of Bulgaria outlining the support from the ESI Funds for the 2014 – 2020 period.

Taking into account the Analysis and the latest data related to the environmental infrastructure development, the main identified needs which determine the intervention logic of the Operational Programme concern the sectors “water” and “waste”.

According to the 2014 Report to the EC for the implementation of Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment, waste water collection, distribution and treatment in 364 agglomerations with more than 2000 PE in

² Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

Bulgaria shall be ensured. 256 of those are agglomerations between 2000 and 10 000 PE and 108 are agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE. The requirements for full collection of waste water (more than 98% collected and no more than 2000 PE untreated) are met in 13 agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE and in 14 agglomerations between 2000 and 10 000 PE. The requirements for wastewater treatment are met in 17 agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE (respective treatment level and relevant emission standards are put in place) and in 24 agglomerations between 2000 and 10 000 PE. The both requirements of the Directive for collection and treatment are fulfilled only in 2 (two) agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE. In addition, 38 agglomerations are expected to comply with the requirements of the Directive as a result of the implementation of projects under OPE 2007-2013.

According to the Strategy for Development and Management of the Water Supply and Sanitation sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2023 the coverage of the water-supply system in Bulgaria is very high, and drinking water quality meets the standards. The number of the settlements covered by the centralized water-supply systems exceeds 5000 and the total pipe length is of more than 75 000 kilometers, of which approximately 30 000 kilometers dates prior to 1970. Only two districts in Bulgaria have less than full coverage by the centralized water supply system – Kardzhali and Smolyan. This represents 99% of the overall population, which according to the European standards is high coverage.

The quality of drinking water meets the legislative requirements of more than 95% in the large water supply zones and of more than 90% in the small water supply zones, although problems remain in terms of compliance with those standards in relation to water quality and seasonal consumption regimes, especially in small zones of water supply. With regards to the large zones of water supply (supplying water for more than 5 000 people or providing water quantities of more than 1000 m³ per day), Bulgaria is one of 10 countries in the EU, which in more than 95 percent of cases meets the criteria for quality of water supply in terms of microbiological, chemical and organoleptic parameters and one of 4 countries in the EU that have not achieved 99-100% compliance with the requirements regarding the quality of the supplied water in terms of microbiological parameters in the large water supply zones. However, discrepancies are reported in respect of microbiological indicators in a number of zones, especially for small zones of water supply, as in part of them the rate of non-compliance is over 5%. The deviation from this type of norms is typical for small water supply zones that do not have treatment facilities and where water is supplied to the population directly only after decontamination.

In the latest published Report from the Commission (COM (2014) 363 final) on the Quality of Drinking Water in the EU examining the Member States' reports for the period 2008-2010 under Directive 98/83/EC and the technical reports to it concerning the Republic of Bulgaria, the main weaknesses in the implementation of the directive requirements reported are the non-sufficient content and scope, as well as the frequency of the performed monitoring. In the technical reports related to the big water supply zones it is stated that for 55,5% of them there is a lack of data or there is insufficient data from the reported monitoring. It is also stated that the percentage of the water supply zones that do not meet the requirements

regarding the minimum frequency of monitoring or those with insufficient frequency of monitoring is comparatively high.

Water supply services generally meet the standards, but water losses are very high (60%) and the maintenance of water supply systems and facilities is insufficient. Given the share of amortized water supply, according to World Bank estimates the costs necessary for rehabilitation and replacement of the network are between EURO 325 and 400 million per year and the urgent needs for rehabilitation and replacement of water supply networks for bringing into compliance is EURO 200 million.

As regards the municipal waste in 2004-2012 period there is a reduction of average 4% of the total amount per year and with around 3% per year of the amount of waste going to landfill. 72% of the generated municipal waste is going to landfills. 50% of those 72% are biodegradable waste. According to the national targets, the share of biodegradable waste going to landfills shall be reduced to 35% and the share of recyclable waste should be increased to 50% by 2020. By 2012, only 3 facilities for treatment of biodegradable municipal waste currently operating (Varna, Plovdiv and Sofia Municipality) which is insufficient, considering the generated amount of waste. Therefore investments will be made in order to insure additional recycling capacity.

For the purposes of the waste prevention, there are regulatory and economic instruments in place in Bulgaria – landfill charges, producer responsibility schemes for specific waste flows, license fees to widespread waste recovery organisations in relation to the producer responsibility principle, municipal waste tax, a fee limiting the use of plastic bags with certain parameters, deposit schemes (at this stage they are optional).

In accordance with the national legislation the separate waste collection is a responsibility of the mayor of the municipality (for the recyclable waste, including biodegradable waste different than “producer responsibility” schemes) and of the widespread waste recovery organisations. For organizing the separate widespread waste collection systems license fee is collected. Therefore OPE 2014-2020 does not envisage to support measures in this respect.

OPE 2014-2020 is expected to contribute to the fulfillment of country's engagements in the waste sector and to the achievement of targets resulting from the European and national legislation. When formulating the measures to be supported it was also considered the launched infringement procedure for non-compliance with Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste.

Bulgaria is ranked third in the EU in percentage of national territory covered by Natura 2000 network (34.4%). Currently pursuant to Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds 119 special protection areas have been designated. According to the Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora 234 sites of Community importance have been adopted, as 13 of them overlap with the special protection areas. The process of designation of the sites of Community importance as special areas of conservation is ongoing with

national financing. The designation orders for the main part of the special areas of conservation (sites of Community importance lists in 2008) will be issued in 2015.

The sites of Community importance were mapped in the terrestrial part of Bulgaria and the conservation status of the habitats and species was assessed with the support of OPE 2007-2013. As a result, a report to the EC under Article 17 of Directive 92/43/EEC was submitted in 2013. Approximately 88% of the assessments of the natural habitats show “unfavorable-inadequate” status. Approximately 36% of the assessments of the conservation status of species subject to reporting under Article 17 are “unfavorable-inadequate” and 2.5% are “unfavorable-bad”. The National Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 (NPAF) was developed with OPE 2007 – 2013 funding. The document identified the measures that should be taken in respect of these priority species and habitats, as well as the measures aimed at the other species and habitats covered by Natura 2000.

The investments under OPE 2007-2013 will be further extended with support under OPE 2014-2020 for measures included in the NPAF and targeted only in Natura 2000 areas.

According to the OPE SEA Report, the Analysis and Assessment of the Risk and Vulnerability of the Bulgarian Economic Sectors with regard to the Climate Change and the National Disaster Protection Plan, floods are the main risk, which may affect the territory of the country.. The floods took a total of 30% of the disasters in Bulgaria in the period 1974-2006. 11 out of 13 major floods in the country were registered in the period 2000-2009. This means that the average number of the major floods in this period was 1,2 cases per year, which was a significant increase compared to their average number of 0,1 cases in the last 111 years according to data of EM-DAT (2012). This was mainly due to the extreme rainfalls in 2005, but according to the models such events will happen more often due to the climate change. This is confirmed by the fact that the annual rainfall in 2005 was 924 mm and that there were only nine years in Bulgaria in a period of 104 years (till 2007) with an annual rainfall of over 800 mm, as five of them were registered in the last two decades of the period.

Another risk, which could affect the environment and human health identified in the national strategic documents, is related to the various adverse geodynamic processes – landslides, abrasions, erosions, rock fall, etc. The occurrence and activation of landslide, erosion and abrasion processes are preconditioned by the complex geological structure, intensive tectonics, rainfall intensity, sea abrasion, river erosion and the constantly active natural and technogenic factors.

In 2005 – 2013 there was a tendency for increase of the landslides processes. By the end of 2013 the total number of the landslides registered was 1 786 covering 20 846 ha, 592 of them are new covering area of 446 ha. The landslide activity is higher during spring time after snowmelt and intensive rainfalls. In 2010 there were 68 new landslides registered with a surface of 17 ha. In 2011 and 2012, 110 new landslides were registered, and in 2013 the new landslides are 51 covering near 190 ha. According to the monitoring data for 2013 there were 721 active/periodically active landslides covering 5 611 ha and 668 potential/ temporarily stabilized landslides covering 9 192 ha. Out of 1 786 landslides registered, 1 132 (16 200 ha)

are within urbanised areas. The analysis of the data shows that in very rare occasions the landslides affect only one type of infrastructure. In the majority of the cases one landslide affects several types of infrastructure. In this context, the provided information was analyzed, and for each type of infrastructure the number of occasions in which it has been affected by a landslide was calculated cumulatively. The most widely endangered groups of infrastructure are: residential buildings, streets, villas, water supply and sewage infrastructure and roads. Agricultural lands, forest fund, agricultural and industrial buildings are less threatened.

Data shows that at national level the active (periodically active) and potential (temporarily stabilized) landslides have the largest shares – 40.3% and 37.3% respectively. The share of the stabilized slides is much lower – 22.4%. Almost half (45%) of the active (periodically active) landslides are located in the North-West Region, and 35% – in North-Central Region (NCR). In the remaining regions a relatively lower share of the active (periodically active) landslides is localized – 11.4% in North-East Region (NER), 5.6% in South-West Regions (SWR), 2.7% in South-Central Region, and 0.3% in South-East Region. The potential (temporarily stabilized) landslides have a relatively balanced distribution by regions. About 1/3 of the stabilized landslides are situated in NCR, followed by SWR with 21% and NER with 20%.

In this regard part of the OPE 2014-2020 financial resource will be focused on interventions for flood and landslides risk prevention and management.

In 2011, at the territory of 34 settlements there were 53 stationary centres to monitor ambient air quality. Municipal air quality plans were elaborated for the municipalities with poor air quality. The percentage of the population living in contamination levels for fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) above the admissible concentrations is still high – 51%, as well as the excessive pollution with nitrogen oxides – 22%. The origin of registered excess pollution are combustion of fuels for domestic heating, transport and industrial activities in the territory of the relevant municipalities.

The most serious problem concerning the air quality is the pollution with PM₁₀ in most of the cities. The main sources of pollution are the emissions from solid fuels combustion for heating in the winter, as well as the emissions from the increased traffic and congestion in the biggest cities. Analyses show that between 50 and 60% of the population uses solid fuels (wood and coal) for heating, although the reduction of this percentage is difficult to be achieved, mainly due to economic and social reasons. Furthermore, the number of cars is progressively increasing and this trend is expected to continue until 2020. It is necessary to take measures to reduce pollution from PM₁₀ and nitrogen oxides and thus a financial resource for such measures is envisaged under OPE 2014-2020.

According to the national legislation fully transposing Directive 2008/50/EC, in cases where the total mass of the emissions in a certain area leads to exceedance of the standards for pollutants in the ambient air, the mayors of the municipalities should develop plans to reduce the levels of the pollutants and to achieve the established levels within the deadline provided for and the municipal councils should adopt these plans. The plans are mandatory and include objectives (measures to reduce the levels of pollutants), milestones and deadlines for their

achievement, means, which ensure its implementation, reporting and monitoring system for the implementation and system to assess the results. The mayor of the relevant municipality is responsible for the plan implementation and its control.

Recently, in 29 municipalities the air quality is poor in respect of PM₁₀. These municipalities have developed and implement plans to reduce the level of pollutants and to achieve the established levels. The plans expire at the end of 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Considering the available information, the municipalities implement some of the measures envisaged in the acting municipal plans on ambient air quality. According to the monitoring results, the undertaken actions could not be assessed as suitable or sufficient. The preliminary review of the municipal plans shows that the implemented measures to reduce the levels of PM₁₀ do not contribute sufficiently to the achievement of the established levels within the established deadlines.

The key problems related to the air quality are:

- The excessive levels of PM₁₀ – in almost all large urban areas where the main sources of pollution are the domestic heating in winter, transport and in certain cases - various industrial sources of emissions;
- Exceedance of the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the ambient air in two municipalities in the country - Sofia Municipality and the Municipality of Plovdiv.

In addition, the plans report also a contribution of the carrying-over of particulate matter from the road surface (i.e. secondary dispersion). It should be noted that an infringement proceeding No 2010/2109 has been launched against Bulgaria in connection with the breach of the country's obligations under Article 13, paragraph 1, Article 23, paragraph 1 and Annex XI of Directive 2008/50/EC.

Taking into account the identified investment needs, the OPE financial resources will be allocated within the following priority axis:

Priority Axis 1 Water

Investments aimed at achieving compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC, Directive 98/83/EC, Directive 2013/51/EURATOM and Directive 2000/60/EC:

- Construction of WSS infrastructure – financing will be focused to the agglomerations of more than 10 000 population equivalent (PE);
- Completion and/or optimisation of the water monitoring systems;
- Equipment for the laboratories of the Executive Environment Agency and the bodies of the State Health Control for the purposes of monitoring;
- Development of new and/or update of existing strategic documents for the implementation of Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Priority Axis 2 Waste

Investments aimed at achieving compliance with waste management hierarchy as set up in Directive 2008/98/EC and to the objectives laid down in the national legislation:

- Measures for improving the municipal waste management in line with the National Waste Management Plan.
- Measures to improve the management of construction waste to meet legislative requirements;

- Measures for landfills recultivation subject to infringement proceedings in connection with the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 16.07.2015 in case C-145/14 for non-fulfillment by the Republic of Bulgaria of art. 14 (a) to (c) of Council Directive 1999/31 / EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste.

Priority Axis 3 Natura 2000 and Biodiversity

Investments aimed at achieving the objectives of Directive 92/43/EEC, Directive 2009/147/EC and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (Objectives 1 and 2):

- Measures and activities in accordance with the National Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 (NPAF).

Priority Axis 4 Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management

Investments aimed at the implementation of country's commitments resulting from Directive 2007/60/EC:

- Establishment of a National Real Time Water Management System;
- Measures related to flood risk prevention and management, including ecosystem-based solutions;
- Establishment of six centers to increase the preparedness of the population for an adequate response to floods;
- Conducting studies and assessments in relation to the second Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) 2021-2027;
- Implementation of measures for landslides risk prevention and management;
- Demonstration/pilot projects and information campaigns for flood and landslides risk prevention and management.

Priority Axis 5 Improvement of Ambient Air Quality

Investments aimed at the fulfillment of the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, which is fully transposed in the national legislation and aimed at the achievement of the objectives of the Gothenburg Protocol to the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution:

- Review and analysis of municipal air quality plans;
- Supporting the competent authorities in developing/redrafting, implementing and controlling the municipal plans on ambient air quality and developing and optimizing the air quality monitoring system;
- Measure for decrease of fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) quantities from the main sources of pollution.

Priority Axis 6 Technical Assistance

- Measures aimed at ensuring the necessary support for management and implementation of OPE 2014-2020, incl. the closure of OPE 2007-2013 and OPE 2014-2020;
- Measures aimed at securing the necessary support for the communication and promotion of OPE;
- Measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of the beneficiaries.

OP Environment 2014-2020 and Europe 2020 Strategy

Operational Programme Environment 2014 - 2020 (OPE 2014 - 2020) is one of Bulgaria's operational programmes developed pursuant to *Europe 2020 – the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*. These three mutually

reinforcing priorities imply building an economy based on knowledge and innovation, promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy and fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. OPE 2014 – 2020 addresses mainly the sustainable growth priority of Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular the following elements of the sustainable growth definition:

- Building a more competitive, low-carbon, resource efficient economy;
- Protecting the environment, reducing emissions and preventing the loss of biodiversity;
- Exploiting Europe's leadership in the development of new green technologies and production methods.

OPE 2014 - 2020 contributes also to the delivery of Resource Efficient Europe – one of the two flagship initiatives for sustainable growth under Europe 2020 Strategy. The activities to be financed from the operational programme are in response to the MoEW Guidelines on the Integration of Environment and Climate Change in CP, CAP and CFP Funds, 2014 - 2020 – phase: Programming of the Common Strategic Framework Funds (hereinafter called [EP and CCP mainstreaming guidelines – programming phase](#)). The document implements an integrated approach for the implementation of environment and climate change policies, and in particular for resource efficiency, proposing specific interventions in the operational programmes for the period 2014 – 2020. The MoEW is in process of developing the second phase of the guidelines – Implementation of the Partnership Agreement and the Programmes in the period 2014 - 2020.

OPE 2014 - 2020 will contribute to the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions in the country and thus it will support the achievement of Europe 2020's target for a 20% reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels. Measures in this respect are envisaged for urban wastewater treatment, in particular construction/ rehabilitation/ reconstruction of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) sludge treatment facilities and supply of the necessary equipment, including for existing WWTPs (according to the Concept for treatment of sludge from UWWTP at national level), with priority on improving their quality parameters with a view to their subsequent use for energy purposes. The implementation of these measures will contribute to the implementation of the National Action Plan on Climate Change for the period 2013 – 2020 (NAPCC) and will have a direct effect to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The temporary and permanent jobs which are expected to be created as a result of the measures implemented under OPE will contribute to the delivery of Strategy's inclusive growth priority target of 75% employment rate of women and men aged 20 – 64 by 2020.

OP Environment 2014 – 2020 and the National Reform Programme

Pursuant to the strategy of the national sustainable growth policy described in Item 4 of the National Reform Programme (NRP, April 2012), “as one of the main pillars of sustainable development, *environmental protection is a key factor in promoting socio-economic development* by providing for environmentally-friendly economic growth, high quality of life, security and social equity”. Taking that into consideration, OP Environment 2014 - 2020 is focused with a priority on achieving

significant legislative requirements and elements of the consistently applied environment and climate change policies included in *Objective 4.3.3, Environment Protection, including Development of Technological Infrastructure*, of NRP (April 2012).

Part of the investments planned under priority axes 1 and 2 of OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will help to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in the country, thereby contributing to the national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under NRP (April 2012) thus supporting the relevant target of Europe 2020.

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will support *Objective 4.4.1 of NRP (April 2012) “Strengthening Administrative Capacity”* through investments to enhance the administrative capacity of the bodies responsible for the implementation of projects financed under the OP and of the Programme’s Managing Authority.

Council Recommendations on Bulgaria’s 2014 National Reform Programme.

Based on an in-depth review of Europe 2020 Strategy, National Reform Programme (April 2014) and the Convergence Programme 2013 – 2016, the Commission and the Council recommend a number of actions, structured in 6 points, which Bulgaria should undertake in the period 2013 - 2014. (<http://www.minfin.bg/en/page/867>).

OPE 2014-2020 will have indirect contribution to the implementation of the Council Recommendations (2014) through the Ex-ante conditionalities Action plan. Additionally the measures for preparation of investment projects and implementation of the water sector reform, as well as enhancement of the stakeholders’ capacity will contribute to the Specific recommendation 7 (2013), in particular the water and waste management.

OP Environment 2014 – 2020 and the Position of the Commission Services on the development of Partnership Agreement and programmes in Bulgaria for the period 2014 - 2020 (Commission’s position)

In the OPE elaboration, account has been taken of the position of the Commission Services on the development of the Partnership Agreement and the programmes in Bulgaria for the period 2014 - 2020 (26 October 2012). The position sets out the key specific for the relevant country challenges and presents the preliminary views of the Commission Services on the main funding priorities in Bulgaria which the Commission would like to co-finance in the period 2014 - 2020. Six priorities have been identified to be supported from the ESI Funds. OPE earmarks funds for some of the country-specific challenges specified in the Priority “Environmentally-friendly and resource-efficient economy”.

OPE earmarks funds (under Priority Axis Water) for addressing one of the specific challenges: “improving wastewater treatment and drinking water quality and management, in a strategic and cost-efficient way” through interventions for construction of WSS infrastructure focused to agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE, prioritised in the RBMP and in the regional master plans and in order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Bulgaria’s Water Supply and Sewage Strategy for the period 2014-2023.

Regarding the challenges in the Waste sector: “To fulfill its obligations in relation to the acquis and to reach the 2020 recycling target of 50% and the objectives in the Resource Efficiency Roadmap”, OPE earmarks funds for actions supporting the

achievement of this target for household waste. The actions take also account of Commission Services' recommendation that "Priority should be given to waste prevention, re-use and recycling while waste landfilling needs to be reduced".

OPE Priority Axis 3 earmarks funds for the challenges related to the support sustainable management and restoration of the Natura 2000 network, restoration and conservation of wetlands and rivers, preparation of management plans, capacity-building for the authorities responsible for Natura 2000, and awareness-raising among different stakeholders and halt biodiversity loss. The actions under this priority axis are based on the NPAF, the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the national legislation.

Priority Axis "Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management" addresses Commission's recommendation to improve flood prevention by flood risk assessment, mapping and development of monitoring tools. Support flood prevention projects at river basin level, handling of natural disasters including early intervention measures.

OPE 2014 - 2020 addresses air quality needs under the challenges related to the improvement of air quality by implementing adequate long-term programmes and short-term action plans, depending on the pollution sources (urban transport, industrial emissions, traffic, domestic and central heating etc.) through actions under Priority Axis 5 of the programme.

OP Environment 2014 – 2020 and the Partnership Agreement (PA)

The Partnership Agreement of the Republic of Bulgaria outlining the support from the European Structural and Investment Funds for the 2014 - 2020 period has been prepared in accordance with the EU Common Strategic Framework, the Country-Specific Recommendations of the Council of July 2012, the Country Fact Sheet for Bulgaria by the Commission of July 2012, and taking into account the Commission's position.

The analysis of disparities, development needs, and growth potentials in PA covers the indicators and criteria relevant to the thematic objectives of the ESI Funds which will be implemented by Bulgaria, as well as the way in which the identified areas of non-compliance, development needs and growth potentials will be addressed by these objectives. The emphasis is on the contribution of the PA to the implementation of the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 (NDP) and of the National Reform Programme, as well as for the achievement of the common EU objectives for growth and jobs set in the Europe 2020 Strategy. The analysis of the areas eligible for support from ESI Funds shows that the challenges to Bulgaria's development are: inefficient use of resources and energy, ineffective implementation of EU legislation on water, air and waste, ineffective systems for prevention, management and addressing the consequences of risks. Resources and further efforts are thus needed to overcome them.

Based on conclusions from the PA analysis, four strategic mutually reinforcing priorities for funding have been formulated, of which OPE 2014 – 2020 will address:

Strategic Priority 3: *Connectivity and green economy for sustainable growth*, which covers the sub-priorities: connectivity; transition to low carbon economy, energy and resource efficiency; climate and climate change, risk prevention and management; and environment and conservation of the natural heritage.

An efficient use of the limited natural resources and protection of the environment from anthropogenic impact are the basis of the sustainable development. OPE 2014 – 2020 will support the strategic priorities laid down in the PA through environmental protection investments aimed at supporting the economic growth and improvement of the standard of life.

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 and strategic documents at EU level

Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources to 2020

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 has been prepared taking into account the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources. It provides for the following measures (within Priority Axes 1, 3 and 4):

- *Reducing the pressure on the aquatic environment from pollution* through investments aimed at reducing the point source pollution and improving the level of compliance of the wastewater treatment under Directive 91/271/EC concerning urban wastewater treatment.
- *Improving the water efficiency* through investments aimed at reducing leakages and improving the capacity for defining and implementing pricing and cost-recovery policies.
- Performing the *monitoring* obligations under Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community actions in the field of water policy, including improving the monitoring of the *quantity* and *chemical status* of water bodies.
- Reducing the negative impact of *floods and drought* – through investments aimed at improving the flood risk management as well as at building green infrastructure and implementing measures for natural water retention (e.g. wetlands restoration).

Resource Efficiency Roadmap (EU)

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will contribute to achieving the following objectives at EU level by 2020:

Objective 3.1 Sustainable consumption and production

OP Environment 2014 – 2020 will contribute to achieving this objective by funding of the measures laid down in Priority Axes 2 related to demonstration/pilot projects, incl. shifting consumption models and promoting sustainable development.

Objective 3.2 Turning waste into a resource

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will contribute to achieving this objective through funding of the investments set out in Priority Axis 2 to improve the waste management systems and their compliance with the existing legislation in the waste sector, including the investments to achieve the objective for the 50% waste recycling by 2020.

Objective 4.1 Ecosystem Services and Objective 4.2 Biodiversity

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will contribute to achieving these two objectives by funding of the investments set out in Priority Axis 3 aimed at improving the knowledge of ecosystem services, as well as by funding a number of measures,

which aim, to contribute to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

Objective 4.4 Water

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will contribute to achieving this objective by funding of the investments set out in Priority Axes 1 and 4 needed for the preparation and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including for the set of measures of the programmes thereto, and for reducing the negative impact of the floods and droughts (investments to improve the flood risk management) and improving the water efficiency.

Objective 4.5 Air

OP Environment 2014 – 2020 will contribute to achieving this objective by funding of the measures laid down in Priority Axis 5 related to improvement of the air quality.

Objective 4.7 Marine resources

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will contribute to achieving this objective through funding of the investments set out in Priority Axis 3 aimed at protecting species and habitats in Black Sea Natura 2000 protected areas.

EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to achieving the following objectives at EU level by 2020 through funding of the measures set out in Priority Axis 3:

Target 1: Full implementation of Birds and Habitats Directives

- Measures under OPE 2014 – 2020 aimed at completing the Natura 2000 network and measures to ensure its good management in implementation of Actions 1a), 1c) and 1d) of the Strategy;
- Measures under OPE 2014 – 2020 aimed at raising the awareness and involvement of the stakeholders in the implementation of Natura 2000 National Information and Communication Strategy (2014 – 2023) following Action 3 of the Strategy;
- Measures aimed at performing the monitoring and reporting on the Natura 2000 network in conjunction with the EC requirements in implementation of Action 4 of the Strategy.

Target 2: Maintenance and restoration of the ecosystems and their services

- Measures under OPE to increase knowledge of the ecosystems and their services in implementation of Action 5 of the Strategy, through assessment of ecosystems and their services in Natura 2 000. It is envisaged an assessment of the economic value of such services and developing a programme to monitor the status of ecosystems and prioritisation criteria and further reporting to the Commission.

The contribution of OP Environment 2014-2020 will focus on protecting and maintaining the ecosystems within the scope of Natura 2000 network as well as on improving the knowledge for the ecosystem services.

- Measures under OPE within Natura 2000 network aimed at setting priorities to restore and promote the use of green infrastructure in implementation of Action 6 of the Strategy.

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to achieving the objectives of the priority areas of Pillar 2 Protecting the environment in the Danube Region, scheduled for completion by 2020, by funding of the measures set out in Priority Axes 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the programme.

Priority Area 1: To restore and maintain the quality of water

OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to achieving the objectives of this Priority Area through funding of the actions set out in Priority Axis 1 in compliance with the measures laid down in the RBMPs and in the scope of the programme.

Priority Area 2: To manage environmental risks

OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to achieving the objectives of this Priority Area through funding of the actions set out in Priority Axis 4 in compliance with the measures laid down in the FRMPs and in the scope of the programme.

Priority Area 3: To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to achieving the objectives of this priority area through funding of the actions set out in Priority Axis 3 in compliance with the NPAF for Natura 2000 as well as actions to reduce air pollution under Priority Axis 5.

OP Environment 2014-2020 and the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

The overall objective of the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change is to contribute to increasing the Europe's resilience to climate change. This includes raising the level of preparedness and ability to respond to the effects of climate change at the local, regional, national and European level, developing a coordinated approach and improving the coordination.

A draft framework document has been developed, in which risk assessment of the most typical natural disasters in this geographical area was performed based on the climate models and scenarios for Bulgaria. The document provides basis for the preparation of the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), which will guide and facilitate the process of adaptation to climate change in Bulgaria. The NAS will be a key action plan against the climate change impact, aiming to respond to the existing and growing vulnerability of our country resulting from the effects of climate change.

OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change through implementation of the measures under the priority axes for example through planning, designing and establishing a real-time National Water Management System and measures related to flood risk prevention and management solutions, aiming at fortifying the river banks, including ecosystem-based approach. In addition the implementation of measures under PA 4 will contribute to the improvement of cooperation between EU Member

states and will facilitate the coordination in field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of the systems for prevention, preparedness and response in case of natural and man-made disasters (in accordance with Decision 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism). The supported measures will also complement the specific measures in the identified areas of actions related to the improvement in a short-term perspective of the prevention of disasters, as set out in the Commission Communication COM 2009(82) on a Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters.

Moreover, the objectives related to the adaptation to climate change will be addressed through the Guidelines on Mainstreaming of EP and CCP.

OP Environment 2014 – 2020 and sectorial strategic documents at national level

National Strategy for Management and Development of the Water Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will focus on supporting the objectives of the National Strategy for Management and Development of the Water Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria, in particular:

Objective 1: Guaranteed water supply for the population and the business in the context of climate change leading to drought and Objective 2: Conservation and improvement of the status of surface and ground water, through financing actions under Priority Axis 1 for construction of WSS infrastructure and for strengthening the water monitoring system. In addition, the actions related to flood risk prevention and management under Priority Axis 4, will support Objective 4. Reducing the risk of flood damages of the Strategy.

Strategy for Development and Management of the Water Supply and Sanitation sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2023 (WSS Strategy), adopted by a Council of Ministers Decision No 269/7.05.2014

OP Environment 2014-2020 is expected to contribute to the fulfillment of the goals laid down in the Water Supply and Sewage Strategy 2014-2023.

The strategic objectives and priorities of the WSS sector in the Republic of Bulgaria laid down in the strategy are: 1) the WSS sector to comply with the national/European requirements; 2) the WSS sector to be environmental friendly, financially and technically sustainable; 3) the prices of the services provided by the Water Operators to be socially bearable for the consumers; 4) the service quality and the efficiency of the Water Operators to be in line with the good European practice.

National Maritime Strategy for the Black Sea

Bulgaria shall prepare a national strategy for the Black Sea in order to ensure a consistent maritime approach, an improvement of the coordination between the marine policies (different “blue sectors”) and consolidation of the various funding sources in accordance with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and its instruments.

OP Environment 2014-2020 is expected to contribute to the elaboration of National Maritime Strategy for the Black Sea through financing the development of documents for the implementation of the MSFD.

National Waste Management Action Plan, 2014 – 2020.

The main purpose of the plan is to improve the waste management hierarchy by identifying and elaborating waste prevention measures, while setting specific quantitative targets for preparing for re-use, recycling and other recovery of specific waste flows. OP Environment 2014 - 2020 aims at achieving the National Plan targets, in particular through measures for re-use, repair and preparing for re-use, pre-treatment and recovery, construction of anaerobic and/or composting installations for biodegradable waste.

National Strategic Plan for Phased Reduction of Biodegradable Municipal Waste Going to Landfills 2010 - 2020

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will help to achieve the National Strategic Plan targets, in pursuance of the requirements of Directive 1999/31/EC and the Bulgarian legislation, for reducing the biodegradable household waste fraction to overall of 35% by weight of landfilled biodegradable household waste by 2020. This target will be achieved by actions under Priority Axis 2 of the programme.

National Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will contribute to the protection of the most valuable and threatened species and habitats from the Natura 2000 network on the country's territory through the implementation of actions stipulated in NPAF. NPAF identifies the priority actions in Natura 2000 as a network of nature protection areas and the necessary funding for their implementation. The NPAF will facilitate the integration of the actions set therein in the future programmes funded from different financing sources, including the ESI Funds and the national budget. The implementation of NPAF will be supported through measures under Priority Axis 3 of OPE.

Disaster risk reduction strategy 2014-2020

OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will contribute to the achievement of the Strategy objectives, aimed at developing a sustainable national policy and legislative and institutional framework on disaster risk reduction; identifying, assessing and monitoring disaster risks; further enlargement and maintaining of effective national systems for disaster forecasting, monitoring, early warning and announcement; raising culture of safety and resilience at all governmental levels and in public using the experience, education, lessons learnt and innovations; reducing the existing risk factors and strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels. The national actions for developing of early warning systems, raising public awareness and reducing the underlying risk factors for floods and landslides shall be supported under Priority Axis 4 of the OPE.

National Programme for Disasters Protection 2014-2018

OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to the implementation of measures under 1.2.2. Measures for flood risk reduction of the National Programme. The interventions under Priority Axis 4 of the programme will support actions envisaged within the Annual Programme Implementation Plans by 2018 both in

terms of risk prevention and effective response to flooding, and in terms of the risk of landslides.

National Action Plan on Climate Change for the period 2013-2020

In addition to the measures in the waste sector OP Environment 2014-2020 will contribute to the implementation of Priority Axis 3 of the National Action Plan: *Capture of biogas from Urban Wastewater Treatment Plants (UWWTPs)* through investments under Priority Axis 1 of OPE in WSS infrastructure. For large waste water treatment plants (over 50 000 PE) the possibility of using the biogas resulting from the methane tanks to produce electricity for the needs of the WWTP will be explored.

OP Environment 2014 – 2020 and legislative commitments

In continuation of the efforts made in the programming period 2007 - 2013 OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will continue to focus on the implementation of the priorities aimed at meeting the requirements of the European legislation, giving priority to the acts, which require the largest public financial resources. The implementation of the programme will contribute to the application of the requirements of the national environmental and climate change legislation. The specific legislative acts, on which OP Environment 2014 - 2020 will be focused, are described in the relevant priority axes of the programme.

Ex-ante evaluation of OP Environment 2014 – 2020

The evaluation of the strategy of OPE 2014 – 2020 is a requisite element of the programme's ex-ante evaluation. The strategy should follow the general intervention logic of the operational programmes set by the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013 and the Commission's Ex-Ante Evaluation Guidelines.

The ex-ante evaluation of OPE 2014 – 2020 includes 5 mandatory elements:

1. Evaluation of programme's strategy;
2. Evaluation of indicators and monitoring;
3. Consistency of financial allocation;
4. Contribution to Europe 2020 strategy;
5. Strategic environmental assessment.

The ex-ante evaluation of the strategy involves also complementary evaluation steps for the whole programme document which include an appraisal of: the needs in sector Environment, the internal coherence, the external coherence, the interventions included in OPE 2014 - 2020, the contribution to Europe 2020 strategy, the implementation of horizontal principles, the selection of beneficiaries, the capacity of the OPE managing and implementing authorities, and the adequacy of the plan for fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities.

The results of the ex-ante evaluation of OPE 2014 – 2020 are posted on OPE's website <http://ope.moew.government.bg/en/pages/programirane-2014-2020/18>.

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the OP Environment 2014 – 2020

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) aims at assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of plans and programmes at national, regional and local level. The Assessment is performed together with the OPE elaboration and

the Ex ante evaluation of the Programme (“process integration” approach). The preparation of the SEA Report is fully compliant with the national procedures on programmes/plans elaboration/adoption, and the authorities responsible for the adoption shall conform to the SEA Statement. The procedure for SEA preparation is based on Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, fully transposed in the national legislation. Within the SEA procedure an assessment of the compatibility of the Operational Programme with the subject and the objectives of the protected areas according to Art. 6 (3) of Directive 92/43/EEC.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of OP Environment 2014 - 2020 has been conducted in compliance with the requirements of Chapter six of the Environmental Protection Act and the Ordinance on the conditions and order for carrying out environmental assessment of plans and programmes which reflect the requirements of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. SEA of OPE 2014 – 2020 has been conducted as part of the ex-ante evaluation of the programme, in compliance with the EC guidelines and the requirements of the competent authority for environmental assessment in the Republic of Bulgaria.

In 2013 the MA of OPE presented a request for screening of the necessity for conducting a SEA of the programme to Preventive Activity Directorate within MOEW. On the basis of the presented documentation the Minister of Environment and Water issued a decision which stipulates that SEA shall be carried out for the programme, as a part of the of the ex-ante evaluation.

For the purposes of the SEA consultations have been carried out with the public, the affected interested authorities and third parties identified, including coordination within the framework of the working group for the preparation of OPE 2014 – 2020. The consultations have included provision of public access to the environmental assessment documents (strategic environmental assessment report and annexes thereto and the non-technical summary) and the draft OPE 2014 – 2020 for a period of 30 days through the web-site of OPE and Directorate General Operational Programme Environment within the MoEW. The results of the consultations have been duly reflected into the report on Strategic Environmental Assessment from June 2014.

Based on the SEA of OPE 2014 - 2020, as a result of the performed analysis and estimation of the likely impacts of the provided priority axes and the relevant activities, the conclusion of the team of independent experts is that the implementation of OPE 2014 – 2020 will have an integrated positive effect on the environment and human health at the national level.

In order to ensure prevention, reduction and elimination to the highest possible extent of any presumable negative impacts resulting from the implementation of the programme on the environment and human health, the competent authority for environmental assessment has coordinated with the MA of OPE additional measures for monitoring and control which the MA of OPE shall implement in the process of the programme implementation. Each third year of the programme implementation the MA of OPE shall prepare a report on monitoring and control on the programme implementation, including on the measures for prevention, reduction or elimination to the highest possible extent of any presumable negative impacts from the programme implementation.

A SEA Opinion No 15-9/2014 approving OPE 2014 – 2020 has been issued by the Minister of Environment and Water. A summary of how environmental considerations and the opinions expressed have been taken into account (summary statement under Article 29, paragraph 1 of the SEA Ordinance) has been published on OPE website. OPE 2014 – 2020 revision has been made in May 2015 as a result of comments, notes and proposals provided by the EC during the negotiations and technical meetings held. SEA Decision No 5/2015 has been issued stating that no environmental assessment is to be carried out on the OPE revision.

<http://ope.moew.government.bg/en/pages/programirane-2014-2020/18#1>

- 1.1.2. A justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities having regard to the Partnership Agreement, based on an identification of regional and, where appropriate, national needs including the need to address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and the relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU, taking into account the ex ante evaluation.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
<1.1.2 type="S" input="S" PA=Y TA="NA">	<1.1.3 type="S" input="S" PA=Y TA="NA">	<1.1.4 type="S" maxlength="1000" input="M" PA=Y TA="NA">
TO 5	IP b (ii) CF	<p><i>Needs to implement flood and landslides risk prevention measures in order to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management taking into account the Analysis and Assessment of the Risk and Vulnerability of the Bulgarian Economic Sectors with regard to the Climate Change and the National Disaster Protection Plan the envisaged measures will contribute for increasing the protection of the population, as well as for fulfillment of the country's commitments resulting from Directive 2007/60/EC.</i></p> <p><i>An adequate infrastructure capable of handling large volumes of water generated in a short time should be ensured, as well as geoprotection infrastructure for reducing the landslides risk.</i></p> <p><i>The actions to be implemented will contribute to the achievement of Objective 4 of the National Strategy for Management and Development of the Water Sector in Bulgaria, as well as achieving the objectives of Decision 1313/2013/EU on "the Union civil protection mechanism focusing on the prevention, preparedness and response to disasters" and of the Communication COM (2009)82 on "A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters".</i></p>
TO 6	IP c (ii) CF	<p><i>It is necessary to address the significant water and wastewater investment needs focused to agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE and to complete the water monitoring systems in pursuance of the EU environmental legislation and effective water use requirements and the objectives of the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources to 2020 – to achieve compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC, Directive 98/83/EC, Directive 2013/51/EURATOM and Directive 2000/60/EC. Measures to construct/rehabilitate/reconstruct facilities for</i></p>

		<i>treatment of sludge from WWTP and supply of the necessary equipment, including for existing WWTPs, will contribute to the achievement of Europe 2020's target of greenhouse gas emissions 20% lower than 1990 and of the national efforts to reduce GHG emissions under the National Reform Programme. A need to implement actions to develop new and/or update existing strategic documents (RBMP).</i>
TO 6	IP 6 (a) ERDF	<p><i>It is necessary to achieve compliance with the EU waste legislation – Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive), Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste and to achieve the targets of the Resource Efficiency Roadmap (EU).</i></p> <p><i>The envisaged measures are identified as priority measures in the National Waste Management Plan. The plan contains analysis about the quantities, types and the morphology of the waste flows, as well as the trends with regards to the municipal waste generation and the necessary measures for their sustainable management.</i></p> <p><i>The implementation of measures for construction of anaerobic installations for biodegradable and/or green waste will contribute to the implementation of the NAPCC 2013-2020 and to Europe 2020's target of 20% lower greenhouse gas emissions.</i></p>
TO 6	IP 6 (d) ERDF	<i>A need to implement measures to establish and manage the Natura 2000 network, information and communication measures, monitoring and reporting under Directive 92/43/EEA and Directive 2009/147/EC. A need to implement measures to improve the knowledge of ecosystems and their services. This will help achieving compliance with the EU Natura 2000 legislation and with the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, the objectives of the Resource Efficiency Roadmap (EU), the objectives of the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and the objectives of the national strategic documents on Natura 2000 and biodiversity.</i>
TO 6	IP c (iv) CF	<i>It is necessary to implement measures to improve the ambient air quality through reduction of the air pollutants from the main sources of pollution, thereby contributing to the objectives of Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.</i>

1.2. Justification of the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

<1.2.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" PA=Y TA="NA">

The allocated resources from the EU funds to the OP Environment for the period 2014 - 2020 (CF and ERDF) will be earmarked to the achievement of Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” (93.14%) and Thematic Objective 5 “Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management” (4.17%) through the implementation of the relevant investment priorities, as well as for technical assistance (2.69%).

The financial allocation to OP Environment 2014 - 2020 is guided mainly by the identified national needs that can be addressed with resources from CF and ERDF and by the country's obligations resulting from the European acquis. The strategy of the operational programme is focused on the development of WSS infrastructure, waste management in accordance with the waste management hierarchy according to the Waste Framework Directive, the management of

areas from Natura 2000 network and protection of biodiversity, flood and landslides risk prevention and management, and improving ambient air quality.

Thus, 67.57% of the total Union support for the operational programme are earmarked to investments in WSS infrastructure directed to agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE and for further development of the water monitoring systems in order to fulfill the requirements in the EU legislation in field of environment and the effective water use, and to achieve the objectives of the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources to 2020.

16.64% of the financial allocation from ESIF to OPE are earmarked to measures for municipal waste management in accordance with the waste management hierarchy according to the Waste Framework Directive and identified as priority measures in the National Waste Management Plan.

Due to the high percentage of the national territory covered by Natura 2000 network, OPE 2014 - 2020 (5.34% of the total financial allocation from ERDF) will address needs concerning the management, conservation, maintenance and restoration of species and habitats in Natura 2000 network. The measures to be financed are included also in the NPAF and are expected to contribute significantly to the fulfillment of the commitments under the Habitats and Birds Directives. The envisaged measures include the complete establishment of Natura 2000 network, development of management plans or other relevant documents, reporting the conservation status of species and habitats, etc.

The floods are one of the main risks which could affect the whole of the national territory and which are considered in the National Disaster Protection Plan and the Analysis and Assessment of the Risk and Vulnerability of the Bulgarian Economic Sectors with regard to the Climate Change. 30% of the disasters in Bulgaria in the period 1974-2006 are floods. As a result, the country suffers significant losses. Landslides are another natural disaster which causes serious affects. In 1972-1991 there were five catastrophic landslides. Therefore, 4.17% of the total Union support for the programme (under Priority Axis 4 "Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management") will be used to build adequate infrastructure capable of handling large volumes of water formed in a short time, and an infrastructure which could guarantee landslides prevention. In addition a National Real Time Water Management System as well as six centers for increasing the preparedness of the population for an adequate response to floods will be established.

Twenty-nine municipalities in Bulgaria have adopted plans for reducing pollutants levels and achieving the air emission limit values (ELVs) laid down in the Clean Ambient Air Act. The main air quality problems arise from the exceedance of the limit values for particulate matter (PM₁₀) in almost all big cities and towns and the exceeded ELVs for nitrogen dioxide in the ambient air in two Bulgarian municipalities. For PM₁₀, the analysis of the results of the model assessment of emission sources contribution to the PM₁₀ levels on the territory of individual municipalities, included in the plans, shows prevailing influence of domestic heating and transport. The efforts will be focused on pollution reduction from these sectors through financing from the Cohesion fund (3.59% of the total Union support).

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund (ERDF ³ , Cohesion Fund, ESF ⁴ , or YEI) ⁵	Union support ⁶ (EUR)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme (%) ⁷	Thematic objective ⁸	Investment priorities ⁹	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
<1.2.1 type="S" input="G">	<1.2.2 type="S" input="G">	<1.2.3 type="N" " input="G">	<1.2.4 type="P" input="G">	<1.2.5 type="S" input="G">	<1.2.6 type="S" input="G">	<1.2.7 type="S" input="G">	<1.2.8 type="S" input="G">
Water	CF	1 016 870 809.00	67.57%	Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”	Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	Specific Objective 1 “Protection and improvement of the water resources status” Specific Objective 2 “Improvement of the water bodies status assessment”	Amount of pollution load that receives full collection and treatment in compliance with the legislation Water bodies with improved monitoring of the

³ European Regional Development Fund

⁴ European Social Fund

⁵ Youth Employment Initiative

⁶ Total Union support (including the main allocation and the performance reserve)

⁷ Information by Fund and by priority axis.

⁸ Title of thematic objective (not applicable to technical assistance).

⁹ Title of investment priority (not applicable to technical assistance).

							quantitative status Water bodies with improved monitoring of the chemical status
Waste	ERDF	250 414 049.00	16.64%	Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”	Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	Specific Objective 1 “Reducing the amount of waste going to landfills”	Amount of waste going to landfills
Natura 2000 and biodiversity	ERDF	80 384 182.00	5.34%	Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services including through Natura 2000 and green infrastructures	Specific Objective 1 “Improving the conservation status of species and habitats within Natura 2000 network”	Species with improved conservation status Birds with improved status Habitats with improved conservation status
Flood risk and landslides prevention and management	CF	62 744 130.00	4.17%	Thematic Objective 5 “Promoting climate change	Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience	Specific Objective 1 ”Increasing the flood protection and the preparedness of the	Areas with significant potential flood risk which population has

				adaptation, risk prevention and management”	and developing disaster management systems	population for an adequate response to floods”	no preparedness for an adequate response to floods
						Specific Objective 2 ”Increasing the protection of the population from landslides“	Population at risk of landslides
Improvement of the ambient air quality	CF	54 004 944.00	3.59%	Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”	Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalize cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise reduction measures	Specific Objective 1 “Reducing ambient air pollution by lowering the quantities of PM ₁₀ and NO _x ”	Quantity of PM ₁₀
Technical assistance	ERDF	40 406 027.00	2.69%			Specific Objective 1 “Strengthening the administrative capacity of the responsible structures for the effective and efficient implementation of activities related to programming, management, monitoring,	Average time for a project approval Average time for beneficiary payments request verification

						<p>evaluation and control of OPE</p> <p>Specific Objective 2 “Raising the public awareness about the programme and the ESIF contribution, and ensuring publicity and relevant information for all identified target groups”</p> <p>Specific Objective 3 “Strengthening the capacity of OPE beneficiaries for the successful implementation of projects under the programme”</p>	<p>Level of public awareness of the OPE</p> <p>Level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the TA measures and training provided</p>
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SECTION 2 PRIORITY AXES

(Reference: Article 96(2)(a) and (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A A description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A.1 Priority axis (repeated for each priority axis)

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > PRIORITY AXIS 1
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > WATER

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M" "SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2. Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE. OPE 2014-2020 covers the territory of the whole country, i.e. all regions (NUTS II). All of those are categorized as less developed regions. Priority Axis 1 aims to achieve Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” of the General Regulation. Priority Axis 1 is co-financed by the CF.

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2A.7 type="S" input="S""SME" > Cohesion Fund
<i>Category of region</i>	<2A.8 type="S" input="S""SME "> Not applicable
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S""SME" > Public eligible expenditure
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > Not applicable

2.A.4 Investment Priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S""SME" > c (ii) under TO 6 (CF): Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.
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2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G""SME" > SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME" > Protection and improvement of the water resources status
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M""SME" > The implementation of measures under the priority axis will build upon the results achieved during programming period 2007-2013.

	<p>The envisaged measures will contribute to the fulfillment of the objectives of Water Framework Directive and its daughter directives, as well as of Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment and Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.</p> <p>The main result of these measures will be the collection and treatment of the wastewater. The financial resources will be directed to agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE which do not comply with the requirements of the EU legislation.</p> <p>As a result of investments in rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure, the efficiency of water supply networks will be increased and water losses reduced. The concrete contribution with regards the water losses reduction where such measures are identified as priority in the regional feasibility studies will be reported at project level. Supporting appropriate water treatment methods will reduce or eliminate the risk of non-compliance with the parametric values for water quality before the water is supplied to the network.</p> <p>The long term needs for construction and/or reconstruction of WSS network and facilities for wastewater and/or drinking water will be determined through preparation of regional feasibility studies.</p> <p>Another result which will be achieved through the support under the PA is the facilitation of completing the WSS reform in the country and strengthening the capacity of the stakeholders.</p>
<i>ID</i>	<p><2A.1.1 type="N" input="G""SME ></p> <p>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME ></p> <p>Improvement of the water bodies status assessment</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M""SME "></p> <p>The authorities responsible for the development/update of RBMP will dispose of sufficient information basis for complying with requirements of the WFD. As a result of measures implemented under this specific objective the status of water bodies will be reviewed in a comprehensive and coherent manner. Water monitoring networks will be optimized and extended in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as the necessary equipment will be provided.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value¹⁰ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
<2A.1.4 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.5 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.6 type="S" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.8 type="N" input="M" "SME" > Qualitative <2A.1.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.9 type="N" input="M" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.10 type="N" input="M" > Qualitative <2A.1.10 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.11 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.12 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >
1.1	Amount of pollution load that receives full collection and treatment in compliance with the legislation	PE		196 271 ¹¹	2013	1 669 655 ¹²	MoEW	2019 2021 2023

¹⁰ For ERDF and the Cohesion Funds, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

¹¹ Project in process of implementation under OPE 2007 – 2013 have not been included in the baseline value.

¹² Project in process of implementation under OPE 2007 – 2013 have not been included in the target value

1.2	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the quantitative status	Number		90	2013	140	MoEW	2019 2021 2023
1.3	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the chemical status	Number		153	2013	173	MoEW	2019 2021 2023

Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme specific result indicator corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit of indicator	Common output indicator used as a basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline target	Baseline year	Target value ¹³ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.13 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.13 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.14 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.14 type="S" input="S">	<2A.1.15 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.16 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.16 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.17 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.17 type="S" input="S">	Common output indicators <2A.1.18 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.19 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.19 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.20 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.21 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.21 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2A.1.22 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.23 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

¹³ This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators, they may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men + women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values can be adjusted accordingly. “M” = men, “W” = women, “T” = total.

Table 4a: YEI result indicators and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective

NOT APPLICABLE

(by priority axis or by part of a priority axis)

(Reference: Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁴)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value ¹⁵ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
				M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.24 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.24 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.25 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.25 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.26 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.26 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.27 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.27 type="S" input="S">	Common output indicators <2A.1.28 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.29 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.29 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.30 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.31 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.31 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2A.1.32 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.33 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

¹⁵ This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators they may be qualitative or quantitative. All result indicators in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 used to monitor YEI implementation must be linked to a quantified target value. 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.

2.A.6. Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

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*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Investment priority	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>c (ii) under TO 6 (CF): Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17 500" input="M"></p> <p>Types and examples of eligible activities to be supported:</p> <p>1. Construction of WSS infrastructure in accordance with the RBMPs and the regional master plans and based on RFS.</p> <p>The main measures to be supported will be focused on waste water collection and treatment in agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE, on the territory of consolidated districts, by application of best available technical solutions with proven effectiveness and appropriateness, incl. innovative ones developed within Strategic Action Plan to the European innovation partnership for water, where relevant. Other measures to be financed include provision of clean and safe drinking water for population in order to fulfill the obligations under Directive 98/83/EC.</p> <p>Wherever justified, in order to achieve economies of scale, the waste water investments and the ones in drinking water will be financed in an integrated manner.</p> <p>Preparation and implementation of projects will follow a regional approach based on the following principle: WSS infrastructure will be financed in consolidated districts, served by one WSS operator, based on one Regional Feasibility Study (RFS) and one application form. The main objective of the regional feasibility studies will be to analyze the investment needs at regional level (incl. in agglomerations between 2000 and 10 000 PE) from technical and economic point of view, to identify cost-effective solutions that can be implemented within one district and that can contribute to the compliance with national and European legislation for water protection.</p> <p>Under OPE 2007-2013 one pilot RFS has been developed for the agglomeration of Smolyan, identifying priority measures whose implementation can start after the adoption of the RFS.</p> <p>The RFS will be developed in partnership with WSS operators, representatives of the municipalities, the State regulator and other relevant stakeholders, and will be approved by MRD and MoEW. As of April 2015 there are 15 consolidated regional Water operators at the territory of the country and 1 Water Operator serving the territory of</p>	

Sofia Municipality, which will be taken into account when prioritizing the investments in the sector.

Until the finalization and adoption of the RFS, the following group of projects representing mature investments, ready to start works in 2016 and for which the beneficiaries will be the municipalities, may be implemented:

- Projects within the meaning of Art. 39 of Regulation (EC) № 1083/2006, which have been reviewed by the European Commission during 2007-2013 programming period for agglomerations of: Plovdiv, Asenovgrad, Dobrich, Pleven - Dolna Mitropoliya;

- Projects in up to 5 agglomerations over 10 000 PE, subject to a review and positive assessment by JASPERS. Given their maturity and readiness to start works in 2016, amounting in total up to 5% of the PA allocation.

- Projects whose works already started under OP 2007-2013 and their second phase will be implemented in 2014-2020 period, amounting in total up to 10% of the PA allocation.

In order to fulfill country's commitments and to achieve the goal of preventing an increase in emissions from non-ETS (Emission Trading System) sectors by more than 20% compared to 2005 and according to the National Action Plan on Climate Change for the period 2013-2020, for large waste water treatment plants (over 50 000 PE) the possibility of using the biogas resulting from the methane tanks to produce electricity for the needs of the WWTP will be explored. For small and medium-sized waste water treatment plants, the possibility of introducing anaerobic sludge stabilization with capture and combustion of biogas will be investigated. The specific measures for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions are consistent with the national policy in the field of climate change and the potential of the national economy for the reduction of emissions.

Eligible activities:

- Development of RFS, which will define the long-term priorities for an optimal financing in WSS infrastructure, based on the strategic documents in the sector;
- Design/construction/rehabilitation/reconstruction of wastewater treatment plants, incl. facilities for sludge treatment (in accordance with the requirements of the Directive concerning urban waste-water treatment and the conditions of the discharge permit, incl. ensuring more stringent treatment with nutrients removal from the wastewater for agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE discharging into sensitive areas);
- Design/construction/rehabilitation/reconstruction or replacement of collecting systems and facilities to or from the WWTP in order to provide for environmental friendly and cost effective operation of the WSS systems in accordance with the country's commitments under the Directive concerning urban wastewater treatment;
- Design/construction/rehabilitation/reconstruction of drinking water treatment plants or if it is more cost-effective construction of new water supply facilities;
- Design/construction/rehabilitation/reconstruction of drinking water supply networks and facilities aimed at increasing the efficiency of water use and reduction of the water losses in water supply networks in accordance with Directive 98/83/EC;
- Design/development of supporting infrastructure (e.g. power supply, road, water supply), which serves the constructed plants (eg WWTP, DWTP, tanks and pumping stations);

- Support for implementation of the WSS reform, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Action plan and the objectives of the Strategy for development and management of water supply and sanitation sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2023, and for strengthening the capacity of the stakeholders involved, incl. WSS operators and WSS associations, Energy and Water Regulatory Commission.

Beneficiaries:

- for the development of RFS – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and Sofia Municipality;
- for priority projects resulting from the RFS - Water operators and Sofia Municipality;
- for projects which implementation can start before the adoption of the RFS (the ones mentioned above) and for phased projects - Municipalities;
- for measures supporting the implementation of the WSS reform - Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works,
- Ministry of Environment and Water, Water associations (only for supporting activities).

In providing funding under this priority axis, the financial instruments option will be used for activities eligible under Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Main target groups: country's population.

2. Extension of the water monitoring systems

2.1. Monitoring of the quantitative water status

In pursuance of the obligations under WFD, around 1000 surface water bodies have been identified in Bulgaria, for which quantitative monitoring system shall be established, including for gathering required supporting data for the quantity at the sampling points for biological, chemical and hydro morphological quality elements in respect of which an assessment of the status is carried out. Given the large number of water bodies, the construction of new stationary hydrometric stations is not appropriate and monitoring mobile measuring devices shall be used instead. Considering the variety of environmental conditions in Bulgaria, it is necessary to conduct an analysis and depending on the spatial location of water bodies and their characteristics places to make measurements can be justified and stabilized/built and appropriate mobile equipment to be determined and purchased.

According to the expert evaluations, for monitoring of the quantitative status of the ground water it is necessary to construct about 300 drillings located in places not affected by the anthropogenic activities and providing information about the average water level with average depth for the different water bodies between 15 and 150 m and total length of not more than 15 000 m. The possibility to use the existing drillings shall be considered after their rehabilitation and cleaning.

- Extension and/or optimization of quantitative monitoring networks of groundwater, according to the national studies and evaluations on the basis of unified methodological approach for the 4 River Basin Districts for the purposes of the second and third RBMPs:

planning and design of the extension (optimization), building stations, incl. for monitoring of the transboundary water bodies, delivery of equipment for existing and construction of new stations with measuring devices and devices for automatic storage and/or transmission of data by application of ICT based solutions, including technical assistance, support and assistance for the projects development.

- Analysis of the spatial location of the surface water bodies, justification of the necessary measurements of the water quantities in relation to the assessment of the surface water bodies status; determining the location of the measurement points, taking into account the planned and the established monitoring stations for the National Real Time Water Management System, stabilization of the profile of the water body at the point of measurement and the purchase of equipment for on spot measurements, such as propeller flow-meters, cable hydrometric equipment, level measurement instruments, etc.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Main target groups: Basin Directorates, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH), country's population.

2.2. Water Quality Monitoring

In order to improve the monitoring of the surface water, wastewater and drinking water, it is planned to further develop the monitoring networks and to improve the monitoring equipment. These measures will contribute to the improvement of the water status assessments, to plan the right actions at the right place, and to assess the effect of the implemented measures. For the monitoring of priority substances and specific pollutants in surface and groundwater (in accordance with the European and Bulgarian legislation), it is necessary to ensure the operation of the monitoring system and the laboratory-analytical complex for gathering and analysing samples, incl., if necessary, analyses and studies on the quality of surface, groundwater, wastewater and drinking water.

It is necessary to deliver water analysis equipment in order to enable the laboratories to perform the adequate mandatory measurements of routine sampling, the measurement of the characteristics of the main physic-chemical parameters of water samples. For the radiological measurement activities it is necessary to purchase instruments for in situ measuring, for laboratory radiometric and radio-chemical analyses and equipment for taking of environmental components samples. This includes delivery of mobile labs for taking water samples and to perform sampling in case of emergency with equipment for immediate field analysis. These measures will enable the operational teams to respond adequately in emergency situations by obtaining immediate results on the concentration of harmful substances in water.

- Further development and/or optimization of the networks for control and operational monitoring of the groundwater chemical status in compliance with a conducted national surveys and assessments upon unified methodology for the 4 River Basin Districts for the purposes of the second and third RBMPs: establishment of stations in areas affected by or in risk of being affected by anthropogenic activities, as well in transboundary water bodies, delivery of measuring devices for existing and newly constructed stations, delivery of devices for automatic storage and/or transfer of data by application of ICT based solutions, incl. technical assistance, assistance and support for the developments of projects.

- Mobile labs and laboratory equipment and materials.
- Renovation and modernization of the Executive Environmental Agency (ExEA) laboratories by purchasing new measuring instruments (e.g. ion chromatography systems for determining anions and cations in water, analyzers for determining total organic carbon/total nitrogen (TOC/TN), stationary conductometers, portable OXI- meters, pH-meters, conductometers, spectrophotometers, ICP-MS, gas chromatography systems, mobile labs for ExAE system, etc.). To ensure the quality of the measurements as well as health and safety at work most of the lab ovens in water labs of ExEA need to be replaced, including the auxiliary lab equipment, such as thermostats, thermoreactors, deionizers, vacuum evaporators, microwave decomposition systems, refrigerators and special cabinets for consumables and chemicals, etc.).
- Renovation and modernization of the laboratories of the State Health Control Bodies by purchasing new measuring instruments for drinking water monitoring purposes (including ICP-MS-MS, ICP-MS, ICP-OES, gas chromatography systems, liquid chromatography systems, ion chromatography systems, analyzers for determining total organic carbon, conductometers, portable OXI- meters, pH-meters, spectrophotometers, low background alpha / beta counting systems, low background spectrometers, low background gamma spectrometry systems, alpha-spectrometry systems, gamma spectrometers, alfaguard systems, radonmeters and delivery of supplementary laboratory equipment (ovens, thermostats, thermal reactor, deionizer, evaporator systems, microwave digestion, air conditioners, refrigerators and specialized cabinets for supplies and chemicals, etc.).
- Designing/updating and applying water monitoring methodologies and training for applying the monitoring methodologies – developing and implementing methods for determining priority substances and specific pollutants in water and biota.

Beneficiary: structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Water; State Health Control bodies to the Ministry of Health (about the activity for renovation and modernization of laboratories for the purposes of drinking water monitoring).

Main target groups: Basin Directorates, country's population.

3. Development of new and/or update of existing strategic documents for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Marine strategy framework directive

Water Framework Directive establishes the policy and tools for integrated water management based on river basin principle. Studies in relation to the development of RBMPs have been planned for complying with the EU acquis. These plans present the current status and propose actions to ensure good water status. Pursuant to WFD, the first RBMPs were drafted and approved in 2010. Due to the underdeveloped monitoring system and the lack of national studies and methodologies on critical issues, the plans have been developed partially on the basis of expert evaluations.

- Conducting studies and assessments upon unified methodology for the 4 River Basin Districts for the elaboration and implementation of River Basin Management Plans related to the characteristics of the river basin districts, development of water

management models and systems for pilot water bodies, taking into account innovative and ICT based solutions, transboundary coordination, additional measures for water bodies which are not in compliance (art.11, p.5 of WFD), implementation of water management and monitoring innovative solutions, with proven effectiveness and applicability, incl. innovative ones developed under priority 4.7.(supportive to the solutions systems and monitoring) of the Strategic Action Plan to the European innovation partnership for water, etc. The implementation of these measures will contribute to the implementation of non-structural actions from the second RBMPs for the implementation of WFD and to the timely completion of the activities on the elaboration of the third RBMPs for the period 2021 – 2027 (they will be elaborated from 2016 to 2021);

- Preparation of documents for the purposes of the implementation of Marine Strategy framework directive

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Water, responsible for water policy making and for its implementation.

Main target groups: MoEW, basin directorates, ExEA, RIEWs, other ministries (MoD, MoI, MAF, MH, Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (ExAFA), MTITC, MRDPW, ME), NIMH institutes participating in the development of the national methodologies related to the implementation of the EU legislation, NEC JSC, regional governors, municipalities, country's population.

2.A.6.2 *Guiding principles for selection of operations*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>c (ii) under TO 6 (CF): Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>When selecting operations both the basic horizontal principles - legality, partnership, transparency and publicity, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and the following principles will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding based on legislative commitments – Projects that contribute to the fulfillment of country's obligations under the EU and national legislation in the WSS sector and address actions set in RBMPs, that are in accordance with the regional master plans and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Bulgaria's Water Supply and Sewage Strategy 2014-2023 will be financed as a matter of priority; • Regionalization – projects will be financed as a matter of priority on the basis of a regional approach, thus contributing to water sector sustainability, application of economy of scale principle and ensuring recovery of investment costs. The technical solutions for new investments should take into account the already built infrastructure under 2007-2013. 	

- **Integrated investments** – Integrated projects may be financed in order to achieve overall synergy and cost-effectiveness.
- **Sustainable development and resource efficiency** – projects contributing to resource efficiency and improvement of environment will be financed as a matter of priority, while encouraging technological solutions requiring lower investment and operational costs, providing new job opportunities, development of sustainable economic activities, including sustainable tourism, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, thus contributing to achievement of the climate change objectives. As regards drinking water measures, investments in new drinking water facilities will only be financed while taking into account the plan for reduction of leakages.
- **Sustainable investments** – To ensure the efficiency and sustainability of the OPE intervention, provisions ensuring long term effect of water management investments, incl. sustainability assessment in relation to the climate change will be laid down in the selection of operations. A mandatory condition for the eligibility of the projects based on the RFS is the existence of the signed delegation contract between the Water Supply and Sanitation Association (WSSA) and the regional Water Operator Company which allows for a mechanism to ring-fence the revenues based on full depreciation of assets, including the grant funded assets, to be used for reinvestment in the district's WSS infrastructure.
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience.** In project financing, where applicable, will be aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change and construction of disaster-resilient infrastructure.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>c (ii) under TO 6 (CF): Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p><2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"></p> <p><2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"></p> <p>Based on an updated Ex-Ante Assessment of Financial Instruments and the Investment Strategy for Financial Instruments under the Operational Program Environment 2014-2020 carried out by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2018 11,4% of the allocated resources under the PA 1 is earmarked to be used under the form of financial instruments to support the activities under the investment priority.</p>

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>c (ii) under TO 6 (CF): Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<p><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>Through the implementation of the regional approach and the development of regional feasibility studies major projects are expected to be prepared.</p>	

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

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iv) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ¹⁶			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
<2A.2.5.1 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.2 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.3 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.4 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.5 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.6 type="N" input="M" SME >			<2A.2.5.7 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" SME >	<2A.2.5.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" SME >
CO18	Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	CF	NA			220 000	MoEW; beneficiary; application forms; progress reports on approved projects	Annually

¹⁶

For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	PE	CF	NA			1 473 384	MoEW; beneficiary; application forms; progress reports on approved projects	Annually
1.4	Constructed/Rehabilitated/Reconstructed WWTP	Number	CF	NA			16	MoEW, beneficiary, progress report	Annually
1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	number	CF	NA			18	MoEW, progress reports	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1—7¹⁷

Specific provisions for ESF¹⁸, where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis).
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

<i>Priority axis</i>	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE	

¹⁷ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

¹⁸ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(v) and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and category of region)¹⁹

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 ²⁰			Final target (2023) ²¹			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
							M	W	T	M	W	T		
<2A.4.1 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.2 type="S" input="S">	Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.3 type="S" maxlength="5">	Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.4 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.4 type="S" input="G" or "M">	Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.5 type="S" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.5 type="S" input="M">	<2A.4.6 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.7 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.8 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">			Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.9 type="S" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.8 type="S" input="M">			Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.10 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.10 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.4.11 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M">

¹⁹ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

²⁰ Milestone values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

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

		<i>input="M"></i> <i>Output or result <2A.4.3 type="S" input="S"></i>		<i>input="G" or "M"></i>							<i>type="S" input="M"></i>	
	Output indicator	CO18	Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	CF		89 000			220 000	MoEW, Project documentation	<p>The milestone value for 2018 is defined on the basis of the possibility of interventions for projects which implementation can start before the adoption of the RFS.</p> <p>The target value is based on preliminary assessment of the additional investment needs for meeting the requirements of Directive 98/83/EC in agglomerations at the territory of consolidated operators and takes into account the financial allocation</p>

												for those types of measures under the priority axis.
	Output indicator	CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	PE	CF		100 000			1 473 384	MoEW, Project documentation	<p>The milestone value for 2018 is defined on the basis of the possibility for implementation of projects which implementation - can start before the adoption of the RFS.</p> <p>The target value is the population equivalent of agglomerations that need additional investments to bring their infrastructure in compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC and fulfill the criteria of the regional approach agglomerations.</p>
	Output indicator	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number	CF		10			18	MoEW, Progress reports	The milestone represents the number of the monitoring programmes which

												will be developed/ updated under the second RBMPs by the end of 2018. The target value consists of 10 monitoring programmes which will be developed/ updated under the second RBMPs by the end of 2018 and 8 documents which will be elaborated/ updated for the purposes of the third RBMPs 2021- 2027.
	Financial	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	CF		169 764 705.88			1 196 318 599.00	Certifying Authority	The milestone value is defined on the basis of the possibility for implementation of projects which implementation - can start before the adoption of the RFS and the expected implementation of measures for water monitoring, preparation of RFS.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention²²

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Water	020 Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure)	55 381 353,33
	021 Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)	89 325 430,29
	022 Waste water treatment	861 827 826,55
	023 Environmental measures aimed at reducing and / or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions (including treatment and storage of methane gas and composting)	10 336 198,83

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Water	01 Non-repayable grant	900 947 536, 77

²² Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

	04 Support through financial instruments: loan or equivalent	75 350 126,95
	05 Support through financial instruments: guarantee or equivalent	40 573 145,28

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Water	07 Not applicable	1 016 870 809.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Water	07 Not applicable	1 016 870 809.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme ²³ (ESF only)		
Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

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 (where appropriate)

²³ 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.

(by priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"> 1- Water
<p><2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"></p> <p>With resources under PA, within the projects financing supporting the preparation of the necessary project documentation, including development/update of feasibility studies, financial and economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, preparation of public procurement documentation for the actions included in the project etc. will be provided.</p> <p>In addition actions for the implementation of water sector reform in order to contribute to the Strategy for development and management of water supply and sanitation sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2023 and for strengthening the capacity of the beneficiaries, including WSS operators, WSS associations will be financed.</p>	

2.A A description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A.1 Priority axis (repeated for each priority axis)

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > PRIORITY AXIS 2
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > WASTE

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M" "SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">

<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">
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2.A.2. Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<p><2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>NOT APPLICABLE. The territorial scope of OPE 2014–2020 is the whole national territory, i.e. all regions (NUTS II). All of them are categorised as less developed regions. Priority Axis 2 is aimed at implementing Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” of the General Regulation. Priority Axis 2 is co-financed by the ERDF.</p>

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<p><2A.7 type="S" input="S""SME" ></p> <p>European Regional Development Fund</p>
<i>Category of region</i>	<p><2A.8 type="S" input="S""SME" ></p> <p>Less developed region</p>
<i>Calculation basis (public or total eligible expenditure)</i>	<p><2A.9 type="S" input="S""SME" ></p> <p>Public eligible expenditure</p>
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<p><2A.9 type="S" input="S" ></p> <p>Not applicable</p>

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.10 type="S" input="S""SME" ></p> <p>Investment priority a) under TO 6 (ERDF): Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member</p>
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	States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.
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2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G""SME "> SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME "> Reducing the amount of waste going to landfills
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M""SME "></p> <p>The purpose of this PA is to achieve compliance with the waste management hierarchy in accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC.</p> <p>As a result of the measures to be implemented a reduction of the amount of waste going to landfill will be achieved through waste re-use, recycling and recovery.</p> <p>The major share of the waste going to landfill belongs to the biodegradable waste. The investments will be focused on reducing of the amount of that waste going to landfills and on increasing the amount of recycled/recovered biodegradable waste.</p> <p>The sustainable waste management will be supported through investments in additional waste recycling and re-use capacity which will contribute to the achievement of recycling objectives under the Waste Management Act and the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) and will facilitate the access of the population to waste recycling and re-use centers. The investments will build upon the results achieved under OPE 2007-2013.</p> <p>Investments are planned for “energy recovery from waste” solutions. The project which will be supported as listed in the NWMP is the Third phase of integrated Sofia Municipality’s project for municipal waste treatment facilities for Sofia.</p> <p>A “zero waste” society and raising public awareness to comply with the waste management hierarchy will be achieved through information campaigns and implementation of demonstration/pilot projects. In the implementation of the projects, the experience gained under LIFE programme could be taken into account, and a complementarity with LIFE is possible.</p> <p>The implementation of projects to improve the management of construction waste will help to prevent the mixing of construction waste with household</p>

	<p>waste as well as for the development of examples of successful treatment of construction waste. Also the implementation of some of the measures will contribute to the transition to a circular economy in Bulgaria.</p> <p>The financing of landfill recultivation measures will support the fulfillment of the Republic of Bulgaria's obligations under the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 16.07.2015 in case C-145/14 for failure to fulfill the obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria on Article 14 (a) to (c) of Council Directive 1999/31 / EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste.</p>
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value²⁴ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
<2A.1.4 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.5 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.6 type="S" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.8 type="N" input="M" "SME" > Qualitative <2A.1.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.9 type="N" input="M" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.10 type="N" input="M" > Qualitative <2A.1.10 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.11 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.12 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >
2.1	Amount of waste going to landfills	tonnes ²⁵	Less developed region	2 323 000 ²⁶	2012	2 038 000	NSI	2019 2021 2023

²⁴ For the ERDF and the CF target values may be qualitative and quantitative

²⁵ According to EUROSTAT, http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/en/t2020_rt110_esmsip.htm

²⁶ According to the National Waste Management Plan 2014-2020

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) (for the ESF)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Reference: Article 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 for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline target	Baseline year	Target value ²⁷ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.13 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.13 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.14 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.14 type="S" input="S">	<2A.1.15 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.16 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.16 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.17 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.17 type="S" input="S">	Common output indicators <2A.1.18 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.19 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.19 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.20 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.21 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.21 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2A.1.22 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.23 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

²⁷ This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators, they may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values can be adjusted accordingly. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

Table 4a: YEI result indicators and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective

NOT APPLICABLE

(by priority axis or by part of a priority axis)

(Reference: Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁸⁾

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value ²⁹ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
				M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.24 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.24 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.25 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.25 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.26 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.26 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.27 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.27 type="S" input="S">	Common output indicators <2A.1.28 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.29 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.29 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.30 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.31 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.31 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2A.1.32 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.33 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

²⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

²⁹⁾ This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators they may be qualitative or quantitative. All result indicators in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 used to monitor YEI implementation must be linked to a quantified target value. 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.

2.A.6. Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

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*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment priority a) under TO 6 (ERDF): Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17 500" input="M"></p> <p>The measures in this sector will be focused on reducing of the waste going to landfills.</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of measures under the priority axis the amount of waste going to landfills is expected to be reduced by 12.27%</p> <p>In addition, the measures envisaged under this axis are expected to contribute to the delivery of Priority 3, Sub-priority 3.7 Climate change of NPAF (measure Sustainable waste or biomass management within Natura 2000 areas) and to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the landfilled waste.</p> <p>Measures for improving the municipal waste management in accordance with the waste management hierarchy and in order to comply with the legislative requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and construction of centers for re-use, repair and preparation for re-use, including delivery of facilities and equipment for the activity;• Design and construction of installations for preliminary treatment of municipal waste;• Delivery of necessary equipment and facilities, as well as equipment for separate collection of biodegradable and green waste;• Design and construction of anaerobic and/or composting installations for separately collected biodegradable and/or green waste;• Design and construction of installation for waste recovery – Third phase of integrated Sofia Municipality's project for municipal waste treatment facilities for Sofia;• Pilot projects for the design and implementation of innovative technologies for separate collection of municipal waste;	

- Pilot projects for the design and construction of recycling installations for separately collected municipal waste other than biodegradable, including the provision of the necessary equipment and of separate collection facilities and equipment;
- Design and construction of adjoining infrastructure to the above listed installations (e.g. power supply, road, water supply) serving only the sites/installations;
- Implementation of demonstration/pilot projects for collecting, synthesising, disseminating and implementing new, non-traditional successful waste management interventions, good practices and management approaches in field of waste as well as introduction of novel technologies, as well as organisation of information campaigns focused on the waste prevention and the formation of “zero waste” society.

Measures to improve the management of construction waste to meet legislative requirements:

- Design and construction of reuse centers for construction waste, including the supply of facilities and equipment.

Measures for landfill recultivation in connection with a Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union Case C-145/14 of 16 July 2015 for failure of the Republic of Bulgaria to fulfill the obligations under Article 14(a) to (c) of Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste:

- Landfill recultivation activities: for landfill sites for closure, in line with the Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC and the judgment of the Court in Case C-145/14.

Beneficiaries: municipalities; business entities; structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Water; non-profit legal entities – for the implementation of demonstration/pilot projects.

In providing funding under the priority axis the possibility for financial instruments will be used to the activities fulfilling the conditions under Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

Target groups: country’s population.

2.A.6.2 *Guiding principles for selection of operations*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment priority a) under TO 6 (ERDF): Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>All operations funded by the ESIF under Priority Axis 2 of OP Environment 2014 - 2020 are consistent with the European and national environmental legislation. The selection of</p>	

the activities is in accordance with the waste management hierarchy laid down in Directive 2008/98/EC. In accordance with the hierarchy, the following prioritization of the waste management measures is encouraged: prevention, re-use, recycling, other recovery (e.g. energy recovery and disposal).

When selecting operations both the basic horizontal principles - legality, partnership, transparency and publicity, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and the following principles will be applied:

- **Funding based on legislative obligations** – projects contributing to the delivery of country's obligations under the EU and national legislation will be financed as a matter of priority.
- **Sustainable development** – projects contributing to the following will be financed as a matter of priority: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation; providing additional incentives for the business; reducing the transport costs.
- **Sustainable investments** – in order to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the OPE intervention, provisions ensuring the long-term impact of the waste management investments will be laid down for the selection of operations.
- **Resource efficiency** – the projects to be financed will ensure compliance with the waste management hierarchy – from the prevention through recycling to the ultimate disposal – by minimising the amount of waste going for ultimate disposal/landfilling.
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience.** In project financing, where applicable, will be aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change and construction of disaster-resilient infrastructure.

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments* (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment priority a) under TO 6 (ERDF): Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p><2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"></p>
<p><2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"></p> <p>Based on an updated Ex-Ante Assessment of Financial Instruments and the Investment Strategy for Financial Instruments under the Operational Program "Environment 2014-2020" carried out by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2018 9,10% of the allocated resources under the PA 2 is earmarked to be used under the form of financial instruments to support the activities under the investment priority.</p>	

The use of financial instruments as set out in the Ex-ante Assessment is particularly applicable to pilot projects for recycling installations and introduction of innovative technologies for separate collection of municipal waste. The financing of such projects will respect the waste hierarchy, while ensuring complementarity and synergies of the supported measures and investments in many environmental sub-sectors. For example, waste burning for domestic heating is a major source of air pollution. The proposed pilot projects may take into account their contribution in addressing the air quality problem; thus also responding to the guiding principle "Financing based on legislative commitments" (including Directive 2008/50 / EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe and Directive (EU) 2016/2284 to reduce national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants).

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects* (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment priority a) under TO 6 (ERDF): Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.</p>
<p><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>The major project of Sofia Municipality supporting the implementation of waste-to-energy solutions, namely the "Design and construction of installation for cogeneration in Sofia with recovery of RDF – third phase of the integrated system for municipal waste management of Sofia municipality" is submitted for assessment by the EC.</p> <p>The construction of an installation for mechanical-biological treatment, which will treat all municipal waste generated in Sofia (except for the separately collected biodegradable and green waste) has started at the end of 2013. One of the tasks of the installation is to produce RDF which could be used as alternative fuel in a co-generation facility, for which the possibility to be placed in the power plant Toplofikatsia Sofia (Sofia District Heating Company) would be explored. Thus a potential for using the RDF as a fuel for the generation of thermal energy will be ensured, which is in compliance with the waste management hierarchy laid down in the Waste Framework Directive, in particular recovery.</p> <p>According to the preliminary studies, the combustion installation of Sofia District Heating Company has a capacity to recover more than 180 thousand tonnes of RDF produced by the MBT installation. The project enables the realization of more than 10% in savings from the currently used natural gas and will cover the requirements for securing the basic load by accumulating the thermal energy generated during the low-consumption periods and using it in the heavy consumption periods. The implementation of such project will contribute to the fulfillment of the resource efficiency targets set out in the 2020 Strategy, as well as to the specific objective under the investment priority which is to ensure sustainable management of municipal waste towards higher resource efficiency by making the regional waste management system of Sofia maximum effective.</p>	

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

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iv) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ³⁰			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
<2A.2.5.1 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.2 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.3 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.4 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.5 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.6 type="N" input="M" SME >			<2A.2.5.7 type="S" maxlength="20" input="M" SME >	<2A.2.5.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" SME >
CO 17	Additional waste recycling capacity	tonnes/year	ERDF	Less developed region			105 000	MoEW, OPE MA, beneficiary	Annually
2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	tonnes/year	ERDF	Less developed region			180 000	MoEW, OPE MA, beneficiary	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1—7³¹

Specific provisions for ESF³², where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

³⁰ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

³¹ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

³² For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis).
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

<i>Priority axis</i>	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE	

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(v) and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and category of region)³³

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 ³⁴			Final target (2023) ³⁵			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
							M	W	T	M	W	T		
<2A.4.1 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.2 type="S" input="S">	Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.3 type="S" maxlength="5">	Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.4 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.4 type="S" input="G" or "M">	Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.5 type="S" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.5 type="S" input="M">	<2A.4.6 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.7 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.8 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">			Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.9 type="S" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.8 type="S" input="M">			Implementation Step or Financial <2A.4.10 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M"> Output or Result <2A.4.10 type="S" input="M">	<2A.4.11 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M">

³³ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

³⁴ Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

³⁵ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

		<i>input="M"></i> <i>Output or Result</i> <i><2A.4.3</i> <i>type="S"</i> <i>input="S"></i>		<i>input="G" or "M"></i>						<i>type="S"</i> <i>input="M"></i>		
	Output indicator	CO17	Additional waste recycling capacity	tonnes/year	ERDF	Less developed region	20 000			105 000	MoEW, Beneficiaries reports, OPE MA	<p>The milestone value is defined on the basis of project capacity included in the projects which are expected to be submitted by 2018.</p> <p>The final target value takes into account the possibility where municipalities may not be able to provide sufficient amount of waste for the new installations.</p>
	Financial indicator	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	ERDF	Less developed region	20 144 907.00			294 604 764,00	Certifying Authority	The milestone is defined on the basis of the OPE 2007-2013 experience

	Output indicator	2.2	Additional capacity recovery of waste (to generate energy)	tonnes/year	ERDF	Less developed region	0			180 000	MoEW, Beneficiaries reports, OPE MA	The output indicator is linked to the envisaged construction of installation for preparation for recovery and recovery of waste – installation for energy recovery from RDF (third phase of Sofia waste project). The expected capacity of the installation is to recover energy from around 180 000 tonnes RDF /year.
	Key implementation step	2.3	Major project signed grant contract	number	ERDF	Less developed region	1			1	MA	The key implementation step is defined on the basis of the possibility for signing an administrative grant contract for one major project for energy recovery from RDF (third phase of Sofia waste project).

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework (optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention³⁶

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Waste	017 Household waste management (including minimisation, sorting, recycling measures)	133 712 295,00
	018 Household waste management (including mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment, incineration and landfill measures)	63 469 375,00
	023 Environmental measures aimed at reducing and / or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions (including treatment and storage of methane gas and composting)	53 232 379,00

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Waste	01 Non-repayable grant	227 627 383,30
	04 Support through financial instruments: loan or equivalent	18 229 332,56

³⁶ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

	05 Support through financial instruments: guarantee or equivalent	4 557 333,14
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Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Waste	07 Not applicable	250 414 049,00

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Waste	07 Not applicable	250 414 049,00

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme ³⁷ (ESF only)		
Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

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 (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(vii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

³⁷ 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	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"> Waste
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"> Measures with regard to the preparation of the necessary project documentation, including development/update of feasibility studies, financial and economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, preparation of public procurement documentation for the actions included in the projects will be financed under priority axes 2.	

2.A A description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A.1 Priority axis (repeated for each priority axis)

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G""SME» > PRIORITY AXIS 3
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME" > NATURA 2000 AND BIODIVERSITY

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M""SME" > type="C"
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2. Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

NOT APPLICABLE. The territorial scope of OPE 2014 – 2020 is the whole national territory, i.e. all regions (NUTS II). All of them are categorised as less developed regions. Priority Axis 3 is aimed at delivery of Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” of the General Regulation. Priority Axis 3 is co-financed by the ERDF.

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2A.7 type="S" input="S""SME" > European Regional Development Fund
<i>Category of region</i>	<2A.8 type="S" input="S""SME "> Less developed region
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or public eligible expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S""SME" > Public eligible expenditure
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > Not applicable

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S""SME" > Investment Priority (d) to TO 6 (ERDF): Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructures.
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2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G""SME" >
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	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME "></p> <p>Improving the conservation status of species and habitats within Natura 2000 network</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M""SME "></p> <p>The implementation of measures under the PA will further build on the results achieved in 2007 – 2013. The measures fall within the scope of the National Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 and are targeted entirely to Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The implementation of measures will contribute to achievement of some of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 objectives (Objectives 1 and 2). The establishment of Natura 2000 network will be completed. Its good management will be ensured. Actual conservation measures and the necessary infrastructure for maintenance and improvement of species and habitats conservation status will be supported. An assessment of the status of ecosystems and their services in Natura 2000 will be carried out. Some of the measures under the priority axis will be targeted to stakeholder awareness and involvement.</p> <p>The priority axis is targeted to the maintenance and improvement of species and habitats conservation status that are subject to protection by Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC. Priority will be given to measures for species and habitats with unfavourable-bad and unfavourable-inadequate status according to the data from Mapping and assessment of species and habitats conservation status – phase I Project and NPAF and to priority species and habitats from both Directives. Measures that will contribute to the sustainable and active management of Natura 2000 network are envisaged. Such measures are: establishment and operation of management structure for Natura 2000 network building the capacity of the bodies dealing with the network, development of management plans and other equivalent instruments and development of action plans for priority species. Other measures that will be supported are completing the establishment of Natura 2000 in marine environment. Necessary measures to support the provision of reports pursuant to Article 17 of Directive 92/43/EEC and Article 12 of Directive 2009/147/EC will be funded. Increased awareness and involvement of stakeholders will be ensured by implementation of actions included in the National Information and Communication Strategy (NICS) for Natura 2000, part of the NPAF.</p> <p>Some of the measures in the programme will contribute to achieving the objectives of priority area “Conservation of the Biodiversity, Environment, Ambient Air Quality and Soil” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value³⁸ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
<2A.1.4 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.5 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.6 type="S" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.8 type="N" input="M" "SME" > Qualitative <2A.1.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.9 type="N" input="M" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.10 type="N" input="M" > Qualitative <2A.1.10 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.11 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.12 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >
3.1	Species with improved conservation status	%	Less developed region	48,36% species show favorable status in 2013	2013	49,18% species show favorable or improved conservation status in 2020	report under art. 17 of the Habitats Directive, project progress reports	2019 2021 2023
3.2	Birds with improved status	%	Less developed region	82,50% ³⁹ birds show secure status in 2013	2013	83,33% birds show improved or secure status in 2020	Report under art. 12 of the Birds Directive, project progress reports	2019 2021 2023

³⁸ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

³⁹ Birds in categories EX, EW, CR, EN, VU, NT are excluded from calculations of birds considered to be in secure status

3.3	Habitats with improved conservation status	%	Less developed region	5,56% habitats show favorable status in 2013	2013	7,78% show favorable or an improved conservation status in 2020	report under art. 17 of the Habitats Directive, project progress reports	2019 2021 2023
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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) (for the ESF)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Reference: Article 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 for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline target	Baseline year	Target value ⁴⁰ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	TO		
Programme-specific <2A.1.13 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.13 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.14 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.14 type="S" input="S">	<2A.1.15 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.16 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.16 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.17 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.17 type="S" input="S">	Common output indicators <2A.1.18 type="S" input="S" >				Quantitative <2A.1.19 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.19 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.20 type="N" input="M" >	Quantitative <2A.1.21 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.21 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">	<2A.1.22 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" >	<2A.1.23 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">	

⁴⁰ This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators, they may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values can be adjusted accordingly. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

Table 4a: YEI result indicators and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective

(by priority axis or by part of a priority axis)

(Reference: Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴¹)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value ⁴² (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
				M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.24 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.24 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.25 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.25 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.26 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.26 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.27 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.27 type="S" input="S">	Common output indicators <2A.1.28 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.29 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.29 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.30 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.31 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.31 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2A.1.32 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.33 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

⁴¹ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

⁴² This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators they may be qualitative or quantitative. All result indicators in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 used to monitor YEI implementation must be linked to a quantified target value. 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.

2.A.6. Actions which will be supported within the Investment Priority

(By investment priorities)

2.A.6.1 *Description of the types of examples for actions which will be supported and their expected contribution to the achievement of the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific target areas and categories of beneficiaries*

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<small><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></small> Investment Priority (d) to TO 6 (ERDF): Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructures.
<small><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17 500" input="M"></small> In the period 2014 – 2020 funding of the following measures, identified in the NPAF, is envisaged: Development and implementation of management approach for Natura 2000 sites and improvement of Natura 2000 management capacity (m 25, m 26, m 82, m 102 from NPAF) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of analyses and research justifying the management of Natura 2000, of the national structure for NPAF implementation management and of the approach for development of management plans;• Initial financing of the management structure for Natura 2000, incl. management systems, salaries, equipment, etc. Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW), responsible for establishment and implementation of Natura 2000 policies, Management structure for Natura 2000. Investments for maintenance and improvement of Natura 2000 species and natural habitats conservation status (m 22, m 43, m 96, m 97, m 98, m 99, m 109 from NPAF) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration and maintenance of natural habitats and species habitats, and protection of species, prioritised based on the mapping results in 2013, on the basis of NPAF measures and on the measures identified in management plans, action plans and other relevant documents;• Establishment/reconstruction/rehabilitation of infrastructure, necessary for restoration and maintenance for natural habitats and species, incl. for monitoring of species, for decrease of infrastructure exploitation influence, etc. Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the MoEW and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MAFF) (Executive Forest Agency and its structures), responsible for establishment and implementation of Natura 2000 policy for improvement of conservation status of species and habitats, Management structure for Natura 2000, non-profit legal entities; municipalities, science institutes. Identifying and complementing the establishment of Natura 2000. Analyses and research of species and natural habitats subject to reporting under Article 17 of the	

Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive in the marine and coastal areas and the terrestrial part of the country (m 1, m 2, m 62, m 63 from NPAF)

- Conducting scientific research, field studies, compiling databases, completing standard forms, development and implementation of methodologies for conservation status assessment. Preparation and issuance of orders for designation of new sites and/or change of the boundaries of existing sites;
- Analyses and research of species and habitats in the terrestrial part of the country and in marine and coastal areas, development and implementation of methodologies and schemes for monitoring and assessment of the conservation status, assessment of the results. Particular priority should be given to species with a hidden lifestyle and to species and habitats that are not subject to modelling;
- Assessments of green infrastructure elements status in the terrestrial and marine and coastal areas part of Natura 2000.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the MoEW, responsible for collection and maintenance of species and habitats data, its reporting to EU and for the designation of Natura sites.

Preparation/update/harmonisation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites, action plans and other strategic documents (m 16, m 20 from NPAF)

- Development or update of Natura 2000 management plans or other equivalent documents;
- Development/update of species action plans according to F1 and F2 priorities in the NPAF and other species part of EU nature-protection legislation, identified as endangered or with EU level priority.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the MoEW and the MAFF (Executive Forest Agency and its structures), responsible for development/update of Natura 2000 management plans and action plans, municipalities, science institutes, non-profit legal entities, Management structure for Natura 2000.

Support for development and management of ecosystem services (m 17 from NPAF)

- Verification of the elaborated methodologies for assessment of ecosystems and their services and their adaptation if necessary;
- Assessment of ecosystems and their services;
- Assessment of ecosystem services economic value and development of a scheme for their paid use for Natura 2000 sites, including promoting their integration into the accounting and reporting systems;
- Development of a programme to monitor ecosystems status. Summary of the data at national level and reporting to the EC.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the MoEW and MAFF, responsible for establishment and implementation of the ecosystems services policy.

Development and maintenance of shared vision for Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria (m 15, m 32, m 33, m 34, m 35, m 74, m 75, m 76 from NPAF)

- Planning and implementation of national and supporting information campaigns;
- Organisation and holding of annual national/international forum and annual national competition for best projects;
- Organisation and holding of innovative environmental events;

- Establishment, organisation and operation of virtual office that will ensure media relations, etc.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the MoEW, responsible for the policy for establishment and maintenance of shared vision for Natura 2000, Management structure for Natura 2000, National structure responsible for NPAF management, non-profit legal entities, municipalities.

Technical assistance for management of NPAF and NICS (m 36, m 64 from NPAF)

- Organisation and holding of meetings of NPAF and NICS monitoring committee.
- Monitoring, assessment and reporting of NPAF and NICS implementation.

Beneficiaries: National structure responsible for NPAF management.

The scope of the above measures is indicative and provides guidance, as described in the NPAF.

Key target groups: affected groups (owners and users of land, forests and water areas) and the population.

2.A.6.2 Guiding Principles for Selection of Operations

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Investment priority	<p><2A.20.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment Priority (d) to TO 6 (ERDF): Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructures.</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>When providing grants under Priority Axis Natura 2000 and biodiversity both the basic horizontal principles - legality, partnership, transparency and publicity, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and gender equality, as well as the following principles will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding based on legislation – Funding will be provided entirely for operations with activities and costs that meet the EU and national legislation requirements. The high percentage of the country area with designated Natura 2000 sites, determines the substantial financing needs for management, conservation, maintenance and restoration of the species and habitats. The measures which will be funded are set out in the NPAF, developed in pursuance of the Habitats Directive. Such measures are completing the process of establishment of Natura 2000 network, reporting on the status of species and habitats, etc. Priority will be given to measures, which should be implemented in the shortest time possible according to the legislative commitments. • Sustainable development and resource efficiency – The funded projects will contribute to the biodiversity conservation. The implementation of measures for information, awareness raising and building of stakeholders capacity will create a 	

lasting understanding of the Natura 2000 network as an opportunity rather than as a limitation. The measures for assessment of ecosystem services and their economic value (provided by Natura 2000 sites) and development of a scheme for their paid use will encourage sustainable development and resource efficiency of the economic activities of the society. The measures will contribute to increasing the employment, as the local communities will be encouraged to develop environmentally friendly economic activities. The Guidelines for Integration of EP and CCP - phase II envisage elaboration of criteria for assessment of operations that contribute to the environment and nature protection, sustainable development and resource efficiency.

- **Integrity of the investments** – The NPAF identifies the sources of funding for each measure, as some measures are assigned more than one source of funding. This will facilitate the potential beneficiaries to focus on the development of integrated projects where the performance of activities under such projects is appropriate, e.g. implementation of activities with LIFE and OPE funding. These opportunities will be promoted during information campaigns.
- **Taking into account the needs of local communities (Community-led local development)** - The measures set out in the NPAF are proposed and discussed among a wide range of stakeholders engaged in the management and implementation of activities under Natura 2000, owners and users of land within Natura 2000 network. The funded projects will ensure sustainability of the local development, taking into account the characteristics and needs of the local community through the inclusion of measures from the NPAF in the CLLD strategies.
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience** - The measures for green infrastructure will contribute to the climate change mitigation and adaptation and disasters resilience, besides the improvement of Natura 2000 coherency.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.20.3.1 type="S" input="S"> Investment Priority (d) to TO 6 (ERDF): Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructures.
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.20.4.1 type="S" input="S">
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	Investment Priority (d) to TO 6 (ERDF): Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure.
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> NOT PLANNED	

A.6.5 Performance indicators by investment priorities and where appropriate - by categories of regions

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iv) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(By investment priorities, broken down by categories of regions for the ESF and where appropriate – for the ERDF)

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where appropriate)	Target value ⁴³ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
<2A.2.5.1 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.2 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.3 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.4 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.5 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.6 type="N" input="M" SME >			<2A.2.5.7 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" SME >	<2A.2.5.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" SME >
CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed region			1 565 668 ⁴⁴	Project progress reports, OPE MA	Annually
3.4	Surface area of habitats of species supported in	hectares	ERDF	Less developed region			2 878 749 ⁴⁵	Project progress reports, OPE MA	Annually

⁴³ The ESF list includes the common performance indicators that have been defined a target value. The target values may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender. In terms of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund the distribution by gender in the most cases is not relevant. “M” =men, “W” = women “T” = total.

⁴⁴ The target value is defined through geo-statistical analysis of the area of habitats (in ha) that will benefit from the measures implemented and financed under OPE 2014-2020. The habitats area used in the geo-statistical analysis is calculated under “Mapping and assessment of the conservation status of natural habitats and species – phase I” project.

⁴⁵ The target value is calculated through geo-statistical analysis. The habitats areas are calculated by their outer borders and without overlapping, and takes into account the measures which will be financed under OPE.

	order to attain a better conservation status								
3.5	Mapped Natura 2000 marine sites	number	ERD F	Less developed region			17	Project progress reports, OPE MA	Annually
3.6	National information campaigns carried out	number	ERD F	Less developed region			3	Project progress reports, OPE MA	Annually
3.7	Natura 2000 area with established management structure	hectares	ERD F	Less developed region			4 104 320	Project progress reports, OPE MA	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7⁴⁶

Specific provisions for the ESF⁴⁷, where applicable (by priorities axis and where appropriate - by categories of regions): social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution of the ESF by thematic objectives 1-7.

Description of the contribution of the activities under the priority axis planned for:

- the social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- the transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives set out in Article 9(1) to (7) Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Priority axis	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE	

⁴⁶ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

⁴⁷ The ESF list includes common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and all programme-specific performance indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: Article Article 96(2)(b)(v), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and category of region)⁴⁸

Priority axis	Type of indicator (Basic step for implementation, financial indicators, performance indicator or where appropriate - indicator of the results)	Identification	Indicator or basic step of implementation	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 ⁴⁹			Final objective (2023) ⁵⁰			Source of data	Explanation of the significance of the indicator, where appropriate
							M	W	T	M	W	T		
<2A0.4.1 type="S" input="S">	<2A0.40.2 type="S" input="S">	Step of implementation or financial indicator	Step of implementation or financial indicator <2A.40.4 type="S" maxlength=255input="M">	Step of implementation or financial indicator <2A.4.5 type="S" input="M">	<2A0.4 0.6 type="S" input="S">	<2A0.40.7 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.8 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">			Step of implementation or financial indicator <2A.40.9 type="S" input="M">	Implementation or result <2A.4.8 type="S" input="M">		Step of implementation or financial indicator <2A.4.10 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.4.11 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M">

⁴⁸ When the YEI is implemented under a certain priority axis the milestones and YEI objectives should be distinguished from the other milestones and objectives laid down in the priority axis in accordance with the implementing acts referred to in Article 22(7) fifth subparagraph of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, since the YEI funds (specific allocations and the matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁴⁹ The milestones may be presented in general (men + women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W" = women "T" = total .

⁵⁰ The target values may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W" = women "T" = total .

		<2A.4.3 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Implementation or result <2A.4.3 type="S" input="S">		> Implementation or result <2A.4.5 type="S" input="G" or "M">						Implementation or result <2A.4.10 type="S" input="M">		
	Output indicator	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed region	247 723,962			1 565 668	Project progress reports, OPE MA	Target value: according to the geo-statistical analysis of the area of habitats Milestone value: calculated on the basis of the measures planned to be completed by 2019-provided support for mapping of the marine environment sites and stakeholder information for marine protected areas.
	Financial indicator	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	ERDF	Less developed region	7 097 300,00			94 569 626,00	Certifying authority	The milestone is calculated on the basis of the 2007-2013 programming period
	Output indicator	3.4	Surface area of habitats of	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed	0			2 878 749	Project progress	Target value: according to the geo-

			species supported in order to attain a better conservation status			region					reports, OPE MA	statistical analysis of the area of habitats.
	Output indicator	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	Number	ERDF	Less developed region	1			3	Project progress reports, OPE MA	According to the NPAF and NCIS.
	Key implementation step	3.8	Species supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	ERDF	Less developed region	1			1	Project progress reports, OPE MA	It is expected in 2018 based on conservation measures taken at least one species to be supported in order to achieve a better conservation status.

Further information about the qualitative indicators on the creation of the implementation framework (Optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

2.A.9 Categories of interventions

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of interventions corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission and indicative distribution of the EU support.

Tables 7—11: Categories of interventions⁵¹

(By funds and categories of regions, if the priority axis comprises more than one fund / category of region)

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Area of Intervention		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.10.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.5.10.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.10.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Natura 2000 and Biodiversity	085 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	14 270 789,00
	086 Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	66 113 393,00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of funding		
Fund	<2A.50.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.50.20.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.50.20.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.20.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Natura 2000 and Biodiversity	01 Non-repayable grant	80 384 182,00

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Type of territory		
Fund	<2A.50.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.50.30.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)

⁵¹ The amounts include the total Union support (main allocation and allocation of funds from the performance reserve).

<2A.50.30.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.30.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Natura 2000 and Biodiversity	07 Not applicable	80 384 182,00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial mechanisms for implementation		
Fund	<2A.50.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.50.40.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.50.40.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.40.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Natura 2000 and Biodiversity	06 Community-led local development initiatives	5 855 092,93
Natura 2000 and Biodiversity	07 Not applicable	74 529 089,07

Table 11: Dimension 6 – Additional theme for the ESF ⁵² (only for the ESF)		
Fund	<2A.50.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.50.50.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.50.50.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.50.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.50.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance, including, if necessary, the actions to straighten the administrative capacity of the bodies involved in the management and control of the programmes and of the beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(By priority axes)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	<3A0.6.1 type="S" input="S"> Natura 2000 and biodiversity
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⁵² Where appropriate, it includes quantitative information about the contribution of the ESF by the thematic objectives set out in Article 9(1)(1) – (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">

Measures with regard to the preparation of the necessary project documentation, including development/update of feasibility studies, financial and economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, preparation of public procurement documentation for the actions included in the project etc. will be financed under Priority axis 3.

Specialized trainings for enhancing the capacity of stakeholders which are responsible for the management and development of Natura 2000 (m 82 from NPAF) will be supported under PA3. The aim is to enhance capacity of the relevant stakeholders that are in charge of Natura 2000 planning, programming of the network development and management. Trainings for improvement of the capacity of the management structure for Natura 2000 will also be supported under PA3 as a matter of priority.

2.A Description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A.1 Priority axis (repeated for each priority axis)

Identification of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G""SME"> PRIORITY AXIS 4
Name of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME"> FLOOD AND LANDSLIDES RISK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> The whole priority axis will be implemented only through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The whole priority axis will be implemented only through financial instruments organised at EU level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M""SME">
<input type="checkbox"/> The whole priority axis will be implemented only through community-led local development	<2A0.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The whole priority axis is intended for social innovation, transnational cooperation or both of them	<2A0.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2. Justification for determination of a certain priority axis, which covers more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

NOT APPLICABLE. OPE 2014-2020 covers the territory of the whole country, i.e. all regions (NUTS II). All of those are categorized as less developed regions. Priority Axis 4 aims to achieve Thematic Objective 5 “Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management” of the General Regulation. Priority Axis 4 is co-financed by the CF.

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and basis for calculation of the EU support

(Repeated for each combination within the priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2A.7 type="S" input="S""SME" > Cohesion Fund
<i>Category of region</i>	<2A.8 type="S" input="S""SME" > Not applicable
<i>Basis for calculation (total eligible costs or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S""SME" > Public eligible expenditure
<i>Category of the outermost regions and northern sparsely populated areas (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > Not applicable

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S""SME" > Investment Priority b (ii) to TO 5 (CF): Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.
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2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Identification</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G""SME" > SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1
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Specific objective	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"“SME” ></p> <p>Increasing the flood protection and the preparedness of the population for an adequate response to floods</p>
Results which the Member State should seek to achieve with the EU support	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"“SME” ></p> <p>The measures within the Priority axis will contribute to increase the protection of the population against floods and to fulfill the requirements of Directive 2007/60/EC.</p> <p>Part of the investments under this priority axis will ensure flood risk prevention and management in the urban areas. With the implementation of projects on construction, strengthening and/or rehabilitation of protection infrastructure and/or water retention facilities, an adequate infrastructure capable of handling large volumes of water generated in a short time will be ensured. In implementation of the planned measures consistency with Measure 71 of the NPAF for Natura 2000 will be sought. This will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Danube Strategy, as well.</p> <p>The existing hydrological information network will be optimized and modernized, including establishment and equipment of telemetry monitoring stations at the trans-boundary rivers near the state boundaries. The purchase and establishment of radar stations will help to monitor rainfall areas on the territory of the country. As a result of these measures the monitoring of the fast changing water cycle characteristics (rainfalls, snowmelt, river flow) with regard to extreme events such as floods and droughts, will be improved.</p> <p>The establishment of a National Real Time Water Management System will ensure better forecasting and early warning. The centralized collection, processing and analysis of the information through the system will allow for more effective decisions related to the management and for efficient distribution of tasks between all institutions responsible for its management and exploitation – MOEW, Basin Directorates, National Institute on Meteorology and Hydrology, Dams and Cascades - NEC JSC, Irrigation Systems JSC, Executive Agency for Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube River etc.</p> <p>The establishment of six centers for increasing the population preparedness for an adequate response to floods will help to enhance the culture for disaster protection and the level of preparedness at all management levels and in society as well, using experience, science research and innovations.</p> <p>Under the priority axis the conduction of researches, assessments and studies will be supported for the development of the second</p>

	FRMPs for the period 2021-2027, thus building on what has been achieved in the 2007-2013 programming period.
<i>Identification</i>	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2
Specific objective	Increasing the protection of the population from landslides
Results which the Member State should seek to achieve with the EU support	<p>Taking into account the significant needs and in order to focus the financial resource in the most urgent sites, the investments will be targeted at a small number of landslides objects but of higher priority for the human health and life and of national or with social importance.</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of projects for construction of fortification facilities, infrastructure facilities to lower the groundwater level and / or removal of surface water, measures to ensure the stability of the landslide slope and others, the necessary action to deal with natural landslides will be implemented.</p> <p>In order to reduce the population at risk, interventions are planned for landslide objects under category A, B or C, and under I, II and III class according to Ordinance № 12 for designing geoprotective constructions, buildings and facilities in landslide areas, taking into account the projects readiness of the beneficiaries.</p>

Programme-specific performance indicators by specific objectives (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where appropriate)	Baseline value	Base year	Target value ⁵³ (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
<2A.1.4 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.5 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.6 type="S" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.8 type="N" input="M" "SME" > Qualitative <2A.1.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.9 type="N" input="M" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.10 type="N" input="M" > Qualitative <2A.1.10 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.11 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.12 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >
4.1	Areas ⁵⁴ with significant potential flood risk which population has no preparedness for an adequate response to floods	Number	N.A	116	2013	26	Beneficiaries, MoEW	2019 2021 2023
4.2	Population at risk of landslides	persons	N.A.	520 000	2012	460 000	Municipalities, Geo-protection Societies, MRDPW	2019 2021 2023

⁵³ In terms of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

⁵⁴ Areas with significant potential flood risk (APSFRs) identified as a result of preliminary flood risk assessment under paragraph 2 of Article 4 of Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks which in Bulgaria are 116 (baseline value).

Table 4: Common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and programme-specific performance indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priorities and categories of regions) (for the ESF)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Identification	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common performance indicator used as a basis for determining target values	Baseline value			Measurement unit of the base and target value	Base year	Target value ⁵⁵ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	F	T		
<i>Programme-specific</i> <2A.1.13 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> <i>Common</i> <2A.1.13 type="S" input="S">	<i>Programme-specific</i> 2A.1.14 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> <i>Common</i> <2A.10.14 type="S" input="S">	<2A0.10.15 type="S" input="S">	<i>Programme-specific</i> <2A.1.16 type="S" input="M"> <i>Common</i> <2A.10.16 type="S" input="S">	<i>Programme-specific</i> <2A.10.17 type="S" input="M"> <i>Common</i> <2A.10.17 type="S" input="S">				<i>Common performance indicators</i> <2A.1.18 type="S" input="S"> <i>Common</i> <2A.1.19 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.20 type="N" input="M">	<i>Quantitative</i> <<2A.10.21 type="N" input="M"> <i>Qualitative</i> <2A.1.21 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">	<2A.1.22 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.23 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">		

⁵⁵ The list includes common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and all programme-specific performance indicators. The target values of the common performance indicators should be quantified. The target values of the programme-specific performance indicators may be qualitative or quantitative. They may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender and the baseline values may be adjusted accordingly. “M” = men, “W” = women “T” = total.

Table 4a: Performance indicators for YEI and programme-specific performance indicators corresponding to the specific objective – NOT APPLICABLE

(By priority axes or part of the priority axis)

(Reference: Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵⁶)

Identification	Indicator	Indicator measurement unit	Common performance indicator used as a basis for determining target values	Baseline value			Measurement unit of the base and target value	Base year	Target value ⁵⁷ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
				M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.24 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.24 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.25 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.25 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.26 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.26 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.27 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.27 type="S" input="S">	Common performance indicators <2A.1.28 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.29 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.29 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.30 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.31 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.31 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2A.1.32 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.33 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20 December 2013, p. 470)

⁵⁷ The list includes common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and all programme-specific performance indicators. The target values of the common performance indicators should be quantified. The target values of the programme-specific performance indicators may be qualitative or quantitative. All performance indicators in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 used to monitor the YEI implementation should be bind to a quantified target value. The target values may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender and the baseline values may be adjusted accordingly. “M” =men, “W” = women “T” = total.

2.A.6. Actions which will be supported within the Investment Priority

(By investment priorities)

2.A.6.1 *Description of the types of examples for actions which will be supported and their expected contribution to the achievement of the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific target areas and categories of beneficiaries*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Investment priority	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment Priority b (ii) to TO 5 (CF): Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.</p>
<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17 500" input="M"></p> <p>The activities and measures under the investment priority address the flood risk, disaster resilience and prevention of the risk for the human health and the environment, as well as limitation of the consequences of these disasters. The planned measures will raise the public awareness and the level of preparedness, as well as lead up to more effective response to floods, together with increasing the risk protection and communication among the population in the areas with potential significant risk.</p> <p>Other activities and measures under the investment priority address the landslides risk and the risk prevention for the human health and the environment, as well as limitation of the consequences of such disasters.</p> <p>In addition a contribution to priority area Environmental Risk Management of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region will be ensured.</p> <p>1. Flood risk prevention and management measures</p> <p>1.1. Establishment of National Real Time Water Management System (NRTWMS) – phased implementation approach is envisaged with duration of 7 years. A pilot project for Iskar River will be implemented initially (Phase I), followed by the main one for the rest 12 main rivers (Ogosta, Vit, Osam, Yantra, Rusenski Lom, Provadiyska, Kamchiya, Tundzha, Maritsa, Arda, Mesta, Struma), covering the whole territory of the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning, designing and establishing a National Real Time Water Management System. The System will be a web based system for monitoring and forecasting of rainfalls and river flows, including the exploitation of dams, aimed at optimizing dams discharging for different purposes, as well as ensuring better management of high water and drought periods. The system will be established based on the existing hydrological system for real time data, which will be duly optimized and modernized with telemetry automatic devices providing the necessary information in real time for the water quantity to the relevant stakeholders and the public. The System will provide short, medium and long-term hydrological forecasts for the inland water resources. It will assess the flood and drought risk and will perform activities related to water management and protection from their negative impact, helping to take well-timed decisions and undertake adequate measures by the competent authorities. The System will cover inland surface water at the territory of the country. When establishing the System the possibility for an upgrade in the	

future will be foreseen, allowing the inclusion of coastal marine water and zones management.

- Securing functioning NRTWMS (planning, design and equipment), namely: early warning systems and tools to improve forecasting of flood and drought risk and to improve the management of flood and drought risk.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Water

Target groups: MOEW, Basin Directorates, National Institute on Meteorology and Hydrology to the Ministry of Education and Science, Dams and Cascades - NEC JSC, Irrigation Systems JSC, the Executive Agency for Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube River, DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection to the Ministry of Interior, ExAFA, country's population etc.

1.2. Measures related to flood risk prevention and management solutions, including ecosystem-based approach

- Activities on restoration of floodplains;
- Activities related to the improvement of water retentions;
- Activities related to biological fortification of the banks;
- Activities related to risk prevention in urban areas - design and construction/strengthening/rehabilitation/liquidation of protection infrastructure and/or water retention facilities and/or hydro-technical solutions.

The implementation of the „green infrastructure“ measures shall be based on adequate planning and taking into account all environmental risks in order to avoid activities that could lead to negative consequences or significant negative impact on the environment and population in the country – especially raising the flood risk contrary to the priority axis specific objective 1. When supporting hydro-technical measures a compliance with the WFD and RBMPs shall be guaranteed.

Beneficiaries: Municipalities

Target groups: Country's population.

1.3. Establishment of six centers to increase the preparedness of the population for an adequate response to floods with focus on young people (children and teenagers), business (SME), volunteers for providing assistance in situations of flooding. In order to use part of the available facilities the six centers will be established in some of the existing training centers:

- Rehabilitation/modernization/optimization of 6 (six) of the existing regional civil protection training centers for the population;
- Alignment of existing training polygons in the 6 centers with the specific needs related to flood response, incl. simulations of spill situations;
- Delivery of the necessary equipment, facilities, materials for the centers for simulations for increasing the population preparedness for flood response;

- Rehabilitation (and if needed construction) of supporting infrastructure (e.g. power supply, road, water supply), which serves the constructed plants;
- Designing/updating and applying methodologies for increasing the population preparedness for an adequate flood response and trainings:
 - theoretical – for applying the methodologies;
 - practical – joint flood protection trainings for the target groups; preventive measures to be implemented by the target groups (establishing of demonstration protective or green infrastructure within the practical trainings), etc.
- Technical assistance for feasibility studies, investment design, etc.

Beneficiaries: Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection to MI.

Target groups: Country's population, young people (children and teenagers), business (SME), volunteers.

1.4. Implementation of studies and assessments related to the preparation of the FRMPs for the period 2021 – 2027 (to be developed in the period 2016-2021), which should cover all aspects of the flood risk management with a focus on the prevention, protection and preparedness, taking into account the climate change impact. The FRMPs elaboration stages (in accordance with the Floods Directive) will be coordinated at a national level. Consistency and coherence with the Decision 1313/2013/EU on "the Union civil protection mechanism focusing on the prevention, preparedness and response to disasters", as well as synergy and complementarity with the Communication COM 2009(82) on "A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters", will be guaranteed through the inclusion of all FRMPs stages in the Disaster risk reduction strategy 2014-2020 and the National Programme for Disasters Protection 2014-2018. Within the FRMPs, in addition to the prevention and protection measures, activities for flood warning and preparedness, as well as for education and strengthening the capacity of the competent authorities for flood risk management will be included.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Environment and Water

Target groups: MOEW, Basin Directorates, ExAFA, municipalities, country's population etc.

2. Measures for landslides risk prevention and management

2.1. Preventive measures and activities for geological defense in registered landslides areas (incl. areas affected by abrasion on the Black sea coast and erosion on the Danube riverbank).

2.2. Measures and activities for geological defense in registered landslides areas for limitation of the landslides:

- Feasibility studies (engineering-geological surveys, identification of engineering-geological areas, investment design etc.);
- Construction of fortification facilities, incl. coast protection facilities (pile structures, retaining walls, dykes, etc.);
- Construction of drainage structures for reducing of subsoil waters and/or structures for leading surface waters outside the landslide area (pumping shaft, sondages, systems for reducing of the surface water, ditches, etc.);

- Vertical planning and other measures in order to ensure stability of the slope/s.

2.3. Construction/ repairing of Control and measurement systems (CIS) carried out monitoring of the landslides process in the registered areas.

Beneficiaries: Municipalities; structures of/bodies within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

Target groups: Country's population, municipalities, tourists under risk of landslides, legal entities under risk of landslide.

3. Demonstration/pilot projects for flood and landslides risk prevention and management and information campaigns for raising the public awareness in regard with these risks.

The measure is aimed at collecting, synthesising, disseminating and implementing new, non-traditional successful management interventions, good practices and/or management approaches in the field of flood and landslides risk prevention and management and the climate change adaptation and resilience.

Beneficiaries: Municipalities, non-profit legal entities.

Target groups: Country's population.

2.A.6.2 Guiding Principles for Selection of Operations

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.20.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment Priority b (ii) to TO 5 (CF): Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>All operations funded by the ESIF within the priority axis comply with the European and national environmental legislation. When selecting operations both the basic horizontal principles, equal opportunities and non-discrimination - legality, partnership, transparency and publicity and the following principles will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding based on the needs – priority in the funding will be given to flood risk prevention and management projects contributing to the implementation of measures contained in FRMP, as well as to geoprotection activities for landslides objects included in the Methodology for prioritizing landslides on the territory of Bulgaria, which is elaborated by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, taking into account the population protection. • Compliance with the Water Framework Directive – projects will be funded, the implementation of which does not lead to deterioration in the status of the water bodies, in compliance with the WFD. • Sustainable development – Funding will be provided for projects which implementation will contribute to the improvement of the environment (incl. coherence with the NPAF for Natura 2000). The projects will contribute to the human health protection and the protection of the region's economy by establishing disaster resilience 	

and prevention of negative floods impact.

- **Resource efficiency** – projects will be funded, which implementation will contribute to achieving resource efficiency and improving the environment by promoting technological solutions that require less investment and operational costs.

- **Combating climate change, adaptation, disasters resilience** – in project financing, where applicable, will be aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change and construction of disaster-resilient infrastructure.

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)*

(Reference: Article 96(2) (b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.20.3.1 type="S" input="S">
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE	

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.20.4.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> NOT PLANNED	

2.A.6.5 *Performance indicators by investment priorities and where appropriate - by categories of regions*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iv) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific performance indicators

(By investment priorities, broken down by categories of regions for the ESF and where appropriate – for the ERDF)

<i>Identification</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measure ment unit</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Category of region (where appropriate)</i>	<i>Target value (2023)⁵⁸</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency reporting of</i>
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⁵⁸ The ESF list includes the common performance indicators that have been defined a target value. The target values may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender. In terms of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund the distribution by gender in the most cases is not relevant. “M” =men, “W” = women “T” = total.

					M	W	T		
<2A.2.5.1 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.50.2 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5 0.3 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5 0.4 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.50.5 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.6 type="N" input="M" SME >			<2A.2.5.7 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" SME >	<2A.2.5.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" SME >
CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	CF	N.A			2 750 000	NSI, MOEW	Annually
4.3	Centers for increasing the population preparedness for flood response established	number	CF	N.A			6	Beneficiaries, progress reports	Annually
4.4	Reinforced landslide area	hectares	CF	N.A.			80	Beneficiaries, progress reports, MRDPW	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1—7⁵⁹

Specific provisions for the ESF⁶⁰, where applicable (by priorities axis and where appropriate - by categories of regions): social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution of the ESF by thematic objectives 1-7.

Description of the contribution of the activities under the priority axis planned for:

- the social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- the transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives set out in Article 9(1) to (7) Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Priority axis	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">	
NOT APPLICABLE	

⁵⁹ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

⁶⁰ The ESF list includes common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and all programme-specific performance indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(v) and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: The performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and category of region)⁶¹

Priority axis	Type of indicator (Basic step for implementation, financial indicators, performance indicator or where appropriate - indicator of the results)	Identification	Indicator or basic step of implementation	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 ⁶²		Final objective (2023) ⁶³				Source of data	Explanation of the significance of the indicator, where appropriate
							M	W	T	M	W	T		

⁶¹ When the YEI is implemented under a certain priority axis the milestones and YEI objectives should be distinguished from the other milestones and objectives laid down in the priority axis in accordance with the implementing acts referred to in Article 22(7), fifth subparagraph of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, since the YEI funds (specific allocation and the matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁶² The milestones may be presented in general (men + women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W” = women “T” = total .

⁶³ The target values may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender. “M” =men, “W” = women “T” = total.

<2A0.4.1 type="S" input="S" >	<2A0.40.2 type="S" input="S">	Step of implement ation or financial indicator <2A.4.3 type="S" maxlength ="5" input="M > Implement ation or result <2A.4.3 type="S" input="S" >	Step of implementation or financial indicator <2A.40.4 type="S" maxlength=255in put="M"> Implementation or result <2A.40.4 type="S" input="G" or "M">	Step of implementatio n or financial indicator <<2A.4.5 type="S" input="M"> Implementatio n or result <2A.4.5 type="S" input="G" or "M">	<2A0.4 0.6 type="S" input="S" type="S" input="S">	<2A0.40.7 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.8 type="S" maxlength= "255" input="M" >	Step of implementation or financial indicator <<2A.40.9 type="S" input="M"> Implementation or result <2A.4.8 type="S" input="M">			Step of implementatio n or financial indicator <2A.4.10 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M"> Implementati on or result <2A.4.10 type="S" input="M">	<2A.4.11 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M">
	Output indicator	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	CF	NA	1 300 000			2 750 000	NSI, MoEW	The milestone is the persons benefiting by the measures of the pilot project for Iskar river. The target value is the population of Bulgaria according to the data of 2011 census benefiting by all flood protection measures.
	Financial	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	CF	NA	4 500 000			73 816 624,00	Certifying authority	The milestone is defined on the basis of the OPE 2007-2013 experience and on the basis of the OP Regional Development 2007-2013 experience related to similar types of measures.

	Output indicator	4.4	Reinforced landslide area	hectares	CF	NA	2			80	Beneficiaries, progress reports, MRDPW	<p>The milestone is defined on the basis of the surface area of the landslides expected to be reinforced by the end of 2018, taking into account the projects readiness.</p> <p>The target value is defined on the basis of the objects included in a draft list of priority objects. The draft list is under revision in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, due to the disaster situations as a result of the adverse weather conditions in the country in late 2014 and early 2015.</p>
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Further information about the qualitative indicators on the creation of the implementation framework (Optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

The measures for the National real time water management system are envisaged to be implemented in 13 main river valleys. A pilot project will be implemented for Iskar river.

In the Danube region – Iskar River, Ogosta River, Vit River, Osam River, Yantra River, Russenski Lom River.

In the Black sea region – Provadiyska River, Kamchia River.

In the East-Aegean region – Tundzha River, Maritsa River, Arda River.

In the West-Aegean region – Mesta River, Struma River.

2.A.9 Categories of interventions

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of interventions corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission and indicative distribution of the EU support.

Tables 7—11: Categories of interventions⁶⁴

(By funds and categories of regions, if the priority axis comprises more than one fund / category of region)

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Area of Intervention		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management	087 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks e.g. erosion, fires, flooding, storms and drought, including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures	62 744 130,00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of funding		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management	01 Non-repayable grant	62 744 130,00

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Type of territory		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)

⁶⁴ The amounts include the total Union support (main allocation and allocation of funds from the performance reserve).

<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management	07 Not applicable	62 744 130,00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial mechanisms for implementation

Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management	07 Not applicable	62 744 130,00

Table 11: Dimension 6 – Additional theme for the ESF⁶⁵ (only for the ESF)

Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
<2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance, including, if necessary, the actions to straighten the administrative capacity of the bodies involved in the management and control of the programmes and of the beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(By priority axes)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"> Flood and landslides risk prevention and management
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"> In the framework of the projects under this priority axis measures with regard to the preparation of the necessary project documentation, including development/update of feasibility studies, financial and economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, preparation of public procurement documentation for the actions included in the projects, etc. will be financed under the priority axes.	

⁶⁵ Where appropriate, it includes quantitative information about the contribution of the ESF by the thematic objectives set out in Article 9(1)(1) – (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

2.A Description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A.1 Priority axis (repeated for each priority axis)

Identification of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G""SME"> PRIORITY AXIS 5
Name of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME"> IMPROVEMENT OF THE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY

<input type="checkbox"/> The whole priority axis will be implemented only through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The whole priority axis will be implemented only through financial instruments organised at EU level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M""SME">
<input type="checkbox"/> The whole priority axis will be implemented only through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The whole priority axis is intended for social innovation, transnational cooperation or both of them	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2. Justification for determination of a certain priority axis, which covers more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE. The territorial scope of the OPE 2014 - 2020 covers the territory of the whole country, i.e. all regions (NUTS II). They are all categorised as less developed regions. Priority Axis 5 aims to achieve Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” of the General Regulation. Priority Axis 5 will be co-financed by the CF.

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and basis for calculation of the EU support

(Repeated for each combination under the priority axis)

Fund	<2A.7 type="S" input="S""SME"> Cohesion Fund
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<i>Category of region</i>	<2A.8 type="S" input="S""SME "> Not applicable
<i>Basis for calculation (total amount of the eligible costs or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A0.9 type="S" input="S""SME" > Public eligible expenditure
<i>Category of the outermost regions and northern sparsely populated areas (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > Not applicable

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A0.10 type="S" input="S""SME" > Investment Priority c (iv) to TO 6 (CF): Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalize cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures
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2.A.5. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(i) and ii) of Regulation (EU)No 1303/2013)

<i>Identification</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G""SME > SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME > Reducing ambient air pollution by lowering the quantities of PM ₁₀ and NO _x
<i>Results which the Member State should seek to achieve with the EU support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M""SME "> The expected result of this priority axis is reduction of the quantities of PM ₁₀ and NO _x in a number of municipalities with poor air quality. Taking adequate measures in conformity with the local conditions to improve air quality will be ensured through review and analysis of the municipal plans for ambient air quality. In result, the pollution sources and the relevant source apportionment will be identified. Emissions inventories from those sources and modelling will be performed, as well as identification of measures to improve the air quality, which are adequate to the local conditions. The necessary measures,

	<p>deadlines, responsible institutions and means to tackle the main source of pollution will be defined. As a result from the performed analysis, a revision/redrafting of the municipal plans will be supported, if necessary, for ensuring their high quality.</p> <p>The investment measures will focus on the major sources of pollution - domestic heating and transport, which will result in reduction of the air pollution at local level. In addition, the interventions will demonstrate the economic and technical feasibility of implementing the measures, as well as their effect on air quality, thus allowing for a longer term planning on a larger scale.</p> <p>Considering the specificity of the measures and the large number of factors and processes that would have an impact on the results, the baseline and target values of the result indicators will be established by the end of 2016 in fulfillment of action to the general ex-ante conditionality 7 (table 25) foreseeing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of existing information and data from the municipal air quality plans currently under implementation or revision, scientific literature, existing experience, etc. with the aim of providing more precise information for the purpose of establishing baseline value of the result indicators. 2. Elaboration of methodology for processing and evaluation of the existing data, as well as collection of new data, if needed. 3. Peer review of the methodology by experts and final elaboration of the methodology. 4. Identification of the scope of measures, relating to the base year and baseline value set up (including collection of the information needed for the purpose, such as quantity of emissions from the sources to be tackled by the measures). 5. Identification of the baseline value and setting target value of the indicators.
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators by specific objectives (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Identification</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where appropriate)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Base year</i>	<i>Target value⁶⁶ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
<2A.1.4 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.5 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.6 type="S" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.8 type="N" input="M" "SME" > Qualitative <2A.1.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.9 type="N" input="M" "SME" >	Quantitative <2A.1.10 type="N" input="M" > Qualitative <2A.1.10 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.11 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" "SME" >	<2A.1.12 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" "SME" >
5.1	Quantity of PM ₁₀	Tonnes per year		7 347.71	2011	7 017.71	Calculation data and dispersion modelling of the emissions (where applicable)	2019 2021 2023

⁶⁶ In terms of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

Table 4: Common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and programme-specific performance indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priorities and categories of regions) (for the ESF)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Identification	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common performance indicator used as a basis for determining target values	Baseline value			Measurement unit of the base and target value	Base year	Target value ⁶⁷ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.13 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.13 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.14 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.14 type="S" input="S">	<2A.1.15 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.16 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.16 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.17 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.17 type="S" input="S">	Common performance indicators <2A.1.18 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.19 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.19 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.20 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.21 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.21 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">	<2A.1.22 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.23 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">		

⁶⁷ The list includes common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and all programme-specific performance indicators. The target values of the common performance indicators should be quantified. The target values of the programme-specific performance indicators may be qualitative or quantitative. They may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender and the baseline values may be adjusted accordingly. “M” = men, “W” = women “T” = total.

Table 4a: Performance indicators for YEI and programme-specific performance indicators corresponding to the specific objective - NOT APPLICABLE

(By priority axes or part of the priority axis)

(Reference: Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶⁸)

Identification	Indicator	Indicator measurement unit	Common performance indicator used as a basis for determining target values	Baseline value			Measurement unit of the base and target value	Base year	Target value ⁶⁹ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
				M	W	T			M	W	T		
Programme-specific <2A.1.24 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M"> Common <2A.1.24 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.25 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Common <2A.1.25 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.26 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.26 type="S" input="S">	Programme-specific <2A.1.27 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.27 type="S" input="S">	Common performance indicators <2A.1.28 type="S" input="S">			Quantitative <2A.1.29 type="S" input="M"> Common <2A.1.29 type="S" input="G">	<2A.1.30 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2A.1.31 type="N" input="M"> Qualitative <2A.1.31 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2A.1.32 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">	<2A.1.33 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

⁶⁸ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20 December 2013, p. 470)

⁶⁹ The list includes common performance indicators that have been defined a target value and all programme-specific performance indicators. The target values of the common performance indicators should be quantified. The target values of the programme-specific performance indicators may be qualitative or quantitative. All performance indicators in Annex II to Regulation (EU) no 1304/2013 used to monitor the YEI implementation should be bind to a quantified target value. The target values may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender and the baseline values may be adjusted accordingly. “M” =men, “W” = women“T” = total.

2.A.6. Actions which will be supported within the Investment Priority

(By investment priorities)

2.A.6.1 *Description of the types of examples for actions which will be supported and their expected contribution to the achievement of the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific target areas and categories of beneficiaries*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Investment priority	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment Priority c (iv) to TO 6 (CF): Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures</p>
<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17 500" input="M"></p> <p>List of measures to be supported under PA5:</p> <p>1. Review and analysis of the municipal plans on ambient air quality and support for their subsequent preparation/revision, implementation and control</p> <p>Under this priority axis will be funded review and analysis of the municipal plans on ambient air quality of municipalities with poor air quality in respect of PM10 and NOx.</p> <p>As a follow up measure, the municipalities will be assisted in the development of new or revision of existing plans, their implementation and control.</p> <p>Based on the results of the review and analysis of the plans, measures will be taken for development and optimization of air quality monitoring systems. In the context of the analysis of the municipal plans, if necessary, early warning systems of air pollution in adverse weather conditions will be established.</p> <p>During the review and analysis of the municipal plans on ambient air quality and their further update, where applicable, a synergy with the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) (if such are available) will be sought.</p> <p>During the implementation of the measure, the results of completed LIFE Programme and Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) projects as well as the long term capacity building targets in line with the Air Implementation Pilot⁷⁰ of the European Environment Agency and Directorate-General Environment in the European Commission will be considered.</p> <p>2. Measures addressing pollution from domestic heating</p> <p>The indicative measures to be financed are related to:</p>	

⁷⁰ <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/activities/the-air-implementation-pilot-project>

- replacement of stationary individual and multi-family domestic combustion installations/boilers on solid fuel – with respect to the latter, priority will be given to investments which will be made in insulated buildings;
- installation of PM filters on individual domestic combustion installations (when technically and economically feasible);
- measures for alternative heating, serving certain residential areas (which consist of individual houses and/or small multi-family buildings using solid fuel for heating) – demarcation with OPRG 2014 – 2020 will be respected;
- other supplementary measures, identified as appropriate by the beneficiaries to contribute to the achievement of the project objectives or resulting from the review and analysis of the municipal air quality plans and other measures in accordance with approved planning and strategic documents.

3. Measures addressing pollution from public transport

The indicative measures to be financed are related to:

- measures to reduce emissions from public transport vehicles including reduction of the use of conventional fuel in public transport, replacement of the public transport vehicles exhaust systems (retrofitting);
- other supplementary measures identified as appropriate by the beneficiaries to contribute to the achievement of the project objectives or resulting from the review and analysis of the municipal air quality plans.

During the implementation of the measures under PA 5, the results and lessons learnt from completed and on-going LIFE Programme projects (notably EU LIFE Integrated Projects for air quality) will be considered where applicable, and especially capacity building and support possibilities provided by the on-going LIFE Integrated Project for Air Quality in Bulgaria will be used to the fullest to reach maximum synergy effects.

Beneficiaries: structures of/bodies within MOEW, municipalities with poor air quality, business entities, non-profit legal entities.

2.A.6.2 Guiding Principles for Selection of Operations

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.20.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment Priority c (iv) to TO 6 (CF): Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures</p>
	<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>All operations funded by the ESIF within the priority axis are consistent with the European and national environmental legislation. When selecting operations the basic horizontal principles - legality, partnership, transparency and publicity, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and the following principles will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding based on legislative obligations – projects contributing to the fulfilment

of country's obligations under the EU and national legislation will be financed as a matter of priority.

- **Sustainable development** – the project to be financed will contribute to achieving the objectives regarding resource efficiency and improving the state of the environment and public health, namely reducing the share of respiratory diseases. The implementation of the measures envisaged under Priority Axis 5 will contribute to climate change mitigation.
- **Sustainability of the investments** - in order to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the OPE interventions, provisions ensuring the long-term impact and the sustainability of the investments in field of air quality will be laid down for the selection of operations.
- **Integrity of the investments** – the implementation of activities aimed at both the effectiveness of the interventions and the integrity of the investments will be financed including an integration of the measures, addressing pollution from domestic heating and measures addressing pollution from public transport in the scope of one project.
- **Resource and energy efficiency** – projects that contribute to achieving resource efficiency and to improve the environment by promoting technological solutions that require less investment and operating costs will be financed as a matter of priority; ecodesign efficiency and emissions standards for 2020, where exist will also be taken into consideration in project selection.
- **Combating climate change, adaptation, disasters resilience** – in project financing, where applicable, will be aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change and construction of disaster-resilient infrastructure.

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.20.3.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment Priority c (iv) to TO 6 (CF): Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures</p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p><2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"></p> <p>In the case of update of the ex-ante assessment for implementation of financial instruments under OPE 2014-2020 may be established the possibility of applying the financial instruments under the priority axis. The specific funding mechanism, the type and the amount of financial instruments and the grant are defined on the results of the ex-ante assessment for implementation of financial instruments under Article 37(2) of Regulation (EU) No1303/2013 and the decisions on national level.</p>
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">	

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)*

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.20.4.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investment Priority c (iv) to TO 6 (CF): Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalize cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures</p>
<p><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>NOT PLANNED</p>	

2.A.6.5 Performance indicators by investment priorities and where appropriate - by categories of regions

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(iv) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(By investment priorities, broken down by categories of regions for the ESF and where appropriate – for the ERDF)

Identification	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where appropriate)	Target value (2023) ⁷¹			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
<2A.2.5.1 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.2 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.3 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.4 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.5 type="S" input="S" SME >	<2A.2.5.6 type="N" input="M" SME >			<2A.2.5.7 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M" SME >	<2A.2.5.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M" SME >
5.3	Population benefiting from the measures to reduce the quantities of PM ₁₀ and NOx	persons	CF	N.A			1 300 000 ⁷²	Reports from the beneficiaries, OPE MA	Annually
5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM ₁₀ and NOx	number	CF	NA			5	Reports from the beneficiaries, OPE Progress report	Annually

⁷¹ The ESF list includes the common performance indicators that have been defined a target value. The target values may be presented as a total value (men + women) or broken down by gender. In terms of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund the distribution by gender in the most cases is not relevant. "M" = men, "W" = women "T" = total.

⁷² The population in the biggest municipality with poor air quality by PM₁₀ and NOx (according to the data of the National Statistical Institute)

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and the contribution to thematic objectives 1—7⁷³

Specific provisions for the ESF⁷⁴, where applicable (by priority axis where relevant – categories of regions): social innovation, transnational cooperation and the contribution of the ESF to thematic objectives 1—7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives set out in Article 9(1) to (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

<i>Priority axis</i>	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE	

⁷³ Only for programmes financed by the ESF.

⁷⁴ For the ESF, this list includes those common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme specific performance indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Article 96(2)(b)(v) and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: The performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and category of region)⁷⁵

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Type of indicator (Implementation step, financial, output or result indicator, where appropriate)</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Indicator or implementation step</i>	<i>Measurement unit, where appropriate</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Category of region</i>	<i>Milestone for 2018</i> ⁷⁶			<i>Final target (2023)</i> ⁷⁷			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Explanation of the relevance of the indicator where appropriate</i>
							M	W	T	M	W	T		

⁷⁵ Where the YEI is implemented by a specific priority axis, the milestones and YEI targets should be differentiated from the other priority axis milestones and targets in accordance with the implementing acts set out in Article (22) (7) (5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as the YEI funds (YEI specific allocation and ESF matching support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁷⁶ The milestones may be presented either as total (M+W) or broken down by gender, respectively “M” – male, “W” – women, “T” – total.

⁷⁷ Target values may be presented as a total number (M+W) or broken down by gender respectively “M” – male, “W” – female, “T” – total.

<2A.4.1 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.2 type="S" input="S">	Implementat ion step or financial <2A.4.3 type="S" maxlength= "5" input="M" > Performanc e or result indicator <2A.4.3 type="S" input="S">	Implementation step or financial <2A.4.4 type="S" maxlength="25 5" input="M"> Output or result indicator <2A.4.4 type="S" input="G" or "M">	Implementation step or financial <2A.4.5 type="S" input="M"> Output or result indicator <2A.4.5 type="S" input="G" or "M">	<2A.4.6 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.7 type="S" input="S">	<2A.4.8 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">	Implementation step or financial <2A.4.9 type="S" input="M"> Output or result indicator <2A.4.8 type="S" input="M">			Implementa tion step or financial <2A.4.10 type="S" maxlength= "200" input="M" > Performanc e or result indicator <2A.4.10 type="S" input="M">	<2A.4.11 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M">
	Financial output	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	CF	NA	743 151			63 535 229,00	MA	The milestone is defined on the basis of the OPE 2007- 2013 experience
	Output indicator	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	CF	NA	0			5	MA	
	Key implement ation step	5.5	Submitted projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	CF	NA	2			5	MA	The milestone is due to the intention to launch one call for proposals in 2016. The target value takes into account the intention of the

													MA to launch additional call for proposals at a later stage.
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Additional information about the qualitative indicators on the set-up of the performance framework (optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

2.A.9 Categories of interventions

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support.

Tables 7—11: Categories of interventions⁷⁸

(separate tables by fund and category of region if the priority axis covers more than one category or fund)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Area of intervention		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Improving the ambient air quality	083 Air quality measures	54 004 944,00

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Improving the ambient air quality	01 Non-repayable grant	54 004 944,00

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Improving the ambient air quality	07 Not applicable	54 004 944,00

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms	
Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >

⁷⁸ The amounts include the total Union support (main allocation and allocation of funds from the performance reserve).

Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
Improving the ambient air quality	07 Not applicable	54 004 944,00

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme ⁷⁹ (ESF only)		
Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

2.A.10 A summary of the intended use of technical assistance, including, where necessary, the actions to strengthen the administrative capacity of the authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(b)(vii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"> Improvement of the ambient air quality
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"> In the framework of the projects under this priority axis measures with regard to the preparation of the necessary project documentation, including development/update of feasibility studies, financial and economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, preparation of public procurement documentation for the actions included in the projects, etc. will be financed under the relevant priority axes.	

⁷⁹ Where appropriate, includes qualified information on the contribution of the ESF to the thematic objectives referred to in Article 9 (1) to (7) of Regulation (EU) No1303/2013.

2.B A description of the priority axes for technical assistance

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.B.1 Priority axis (for each priority axis for technical assistance)

<i>Identifier of the priority axis</i>	<2B.0.2 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"> PRIORITY AXIS 6
<i>Title of the priority axis</i>	<2B.0.3 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.2 An explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2B.0.1 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> NOT APPLICABLE

2.B.3 Fund and category of region (for each combination under the priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2B.0.4 type="S" input="S"> European Regional Development Fund
<i>Category of region</i>	<2B.0.5 type="S" input="S"> Less developed region
<i>Basis for the calculation (total eligible costs or public eligible costs)</i>	<2B.0.6 type="S" input="S"> Public eligible expenditure

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

(for each specific objective under the priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Identifier</i>	<2B.1.1 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"> Specific objective 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2B.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M">

	Strengthening the administrative capacity of the responsible structures for the effective and efficient implementation of activities related to programming, management, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPE.
<i>The results, which the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support</i> ⁸⁰	<p><2B.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>During the programming period 2014-2020, the priority axis will focus more on activities to upgrade the established administrative capacity of MA staff and the members of the Monitoring Committee, which will contribute to the successful management of the programme. Increasing the capacity of the MA and the Monitoring Committee members will be oriented to both manage the programming period 2014-2020 and to the closure of the programming period 2007-2013 and the preparation of programming period 2021-2027.</p> <p>At the beginning of the programming period to the end of 2015, MA of OPE will face the challenge of managing two programmes - OPE 2007-2013 and OPE 2014-2020. The lack of experience from a preceding 2007-2013 programming period in Bulgaria, the significant set of documents to be prepared in connection with the completion of the period 2007-2013 and the earliest possible start of the implementation of the OPE 2014-2020 require to maintain and further strengthen the capacity of MA.</p> <p>Essential will be the establishment of measures to reduce the turnover of human resources. After the undertaken administrative reform in 2012, which establishes new models of assessment and remunerations of civil servants in the state administration, MA of OPE follows the uniform approach to reward staff based on objective criteria and performance as defined in the Partnership Agreement of the Republic of Bulgaria. Additional training and motivation of MA staff will be achieved by maintaining the stability of structures and upgrade the accumulated know-how and good practices of MA staff. In the period 2007-2013 at national level are identified weaknesses in procedures related to public procurement, anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures, which will affect also, OPE 2014-2020. Within the scope of technical assistance to the responsible officers in MA will be given comprehensive training, incl. best practices and lessons learned in addressing these needs, e.g. prevention of irregularities, fraud and enforce anti-corruption measures. These measures will be coordinated with the respective MA, competent authorities and the Central Coordination Unit in the Council of Ministers.</p>

⁸⁰ Required when the Union support for technical assistance exceeds EUR15 mio.

2.B.5 Results indicators⁸¹

Table 12: Programme specific results indicators (by specific objective)

(for ERDF/CF/ESF)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value ⁸² (2023.)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
<2.B.2.1 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M">	<2.B.2.2 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">	<2.B.2.3 type="S" input="M">	Quantitative <2.B.2.4 type="N" input="M">	<2.B.2.5 type="N" input="M">	Quantitative <2.B.2.6 type="N" input="M"> Качественно <2.B.2.6 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">	<2.B.2.7 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M"> <2.B.2.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">
6.1	Average time for a project approval.	Days	155	2013	147	UMIS
6.2	Average time for beneficiary payments request verification.	days	90	2013	85	UMIS

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

(for each specific objective under the priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Indicator	<2.B.1.1 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"> Specific objective 2
Specific objective	<2.B.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"> Raising the public awareness about the programme and the ESIF contribution, and ensuring publicity and information of relevance for all identified target groups.

⁸¹Required when justified by the action content and in the cases when Union support for technical assistance under the programme exceeds EUR15 mio.

⁸²Target values may be qualitative or quantitative. Where appropriate, the target values of the indicator may be presented either as a total value (M+W) or broken down by gender, baseline values may be adjusted respectively. „M“ = men, „W“ = women, „T“ = total.

<i>The results, which the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support</i> ⁸³	<p><2.B.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>As a result of the interventions will seek to enhance public awareness, both for the progress of the programme and the results achieved by the projects in various sectors: water, waste, biodiversity, air etc.</p> <p>In addition, the beneficiaries will be informed about the funding opportunities. The promotion of EU funds across the general public will be ensured together with providing information regarding the main aspects related to the implementation of the programme.</p> <p>The communication channels that will be mainly used are the national electronic media (radio and television) permanently retained as the most used, most effective and most preferred channels for information about the OPE and internet in general is the third most widely used communication channel.</p> <p>At the national level will be implemented National Communication Strategy (NCS) of the Partnership Agreement. In pursuance of NCS, the MA will develop the Annual Action Plan, which will specify the promotion and publicity measures under the programme. MA of OPE will be in cooperation with the District information points, the Central Information Office and the Central Information and Coordination Office depending on the type of communication actions implemented.</p>
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2.B.5 Results indicators⁸⁴

Table 12: Programme specific results indicators (by specific objective)

(for ERDF/CF/ESF)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value</i> ⁸⁵ (2023.)	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
			T		T		
<2.B.2.1 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">	<2.B.2.2 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">	<2.B.2.3 type="S" input="M">	Quantitative <2.B.2.4 type="N" input="M">	<2.B.2.5 type="N"	Quantitative <2.B.2.6 type="N" input="M">	<2.B.2.7 type="S" maxlength="200"	<2.B.2.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">

⁸³ Required when the Union support for technical assistance exceeds EUR15 mio.

⁸⁴ Required when justified by the action content and in the cases when Union support for technical assistance under the programme exceeds EUR15 mio.

⁸⁵ Target values may be qualitative or quantitative. Where appropriate, the target values of the indicator may be presented either as a total value (M+W) or broken down by gender, baseline values may be adjusted respectively. „M“ = men, „W“ = women, „T“ = total.

<i>th="5" input="M"></i>					<i>input="M"></i>	<i>Качествени< 2.B.2.6 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M"></i>	<i>input="M"></i>			
6.3	Level of public awareness of the OPE	%			40 ₈₆	2014		60	Survey	2019 2021 2023

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

(for each specific objective under the priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i><2B.1.1 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"></i> Specific objective 3
<i>Specific objective</i>	<i><2B.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"></i> Strengthening the capacity of OPE beneficiaries for the successful implementation of projects under the programme.
<i>The results, which the Member State seeks to achieve with EU support</i> ⁸⁷	<i><2B.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></i> Under the priority axis, MA will continue organizing specialized trainings for potential beneficiaries only to strengthen and improve the capacity of beneficiaries by providing practical trainings on specific topics, incl. good practices and lessons learned concerning the requirements for project preparation and the subsequent sustainable management of the acquired assets/results obtained under OPE. During the project implementation process and after establishing repeated questions and/or gaps will be organized opportunely trainings on identified problematic issues. Project management teams of beneficiaries will conduct active consultations with MA as well as with the regional units in the process of project preparation. Through trainings, providing guidance and publication of useful information the beneficiaries will be supported in respect of cases concerning public procurement, in order to reduce irregularities leading to financial corrections. MA of OPE will continue to maintain the constant feedback from beneficiaries and will implement new functionalities of UMIS 2020 immediately after their creation and where possible, MA will

⁸⁶ The baseline value is taken from Gallup International survey conducted in March 2014.

⁸⁷ Required when the Union support for technical assistance exceeds EUR15 mio.

	reduce the required information from beneficiaries to the minimum requirements from the specific legislation.
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2.B.5 Results indicators⁸⁸

Table 12: Programme specific results indicators (by specific objective)

(for ERDF/CF/ESF)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Identicator	Indicator	Measureme nt unit	Baseline value			Basel ine year	Target value ⁸⁹ (2023.)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
						T			T		
<2.B.2.1 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M">	<2.B.2.2 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">	<2.B.2.3 type="S" input="M">	Quantitative <2.B.2.4 type="N" input="M">			<2.B. 2.5 type= "N" input= "M">	Quantitative< 2.B.2.6 type="N" input="M"> Качествену< 2.B.2.6 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">			<2.B.2.7 type="S" maxlength ="200" input="M" >	<2.B.2.8 type="S" maxlength="100" input="M">
6.4	Level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the TA measures and training provided	%			35	2013			60	Survey	2019 2021 2023

2.B.6 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(i) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No1303/2013)

2.B.6.1 A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(i) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No1303)

Priority axis	<2.B.3.1.1 type="S" input="S"> TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
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⁸⁸ Required when justified by the action content and in the cases when Union support for technical assistance under the programme exceeds EUR15 mio.

⁸⁹ Target values may be qualitative or quantitative. Where appropriate, the target values of the indicator may be presented either as a total value (M+W) or broken down by gender, baseline values may be adjusted respectively. „M“ = men, „W“ = women, „T“ = total.

Technical assistance under OPE will provide support for programme management and introducing best practices and approaches in programming, management, implementation, monitoring, control and evaluation, as well as communication and promotion measures, exchange of experience and building expert and motivated human resources. All activities related to the effective administration of OPE must be in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013. The actions have been formulated based on the 2007-2013 experience.

Part of the funds envisaged under Priority axis 6 will be used for organization of trainings for potential beneficiaries and such with approved projects. The aim of the trainings is to improve beneficiaries' capacity for project cycle implementation taking into account the lessons learned during 2007-2013 programming period (best practices, weaknesses and mistakes).

Other part will be earmarked for MA trainings, including specialized trainings, study visits, related to the management and implementation of the operational programme. Those trainings aim at better understanding and up to date knowledge about the programme management and the specificity of the investments and the sectoral needs.

A strategic plan for the implementation of the priority axis is envisaged according to which a strategic but not project-oriented approach will be followed.

1. Measures aimed at ensuring the necessary support for OPE management and implementation OPE 2014-2020, the closure of OPE 2007-2013 and OPE 2014-2020

- Preparation, organization and conduction of trainings for the MA and the members of the Monitoring Committee of OPE;
- Organization and conduction of the Monitoring Committee meetings;
- Funding of salaries of the necessary human resources performing exclusively strictly defined tasks related to the management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, information and publicity, control and audit of OPE in compliance with the national rules;
- Providing the necessary facilities, technical equipment and information systems for the management and implementation of OPE, if necessary;
- Collection and analysis of data on the programme implementation related to OP monitoring and reporting;
- Audit and control of OPE and other related costs (eg. costs incurred in relation to on-the-spot checks of the operations implemented under OPE), as well as elaboration of mechanism to identify and assess risks and take effective and appropriate measures to prevent fraud and corruption in the implementation of OPE;
- Conduction of surveys, drafting expert reports, analyses, tests and assessments, related to the OPE management, as well as hiring external expertise with a view to improving the OPE management and implementation;
- Conduction of OPE 2014-2020 evaluations in compliance with the programme evaluation plan;
- Collection, compilation and analysis of information and statistical data, preparation of opinions, reports and documents, conducting research and undertaking other activities to support the programming of EU funds in the next programming period (2021-2027);

- Ensuring external expertise for the closure of 2007-2013 and of 2014 – 2020 programming periods in accordance with the requirements of the Commission, including drafting the package of documents required, additional analyses, audits and checks if necessary;

- Methodological and expert support regarding the closure of irregularities;

- Preparation, organization and participation in workshops and study visits within the EU, incl. in order to enrich the experience and learn from good practices for programme management and implementation, and in connection with the completion of the programming periods and the preparation of programming period 2021-2027 (working trips, visits of foreign experts, representatives of other MS, EC representatives);

- Ensuring the participation of MA staff in trainings, workshops, meetings/sessions of committees, working groups, networks, conferences and etc. related to the preparation, management, implementation and closure of the operational programme;

- Activities aimed at the implementation of Directive 2014/24 of 26.02.2014 on public procurement and on the mandatory application of electronic auctions;

- Activities aimed at providing support of MA, together with other competent authorities in the application of state aid rules, including trainings, exchange of experience, development of procedures and other relevant activities in the sector;

- Drafting, translation and distribution of official documents, related to the overall OPE management and implementation.

2. Measures aimed at securing the necessary support for the communication and promotion of OPE

- Preparation, organization and implementation of annual action plans in compliance with the National Communication Strategy for 2014-2020, including the logistics of the planned activities;

- Development and administration of OPE website providing information for the potential beneficiaries about the available programme support and the results from the programme implementation.

3. Measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of the beneficiaries

- Preparation, organization and conduction of seminars, trainings, information days, meetings etc. for the beneficiaries under priority axes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 providing support on project preparation and implementation;

- Preparation, organization and conduction of trainings, information days, seminars, meetings etc. for the project management units under the respective priority axis with a view of strengthening and/or improving the capacity for procurement, contracting, appropriate implementation and management of the approved projects, and for the subsequent proper use and maintenance of the acquired assets.

Beneficiaries: OPE Managing authority

Target groups: beneficiaries identified under priority axes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; structures responsible for the formulation and implementation of environment protection and climate change policies within MoEW, Monitoring committee members.

2.B.6.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(iv) of Regulation (EU) No1303/2013)

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis)

(for ERDF/ESF/CF)

<i>Identicator</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Target value (2023)⁹⁰ (optional)</i>			<i>Source of data</i>
			M	W	T	
<2.B.3.2.1 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M">	<2.B.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">	<2.B.3.2.3 type="S" input="M">	<2.B.3.2.4 type="N" input="M">			<2.B.3.2.5 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">
6.5	MA officials trained	Number	123			MA of OPE
6.6	Trainings for MA officials	Number	24			MA of OPE
6.7	Employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number	123			MoEW
6.8	Conducted evaluations on the programme	Number	5			MA of OPE, Annual progress reports
6.9	Number of information campaigns	Number	7			MA of OPE, Annual progress reports
6.10	Beneficiaries' officials trained	Number	1400			MA of OPE
6.11	Trainings for beneficiaries' officials	Number	40			MA of OPE

2.B.7 Categories of interventions (by priority axis)

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(c)(v) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support.

⁹⁰

Target values for output indicators under technical assistance are optional. The target values of the output indicators may be presented either as a total value (M+W) or broken down by gender. „M“= men, „W“= women, „T“= total.

Tables 14—16: Categories of interventions⁹¹

Table 14: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S">		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.1.1 type="S" input="S" > Decision=N>	<2B.4.1.2 type="S" input="S"> Decision=N>	<2B.4.1.3 type="N" input="M"> Decision=N>
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	121 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	30 406 027,00
	122 Evaluation and studies	5 000 000,00
	123 Information and communication	5 000 000,00

Table 15: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S">		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.2.1 type="S" input="S" > Decision=N>	<2B.4.2.2 type="S" input="S"> Decision=N>	<2B.4.2.3 type="N" input="M"> Decision=N>
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	01 Non-repayable grant	40 406 027,00

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S">		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.3.1 type="S" input="S" > Decision=N>	<2B.4.3.2 type="S" input="S"> Decision=N>	<2B.4.3.3 type="N" input="M"> Decision=N>
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	07 Not applicable	40 406 027,00

⁹¹ The amounts include the total Union support (the main allocation and the performance reserve).

SECTION 3 FINANCIAL PLAN

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for the performance reserve

(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(d) and (i) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 17:

	Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
			Main allocation ⁹²	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
	<3.1.1 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.1.2 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.1.3 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.4 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.5 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.6 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.7 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.8 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.9 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.10 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.11 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.12 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.13 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.14 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.15 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.16 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.17 type="N" input="G" "SME">	<3.1.18 type="N" input="G" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">
(1)	ERDF	Less developed	0,00	0,00	89 037 469	5 683 243	24 564 118	1 567 922	57 896 168	3 695 500	59 858 803	3 820 775	61 774 922	3 943 080	55 800 523	3 561 735	348 932 003	22 272 255
(2)		Transition	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
(3)		More developed	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
(4)		Total	0,00	0,00	89 037 469	5 683 243	24 564 118	1 567 922	57 896 168	3 695 500	59 858 803	3 820 775	61 774 922	3 943 080	55 800 523	3 561 735	348 932 003	22 272 255

⁹² Main allocation (Union support) less the performance reserve.

(5)	ESF ⁹³	Less developed	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
(6)		Transition	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
(7)		More developed	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
(8)		Total	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
(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
(10)	Cohesion Fund	Not applicable	0,00	0,00	271 347 845	17 320 075	146 967 551	9 380 907	153 166 413	9 776 580	158 987 687	10 148 150	164 968 253	10 529 889	170 164 941	10 861 592	1 065 602 690	68 017 193
(11)	ERDF	Specific allocation for outermost regions or Northern sparsely populated areas	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
(12)	Total		0,00	0,00	360 385 314	23 003 318	171 531 669	10 948 829	211 062 581	13 472 080	218 846 490	13 968 925	226 743 175	14 472 969	225 965 464	14 423 327	1 414 534 693	90 289 448

3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (EUR)

(Reference: Article 96 (2) (1) (d) (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

⁹³ Total allocation from ESF including the ESF matching support for YEI. The performance reserve boxes do not include the ESF matching support for YEi as it is excluded from the performance reserve.

1. The financial table should set out the financial plan of the operational programme by priority axis.
2. Where the priority axis covers more than one category of region, the data for the Union funding and the national counterpart should be broken down by category of region with a separate co-financing rate within the priority axis for each category of region.
3. When the priority axis covers more than one category of region, Union support and national co-financing are distributed by category of region with separate co-financing rate within the priority axis for each category of region.
4. The EIB contribution should be presented at the level of the priority axis.

Table 18a: Financial plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of the Union support (total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support	National counterpart	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart			Total funding	Co-financing rate	For information EIB contribution	Main allocation (total funding less the performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Amount of the performance reserve as a ratio of the total Union support
						National funding	public	National private funding (1)				Union support	National counterpart	Union support	National counterpart ⁹⁴	
				(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

⁹⁴ The national counterpart is proportionally allocated between the main allocation and the performance reserve.

<3.2.A.1 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.2 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.3 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.4 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.5 type="N" input="M""SME">	<3.2.A.6 type="N""SME" " input="G">	<3.2.A.7 type="N" input="M""SME" ">	<3.2.A.8 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.9 type="N" input="G""SME" ">	<3.2.A.10 type="P" input="G""SME">	<3.2.A.11 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.12 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.2.A.13 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">>	<3.2.A.14 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.2.A.15 type="N" input="M" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">>	<3.2.A.16 type="N" input="G" TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">
1	CF		Public	1 016 870 809,00	179 447 790,00	179 447 790,00	0,00	1 196 318 599,00	84,9999999875%	0	955858560	168680923	61012249	10766867	6%
2	ERDF	Less developed	Public	250 414 049,00	44 190 715,00	44 190 715,00	0,00	294 604 764,00	84,9999998642%	0	228141794	40260317	22 272 255	3 930 398	8,89%
3	ERDF	Less developed	Public	80 384 182,00	14 185 444,00	14 185 444,00	0,00	94 569 626,00	84,9999998943%	0	80384182	14185444	0	0	0,00%
4	CF		Public	62 744 130,00	11 072 494,00	11 072 494,00	0,00	73 816 624,00	84,9999994581%	0	62744130	11072494	0	0	0,00%
5	CF		Public	54 004 944,00	9 530 285,00	9 530 285,00	0,00	63 535 229,00	84,9999989769%	0	47000000	8294118	7 004 944	1 236 167	12,97%
6	ERDF	Less developed	Public	40 406 027,00	7 130 476,00	7 130 476,00	0,00	47 536 503,00	84,9999988430%	0	40406027	7130476	0	0	0%
Total	CF		Public	1 133 619 883,00	200 050 569,00	200 050 569,00	0,00	1 333 670 452,00	84,9999999100%	0	1065602690	188047535	68017193	12003034	6%
Total	ERDF	Less developed		371 204 258,00	65 506 635,00	65 506 635,00	0,00	436 710 893,00	84,9999997596%	0	348932003	61576237	22272255	3930398	6%
Grand total			Public	1 504 824 141,00	265 557 204,00	265 557 204,00	0,00	1 770 381 345,00	84,9999998729%	0	1414534693	249623772	90289448	15933432	

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

Table 18b: Youth Employment Initiative – specific allocation – ESF and YEI⁹⁵ (where appropriate) – NOT APPLICABLE

	Fund ⁹⁶	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of the Union support (total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e) (2)
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)		
	<3.2.B.1 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.B.2 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.B.3 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.B.1 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.B.4 type="N" input="G">	<3.2.B.5 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.B.6 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.B.7 type="N" input="G">	<3.2.B.8 type="P" input="G">
1	YEI specific allocation	Not applicable			0				100 %
2	Matching ESF support	Less developed							
3	Matching ESF support	Transition							
4	Matching ESF support	More developed							
5.	TOTAL: [Part of YEI] priority axis	[Must equal [part of] priority axis 3]		Sum (1:4)	Sum (1:4)				
6.			ESF share for less developed regions	<3.2.c.11 type="P"					

⁹⁵ To be filled for each (part of) priority axis YEI is part of.

⁹⁶ The YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered a Fund and should appear on one separate line even if it is part of a priority axis.

			2/sum (2:4)	<i>input="G"</i> >		
7.			ESF share for transition regions 3/sum (2:4)	<3.2.c.13 <i>type="P"</i> <i>input="G"</i> >		
8.			ESF share for more developed regions 4/sum (2:4)	<3.2.c.14 <i>type="P"</i> <i>input="G"</i> >		

- (1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.
- (2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan of the operational programme by priority axis, Fund, category of region and thematic objective
(Reference: Article 96(2)(1)(d)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	Fund ⁹⁷	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
<3.2.C.1 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.2 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.3 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.4 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.5 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.C.6 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.C.7 type="N" input="M">
<i>Water</i>	CF	Not applicable	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	1 016 870 809,00	179 447 790,00	1 196 318 599,00
<i>Waste</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	250 414 049,00	44 190 715,00	294 604 764,00
<i>Natura 2000 and biodiversity</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	80 384 182,00	14 185 444,00	94 569 626,00
<i>Flood and Landslides Risk Prevention and Management</i>	CF	Not applicable	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	62 744 130,00	11 072 494,00	73 816 624,00
<i>Improvement of Ambient Air Quality</i>	CF	Not applicable	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	54 004 944,00	9 530 285,00	63 535 229,00
Total				1464 418 114,00	258 426 728,00	1 722 844 842, 00

⁹⁷ For the purposes of this table the YEI (specific allocation and the matching ESF support) is considered a Fund.

Table 19: The indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

(Reference: Article 27(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)⁹⁸

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Share of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
<3.2.C.8 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.9 type="N" input="G"> Decision=N>	<3.2.C.10 type="P" input="G"> Decision=N>
1	46 066 370,95	3,06%
2	53 232 379,00	3,54%
3	32 153 672,80	2,14%
4	62 744 130,00	4,17%
5	21 601 977,60	1,44%
Total	215 798 530,35	14,34%

⁹⁸

This table is generated automatically by SFC based on categorisation tables included under each of the priority axes.

SECTION 4 INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Reference: Article 96(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

A description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme and having regard to the Partnership Agreement, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results.

<4.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

The territorial scope of OPE 2014 - 2020 covers the territory of the whole country, i.e. all regions (NUTS II), which are categorised as less developed regions. Regional Development Plans of the Planning Regions have been developed. They clearly outline the disparities in the employment, income and infrastructure as a result of the various nature conditions, the disparities in the social and economic structures already established as well as the dynamics in the development of the separate territorial and administrative units. In 2014 - 2020 period the regional policy will focus on the enhancement of the development processes of country's regions in order to: overcome the gap in their development; solving socio-economic and infrastructural problems; exploring the local development potential; improving the market stability in respect of the local economic players; environmental protection and promotion of resource efficiency; risk and management prevention and use of the cultural heritage potential.

In this regard OPE 2014-2020 plans to promote the activity of potential beneficiaries in the preparation and implementation of projects in the less developed regions in the country, including in both the planning regions and those at the lower NUTS level.

4.1 Community led local development (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

A description of the approach to the use of community led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas where it will be implemented.

<4.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" PA=Y>

OPE 2014 - 2020 envisages to apply the Community Led Local Development Approach (CLLD) for implementing of actions in relation to Natura 2000 network by approved Local Action Groups in the period 2014 - 2020. Based on the experience gained in the period 2007 - 2013 Local Action Groups, under the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013, and Fisheries Local Action Groups, under the Fisheries Programme 2007 – 2013, state their strong support to continue and upgrade the application of this approach. The advantage of the “bottom-up” approach is obvious in view of the fact that the local public and private organisations are quite familiar with both the challenges and advantages in the relevant territory.

The main challenges which will be met by the Local Action Groups in 2014-2020 programming period concern the need to create employment (including alternative) and use of the local potential for growth. The application of local groups will allow for achieving concentration of such interventions that have the greatest added value in terms of addressing the economic and social disparities. A national priority set out in the Partnership Agreement and related to Natura 2000 network which will be achieved by applying the CLLD approach is the “Integrated approach

towards the environment by preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency, incl. risk prevention and management actions and exploiting the potential of cultural heritage”.

For the 2014-2020 programming period CLLD will be implemented within rural areas, fishermen’s areas and territories with specific characteristics, according to National Concept for Spatial Development. Support will be provided by EAFRD, EMFF, ESF and ERDF. ERDF funding under priority axis “Natura 2000 and biodiversity” under OPE 2014 – 2020 is envisaged to support the implementation of conservation measures by the CLLD approach.

OPE 2014 – 2020 envisages funding to beneficiaries (e.g. non-profit organisations, municipalities) through CLLD approach only when the Community Led Local Development Strategies include eligible NPAF actions supported by OPE 2014 – 2020. Such measures are for example maintenance and improvement of the conservation status of species and habitats.

On the other hand, OPE 2014 - 2020 funding is envisaged for raising the awareness, understanding and knowledge of the stakeholders; promoting the funding opportunities; and building the planning and programming capacity for Natura 2000 network development and management, where the local groups will be one of the target groups.

OPE funding is envisaged also for the planning and conduction of national information campaigns drawing the attention and raising the interest of the stakeholders to the opportunities of Natura 2000 network. The campaigns will reach all stakeholders, including the local action groups.

Another opportunity of the local groups for raising awareness and understanding with regards to Natura 2000 network are the supportive awareness campaigns envisaged under priority axis 3 of OPE 2014 – 2020. A special campaign targeting the local groups and aiming to encourage them to include PAF measures financed by OPE 2014 – 2020 into the respective Strategies may be organised following an information needs analysis.

In addition, it is envisaged organisation of an annual national forum on relevant topics related to Natura 2000 where representatives of the local action groups and fisheries local action groups could participate along with non-profit organisations, municipalities, etc. – beneficiaries under the Local Development Strategies.

The promotion of the OPE 2014 - 2020 funding opportunities, incl. related to Natura 2000, will also be relevant for all beneficiaries, also for these beneficiaries applying for financing under the strategies of the local groups.

Although the conduct of outreach activities, local groups have the final decision on the concrete measures that will be included in the Strategies.

The functions of the MoEW/ the Natura 2000 Management Unit may be providing of information for including of certain measures for Natura 2000 habitats and species in the LAGs Strategies.

Managing Authority responsible for implementing CLLD is the MA of the RDP, which will coordinate the programmes’ interventions in the multi-funding approach. A Coordination Committee will be established by Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Food to ensure the overall coordination in the CLLD approach.

The functions of the stakeholders and the coordination between them in the multi-fund implementation of CLLD will be provided for in a legislative act. The managing authorities are

envisaged to participate in the preparatory activities and during the operations selection. The role of the MoEW is also to issue the necessary decisions for the Local Development Strategies and the concrete project proposals in line with the Environment Protection Act and the Biological Diversity Act.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013; Article 7(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹⁹)

Where appropriate, the indicative amount of the ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development, to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

<4.2.1 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

NOT APPLICABLE.

Table 20: The indicative amount of the ERDF and ESF support for sustainable urban integrated actions

Fund	ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (EUR)	Share of the total allocation of the Fund to the operational programme
<4.2.2 type="S" input="G">	<4.2.3 type="N" input="M">	<4.2.3 type="P" input="G">
Total ERDF	0,00	0,00%.
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	0,00	0,00%

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 96(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

A description of the Integrated Territorial Investments approach (as outlined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) to other areas in addition to sustainable urban development referred to in point 4.2, and indicative amount of the allocation under each priority axis.

<4.3.1 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M PA=Y">

NOT APPLICABLE

⁹⁹

Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OB L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

Table 21: An indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2

(aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (EUR)
<4.3.2 type="S" input="G" PA=Y>	<4.3.3 type="S" input="G" PA=Y>	<4.3.4 type="N" input="M" PA=Y>
Total		0,00

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)

(Reference: Article 96(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<4.4.1 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" PA=Y>

NOT APPLICABLE

4.5 Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State, the contribution of the planned interventions to such strategies (where appropriate)

(Where the Member State and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies)

(Reference: Article 96(3)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<4.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" >

Bulgaria will continue to actively develop the territorial cooperation by participating in the bilateral cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes, the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme and the macro-regional EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

The consistency of the operational programmes with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region is achieved through the National Coordination Mechanism on the Danube Strategy established by Decision of the Council of Ministers of 2012, which ensures the coverage of the objectives set in the Danube Strategy and the activities to their achievement specified in the relevant programming documents for the period 2014 - 2020.

OPE actively supports the implementation of the macro-regional EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The implementation of the programme will complement in full synergy and clear demarcation the priorities of the Danube Strategy, the Connecting Europe Facility, Bulgaria-Romania CBC, Bulgaria-Serbia CBC and the Danube Transnational Programme. In this regard, the OPE will cover projects, which meet the objectives of the strategy, taking into account the results and the additional needs related to the implementation of the projects Danube Parks 1.0 and 2.0. The successful participation of Bulgaria in the Danube Strategy requires continuous

performance and coordination of activities by the various departments in order to implement a common action plan of all stakeholders, which clearly defines the responsibilities and specific tasks. Currently, a National Coordination Mechanism for Participation of Bulgaria in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region has been established. In this regard joint expert working groups have been established on specific objectives of the strategy, i.e. for the construction and maintenance of the infrastructure and for the protection and restoration of the biodiversity in the Danube Region.

The implementation of the measures under the priority axis will contribute to the achievement of the following priority areas 4) To restore and maintain the quality of waters, 5) To manage environmental risks and 6) To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils to objective “Protecting the environment of Danube region” of the Strategy.

Furthermore, the OP will support the measures planned to be incorporated in the Marine Strategy aimed at achieving a good environmental status of the Black Sea (the Marine Strategy is under development and will enter into force at the end of 2015). The Marine Strategy Framework Directive builds upon the WFD requirements with regards to the achievement of “good environmental status” of marine water and establishes a policy towards achieving and maintaining the “good environmental status of the marine environment” through the development of a Black Sea Marine Strategic Plan (National Marine Strategy). This plan provides for programmes of measures for achieving and maintaining the “good environmental status” of the marine environment at latest by 2020. The Marine Directive sets up an objective of European scale – establishment and development of a representative network of marine protected areas of the Natura 2000 network. In this regard, the OPE will have synergetic effect in respect to any future EU macro-regional and marine strategies.

SECTION 5 THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

(Reference: Article 96(4)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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

<5.1.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" Decision= N PA=Y>

NOT APPLICABLE

5.2 The strategy of the operational programme to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, where appropriate — contribution to the integrated approach set out in the partnership agreement

<5.2.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" Decision= N PA=Y>

NOT APPLICABLE

Table 22: Actions addressing the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion¹⁰⁰

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned actions which are part of the integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
<5.2.2 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" Decision=N PA=Y >	<5.2.3 type="S" maxlength="1500" input="M" Decision= N PA=Y >	<5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision= N PA=Y >	<5.2.6 type="S" input="S" Decision= N PA=Y >	<5.2.7 type="S" input="S" Decision= N PA=Y >	<5.2.5 type="S" input="S" PA=Y >
N/A					

¹⁰⁰ If the operational programme covers different categories of regions, a breakdown by category of region can be necessary.

**SECTION 6 SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND
PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE)**

(Reference: Article 96(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<6.1 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M" Decisions=N PA=Y>

NOT APPLICABLE

SECTION 7 AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

(Reference: Article 96(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

(Reference: Article 96 (5)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 23: Relevant bodies

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body, and department or unit,	Head of the authority/body (position or post)
<7.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N "SME" >	<7.1.2 type="S" maxlength= "255" input="M" Decision=N "SME" >	<7.1.3 type="S" maxlength= "255" input="M" Decision=N "SME" >
Managing Authority	Directorate General Operational Programme Environment in the Ministry of Environment and Water	Director General
Certifying Authority, where applicable	National Fund Directorate in the Ministry of Finance	Director
Audit Authority	Audit of EU Funds Executive Agency reporting to the Minister of Finance	Executive Director
Body to whom payments are made by the Commission	National Fund Directorate in the Ministry of Finance	Director

7.2 Involving the relevant partners

(Reference: Article 96(5)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

7.2.1 The actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme

<p><7.2.1 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" Decisions=N "SME"></p> <p>Decision № 328/25.04.2012 of the Council of Ministers on the approval of a list of thematic objectives, which should be included in the Partnership Agreement of the Republic of Bulgaria for the programming period 2014-2020, list of programmes and a leading institution for the development of each programme is the legislation at national level, which designates the leading institutions responsible for the preparation of the operational programmes. Pursuant to its provisions, MOEW is the leading institution for developing the Operational Programme Environment 2014 – 2020.</p> <p>The OPE Managing authority involves all the stakeholders indispensable for the preparation and implementation of the programme, taking measures aimed at ensuring a close cooperation with the competent regional and local authorities, economic and social</p>
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partners, bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination.

The selection of the partners involved in the preparation of the operational programme is based on the principles of partnership and multi-level governance and in compliance with the requirements of Art. 5 of the Regulation 1303/2013 and Decree № 5/18.01.2012 of the Council of Ministers on the Preparation of the Strategic and Programming Documents of the Republic of Bulgaria for Management of Funds under the Common Strategic Framework of the European Union in the Programming Period 2014 - 2020.

The Thematic working group (TWG) for development of the operational programme is established in close cooperation with the public authorities at national and regional level, the private and nongovernmental sector in order to ensure wide representativeness and practical experience. The TWG includes representatives of the *public authorities at national level* set out in Decree № 5/18.01.2012 of the Council of Ministers, thus providing an important contribution for the demarcation and ensuring synergies between the operational programmes, as well as expertise in development of the relevant parts of the operational programme. The TWG includes *regional networks and associations*, such as the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regional Development Councils. They have a significant role and are of a great importance in determining the development needs and the growth potential at local and regional level. The *social partners* participate in the TWG through their representatives such as workers' organisations (e.g. Confederation of Labor Podkrepa), employers' organisations (Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria), etc. *The economic partners*, which are a key factor in promoting the development, innovation and competitiveness, participate in the TWG through organizations, such as the Bulgarian Industrial Association. Also, representatives of the *nongovernmental sector* participate in the TWG. They disseminate the information provided, thus performing representative functions for a large number of organisations in the field of environment and development policies and providing uniform positions of the NGOs in the programme. To ensure the implementation of principles of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, the TWG includes representatives of organisations, such as the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and the National Council for Integration of Persons with Disabilities. The working group was established, as follows:

- Official letter for participation was sent to the institutions/organisations set out in art. 5 (4) of Decree № 5/18.01.2012 of the Council of Ministers.
- A call for participation of the non-governmental sector organisations in the TWG for development of the Operational Programme Environment was published on the OPE website (ope.moew.government.bg) and the single information web portal providing general information about the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds management - www.eufunds.bg;
- Non-governmental organisations were selected according to the Mechanism for selection of NGOs, which representatives should participate in the working groups for development of the Partnership Agreement and programmes of the Republic of Bulgaria for the programming period 2014 - 2020 approved by the Minister in charge of the EU Funds Management.

An Order for establishment of the Working group that indicates the members of the TWG, their functions and the deadline to prepare the operational programme, was coordinated

and approved by the Minister in charge of the EU Funds Management and the Minister of Environment and Water.

The full list of partners involved in the TWG is presented in Section 12, item 12.3.

The Order for establishment of the TWG and TWG Internal Rules of Procedure regulate the role of the partners in the preparation of the operational programme. The documents developed for the meetings and written procedures should be sent by e-mail within 7 working days prior to the meeting date or prior to the deadline for submission of comments at the latest. All TWG members representing the relevant organisations/institutions are entitled to submit comments on the materials requiring coordination.

During the meetings the TWG members are free to put forward their views on the issues concerned and materials provided. The meetings are recorded with the purpose of development of meetings minutes. The draft minutes, which include the decisions made, are sent to the TWG via e-mail. The TWG members have the opportunity to provide written comments on the draft minutes. The final version is sent to all members and published on the OPE website (<http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg>). The TWG meetings are held at a convenient location in a building, which provides access to persons with disabilities.

Other possibility for active participation of the partners is to present certain proposals on the content of the operational programme, both officially and via e-mail.

The main comments and recommendations on the programme are related to its compliance with the EU and national legislation; the European and national strategic documents; the ex-ante and strategic environmental assessment of the operational programme; identification of funding priorities and eligible activities; identification of beneficiaries and indicators, allocation of the financial resources and application of the horizontal principles. The TWG is informed about the progress of the overall and thematic ex-ante conditionalities in sector Environment and Climate change.

To ensure better quality of the OPE elaboration, mechanisms, such as establishment of working subgroups and involvement of external experts, are laid down in the TWG Rules of Procedure. The OPE MA endorses additional methods to involve the partners in the programme elaboration, besides those regulated in the TWG Rules of Procedure and TWG Order. Meetings on specific topics requiring expertise and broad based-participation of the stakeholders are held.

The OPE website and the single information web portal providing general information about the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds management in the Republic of Bulgaria ensure access for stakeholders, which are not directly involved in the TWG and the process of preparation of the operational programme. Materials from the WG meetings, surveys on important topics, answers to questions concerning the scope of the programme, etc. are published therein. Through participation in awareness campaigns and distribution of printed materials the OPE MA reaches even a wider range of stakeholders.

The operational programme is prepared upon consideration of the partners' view and reaching an agreement on the specific priority axes.

Based on the experiences and lessons learnt from the 2007-2013 programming period, the partners make recommendations and proposals on the programming process, the scope of the Operational Programme Environment 2014–2020, including its further implementation.

The principle of partnership should be applied in the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the OP. The participation of the partners identified in the OPE preparation is ensured through the continuity of the TWG into Monitoring Committee (MC). The OPE MC prepares and adopts Rules of procedure that allow the monitoring of the programme implementation and the progress towards achieving its objectives. The partners' expertise is used in the establishment and approval of selection criteria for operations to be financed. The MC reviews and coordinates the annual progress reports of the programme, thus ensuring its effective and quality implementation. It monitors the progress of the OPE assessment plan. Also, the information and communication measures funded within the technical assistance priority axis will ensure partners and stakeholders with full access to information concerning the programme implementation.

7.2.2 Global grants (for ESF, where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

<7.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M" Decisions=N>

NOT APPLICABLE

7.2.3 Earmarking for capacity building (for ESF, where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 6(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

<7.3.2 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" Decisions=N>

SECTION 8 COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

(Reference: Article 96(6)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The mechanisms that ensure coordination between the Funds, the EAFRD, the EMFF and other Union and national funding instruments and with the EIB taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the CSF.

<8.1 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" Decisions=N PA=Y>

The demarcation of the actions planned under OPE 2014 - 2020 priority axes and other programmes is as follows:

1. Interventions related to water management:

- OPE 2014 - 2020 – Measures for the construction of WSS infrastructure in agglomerations of more than 10 000 PE (in order to ensure compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC). Development of documents for the purposes of the implementation of the WFD and the Marine strategy framework directive have been envisaged to be financed within this priority axis as well.
- RDP 2014 - 2020 – Investments in WSS infrastructure in agglomeration with less than 2 000 PE in the rural areas.
- OPRG 2014 - 2020 – Investments in WSS installations for buildings in parallel with energy efficiency measures will support interventions for promoting the reduction of water consumption and the introduction of other water-saving methods (in buildings in cities under IPURD). The activities under OPRG 2014-2020 within the areas of impact, will be coordinated with activities in the WSS sector in OPE 2014-2020.

2. Interventions related to waste management:

- OPE 2014 - 2020 – Investments related to the improvement of municipal waste management in compliance with the waste management hierarchy; information campaigns/demonstration projects targeted at waste prevention.
- OPIC 2014 - 2020 – Investments for introduction of modern technologies for using waste as raw material in new production and/or other alternative waste uses; introduction of zero-waste technologies, innovative production materials and increased use of recyclable materials; technologies for the manufacturing of “green products”, etc. in all economic sectors.
- RDP 2014 - 2020 – Investments in the proper storage and use of animal waste and investments in the construction of new and reconstruction of existing facilities for processing secondary products, waste, residues and other raw materials into bio energy in the farms, forestries and the processing plants; investments to facilitate the supplies and usage of renewable energy sources from secondary products, waste, residues and other non-food materials for the bio-economy.

- MFP 2014 - 2020 – Investments related to the reduction of pollution caused by ships, port facilities, marine litter; modernization of aquaculture farms in order to reduce the negative impact on the environment.

3. Interventions related to preserving Natura 2000 and biodiversity:

- MFP 2014 - 2020 – Improving the fishing equipment and ships selectivity; Compensations for production facilities in Natura 2000 sites; collection of data for fishery sector and ensuring the integrated marine monitoring and planning.
- RDP 2014 - 2020 – Measures for maintenance and prevention of degradation processes in agricultural lands with high nature value, excluding the exclusive state property lands. The OPE provides mainly funding for restoration of natural habitats and species habitats in Natura 2000, including such as high nature-value grasslands. Measures for maintenance of high nature value lands in Natura 2000 will be eligible only in exclusive state property lands and in lands where the mechanisms of the RDP are not applicable. The latter type of lands could cover lands different from agricultural lands and/or where there are no registered farmers willing to cultivate the land, e.g. lands near the Black sea, lands that are of investment interest, which could be purchased under OPE and restored.

With regard to forestry land measures, RDP provides funding under Measure 8 of the programme for investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests, including in Natura 2000. Measures in Natura 2000 forestry lands different than exclusive state property forestry lands will be funded. The OPE provides funding for improvement of forest nature habitats and species habitats entirely within Natura 2000 and in exclusive state property forestry lands.

Measures related to prevention and restoration of forest fires, nature disasters and catastrophic events consequences in forest lands are covered by RDP. RDP provides funding for compensation payments for Natura 2000 agricultural lands. The designation of orders for SPA and SACs is a necessary precondition for the compensations.

- OPHRD 2014 - 2020 – Envisages funding for interventions that increase employment opportunities in sectors with high potential such as the green jobs. Investments are as follows: support for employers and enterprises within Natura 2000; trainings for young entrepreneurs within Natura 2000 for planning and development of eco-business, etc.
- The OPE will increase the employment with measures for establishment of Natura 2000 management structure and will contribute to temporary employment when funding management and implementation of priority axis 3 projects.
- OPGG 2014 - 2020 – The OPE will provide funding for establishment of a national unit in charge of NPAF management. OPGG will provide funding for the functioning of the mentioned national unit and for strengthening its capacity.
- OPSEIG 2014 - 2020 – Supports measures for environmental education at schools such as development of new books, increase of the literacy for nature sciences;

promotion of higher education in nature sciences, incl. establishment of networks with the business. The OPE provides funding for innovative environmental events that will sustain the population's interest of this topic.

- Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (FM of EEA) - under BG03 "Biodiversity and ecosystems" programme – support will be provided for development of national methodologies for biophysical evaluation of ecosystems and evaluation of their services out of Natura 2000. The OPE envisages verification of the methodologies, developed under the FM of EEA, and their update if necessary, and biophysical evaluation of ecosystems and their services within Natura 2000. Further, assessment of ecosystem services economic value will be carried out and a system for their paid use in Natura 2000 will be developed.

4. Interventions related to risk prevention and management:

- OPE 2014 - 2020 – Support will be provided for the establishment of a National Real Time Water Management System whose main task is to provide the information required for water management and to issue timely alerts in case of floods or droughts. Also, 6 centers for increasing the preparedness of the population for an adequate response to floods will be established. Measures for the introduction of preventive and flood risk management solutions, including application of an ecosystem-based approach, will be funded. Investments for landslides risk prevention and management are envisaged.
- RDP 2014 - 2020 – Support will be provided for risk management in agriculture – creation and development of climate change resistant crops, increasing the share of agricultural lands under agro-ecological practices, reducing the risk of floods and drought in rural areas.

5. Interventions related to improvement of ambient air quality:

- OPE 2014 - 2020 – Support for measures for carrying out review and analysis of the municipal plans on the ambient air quality, supporting the competent authorities in the preparation/revision, implementation and control of municipal plans and monitoring of the ambient air quality, measures for reduction of domestic heating and public transport emissions (including retrofitting of operating public transport vehicles, etc.).
- OPRG 2014 - 2020 – Support for the "development and improvement of systems for public transport using buses, trams, trolley buses that meet the European regulations for emissions from the engines and the use of renewable/alternative energy sources for public transport" (purchase of new public transport vehicles). As well as the implementation of energy efficiency measures in residential and administrative buildings and in students' dormitory buildings, incl. gasification; installations for production of energy from renewable energy sources to meet users energy consumption needs, measures to improve urban environment, including green infrastructure and connection of green areas in order to improve urban ecosystems.
- OPTTI 2014 - 2020 – Investments for improvement the infrastructure for intermodal transport and enhancing the quality of services for passengers and cargo.

- RDP 2014 - 2020 – Investments for reducing the industrial emissions from enterprises in the agricultural sector and development of basic services and rehabilitation of infrastructure in rural areas.
- OPIC 2014 - 2020 – Investments aimed at increasing the energy and resource efficiency of the enterprises through the introduction of low-carbon technologies, eco-innovations.

6. Technical Assistance:

- OPE 2014-2020 – Support for strengthening the MA administrative capacity on programme management and implementation, and of beneficiaries in relation with the cycle of implementation of specific projects under the programme – public procurement cases, contracting, appropriate implementation and management of the approved projects, and for the subsequent proper use and maintenance of the acquired assets and etc.
- OPGG 2014-2020 – Support will be provided for general trainings for increasing the administrative capacity of staff, concerning the implementation of common ex-ante conditionalities (such as public procurement, state aid, project management, etc.) improving administrative services to citizens and businesses by standardizing services, introducing complex administrative services, introduction of e-governance and human resource management.

In terms of the measures set out in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, OPE 2014-2020 envisages support for activities related to the flood prevention/protection through implementation of the measures laid down in the Flood Risk Management Plans. In fulfilment of these obligations some of the measures envisaged in the Danube Strategy will be implemented.

Regarding the financing of measures related to achieving a healthy marine environment, acc. provisions of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, OPE will contribute to a healthy marine environment, taking into account the goals and recommendations in the Black Sea Strategy. On the other hand, OPTTI 2014-2020 will support measures to protect the marine and river environment in ports and coasts through the provision of reception facilities for waste and cargo residues originating from ships operations.

At the same time, synergy and complementarity with the transnational, cross-border and trans-regional cooperation programmes will be sought. Clear, accurate and specific demarcation (where necessary at project evaluation and implementation stage), which will reduce the risk of double financing of the activities provided for therein, will be ensured.

In the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy, which promotes the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the European Union, an integrated approach should be applied by coordinating the ESI Funds with other appropriate financial instruments of the Union. The complementarities and synergies of the funds and financial instruments targeted at the environmental sector will enhance the effect of their use.

In the implementation of OPE 2014-2020 complementarity is possible with the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action - LIFE and experience gained under LIFE projects' implementation will be used. Additionally, experts responsible for LIFE

programme implementation within MOEW will participate in the elaboration of project selection criteria under OPE.

OPE 2014-2020 will contribute to Priority “Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation” of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme through implementation of measures under PA 1, 2 and 3 of OPE.

The ESIF support may be combined with national financial instruments aimed at the implementation of projects in the environmental sector. In this sense, the Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities (EMEPA) offers such options. The EMEPA funds all areas, where funding under OPE 2014-2020 is provided for, by providing grants of up to 100% and interest-free loans which may be granted to public authorities in full amount and to trade companies and sole traders in the amount of up to 70% of the total project cost.

The implementation of the integrated approach in the use of the grants by the EMEPA will allow synergies between the existing national funding and EU funding in the area of environment to be achieved.

To enhance the effect of the use of appropriate financial instruments, the financial resources available in the form of grants may be combined in an appropriate way with loans and loan guarantees from the EIB. In addition, the bank provides an opportunity the experience of external experts in finance and management of the institution to be used for the successful implementation of the projects by the beneficiaries.

SECTION 9 EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

(Reference: Article 96(6)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

Information about the applicability and fulfilment of the ex-ante conditionalities (optional)

<9.0 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" PA=Y>

The identified ex-ante conditionalities are as follow:

Thematic ex-ante conditionalities:

- 5.1. Risk prevention and risk management: The existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation;
- 6.1. Water sector: The existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.;
- 6.2. Waste sector: Promoting economically and environmentally sustainable investments in the waste sector particularly by the development of waste management plans consistent with Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, and with the waste hierarchy.

General ex-ante conditionalities:

- 4. Existence of arrangements for effective enforcement of Union's legislation on public procurements in the field of European structural and investments funds.
- 5. Existence of arrangements for effective enforcement of Union's rules on state aid in the field of European structural and investments funds (The applicability of the conditionality is based on a preliminary assessment with regards to the possibility of interventions which could fall within the scope of the legislation on de minimis aid and block exemption regulation).
- 6. Existence of arrangements for effective enforcement effective implementation of the Union's environmental legislation on EIA and SEA.
- 7. The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programs. 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.

Information on the fulfillment, as well as on the implementation of the necessary additional actions is updated monthly and is available in separate Annexes in line with the Partnership Agreement.

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

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axis or axes to which the conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled Yes/no	Reference (reference to the strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. references to relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by weblinks or access to full text)	Explanations
<9.1.1 type="S" maxlength="500" input="S" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.1.2 type="S" maxlength="100" input="S" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.1.3 type="C" input="G" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.1.4 type="S" maxlength="500" input="S" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.1.5 type="B" input="S" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.1.6 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.1.7 type="S" maxlength="1000" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >
5.1. Risk prevention and risk management: The existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	4. Flood risk and landslides prevention and management	No	A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: — a description of the process, methodology, methods, and non-sensitive data used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritization of investment; — a description of single-risk and multi-risk scenarios; — taking into account, where appropriate, national climate change adaptation strategies	No	Preliminary flood risk assessments for the four Regions for Basin management. A Third National Action Plan on Climate Change for the period 2013-2020 has been adopted. Analysis and assessment of the risk and vulnerability of the sectors in the Bulgarian economy from climate change have been prepared. Analysis of the risk of landslides on the territory of Bulgaria The landslides in Bulgaria are mapped. Methodology for prioritization of the landslides	Additional efforts needed.

6.1. Water sector: Existence of a) water pricing policy providing adequate incentives for users to use the water resources efficiently and b) adequate contribution of the different water uses to recover the water services costs at the level defined in the approved river basin management plan for programmes' supported investments	1. Water	No	For the sectors receiving support from ERDF and CF, the Member State has provided the different users with access to the recovery of water services costs by sectors in compliance with Article 9 (1) (first dash) of Directive 2000/60/EC, taking into account, where appropriate, the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.	No	<p>River Basin Management Plans in force and reported to EC on 22.03.2010</p> <p>http://www3.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=66&lang=bg</p> <p>Water act:</p> <p>http://www3.moew.government.bg/files/file/Water/Legislation/Zakoni/ZAKON_za_vodite.pdf</p> <p>Tariff for water abstraction, usage of a water body and pollution</p> <p>http://www3.moew.government.bg/files/file/Water/Legislation/tarifi/Ttaksi_vodovz_polzv_zamyrs.pdf</p> <p>Legislation in the water sector:</p> <p>http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=40</p>	The criteria are partially fulfilled only as for the drinking water supply services and the urban areas wastewater treatment.
			Adoption of a river basin management plan for the river basin region in accordance with Article 13 of Directive 2000/60/EC.	No	<p>River basin management plans</p> <p>http://www3.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=66&lang=bg</p> <p>River Basin Management Plans are into force and reported to EC on 22.03.2010.</p>	
6.2. Waste sector: Promotion of economically and environmentally sustainable investments in the waste sector,	2. Waste	Yes	An implementation report as requested by Article 11(5) of Directive 2008/98/EC has been submitted to	Yes	The report was sent to the European Commission on 30 September 2013.	

more specifically by development of waste management plans in accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC on waste and the waste hierarchy.			the Commission on progress towards meeting the targets set out in Article 11 of Directive 2008/98/EC.			
			The existence of one or more waste management plans as required under Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC.	Yes	National Waste Management Plan 2014 -2020 http://www.moew.government.bg/files/file/Waste/NACIONALE_N_PLAN/_NPUO_2014-2020.pdf	The National Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 was adopted on 22 December 2014 by the Council of Ministers.
			The existence of waste prevention programmes, as required under Article 29 of Directive 2008/98/EC.	Yes	National Waste Management Plan 2014 -2020 http://www.moew.government.bg/files/file/Waste/NACIONALE_N_PLAN/_NPUO_2014-2020.pdf	The programme for prevention of generating waste is part of the National Waste Management Plan 2014-2020, adopted on 22 December 2014 by the CM.
			Necessary measures to achieve the targets on preparation for re-use and recycling by 2020 consistent with Article 11(2) of Directive 2008/98/EC have been adopted.	Yes	Since 13.07.2012 the promulgated Waste Management Act sets the targets and responsibilities. http://www3.moew.government.bg/files/file/Waste/Legislation/Zakoni/ZUO.pdf	Measures for targets achievement are included in the new National Waste Management Plan.
4. Existence of arrangements for effective enforcement of Union's legislation on public procurements in the field of European structural and	1. Water 2. Waste 3.NATURA 2000 and Biodiversity 4. Flood risk and landslides prevention and management	Partially	Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	No	National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020 (Adopted with Council of Ministers Decision 498/11.07.2014 –	Measures in this direction will be further strengthened. The strategy envisages development of new Procurement Act and proposes measures for using a uniform practice by the

investments funds	5.Improvement of the ambient air quality 6.Technical assistance				http://www.government.bg/cgi-bin/cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0211&n=99&g The Strategy provides for measures to improve efficiency in public procurement and to reassure compliance with the EU legislation in the field.	Public Procurement Agency, MA of OPs, National Audit Office, Public Financial Inspection Agency (PFIA), Commission for Protection of Competition (CPC) and the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) and coordination of their activities. It includes 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. Letters by the CPC and the SAC to optimize the system for appeals were received.
			Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	The National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020 envisages introduction of e-communication to the stage “e-offer” by the end of 2016	Measures in this direction will be further strengthened.

			Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	No	<p>MA of the OPE ensures trainings for the MA experts related to the effective implementation of the public procurement legislation, avoidance of the risk for financial corrections and administrative penalties during the procurement process.</p> <p>MA of the OPE publishes on its web site procedures, manuals and guidance.</p> <p>The National Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020 envisages measures for trainings of MA of the OPs and the Public Procurement Agency staff.</p>	
			Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	No	<p>The MA of the OPE experts involved in the procurement process are provided with relevant trainings.</p> <p>The National Strategy envisages measures for enhancing the capacity of the PPA and measures for technical assistance for experts involved in the public procurement.</p>	
5. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of	1. Water 2. Waste	Yes	Arrangements for the effective application of	Yes	National and European legislation on state aid rules:	

Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	3.NATURA 2000 and Biodiversity 4.Flood risk and landslides prevention and management 5. Improvement of the ambient air quality		Union State aid rules.		http://stateaid.minfin.bg/	
			Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	All MA of the OPs take part in trainings and could participate in trainings organized by the Public Finance School to the Ministry of Finance.	
			Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	National and European legislation on state aid rules: http://stateaid.minfin.bg/ The draft amendment of the State aid act provides the introduction of a specific obligation to administrators of state aid (including MA of the OPE) to enhance, maintain and ensure sufficient capacity for planning, developing, notification, management and control of the provided state aid and de minimis.	
6. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.6.	1. Water 2. Waste 3. NATURA 2000 and Biodiversity 4. Flood risk and landslides prevention and management 5. Improvement of the ambient air quality	Yes	Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (2) (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the	Yes	Environment protection act (promulgated in State Gazette No 91/25.09.2002). Ordinance on the terms and conditions for EIA (last modification with SG No 94/30.11.2012). Ordinance on the terms and conditions for SEA (last modification	

			Council (3) (SEA).		with SG No 94/30.11.2012).	
			Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives.	Yes	<p>Manuals developed within the JASPERS project are published at the MoEW web site:</p> <p>http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=233</p> <p>E-network of the SEA and EIA experts within the MoEW is established, incl. on regional level. The network is used for exchange of information, dissemination of information and documents electronically.</p>	
			Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	<p>Units dealing with SEA and EIA are established in all of the 16 Regional Inspectorates for Environment and Water. The functional responsibilities of the experts include coordination of the SEA and EIA procedure.</p> <p>http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=164</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	1. Water 2. Waste 3. NATURA 2000 and Biodiversity 4. Flood risk and landslides prevention and management	Partially	<p>Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place:</p> <p>— the identification of sources and</p>	Yes	<p>European statistics code of practice</p> <p>Declaration on the quality of the national statistical system of the</p>	

necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	5. Improvement of the ambient air quality		mechanisms to ensure statistical validation; — arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data.		Republic of Bulgaria Statistics Act National Statistics Programme for 2013 Rules for the dissemination of statistical products and services	
			An effective system of result indicators including: — the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme; — 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.	No	List of standardized statistical data	

			Procedures to ensure that all operations financed by the program adopt an effective system of indicators.	No		
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9.2 A description of the actions to fulfill the ex-ante conditionalities, the responsible bodies and a timetable for such actions¹⁰¹

Table 25: Actions to be undertaken to fulfill applicable general ex-ante conditionalities–

General ex-ante conditionalities	Criteria not fulfilled	Action to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible for fulfillment
<9.2.1 type="S" maxlength="500" input="G" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="G" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.3 type="S" maxlength="1000" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.4 type="D" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.5 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >
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.	<p>Action 1 - Establishing codified, sustainable and simplified legislation in the field of public procurement by adopting of a new Public procurement act and regulations for its implementation.</p> <p>Action 2 - 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.</p> <p>Action 3 - Review of the appeal system and proposals for its optimization (i.e. safeguards against abuse of the right to appeal, etc.).</p>	January 2016	<p>Action 1 – ME, PPA</p> <p>Action 2 – MA, CCU, EA AEUF, PPA, Court of Auditors, PFIA</p> <p>Action 3 – CPC, SAC</p>

¹⁰¹ These tables 25 and 26 cover only applicable general and thematic ex-ante conditionalities which are completely unfilled or partially fulfilled (as set out in table 24 above) at the time of submission of the operational programme.

	Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	<p>Action 1 - Design and implementation of training and development programme for staff involved in the management of ESIF.</p> <p>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.</p>	December 2016	<p>Action 1 – IPA, MA, PPA</p> <p>Action 2 – MA, CCU, EA AEUF, PPA, Court of Auditors, PFIA</p>
	Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	<p>Action 1 - Enhancing the administrative capacity of the PPA by increasing the number of the experts and carrying out of trainings.</p> <p>Action 2 – Providing improved technical assistance to the experts applying the public procurement rules through organization and conduction of trainings and other needs identified from consultation of target groups.</p>	December 2016	<p>Action 1 – ME, PPA</p> <p>Action 2 – IPA, MA, PPA</p>
<p>7. The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>An effective system of result indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme; — the establishment of targets for these indicators; 	<p>Action 1 – Selection of performance indicators for each operational programme up to 2 months after the adoption of the OP.</p> <p>Action 2 – Definition of baseline and target values for result indicators under priority axes 5 “Improvement of the ambient air quality” in compliance with a developed action plan.</p>	December 2016	<p>Action 1 – NSI, OP MA</p> <p>Action 2 – NSI, OPE MA</p>

	— the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data.			
	Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Action 1: Development of procedures to collect and process the microdata necessary to assess the contribution of operations to specific objectives of each OP up to two months after the adoption of the OP.	August 2015	NSI, OP MA

Table 26: Actions to be undertaken to fulfill applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionalities	Criteria not fulfilled	Action to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible for fulfilment
<9.2.1 type="S" maxlength="500" input="G" PA=Y "SME" TA- "NA">	<9.2.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="G" PA=Y "SME" TII- "NA" >	<9.2.3 type="S" maxlength="1000" input="M" PA=Y "SME" TII- "NA" >	<9.2.4 type="D" input="M " PA=Y "SME" TII- "NA" >	<9.2.5 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M " PA=Y "SME" TII- "NA">
5.1. Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management, taking into account climate change adaptation	A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place.	Action 1: Adoption of flood risk management plans, including a national catalogue of measures and national priorities for flood risk management. The flood risk maps will provide information for assessment of the potential adverse consequences for different flood scenarios.	December 2016	MOEW MoI

<p>6.1. Water sector: Existence of:</p> <p>a) water pricing policy providing adequate incentives for users to use the water resources efficiently and</p> <p>b) adequate contribution of the different water uses to recover the water services costs at the level defined in the approved river basin management plan for programmes' supported investments.</p>	<p>For the sectors receiving support from ERDF and CF, Member State has provided the different users with access to the recovery of water services costs by sectors in compliance with Article 9(1) (first dash) of Directive 2000/60/EC, taking into account, where appropriate, the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.</p>	<p>Action 1 - Implementation of a national survey to ensure the needed data on climate change and its impact on water.</p> <p>Action 2 – Drawing up the water use economic analysis for the period 2007 -2013 which would be the basis of the measures and pricing policy in the second RBMPs.</p> <p>Action 3 – Adoption of an Ordinance on the water use standards as referred to in Article 117(a), paragraph 2 of the Water Act.</p> <p>Action 4 – Adoption of legislative amendments in the regulatory framework in the WSS sector.</p> <p>Action 5 – Introduction of different prices of the service water supply for subscribed users within water consumption standards, and users exceeding such standards.</p> <p>Action 6 – Drafting an amendment to the Tariff for water abstraction, water facility use fees and pollution fees.</p> <p>Action 7 – Drawing up cost-recovery analysis, using the available statistics has been prepared.</p> <p>Action 8 – Adoption of Law on the Amendment and Supplement of the Water Act whereby simple and applicable mechanisms for determining pollution fee should be introduced.</p> <p>Action 9 – Introduction of mechanism to ring-fence the revenues based on the full depreciation of assets, including the grant funded assets, and a mechanism to retain the funds for future reinvestments in the sector.</p>	December 2015	<p>Action 1 – MoEW</p> <p>Action 2 – MoEW</p> <p>Action 3 – MoEW, MRDPW, MAF, ME, MH</p> <p>Action 4 – MRDPW, EWRC, MoEW</p> <p>Action 5 – MoEW, EWRC, MRDPW</p> <p>Action 6 – MoEW</p> <p>Action 7 – MoEW</p> <p>Action 8 – MoEW</p> <p>Action 9 – MRDPW, MF</p>
	<p>Adoption of a river basin management plan for the river basin region in accordance with Article 13 of Directive 2000/60/EC.</p>	<p>Action 1 - Adoption of the second River Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>Action 2 - Implementation of a three-year programme for completion of inter-calibration of the methods for analysis and values of quality of biological elements (QBE) applicable to the types of surface waters in Bulgaria corresponding to certain common EU types.</p> <p>Action 3 - National studies to be carried out to overcome specified deficiencies: updating the typology and the classification system for assessment of surface water bodies of the categories “river”, “lake” and “transitional waters” and assessment of the impact of diffuse sources of pollution over the status of surface waters and their chemical status. Action 4 - Investments for further building of monitoring networks.</p> <p>Action 5 - Implementation of the measures undertaken in accordance with Article 11(5) for the water facilities, which fail to achieve the targets as identified under Article 4. The measures are planned such as specified in the report under Art.15 of the Water Framework Directive (presented by Bulgaria to the European Commission in 2010).</p>	December 2016	MoEW

SECTION 10 REDUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

(Reference: Article 96(6)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

A summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden.

<10.0 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" decision=N PA=Y>

During the period 2007-2013 the OPE beneficiaries implement for the first time projects financed by the EU Funds. The beneficiaries experience difficulties in varying degrees with regards to the administrative procedures in the different stages of the project cycle. Those are mainly related to the requirements for project application, and after the project approval: the preparation of the public procurement procedures and the submission of payment requests for their verification. In particular, the administrative burden results from several main factors: complex and cumbersome procedures, the project applicants find difficult the preparation of project applications, lack of electronic system for the processes in the beginning of the programming period and the ensuing inability of the applicants/beneficiaries to have an electronic communication with the MA using a functioning electronic system.

The steps taken to overcome these difficulties in the period 2007 – 2013 are:

- Complementary documents were elaborated and implemented under the three priority axes which are fundamental to the management of the programme. They are to prioritise the activities, define an indicative scope, specify the beneficiaries for the various types of procedures and justify the application of more flexible direct award procedure for the activities.
- The competition-based project selection procedures remain complex. The high requirements for the preparation of project application documents under this scheme are one of the factors for increasing the administrative burden for the beneficiaries in the beginning of the period 2007-2013. In respect of the specific groups of beneficiaries, including NGOs, flexible grant schemes, which allow simplified provision of support with clearly defined scope of eligible activities based on the approved plans and programmes at the national level should be introduced. When the beneficiaries are administrative structures more flexible provision of support need to be considered, taking into account their functions, budget preparation and expenditures stipulated in the national legislation.
- Similarly to the other programmes OPE is characterised by a large document volume and impeded document flow at every stage of the project cycle. In the implementation of the programme we strive to simplify the requirements for announcement of the grant award procedures, as the application form and project budget are simplified in the next procedures¹⁰².

¹⁰² A combined procedure BG161PO005/10/1.11/03/19 announced under OPE Priority Axis 1 gave the beneficiaries a possibility for preparation of the project proposals and their further implementation. While under Priority Axis 2 a combined direct funding procedures BG161PO005/10/2.10/07/22 for 13 regional waste management systems was announced, for reduction of the administrative burdens in sector biodiversity a

- The introduction of direct award procedures resulted in a more active dialogue with the beneficiaries at every project stage, as the MA of OPE carried out obligatory preliminary consultations, and during project implementation regular meetings were held. In some cases an on-the-spot support is provided by the so-called mobile expert groups.
- Through launching of the direct award procedures, the procedure for evaluation of project proposals considerably was simplified. It became more flexible and facilitated the dialogue between the MA and the applicants in terms of revising the project proposals, including further development.
- The application by the beneficiaries of the procurement arrangements for the implementation of project activities is an additional burden delaying project implementation as the beneficiaries need to follow the ex-ante/ex post control procedures for the tender documentation. The participation of the Public Procurement Agency in the ex-ante control of the major public contracts financed by EU funds is extremely positive step to improve the work on the OPE. On the other hand, the same administrative burden, regardless of the project type and budget, is overcome with the elimination of the ex-ante control on all public contracts, with the exception of the construction, supervision and on-going audit of the projects. This contributes to the adherence to the project schedules and ensure the lawful conduct of the public procurement procedures.
- The long deadlines for verification and reimbursement of the costs are also overcome by complying with the deadlines determined by the national legislation are observed. In the 2007 – 2013 period the verification process was optimised through simplification of the document checks and strict control during the on-the-spot checks. The monitoring of projects is carried out by the OPE Intermediate Body (IB) coordinators maintaining constant communication with the respective beneficiaries. Instructions are issued to all beneficiaries addressing different issues.

The conclusions of the analyses at national level shows that the coordination between the authorities responsible for the preparation, assessment, implementation, monitoring and control of the projects is often associated with limitations in the flexibility and delay in all phases of the project cycle. The functioning of MA and IB in 2007-2013 period in one and the same administration is a circumstance for delay in the work and for the creation of additional administrative burden. A decision was taken to merge the MA and IB responsible for OPE management and implementation for the periods 2007–2013 and 2014–2020 in order to reduce the bureaucratic burden and prevent overlaps in the scope of controls.

MA of OPE takes stock of the results produced by implementing the measures for reducing the administrative burden. As these measures have proven their effectiveness the efforts to further simplify the procedures will continue in the 2014 – 2020 period. The additional measures are to be planned:

- Simplification of procedures, use of standardised application/reporting forms, reducing the number of accompanying documents and expediting document

development of "simplified" procedures BG161PO005/11/3/3.2/05/26 and BG161PO005/11/3/3.2/06/27 for the activities carried out in the parks and reserves were elaborated.

flow;

- Reducing the lead time for ex-ante/ex-post control and verification through optimisation of the MA structure;
- Significant simplification of the evaluation of project proposals submitted under the direct award procedure, where appropriate;
- Using the new functionalities of the Unified Management Information System (UMIS 2020) and promoting the use of ICT solutions in expanding the e-application and reporting, monitoring of the project implementation, electronic communication between the MA and the beneficiaries;
- Enhanced use of support forms which are alternative and/or complementary to grants. OPE 2014 - 2020 should disburse some of the programme funds using financial instruments whose management cycle entails much more simplified requisite documentation and procedures. Programme budgets for the administrative units, simplified grant schemes for NGOs as well as the application of financial instruments in accordance with Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013 are planned for the 2014 – 2020 programme period;
- Within three months from adopting a national methodology for applying simplified expenditures for the projects co-financed by the ESI Funds the respective procedures will be incorporated in the OPE Procedure Manual.

SECTION 11 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

(Reference: Article 96(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

11.1 Sustainable development

A description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

<13.1 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

The principle of sustainable development remains a fundamental principle of the EU under the European legislation. The legislation of the principle is contained in Art. 3 of the TFEU, which provides that the Union shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, highly competitive social market economy aiming at full employment and social progress and a high level of protection and improvement of the environmental quality. The key strategic document at European level, which governs the application of the principle, is the Sustainable Development Strategy (adopted in June 2006). The strategy defines the overall objectives of the Union in terms of the climate change and clean energy, sustainable transport, production and consumption and better management of the natural resources.

Contribution of OPE 2014-2020 to the achievement of sustainable development:

The implementation of OPE will contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The priority axes of the programme are aimed at achieving these Thematic Objectives of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013, which relate to the environmental protection, promotion of resource efficiency, adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management. The operational programme will contribute to achieving the investment priorities set out in each priority axis, which, on the whole, are aimed to achieve sustainable development. In addition, the implementation of the operational programme will contribute to achieving compliance with the requirements of the EU and national environmental and climate change legislation. OPE 2014-2020 has been prepared in accordance with the key strategic documents of the European Union and contributes to the achievement of their objectives (Section 1). Due to the nature of the OP priority axes, which are entirely designed to protect the environment, the operations under the programme, which have been selected for funding, will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Contribution of the MOEW to the mainstreaming of the environmental and climate change policies:

According to Art. 11 of the TFEU the environmental protection requirements should be integrated in the formulation and implementation of the EU policies and activities, in particular with a view to achieving sustainable development. The process of mainstreaming of the environmental and climate change policies in the key programming documents for the period 2014-2020, will be supported by the Guidelines on Mainstreaming of the Environmental Policy and Climate Change Policy – Programming Phase, describing the specific interventions, which are a priority in terms of meeting the requirements of the both policies. They are aimed at the better water management, greater efficiency, dealing with the consequences of the climate change to the water, better waste management consistent with its management hierarchy in order to achieve higher efficiency of this resource, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, improving the air quality, reducing the greenhouse gas emissions and conservation and restoration of the biodiversity, including the Natura 2000 network. The inclusion of the priority

interventions so identified in other programmes co-financed by the ESIF is a key tool for mainstreaming of the environmental and climate change policies in the documents developed for the programming period 2014-2020, and therefore - for achievement of sustainable development.

Implementing the principle of sustainable development at the operational programme level and at the level of operations:

To ensure the integration of the environmental policy in the sectorial and regional policies, when implementing programmes and operations financed by the ESIF the requirements of the current legislation on the preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment and Assessment of the Compatibility with the objectives for conservation of protected areas are applied. OPE is a subject to SEA, which, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013, is an integral part of the preliminary assessment of the programme. To continue the practice established in the programming period 2007-2013, the operational programme will use a set of criteria to assess the operations, which will include criteria for compliance with the applicable environmental legislation. The operations, which do not conform to this set of criteria, will not be funded by the OPE.

The MOEW has undertaken to prepare the documents required for the implementation of the environmental and climate change policies in the management of the ESIF. In fulfilment of its commitment, the MOEW has prepared Guidelines on Mainstreaming of the Environmental Policy and Climate Change Policy – phase “Implementation of the Partnership Agreement and the programmes in 2014-2020 programming period” approved by Council of Ministers Decision No 3 of 6th of January 2016. The Guidelines will assist the Managing Authorities in the practical application of the principle of sustainable development at the stage of approval and implementation of the operations. The criteria for mainstreaming will ensure that the operations, which contribute to a large extent to the environmental protection and climate change policies, will be given a priority in the approval and implementation. As an additional measure, the MOEW plans to establish a relevant mechanism, which will support the mainstreaming of the environmental and climate change policies.

11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

A description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disability.

<13.2 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

Implementing the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the programming process:

The principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination applies to the preparation of the documents for the programming period 2014-2020. The working group involved in the development of the Partnership Agreement includes a representative of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD). The CPD is an independent specialised state authority, which has competences in the field of prevention and protection against discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities. The Commission establishes violations, imposes sanctions and issues mandatory provisions in terms of compliance with the legislation on the equal treatment.

The principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination applies to the preparation of OPE. The working group involved in the preparation of the operational programme makes the key decisions about it by reviewing, discussing and coordinating activities ensuring the implementation of the horizontal principles and compliance of the programme with the applicable national and European legislation.

Additional mechanism to ensure compliance with the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination at the programming stage is the participation of the National Council for Integration of Persons with Disabilities (NCIPD) as a social partner in the working group involved in the development of OPE 2014-2020. According to the Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act the state policy in this area is defined by the Council of Ministers, under which the NCIPD has been established. The Council is an advisory body, which includes representatives of the state appointed by the Council of Ministers, national representative organisations of the persons with disabilities, national representative organisations of the employers and employees, national representative organisations of the employers and the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria. It delivers opinion on all draft legislation, strategies, programmes and plans affecting the rights of the persons with disabilities and their integration. The working group involves also representatives of professional organisations and the national organisations of employers and employees in their capacity as social partners. This type of representation will be used in the design of the Monitoring Committee of OPE 2014-2020.

Implementing the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the assessment and implementation of the operations:

During the programming period 2007-2013 the operations / projects are selected for funding by OPE through the application of two procedures: project selection procedure and direct grant award procedure¹⁰³. The project selection procedures are used widely in the cases where there is more than one entity (beneficiary), which may perform the relevant activity. The access to funding is free for all potential beneficiaries of these procedures, without imposing any restrictions on the application. According to the existing legislation¹⁰⁴ the project proposals in these types of procedures are assessed on a competitive basis - subject to the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

The above-described mechanism for assessment and approval of the operations through conducting competitive procedures will be implemented in the programming period 2014-2020. The operations, which may be performed by more than one beneficiary, will be assessed and selected for funding in accordance with the principles of free and fair competition, equal treatment and non-discrimination. The violation of these principles may be used by the stakeholders as a basis to appeal the acts of the Managing Authority of the operational programme in the court.

Pursuant to the Partnership Agreement the Central Coordination Unit in the administration of the Council of Ministers shall issue guidelines for the horizontal application of the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination to the various stages of the programme

¹⁰³ With the amendment of Regulation № 1083/2006 it is ensured an opportunity to provide reimbursable grant that could be used in the implementation of OPE 2007-2013.

¹⁰⁴ Decree № 121 of the Council of Ministers of 31 May 2007 laying down the Grant Award Procedure under the Operational Programmes co-financed by the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund of the European Union (promulgated, SG issue 45 of 8.06.2007, effective from 8.06.2007, last issue 65 of 23.07.2013, effective from 23.07.2013).

implementation. The principle will be included in the assessment criteria for the operations funded through OPE 2014-2020, where it is applicable and appropriate.

Implementing the principle of equal opportunities in the access to the infrastructure constructed with funds from OPE 2014-2020

The requirements to provide equal access to certain categories of infrastructure, including for the persons with disabilities are set out in the national legislation. Pursuant to Art.169, para.2 of the Spatial Planning Act the construction works are designed, implemented and maintained in accordance with the requirements for accessible environment for the population, including for the persons with disabilities. The operations, which do not comply with the current legislation on ensuring equal access to the infrastructure, will not be selected for funding by Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020.

Implementing the principle of equal opportunities in the access to information for persons with disabilities

OPE 2014-2020 will maintain its own webpage where the operation selection procedures, rules, guidelines, guidance, manuals, lists of accepted and rejected operations applicable to the programme and other information about the management and implementation of the programme will be published. This information will be publicly available to all stakeholders. When organizing open days equal opportunities in the access to information will be ensured. During the programming period 2014-2020 the successful practice to promote the contribution of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund of the European Union in the media will apply.

11.3 Equality between men and women

A description of the contribution to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

<13.2 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

The principle of equal opportunities for men and women is directly related to the general principle of equality and non-discrimination. The national legislation in this area is based on the Protection against Discrimination Act (PDA), which implements the requirements of Directive 2000/43/EC and Directive 2004/113/EC. The act prohibits any direct or indirect discrimination based on sex, race, nationality, ethnicity, human genome, citizenship, origin, religion or faith, education, belief, political affiliation, personal or social status, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, property status or any other grounds established by law or international treaty, to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party. The PDA aims to promote equality of the persons to the law, equal treatment and equal opportunities for participation in the public life and effective protection against discrimination.

The implementation of the PDA will be controlled by the Commission for Protection against Discrimination that participates in the working group involved in the preparation of OPE 2014-2020 through its representative. The Mechanism of representation established within the working group will be applied to the creation of the Monitoring Committee of the programme.

The operations funded through OP Environment 2014-2020 should be performed in accordance with the principles and provisions of the EU and national legislation, including in terms of the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women. During the programming period 2007-

2013 the beneficiaries will be required to apply the principle of equal opportunities in the implementation of their projects with the signature of the grant agreements. They should provide the Managing Authority of the programme with information about the number of new jobs for men and women created as a result of the project implementation. The performance of these obligations of the beneficiaries is a subject to spot checks by the Managing Authority. The mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the principle of equality between men and women and the creation of employment applied in the period 2007-2013 will apply to the management and implementation of OPE 2014-2020.

SECTION 12 SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 A list of major projects for which the implementation is planned during the programming period

(Reference: Article 96 (2) (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 27: A list of major projects

Title	Planned time of notification/submission of the major project application to the Commission (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date of implementation (year quarter)	Priority axes/Investment priorities
<12.1.1 type="S" maxlength="500" input="S" decision=N>	<12.1.2 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.3 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.4 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.5 type="S" " input="S" decision=N >
Vratsa integrated water project	2017, 2nd quarter	2016, 4th quarter	2021, 4th quarter	1-Water/c (ii) - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.
Design and construction of installation for cogeneration in Sofia with recovery of RDF – third phase of the integrated system for municipal waste management of Sofia municipality	2018, 2nd quarter	2018, 4th quarter	2023, 4th quarter	2 – Waste/6a - Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.
Construction of WSS infrastructure – Bourgas WSS	2019, 2nd quarter	2019, 4th quarter	2023, 4th quarter	1-Water/c (ii) - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements.

12.2 The performance framework of the operational programme

Table 28: The performance framework of the operational programme, broken down by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Implementation step, financial, output result indicator or	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023) ¹⁰⁵		
						M	W	T
<12.2.1 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.2 type="S" input="G">	<12.3.2 type="S" input="G">	<12.4.2 type="S" input="G">	<12.5.2 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.6 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.7 type="S" input="G"> Входящи данни = „G“ >		
1-Water	CF		Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	89 000			220 000
			Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	PE	100 000			1 473 384
			New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number	10			18
			Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	169 764 705,88			1 196 318 599 ,00
2-Waste	ERDF	Less developed region	Additional waste recycling capacity	Tonnes/year	20 000			105 000
			Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	20 144 907,00			287 784 39 0,0 0

¹⁰⁵ Target values may be presented as a total number (M+W) or broken down by gender.

			Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	Tonnes/year	0			180 000
			Major project signed grant contract	Number	1			1
3- Natura 2000 and biodiversity	ERDF	Less developed region	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	247 723,962			1 565 668
			Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	7 097 300			101 390 000
			Surface area of habitats of species supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	0			2 878 749
			National information campaigns carried out	Number	1			3
			Species, supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	1			1
4-Flood and landslides risk prevention and management	CF		Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	1 300 000			2 750 000
			Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	4 500 000			78 528 323

			Reinforced landslide area	Hectares	2			80
5- Improve ment of the ambient air quality	CF		Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	743 151			58 823 530
			Projects for lowering the quantities of PM ₁₀ and NO _x	Number	0			5
			Submitted projects for lowering the quantities of PM ₁₀ and NO _x	Number	2			5

12.3 List of relevant partners involved in the preparation of the operational programme

<12.3 type="S" maxlength="10500" input="M" decision=N>	
I. Central authorities and associations of the regional and local authorities	
I.1. Central authorities	
I.1.1.	Council of Ministers
I.1.2.	Ministry of Environment and Water
I.1.3.	Executive Agency of Environment
I.1.4.	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
I.1.5.	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Work
I.1.6.	Ministry of Agriculture and Foods
I.1.7.	Ministry of Economy
I.1.8.	Ministry of Finance
I.1.9.	Ministry of Interior
I.1.10.	Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications
I.1.11.	Ministry of Education and Science
I.1.12.	Ministry of Health
I.1.13.	Ministry of Energy
I.1.14.	Ministry of Tourism
I.2. Association of regional and local authorities	

I.2.1.	National Association of Municipalities in Bulgaria
I.2.2.	Regional Development Council of the North Central Region
I.2.3.	Regional Development Council of the North-eastern Region
I.2.4.	Regional Development Council of the North western Region
I.2.5.	Regional Development Council of the South Central Region
I.2.6.	Regional Development Council of the South-eastern Region
I.2.7.	Regional Development Council of the South-western Region
II. Economic and social partners	
II.1.	Association of the Industrial Capital in Bulgaria
II.2.	Bulgarian Industrial Chamber
II.3.	Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
II.4.	Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria
II.5.	Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria
II.6.	Confederation of Labour “Podkrepa”
III. Organisations representing the public, including nongovernmental organisations working on environmental issues	
III.1.	National Council for Integration of People with Disabilities
III.2.	Commission for Protection against Discrimination
III.3.	WWF – World Wildlife Fund, Danube-Carpathian Programme
III.4.	Environmental Association “Za Zemyata “
III.5.	Foundation “Regional Initiatives“
III.6.	Bulgarian Association of the Consultants on European Programmes
III.7.	Association of municipal ecologists in Bulgaria
IV.	Other
IV.1.	National Statistical Institute
IV.2.	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research
IV.3.	Bulgarian Orthodox Church