

Annex V

Pattern of the programmes, co-financed by the EFRD (goal „Investment for growth and jobs“, ESF +, Cohesion fund и EFFMA — article 16, paragraph 3

CCI	
Title in EN	[255 characters ¹ OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT 2021-2027
Title in national language(s)	[255]
Version	
First year	[4] 2021
Last year	[4] 2027
Eligible from	01.01.2021
Eligible until	31.12.2029
Commission decision number	
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Non substantial transfer (art. 19.5)	Yes/No
NUTS regions covered by the programme (not applicable to the EMFF)	
Fund concerned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ERDF
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cohesion Fund
	<input type="checkbox"/> ESF+
	<input type="checkbox"/> EMFF

1. Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses

Reference: Article 17(3)(a)(i)-(vii) and 17(3)(b) CPR

*Text field [30 000]*Operational programme “Environment” (OPE) is a horizontal tool for implementation of environmental and climate change policies. This predetermines the compliance with the horizontal principles set out in Art. 3 of TEU and Art. 10 of TFEU, taking into account the EU Charter of fundamental rights – observation of disabled person rights and provision of access, eliminating inequalities and promoting gender equality, as well as

Numbers in square brackets refer to number of characters.

opposition to discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The sectoral scope of the programme predefines its main objective – to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment as set in Art. 11 and Art. 191, para. 1 of TFEU (respecting the “polluter pays” principle).

During the last 10 years Bulgaria remains macroeconomically stable. The Cohesion policy has a significant influence on the EU economy and, in particular, on Bulgarian, leading to cumulated long-term investment effects. The real GDP grows by approximately 3.1 % in 2018, following the domestic demand, and is expected to increase by 3.4 % during 2019 and 3.3% in 2020. It is foreseen that the EU-funded investments will continue to stimulate economic growth². Public investments increase to 43.6 % during 2018 and similar growth is expected about 2019 and for 2020 - 15.5%. Data clearly shows relation between European programmes and country’s progress in social and economic sphere and confirms the significance of operational programme and of policies, co-financed by EU funding.

After joining EU, Bulgaria increases its expenditures for environmental protection and restoration and achieves improvement of its ecological indexes, but there are some notable challenges. There are significant discrepancies between the regions in Bulgaria – among NUTS2 regions and also between urban and rural territories, which gives priority to some horizontal policies.

The centralized water supply systems cover 99,4% of the population and provide drinking water with relatively good quality. In some settlements, the quality of drinking water in the water supply network worsens, which requires provision of respective treatment or a new drinking water source. Cases of water regimes become more frequent. The main causes are related to climate change but also to water losses, because of the high water supply network amortization - the average age of the pipes is 36 years and more than 50% of the water is “non-revenue generating”, which predetermines the investment needs in reconstruction/ modernization of the water supply networks. Regarding the compliance with Directive 98/83/EC about the quality of water for human consumption, almost all Bulgarian citizens are connected to water supply network and have access to water. However, significant investments are required in order to guarantee that the water quality and the use of resources in the water supply meet the requirements of the EU Directives.

For protecting water resources in order to reduce the need of additional treatment before use, the pollution sources need to be identified and “preventing the pollution at source”-measures should be taken. The population’s connectivity to sewerage and wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) is increasing, along with improvement of the treatment technologies. However, the infrastructure investment needs in the sector remain high, considering the requirements of the EU acquis. The EU environmental legislation, regarding water sector, requires the potential climate change impact to be taken into account in the relevant planning tools (River basin management plans – RBMP, Flood risk management plans – FRMP, etc.). Bulgaria approved second generation RBMPs in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and

1. ² **Seventh Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion**,
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/bg/information/cohesion-report/

submitted the respective reports. According to the data presented, the rivers in Bulgaria are affected mostly by wastewater discharging from settlement sewerage systems (22%) and of pollution from agricultural activities (19%). 23% are affected by human impact of unknown origin. The most significant pressure on ground water bodies comes from agricultural agricultural (50%), as well as pollution from settlement discharges that are not connected to sewerage network (49%). The ecological status is good or very good in 46% from all assessed water bodies. Based on that, it is concluded that Bulgaria has to intervene additionally in order to achieve the goals for good status in accordance with the WFD. In this context the European Commission recommends priority measures to be taken, including ICT-based solutions, to enhance the monitoring capacity aiming to decrease the dependence of the ecological status assessment of water bodies on expert statements. In this regard, it is necessary to continue the efforts for improving the water monitoring networks, as well as to develop the necessary instruments and tools for improving assessment reliability and water management effectiveness. In 2016 Bulgaria has not yet achieved compliance with the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, despite the growing population share connected to public sewerage, incl. as a result from investments under OPE 2007-2013 and OPE 2014-2020. Only 1 728 506 P.E. out of 7 488 278 P.E. generated load in the country (reported in 2016) is in compliance with the requirements. However, the compliance grows significantly in the 2014-2020 period with 79 more agglomerations. This is a result of the increased quantity of wastewater collected and treated by the newly constructed infrastructure and of better reporting and assessment of data with the Regional Feasibility Studies (RFSs). For achieving compliance with the Directive investments are needed in more 329 more agglomerations (99 agglomerations above 10 000 P.E. and 230 between 2 000 and 10 000 P.E.). There are 22 designated territories (consolidated regions) in Bulgaria with 249 agglomerations (77 above 10 000 P.E. and 172 between 2 000 and 10 000 P.E.). The non-designated territories are 6 with 79 agglomerations. Within the non-designated territories, 61 agglomerations falls within areas served by a only one WSS Operator (regions where only 1 municipality is not part of the WSS Association) – 15 of them are above 10 000 P.E. and 46 – between 2 000 and 10 000 P.E.). OPE 2014-2020 supports achievement of compliance in 43 agglomerations with more than 10 000 P.E. in 15 designated territories (with EUR 1 bln.). It has to be taken into account that the development of RFSs only for territories of consolidated WSS Operators results in revision of the size and scope of some agglomerations, by applying the concentration principle and by proven necessity of geographic scope revision. This leads to update of data regarding the number of the agglomerations and hence to differences with the data within OPE 2014-2020 text. In addition, for achieving compliance the sewerage networks are necessary to be further constructed/renewed or reconstructed/modernized and also upgraded with additional treatment, where necessary, and respectively – WWTPs need to be renewed, reconstructed or modernized, in more 239 agglomerations.

The preliminary estimated financial needs are still significant - BGN 817 mln. for achieving compliance in agglomerations above 10 000 P.E. are needed, of which BGN 640 mln. for measures construction/further construction/reconstruction of sewerage networks and BGN 177 mln. – for construction of new or modernization of already constructed WWTPs.

The investments for agglomerations between 2 000 – 10 000 P.E. amount to above BGN 2 bln., of which BGN 1.7 bln. for construction/further construction/reconstruction of sewerage networks and above BGN 300 mln. – for construction of new or modernization of already constructed WWTPs.

Additionally, for implementation of the WFD and Directive 2007/60/EC requirements, Bulgaria approved and implements long-term planning for reducing the flood risk, as the country develops Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for the territory of the four basin management regions. The European Commission (EC) has carried out the respective assessment. Despite the significant and efficient efforts in determining objectives and measures for prevention, protection and readiness, the recommendation is for wider use of cost-benefit analyses when selecting flood risk reduction measures.

Floods are identified as the most significant nature disaster for Bulgaria. It is reported that they have caused major damages - BGN 796.5 mln. (EUR 407.24 mln.), followed by landslides – BGN 575.5 mln. (EUR 294.25 mln.), storms and whirlwinds – BGN 164.9 mln. (EUR 84.31 mln.), earthquakes – BGN 60 mln. (EUR 30.68 mln.), wildfires and droughts – respectively BGN 12.7 mln. (EUR 6.49 mln.) and BGN 268 mln. (EUR 137 mln.) (National statistical institute, 2018). Flood damages indicates that society is not protected and prepared enough to stand such risks, which are constantly rising as a result of climate change, leading to higher frequency of extreme climate events. This leads to the conclusion that support should be provided for establishment of a comprehensive disaster risk management system that is oriented rather towards preventing and averting these risks. Compliance should be provided with the National climate change adaptation strategy and Action plan, which set out the strategic framework and priorities for climate change adaptation by 2030 and with the National disaster risk reduction strategy 2018-2030. Recommendations under other strategic documents (National report for Bulgaria for 2019) shall be also considered. In general, there is a tendency of increased frequency of extreme events and disasters on the territory of the country, which is evidenced by such phenomena as frequent intense rainfall, warm and cold waves, droughts, forest fires and landslides. This affects socio-economic and natural systems. Biodiversity, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, water resources sectors, agriculture, forestry and tourism are expected to be affected by climate change. These changes will additionally affect society and its citizens, as well as economy in general and may cause enormous damages to agriculture production, infrastructure, housing and public buildings and even loss of human lives. The assessment of climate change costs is difficult, but most of the researches show that even minor climate change can result in significantly high costs. In particular, specific risks can lead to cascading impact across different economic sectors. A key horizontal problem for all sectors is the vulnerability to extreme weather events and the need to develop resilience and preparedness through comprehensive management and disaster risk prevention. OPE 2014-2020 funding (over EUR 55 mln.) has supported measures for prevention, preparedness, protection and response of the population, through which: 13 landslides (80 ha) are fortified; more than 165 000 people are covered (expected to reach 1 390 000 people) by implementation of flood prevention measures; the FRMP 2022-2027 are being developed; financial support is provided for construction of 6 regional centers for raising population's preparedness for adequate

response to floods, aimed at developing a unified model of capacity building for population reaction by floods and subsequent crises (over 90 000 individuals are expected to pass trainings); a pilot of a National Real Time Water Management System is being established - for Iskar river, complemented with a system integrating local information systems that support early warning and alert of floods and landslides.

In this context, climate change policy framework at EU-level is determined by the Climate-Energy legislative package adopted in 2014. The goals of the package until 2030 is to achieve: at least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 1990 levels; 32,5 % energy efficiency enhancement; 32% share for renewable energy sources in the total energy consumption in EU, incl. more than 10% share of biofuels in transport.

It has to be highlighted that energy consumption of transport is one of the main factors impacting the environment and climate. Transport is a main source of NO_x, which quantity goes to 52% of the national emissions (39.86% share of road transport). Transport is also still one of the main air pollution sources of particular matter (PM) together with domestic heating. PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are the most problematic pollutants regarding human health, followed by benzo(a)piren (indicator for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The solid fuel for domestic heating and the transport (the latter with higher impact in larger cities) are the pollution sources with major contribution to the recorded exceedances of the air quality standards. Over EUR 300 mln. has been invested (2014-2020) to address these two major air pollutants, resulting in a reduction in PM₁₀ levels.

In order to improve air quality, use of “green” and more effective technologies (incl. improving the energy performance of residential buildings) shall be promoted as additional measure supplementing the use of alternative fuels for domestic heating and transport, different than solid fuels. In this regard, a new National air pollution control programme (2020–2030) is developed under OPE 2014-2020. Its main objective is implementation of the obligations for emission reduction for 2020 and 2030, related to the annual common anthropogenic emissions of: sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds, ammonia (NH₃) and PM_{2.5}, compared to the emissions in the basic year 2005, according to Directive (EU) 2016/2284 requirements. At the same time, Strategic National Air Quality Management Programme (2018-2024), supported by OPE 2014-2020, is adopted with Council of Ministers Decision № 334/07.06.2019. The Programme sets a complex of measures, which will lead to achievement of the PM standards according to Directive 2008/50/EC about ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (CAFE) and the national legislation, in shortest possible term, but not later than 2024. The proposed measures concern reduction of primary PM₁₀ emissions from certain sources – domestic heating on solid fuel and transport sector (the outdated fleet, in comparison with the rest of the EU-countries, with mostly old diesel vehicles). This will contribute to reduction harmful emissions and improvement of ambient air quality, which will lead to additional benefits for the human health. Domestic heating is identified as the most polluting factor regarding ambient air, especially as a result of wood and coal use from the households. Burning wet, not seasoned wood or coal with high dust content and lower calorific value results in high PM₁₀ emissions. These levels increase additionally, if the fuel is

being burned in old devices or boilers, which are not designed according to the energy efficiency requirements and eco-design.

Increasing energy efficiency as a result of the replacement of heating devices on solid fuel (main factor for improvement of ambient air quality) should also be considered in the light of achieving higher resource efficiency by addressing the main elements of resource efficiency, incl. energy savings. Regarding the environmental sector policies and the effective use of resources, decrease in the resource intensity of Bulgaria's economy is observed, but at a slower pace, compared to EU. Significant element of the resource efficiency is recycling through internal reuse of materials and reducing waste generation. In this regard, by taking legislative and non-legislative initiatives, Bulgaria's policies are in line with the policies at European level. The main aspects of national interest are by 2035 the preparation for reuse and recycling of municipal waste to increase at least to 60% of the weight, taking into account the applicable option for Bulgaria provided under article 11, paragraph 5, letter c) of Directive 2008/98/EC, regarding waste, amended with Directive (EU) 2018/851. The country should take steps to achieve also the following goals: reduction of municipal waste going to landfills to not more than 10% by 2030; at least 70% of the total weight of packaging waste shall be recycled up to 31 December 2030 at latest; no later than 31 December 2030 certain minimum recycling targets, presented in percentage by weight, regarding the following specific materials, contained in packaging waste, shall be met: 55% about plastic, 30% about wood; 80% about ferrous metals; 60% about aluminium; 75% about glass; 85% about paper and cardboard; by 31 December 2023 the biodegradable waste to be separately collected and recycled at the source or to be collected separately and not to be mixed with other types of waste.

It should be noted that significant results are achieved – the domestic waste quantities generated have a lasting reduction tendency for the last 10 years, registering cumulative reduction by 27.4% in 2017, despite these quantities are under the average in EU (according to data after 2012). In 2017 they are 435 kg per capita in Bulgaria, compared with 486 kg average for EU. At the same time, the share of treated domestic waste increases to 99.7% in 2017 (compared to 94.3% 10 years earlier) that exceeds the EU average (98.6%). According to National statistical institute 2017 data, the share of the population covered by waste collection system is 99.7% and includes 4 642 settlements. The reduction of the waste share going to landfills remains a challenge. After joining EU, the relative share of landfilled waste decreases significantly with 9.6 percent points, but the level achieved in 2017 (61.8%) still remains 2.5 times higher than the EU average. The recycling level shows tendency of growth during the last 10 years. Although in 2017 the indicator is 34.6%, it is still behind from the EU values (46.4%). During 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 achieving of the 2020 objectives is being supported, regarding municipal waste management and regional waste management. Through OPE 2014-2020 more than EUR 260 mln. are focused on ensuring separate collection of green and / or biodegradable municipal waste and construction of composting installations (37 installations serving a total of 82 municipalities from 21 waste management regions) and anaerobic installations (3 installations serving a total of 13 municipalities from 3 waste management regions) and pre-treatment installations (18) for 74 municipalities in Bulgaria from 19 waste management

regions; as well as 1 RDF recovery installation with energy production for 1 municipality from 1 region.

Implementing the commitments, set in the European legislation, Bulgaria takes steps for transforming its economy from linear to circular. In the Circular Economy Package from 2018 the European Commission includes a monitoring framework about the progress toward circular economy. The analysis of the 10 indicators in the monitoring framework shows that in 2016 the share of the circular (secondary) use of materials in Bulgaria is 4.3% (which is far under the average for EU-28 – 11.7%). In the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) from 2017 it is indicated that “no overarching circular economy policy programme exists in Bulgaria”. The country takes measures for development of a Strategy and action plan for transition to circular economy for the 2021–2027 period. At the same time, grants for demonstration projects under OPE 2014-2020 contributes to the transition to circular economy in Bulgaria, including by generating good practices and ideas, as well as providing opportunities for their subsequent wider introduction in 2021-2027 programming period. The concept for transition to circular economy is in accordance with the sustainable development goals from the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the achieving of which guarantees sustainable economic growth. Some goals are dedicated to promoting the effective use of resources during their whole lifetime cycle, including repair, reuse and recycling, which will not only lead to waste amount reduction, but will also reduce the need of new resources extraction. Encouraged is implementation of measures that guarantee separate collection at source and recycling of priority waste flows. It is also important to facilitate separate collection and proper treatment in accordance with the waste hierarchy and with the objective to reduce greenhouse gases emissions from landfills.

In sector Biodiversity and Natura 2000 efforts will continue for biodiversity conservation, maintenance and restoration. Through the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 begins the process of establishing the Natura 2000 ecological network, introducing the requirements of both European environmental Directives. From 2002 to 2006, through implementation of a number of projects, a national list of Natura 2000 sites is elaborated. In the period 2008-2019, the national list is supplemented and expanded several times and now the protected sites network currently includes 234 SCIs, according to the Habitats Directive (3 entirely within marine territory, 14 include both marine territory and terrestrial part), 120 SPAs according to the Birds Directive. The contribution of the country to the pan-European network is 41 560.59 km² as protected areas (38 739.23 km² of them are terrestrial and 2 821.35 km² are marine territory). Subject of conservation in Natura 2000 in Bulgaria are 92 types of habitats and 121 species, different from birds – including 28 priority habitats and 8 priority species, also 120 birds and 70 migratory birds.

Through 2007-2013 period, the implementation of a number of important projects in the protected territories and sites was supported by ESIF and national budget. Fundamental to the sector were the projects for “Mapping and determining the nature conservation status of natural habitats and species - Phase I”, on which basis the country made its first reporting to the EC under Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive and Art. 12 of the Birds Directive; development and introduction of an information system for protection areas of Natura 2000 ecological network,

through which a system is built, containing all available information about the status of species and habitats; National information and communication strategy for the Natura 2000 network, under which priority topics, stakeholders and communication channels were defined for a 10 years period.

In the period 2014-2020, the focus in the sector is fully on the Natura 2000 network, where nearly ERU 60 mln. is invested. In accordance with Art. 8 of the Habitats Directive, the country has developed a National prioritised action framework (NPAF). Among the most important measures in the document, identified as such also by the EC in the Position paper for the programming period, are the ones related to completion of the process of establishing the network in marine environment, establishment of protected sites' management bodies and their capacity building and development of management plans. The process of establishing effective management structure for the network at national level has delayed, because of the necessary coordination of the approach with all stakeholders. With a Decision № 147/05.03.2020, the Council of Ministers approved the amendments of Biodiversity Act, and it the approach is expected to be approved by the National Assembly. This will finalize the formal establishment of the management structure.

The necessary steps will be taken to set up the management bodies, but given the short deadlines under 2014-2020, the process of building their capacity and preparing planning documents for the management of the sites needs to continue with support of OPE 2021-2027. These processes have to be build upon through active communication with stakeholders in order to ensure their support, understanding and continuity. The new NPAF for Natura 2000 network for 2021-2027 period, along with the above-mentioned measures, will identify also the necessary conservation and horizontal measures for improvement of the conservation status of specific species and habitats, which is envisaged to be supported by OPE 2021-2027.

Regarding the administrative capacity, a need dis identified of internal capacity building of the OPE MA, as well as upgrading existing one in some key areas of programme administration processes, such as: financial instruments, state aid, etc. There is a challenge to retain skilled and efficient staff, given the shortage of labor market in Bulgaria and the salaries growth in the private sector. In addition, despite the experience gained, some of the beneficiaries still lack capacity for project preparation and implementation, which leads to issues during the programme implementation.

As a result of the analysis, taking into account the specific recommendations for the country in the Annual Report 2019 about Bulgaria and considering the horizontal character of the environmental and climate change policies, for the 2021–2027 period, as financing priorities 5 areas are identified. They are Water, Waste, Biodiversity, Risk and Climate Change and Air and are focused on Policy Objective 2 „Greener, low carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management”.

For Jobs and growth goal

Table 1		
Policy objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority*	Justification (summary)
2	Promoting sustainable water management	<p>[2 000 per specific objective or dedicated priority]</p> <p>Implementation of Recommendation 3 of the Council from 05.06.19 regarding 2019 National Reform Programme of Bulgaria and containing statement regarding 2019 Convergence Programme of Bulgaria and continuing the efforts for complying with the Framework Water Directive requirements and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). Implementation of Country Report Bulgaria 2019 requirements, according to which the levels of connectivity and treatment of urban wastewater are very low. The analysis shows that the water supply and sewerage investments are significantly increased during the last decade, financed mostly by EU-funding. However, weaknesses are identified in planning and managing these projects. The specific objective will address defined investment needs with high priority in 2019 National Report about increasing the level of connectivity and urban waste water treatment, aiming to stimulate sustainable water management and more specifically - improvement of water collection and waste water treatment with priority to agglomerations above 10 000 P.E. and reduction of water losses. Investments in agglomerations between 2 000 и 10 000 P.E. are planned if financial resource is available. Support for development of RBMP for 2028-2033 period is foreseen to implement the commitments under Art. 13 of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EU by addressing measures from the Plans.</p> <p>The planned investments will contribute also for implementation of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Improve monitoring capacities with a view to lower the dependence on expert judgment for assessing the ecological status/potential of the water bodies in accordance with the WFD • Step up efforts to address compliance gap with the UWWTD”
2	Promoting the transition to a circular economy	<p>Implementation of Recommendation 3 of the Council from 05.06.19 regarding 2019 National Reform Programme of Bulgaria 2019 and containing statement regarding Convergence Programme of Bulgaria 2019, continuing the efforts for complying with the requirements of Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC. Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 requirements, according to which the waste management is still challenging, although the generated waste quantity is under the EU-average. The percentage of landfilled municipal waste is among the highest in EU and the separate waste collection is not functioning optimally at all levels. This is also observed by the respective infrastructure, increase of public awareness and monitoring; the capacity of municipalities to organize, contract and manage waste collection and treatment is limited. Addressing the recommendations aiming to support the transition to circular economy, regarding municipal waste, mass disseminated waste, bio-waste, incl. food waste, construction and demolition waste through investment measures for reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, separate collection, reuse, treatment and repair, recycling.</p> <p>The interventions foreseen will contribute also for implementation of priority actions from EIR 2019 for Bulgaria: “Improve and extend separate collection of waste, including for bio-waste”.</p>
2	Enhancing biodiversity, green	Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations, according to which, the efforts should focus on establishment of effective management structures

	<p>infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution</p>	<p>of Natura 2000 should continue, as well as the support for defining objectives and measures regarding the protected areas within Natura 2000 and their subsequent implementation. In addition, the policy regarding biodiversity will be focused in general on conservation, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity on the territory of the country. In addition to the ongoing interventions under the NPAF aimed at improving the status of species and habitats subjects of conservation in Natura 2000 sites, as well as improving the knowledge on them, support will continue for activities related to management of protected sites; capacity building of stakeholders for effective involvement in Natura 2000 management processes; ensuring recognition of the network; activities for development and implementation of national strategic documents for biodiversity and for implementation of the goals of different thematic aspects and the related action plans.</p> <p>The interventions foreseen will contribute for implementation also of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the SAC designation process as a matter of priority and put in place clearly defined site-specific conservation objectives and the necessary conservation measures for each habitat and species of community interest in all Natura 2000 sites • Establish efficient management structures for the Natura 2000 network, with sufficient administrative and financial capacity
2	<p>Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience</p>	<p>Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations, according to which investments are necessary in emergency management systems for disaster prevention and reaction, for limitation of the risks and adaptation to climate change. Implementation of risk prevention and management measures focused on floods, landslides and building upon the measures from 2014-2020 period with investments, addressing droughts, forest fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters, according to the documents, developed at national level (the Disaster risk management plan – enabling condition for the 2021-2027 period; National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action plan, National Disaster risk reduction strategy 2018-2030). Support is envisaged for development of Flood Risk Management Plans 2028-2033 and for investments in measures within the Plans aiming to fulfill the commitments under the Flood Directive 2007/60/EC. The focus is on preventing the risks for population’s life and health; on upgrade of the National Real Time Water Management System by extending the scope of water bodies covered by the System; on further development of existing risk management and warning systems by extending their scope with forest fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters; development of early warning systems, specially addressing to heavy rainfall with small spatial and temporal range; continuing the investments in supporting the population for preparedness and reaction, aiming to reduce the risk of action under affect.</p> <p>Support for transition from management to react in particular situation to a more comprehensive system for prevention and management of disaster risk that aim to promote climate change adaptation. Implementation of preparedness measures focusing on the response reserve of the EU civil protection pool is also envisaged to be supported.</p>
2	<p>Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution</p>	<p>Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations and continuing the efforts for complying with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE), by building upon the investments from OPE 2014-2020, addressing domestic heating and transport as main air polluters. Investments will be in accordance with the Strategic National Air Quality Management Programme (2018-2024) and will contribute to the objectives of the National Air Pollution Control Programme (2020-2030). Support is envisaged for investments in achieving ambient air quality (AAQ) standards and, where applicable, keeping compliance with these</p>

		<p>standards. The objective is covering the standards for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, according to Directive 2008/50/EC and the national legislation. The implementation of measures will additionally lead to decrease of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons emissions and will contribute to fulfillment of the commitments according to Directive (EU) 2016/2284. The support will be provided to combined implementation of measures, intervening as a priority in replacement of heating devices on solid fuel. The aim is to achieve synergy of ESIF contribution by implementation of various complementing activities, in comparison to 2014-2020 programming period, when the pilot nature of investments predetermined fragmented investments</p> <p>According to the text of the Strategic National Air Quality Management Programme (2018-2024) it is necessary to „encourage a faster uptake of more modern, cleaner vehicles”. Given transport and domestic heating are identified as the main air pollution sources, the Strategic Programme and the National Air Pollution Control Programme (2020-2030) identify measures addressing the transport sector pollution. According to the Control Programme the envisaged measures will contribute to meet the targets under EU law (Clean Mobility Package). The objective is to achieve the AAQ standards for the indicators in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC and the applicable national legislation, in particular for PM and nitrogen oxides. Investments will promote transition to more environment-friendly transport, incl. charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. Regarding public transport, urban mobility plans and feasibility plans developed will be taken into account. This will assure the programme contribution to multimodal urban mobility investments, aiming complementarity, synergy and systematic approach by implementation of such measures.</p> <p>The interventions foreseen will contribute for implementation also of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely Accelerate the reduction of NO_x emissions and NO₂ concentrations; accelerate reductions in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ emission and concentration.</p>
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* *Dedicated priorities according to ESF+ Regulation*

For the EMFF:

Table1 A			
Policy objective	Priority	SWOT analysis (for each priority)	Justification (summary)
		<p>Strengths [10 000 per priority]</p> <p>Weaknesses [10 000 per priority]</p> <p>Opportunities [10 000 per priority]</p> <p>Threats [10 000 per priority]</p> <p>Identification of needs on the basis of the SWOT analysis and taking into account</p>	[20 000 per priority]

		the elements set out in Article 6(6) of the EMFF Regulation [10 000 per priority]	
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1. Priorities other than technical assistance

Reference: Article 17(2) and 17(3)(c)

Table 1 T: Programme structure*

Identification code	Title [300]	Technical assistance	Basis for calculation	fund	Category of region supported	Specific Objective selected
1	Priority 1 „Water“	No		EFRD	Transition Less developed	SO 1 Promoting of sustainable development of the water sector
2	Priority 2 „Waste“	No		CF	NA	SO 1 Promoting the transition to a circular economy
3	Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	No		CF	NA	SO 1 Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution
4	Priority 4 „Risk and climate change“	No		EFRD	Transition Less developed	SO 1 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience
5	Priority 5 „Air“	No		CF	NA	SO 1 Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

* Information on this table will serve as technical input to prefill other fields and tables in the template in the electronic format - Not applicable to EMFF.

2.1 Title of the priority [300] (repeated for each priority)

Priority 1 “Water“

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8 |

* Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.

** If marked go to section 2.1.2

2.1.1. Specific objective2– repeated for each selected specific objective for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective: “Promoting sustainable water management”

2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i),(iii),(**iiia**), (iv),(v), (vi) CPR

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i) from the CPR, Article 6 (2) of ESF+ Regulation:

Text field [8 000]

Measures in implementation of the River Basin Management Plans are eligible:

- Construction and reconstruction of water supply and sewerage infrastructure based on RFSs in compliance with the legislation, with a priority in agglomerations above 10 000 p.e. and if financial resource is available – also in agglomerations between 2 000 and 10 000 p.e.;
- Development of strategic documents in Water sector and WSS sector, incl RBMP;
- Measures for optimization or upgrade of the water monitoring networks and of the system on water monitoring and water quality assessment;
- Strengthening the capacity for planning, managing and implementing the commitments in Water and WSS sectors;
- Measures from RBMP to improve the water status; protection of water quality provided for drinking water supply incl. establishment of sanitary - protective zone in the area of the water-taking facilities, etc.

Eligible beneficiaries: WSS Operators, Sofia municipality, Bulgarian WSS Holding EAD, Ministry of regional development and public works (MRDPW), Structures of/within Ministry of environment and water (MoEW), Structures of/within Ministry of Health.

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii) from the CPR:

Text field [1 000]

Bodies with obligations according to Environmental Protection Act, Water act and Regulation of Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act, about implementation of eligible activities; Financial intermediaries in cases of funding through financial instruments; population.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iia) CPR

Text field [2 000] Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. The priority supports the access to drinking water, to collection, disposal and treatment of waste water.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 level. According to OPE MA preliminary assessment, a possible measures for WSS infrastructure in industrial zones/parks is eligible in cases where the required water supply and sewage infrastructure is identified in the RFS for the respective territory.

Necessity for such type of support at local and regional level could be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies of the Level 2 planning regions. The OPE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The OPE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other operational programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between operational programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, carried out by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v) of the CPR

Text field [2 000] NA

The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi)

Text field [1 000]

Based on the results of the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period.

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024 r.)	Target (2029 r.)
Water	Promoting sustainable water management	EFRD	Transition	RCO 32	New or upgraded capacity for waste water treatment	population equivalent	0	22 749
			Less developed					

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Water	Promoting sustainable water management	EFRD	Transition	RCR 41	Population connected to improved public water supply	persons	0	2018	1 538 594	Projects supported, OPE MA	
			Less developed								
			Transition	RCR 42	Population connected to at least secondary public waste water treatment	persons	0	2018	192 454	Projects supported, OPE MA	
			Less developed								

2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention (not applicable to the EMFF)

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Priority№	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

1 „Water“	EFRD	Transition	Promoting sustainable water management	040 Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)	
		Less developed			
		Transition		041 Waste water collection and treatment	
		Less developed			

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Priority№	Фонд	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1 „Water“	EFRD	Transition	Promoting sustainable water management	01 Grant	
		Less developed			
		Transition		02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	
		Less developed			

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1 „Water“	EFRD	Transition	Promoting sustainable water management	17	
		Less developed		48	

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations ³

Text field [4 000 characters]

2.1 Title of the priority [300]

Priority 2 „Waste“

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation] **
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under that specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8

** Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.*

*** If marked go to section 2.1.2*

2.1.1. Specific objective– repeated for each selected specific objective of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective: Promoting the transition to a circular economy

2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)(iiia)(iv)(v)(vi) CPR;

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i) from CPR; art.6 (2) form SFC+:

³ Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4, Paragraph 1, (xi)(c) of the ESF+ Regulation.

Text field [8 000]

The eligible measures respect the needs identified in the National waste management plan

-Measures for development of the infrastructure for municipal waste management, aiming to achieve the 2030 goals for waste recycling and reduction of the waste going to landfills;

- Waste prevention measures;

- Measures for reuse and preparation for repair;

- Waste recycling measures;

- Construction, extension and/or upgrade of separate waste collection systems;

- Improvement of knowledge base about circular economy, waste monitoring and material flows;

- Raising awareness on practices and behavior in connection to sustainable consumption, as well as information and awareness campaigns for stakeholders and population.

Measures are focused on municipal waste, mass disseminated waste, bio-waste, inc. food waste, construction and demolition waste.

Eligible beneficiaries: municipalities, profit legal persons and non-profit legal persons, Enterprise for management of environmental protection activities (EMEPA). Executive Environmental Agency (for improving the knowledge base; monitoring and awareness raising and clarification campaigns), National Association of the Municipalities (for improving the knowledge base, awareness raising and clarification campaigns for stakeholders)

The measures will be implemented in complementary and in demarcation, according to the National waste management plan 2021-2027 and the Strategy and action plan for circular economy of Republic of Bulgaria for 2021-2027. Synergy of the measures towards promotion the transition to a circular economy will be achieved by ensuring complementarity of OPE and OPIC support, following the demarcation: OPE – waste packaging organizations and organizations, which separately collect, pre-treat and recycle waste (excluding the ones with own production); OPIC - trading and manufacturing enterprises, incl. those that recycle waste as part of the production process.

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii):

Text field [1 000]

Population of Republic of Bulgaria, business, municipalities

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR

Text field [2 000] Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality,

inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports transition to circular economy, decrease of the generated waste and of the waste going to landfills, increase of the recycled waste, etc.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 level. According to OPE MA preliminary assessment, a possible measures for ensuring separate collection and recycling of municipal, mass dissaminated and construction waste in industrial zones (if proven necessary, and without production and hazardous waste) is identified as applicable.

Necessity for such type of support at local and regional level could be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies of the Level 2 planning regions. The OPE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The OPE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other operational programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between operational programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, carried out by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

The interregional and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v)

Text field [2 000] NA

The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi)

Text field [1 000]

Based on the results of the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period.

2.1.1.2 Indicators⁴

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Table 2: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)

⁴ Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, breakdown for the years 2021 to 2025 only

Priority 2 „Waste“	Support transition of to circular economy	CF	RCO 34	Additional capacity for waste recycling	tonnes/year	0	177 000
			RCO 107	Investments in facilities for separate waste collection	euro	0	15 000 000

Table 3: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Priority 2 „Waste“		CF		RCR 103	Waste collected separately	tonnes/year	0	2021	170 000	Supported projects, OPE MA	
				RCR 47	Waste recycled	tonnes/year	0	2021	170 000	Supported projects, OPE MA	

2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention ⁵ (not applicable to the EMFF)

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

⁵ Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, breakdown for the years 2021 to 2025 only.

Priority „Waste“	2	CF		Promoting the transition to a circular economy	042 Household waste management: prevention, minimization, sorting, recycling measures	
					043 Household waste management: mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment	

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority „Waste“	2	CF	Promoting the transition to a circular economy	01 Grant	
				02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 2 „Waste“	CF		Promoting the transition to a circular economy	17	
				48	

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations ⁶

Text field [4 000 characters]

2.1 Title of the priority [300]

Priority 3 „Biodiversity”

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8

** Table applicable to ESF+ priorities*

*** If marked go to section 2.1.2*

2.1.1. Specific objective ⁷ (Jobs and growth goal) or Area of support (EMFF) – repeated for each selected specific objective or area of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective: “Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”

⁶ Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

⁷ Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi);

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i):

Text field [8 000]

Measures are eligible that aim at implementation of the country's commitments under the European biodiversity legislation, specified in strategic and planning documents at European and national level:

- Measures related to development of NATURA 2000 network – ensuring the Natura 2000 management bodies at national and regional level (technical provisions, capacity development (trainings), elaboration of regional management plans, exchange of experience and good practices, including with regard to management and monitoring);
- Measures related to improvement of conservation status of habitats and species (incl. birds), subject of conservation in Natura 2000 network (including improvement of the knowledge about them) – measures from the NPAF, measures from management plans and form action plans;
- Measures for protection/ restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity, focused on improving ecosystems and ecosystem services and providing connectivity of Natura 2000 network – implementation of measures from the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation and National plan for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources 2020 – 2024, measures from management plans for protected territories, measures from NPAF for green and blue infrastructure.
- Measures for capacity development of the units (incl. trainings) responsible for management and implementation of biodiversity policies and Natura 2000 management.

Eligible beneficiaries: Structures for Natura 2000 management, Structures of/within MoEW, Structures of/within MAFF, Road Infrastructure Agency (RIA) (for measures in relation to fragmentation of habitats on existing road infrastructure), non-profit legal persons, municipalities, scientific institutes, universities.

Complementarity of the priority measures will be ensured through implementation of the measures set out in the NPAF for Natura 2000. The framework identifies all eligible measures as well as their funding sources - operational programmes, national budget, LIFE programme, etc. , thus ensuring both synergistic effect of improving the conservation status of species/ types of natural habitats and providing demarcation among the respective measures envisaged.

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii) CPR:

Text field [1 000] Population of Republic of Bulgaria

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports nature preservation by protection/restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 level. According to OPE MA preliminary assessment, a possible measures, focused on species and habitats in ‘unfavourable-inadequate и ‘unfavourable-bad’ nature conservation status.

Necessity for such type of support at local and regional level could be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies of the Level 2 planning regions. The OPE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The OPE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other operational programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between operational programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, carried out by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions –Article – 17(3)(d)(v) CPR

Text field [2 000] NA

The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi) CPR

Text field [1 000]

Based on the results of the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period.

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Table 2: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)

Priority 3 Biodiversity	“Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”	CF		RCO 37	Surface of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures	ha	0	To be defined based on NPAF analysis and NPAF draft

Table 3: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	“Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”	CF	NA	Programme-specific indicator	Species, supported in order to attain better conservation status	number	0	2021	To be defined based on NPAF analysis and NPAF draft	Projects supported, OPE MA	
			NA	Programme-specific indicator	Types of habitats, supported in order to attain better conservation status	number	0	2021	To be defined based on NPAF analysis and NPAF draft	Projects supported, OPE MA	

2.1.1. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention (not applicable to the EMFF)

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	CF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	049 Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	
				050 Nature and biodiversity protection, green infrastructure	

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Приоритет №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	CF		“Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”	01 grant	
				02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Biodiversity №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	CF		“Enhancing biodiversity, green	17	

			infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”	48	
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Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3 „Biodiversity					
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations ⁸

Text field [4 000 characters]

2.1 Title of the priority [300]

Priority 4 ” Risk and climate change”

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]**
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8

Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.

*** If marked go to section 2.1.2*

⁸ Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

2.1.1. Specific objective⁹ – repeated for each selected specific objective or area of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective: “Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience”.

2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)(iia) (iv)(v)(vi) CPR;

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i) CPR:

Text field [8 000]

In relation to the identified broader scope of natural disasters and the strategic objectives at national level, the following measures are eligible:

- Flood and drought risk prevention and management measures (incl. green infrastructure, if applicable, in combination with grey infrastructure).
- Risk analyses and implementation of prevention and protection measures by processes related to earth moving – landslides, erosion, abrasion, collapsible soils, etc. (incl. green infrastructure, if applicable, in combination with grey infrastructure), including ones along the road network identified as threat for road safety.
- Studies and analyzes aimed at examining the climate change effects and their impact on water resources on the territory of the country;
- Measures for forest fire risk prevention and management
- Measures for natural disaster risk management and for prevention of the risk for population’s life and health (incl. increasing the preparedness of the population and of the response forces in cases of floods, fires and earthquakes) – focus on capacity building of the responsible bodies and the population for reaction by natural disasters, in line with the strategic objectives regarding climate change resilience and raising public awareness for these disasters.
- Establishing new and optimizing and/or expanding existing warning, monitoring, reporting, forecasting and alarming systems; development of digital models, analysis and forecasts in relation to climate change.
- Research and assessments in relation to development of FRMPs for the 2028-2033 period.
- Enhancing the responsible units’ capacity regarding policies about prevention and risk management and climate change policies; increasing awareness; trainings, information and education measures about shaping, applying and implementation of these policies goals.

Eligible beneficiaries: municipalities, regional administrations (district government), Road Infrastructure Agency, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), Structures of/within MoEW, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH) (about forecasts, analysis, models regarding climate change; educations), Fire Safety and Civil Protection General Directorate - Ministry of Interior.

⁹ Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation + .

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii) CPR:

Text field [1 000] Population of Republic of Bulgaria, response forces, Unified Safety System's structures, volunteers

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports natural disasters risk prevention and management, focused on protection of life and health of all Bulgarian citizens and on protection of the property.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv)

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 level. According to OPE MA preliminary assessment, a possible measures for flood risk prevention and management (including green infrastructure, if applicable, in combination with gray infrastructure), as well as measures addressing landslides in urban areas are eligible.

Necessity for such type of support at local and regional level could be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies of the Level 2 planning regions. The OPE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The OPE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other operational programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between operational programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, carried out by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v) CPR

Text field [2 000] NA

The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi) CPR

Text field [1 000]

Based on the results of the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period.

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Table 2: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change”	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience”	ERDF	Transition	RCO 24	Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems	Euro	0	28 000 000
			Less developed					
			Transition	RCO 27	National and sub-national strategies addressing climate change adaptation	number	0	5
			Less developed					
			Transition	RCO 28	Areas covered by protection measures against wildfires	ha	0	343 700
			Less developed					
			Transition	RCO 106	Landslide protection newly built or consolidated	ha	0	230
			Less developed					

Table 3: Output indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change”	“Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience ”	ERDF	Transition	RC R 35	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	0	2019	3 550 000	Project supported, OPE MA	
			Less developed								
			Transition	RC R 36	Population benefiting from wildfires protection measures	persons	0	2019	264 500	Project supported, OPE MA	
			Less developed								
			Transition	RC R 96	Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities	persons	0	2019	150 000	Project supported, OPE MA	
			Less developed								

2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention(not applicable to the EMFF)

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change ”	ERDF	Transition	“Promoting climate change adaptation,risk prevention and disaster resilience ”	035 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	
		Less developed			
		Transition		036 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	
		Less developed			
		Transition		037 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	
Less developed					

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Priority 4 „Risk and climate change ”	ERDF	Transition	Promoting climate change adaptation,risk prevention and disaster resilience ”	01 Grant	
		Less developed			
		Transition		02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	
		Less developed			

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change ”	ERDF	Transition	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	17	
		Less developed		48	

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations¹⁰

Text field [4 000 characters]

2.1 Title of the priority [300]

Priority 5 „Air”

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation ⁸

*Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.

** If marked go to section 2.1.2

2.1.1. Specific objective¹¹ – repeated for each selected specific objective of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective 1: Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)(iiia)(iv)(v)(vi) CPR;

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i)CPR:

<p>Text field [8 000]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Measures addressing air pollution from domestic heating – phasing out of the use of heating devices on solid fuel, introduction of low emission zones, expansion of central heating network;- Measures, addressing reduction of air pollution from transport - promoting electromobility by construction of infrastructure for environmental friendly vehicles, promoting the phasing out of the use of outdated personal cars and their replacement with electric vehicles, introduction of low emission zones;- Measures for improvement AAQ monitoring, incl. upgrade of the National AAQ real time monitoring system and the Information system about AAQ data reporting;

¹⁰ Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

¹¹ С изключение на специфичната цел, посочена в член 4, параграф 1, буква в), точка vii) от регламента за ЕСФ+.

- Green measures in urban areas, incl. establishment of green belts / zones;
- Development / update of strategic / programme / planning / analytical documents, regarding ambient air quality, forecasting, modeling;
- Training and information-educational measures.

The focus of the interventions will be on municipalities with poor air quality.

Eligible beneficiaries: municipalities, Executive environmental agency, National Trust EcoFund (NTEF), profit legal persons, Road Infrastructure Agency, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (for training and educational measures, development of forecasts, models, analytical documents)

The measures addressing air pollution from domestic heating will have synergistic effect to the building energy efficiency measures under OP Development of Regions. On one hand, replaced heating appliances/ systems will directly contribute for improving the energy efficiency of the buildings in general, and on other hand, improved energy efficiency of the buildings will result in lower energy consumption, which contributes to reduction of air pollution emissions.

The measures for reduction of air pollution from transport provide complementarity with the OPDR envisaged measures, by considering the demarcation with sustainable urban mobility interventions. Implementing green measures in urban environment, incl. green belts / zones, will ensure complementarity with green infrastructure measures in the cities under OPDR, while the OPE focus is on air quality through investments in plant species with highest efficiency with regard to the capture of PM and air purification.

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii):

Text field [1 000] Population of Republic of Bulgaria

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports ambient air quality improvement investments aiming at health protection of all citizens in Republic of Bulgaria.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 level. According to OPE MA preliminary assessment, a

possible measures green measures in urban areas, incl. construction of "green belts / zones" on the territories of municipalities with poor AAQ, in compliance and demarcation with measures, financed under OPDR are eligible. Also eligible is support for measures about achieving AAQ standards, addressing sources of air pollution and measures for municipalities where pollution rates are measured by methods other than the National Air Monitoring Systemis.

Necessity for such type of support at local and regional level could be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies of the Level 2 planning regions. The OPE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The OPE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other operational programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between operational programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, carried out by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v)

Text field [2 000] NA

The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi) CPR

Text field [1 000]

Based on the results of the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period.

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Table 2: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
Priority 5 „Improvement of ambient air quality”	Specific objective 1: Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	CF		RCO 36	Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change	ha	6	66
		CF		Programme specific indicator	Dwellings with replaced solid fuel heating installations	number	0	120 000

		CF		RCO 59	Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/recharging points)	refuelling/recharging points	0	120
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Table 3: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Priority 5 „Improvement of ambient air quality”	<i>Specific objective 1: Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution</i>	CF		RCR 50	Population benefiting from measures for air quality	persons	0	2021	3 919 800	Supported projects, OPE MA	

2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention (not applicable to the EMFF)

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 5 „Improvement of ambient air quality”	CF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	048 Air quality and noise reduction measures	

			Promoting modal urban mobility	077 Alternative fuels infrastructure	
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Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 5 „Improvement of ambient air quality”	CF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution;	01 Grant	
				02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 5 „Improvement of ambient air quality”	CF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	17	
				48	

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

*Criteria for the selection of operations*¹²

Text field [4 000 characters]

2.T. Technical assistance priority, pursuant to Article 30(4)

2.B.1 Priority for technical assistance pursuant to Article 30(4) – repeated for each TA priority

Reference: Article 17(3)(e bis) CPR;

2.B.1.1 Intervention from the Funds

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(e)bis(i) CPR

Text field [8 000]

The Technical assistance priority axis during the programming period 2014-2020 supports the programming, management, implementation, monitoring and control of the programme's activities, as well as the Monitoring committee work. Support is provided for developing high expertise of the MA employees, in accordance with the specificity of the activities performed. Supported is the development of methodological documents in the environmental sector, performance of researches, analyses, studies and evaluations, necessary for programme implementation, as well as information campaigns and transparency and publicity activities for OPE 2014-2020. Practical support for the beneficiaries is provided for presenting the funding opportunities and the successful implementation of the project proposals submitted.

The TA Priority in 2021-2027 will support the successful implementation of OPE 2021-2027 through support of programme planning, implementation, monitoring, control and assessment, its popularization, including contribution of the funds, as well as enhancement of the administrative capacity. Taking into account the rising requirements and changing needs, regarding the professional qualification and skills of the structures, engaged with ESIF, measures for building up and development of MA and MC administrative capacity will be applied. Focused support for beneficiaries/applicants and their partners will continue in complementarity and demarcation with measures funded under OP "Human resources development"/OP "E-governance and TA". The capacity and motivation enhancement of the MA employees will be synchronized with the functional tasks of the units and the individual

¹² Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation

professional development needs of OPE MA employees, according to the OPE priorities and targets beyond 2020.

The implementation of this priority aims at realization of the following objectives:

Specific objective 1: Providing proper and effective management and administration of OP „Environment” 2021-2027

Specific objective 2: Providing information, transparency and communication and capacity building dedicated to applicants for preparation and management of projects under OPE.

Indicative activities for support of planning, implementing, monitoring, control and assessment of the programme (SO 1):

- logistics and technical provision of the OPE implementation, incl. Monitoring committee's work;
- providing materials, technical equipment and information systems about the OPE management;
- supporting project assessment and selection processes (evaluation committee organization, hiring external experts, etc.), independent project assessments;
- supporting monitoring, financial control and audit, as well as risk assessment; anti-fraud, irregularities, anti-corruption measures;
- providing external expertise, incl. preparation of expert reports, analyses, studies and evaluations (incl. Evaluation plan), related to the OPE 2021-2027 management, as well as to closure of OPE 2014-2020 and preparation of the next programming period 2028+;
- financing remunerations of the human resources engaged only with the implementation of strictly specified tasks on management, implementation, monitoring, assessment, providing of information and publicity and control of OPE, in accordance with the national legislation or with the developed rules (incl. social and health insurance and all adjoining expenses, according to the legislation)
- participation in and organization of trainings, as well as events for MA employees, Monitoring committee members and for employees for MoEW and other structures, who assist the work of the MA (meetings, conferences, seminars, study visits and experience exchange, etc.)
- other activities to ensure the OPE implementation;

Expected results: Achieving effective and efficient management of OPE in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, as well as with the European and national legislation. The successful programme implementation is directly related to the MA employees' qualification and motivation, and to the proper functioning of the MC and the qualitative contribution of the specialized MoEW administration.

Indicative activities, supporting publicity and administrative capacity enhancement (SO2):

- implementation of measures, set out in the Communication plan of OPE 2021-2027 and following the requirements for funds implementation transparency and for programmes communication, set in the Common Provisions Regulation.

- organization of public events; production and dissemination of advertising and information materials; work with mass media; development and dissemination of audio-visual materials; outdoor commercials; social media communication; stakeholders communication; development and implementation of communication campaigns; licenses and copyrights purchase; conduction of social surveys, etc.

- organization of practical seminars, trainings, information days, etc. for the potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries and their projects partners;

- providing methodological assistance as standard documents, manuals and written instructions for applicants and beneficiaries, on the requirements for the preparation of OPE projects and the subsequent sustainable management of the assets / results obtained under the programme;

- other activities in relation to transparency and communication.

Results expected: Provided transparency of OPE implementation, popularization, as well as wide awareness about ESIF contribution, promoting the application under the programme; building up and strengthening and/or enhancing the beneficiaries' and their partners' capacity for project implementation and further proper operation and maintenance of the assets acquired.

Beneficiary under the priority is the MA of OPE 2021-2027 – General Directorate „Operational programme Environment“.

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii):

The general public, mass media representatives, partners within the Thematic Working Group and MC; potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries and their partners; stakeholders, the administration responsible for environmental and climate change policies; MA of the programme.

2.B.1.2. Indicators

Output indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets

Reference: Article 17(3)(e)bis(ii) CPR

Priority	Specific Objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement Unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
TA	Providing proper and effective management and administration of OP				Stuff of MA trained, aiming enhancing administrative capacity	number	75	200

	„Environment” 2021-2027				Employees, financed under ERDF/CF	people	115	118
					Interim/ external evaluations, performed under the programme	number	1	4
					Information campaigns		3	7
TA	Providing information, publicity and capacity building for applicants for preparation and management of projects under OPE				Stuff of the beneficiaries /potential beneficiaries /partners trained, aiming enhancing administrati ve capacity	people	200	800

Reference: Article 17(3)(e); Article 29, Article 30, Article 31, Article 89 CPR;

Description of technical assistance under flat rate payments – Article 30

Text field [5 000]

Description of technical assistance under payments not linked to costs – Article 31

Text field [3 000]

Table 8: Dimension 1 – intervention field				
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
P6 TA	ERDF/CF		140 Information and communication	
			141 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	
			142 Evaluation and studies, data collection	
			143 Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners	

Table 9: Dimension 5 – ESF+ secondary themes				
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
			NA	

2. Financial plan

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(i)-(iii); Article 106(1)-(3), Article 10; Article 21; CPR

A Transfers and contributions¹³

Reference: Article 10; Article 21; CPR

<input type="checkbox"/> Programme amendment related to Article 10, CPR (contribution to Invest EU)
<input type="checkbox"/> Programme amendment related to Article 21, CPR (transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management between shared management funds)

Table 15: Contributions to InvestEU*

	Category of regions	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	Window 4	Window 5	amount (f)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+(e)
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
ERDF	More developed						
	Less developed						
	Transition						
ESF+	More developed						
	Less developed						
	Transition						
CF							
EMFF							
Total							

*Cumulative amounts for all contributions during programming period.

Table 16: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management*

Fund	Category of regions	Instrument 1	Instrument 2	Instrument 3	Instrument 4	Instrument 5	Transfer amount (f)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+(e)
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
ERDF	More developed						

¹³ Applicable only to programme amendments in line with Article 10 and 21, CPR..

	Transition						
	Less developed						
	Outermost and northern sparsely populated						
ESF+	More developed						
	Transition						
	Less developed						
	Outermost						
CF							
EMFF							
Total							

*Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 17: Transfers between shared management funds*

		ERDF				ESF+				CF	EMFF	AMF	ISF	BMVI	Total
		More developed	Transition	Less developed	Outermost and northern sparsely populated	More developed	Transition	Less developed	Outermost						
ERDF	More developed														
	Transition														
	Less developed														
	Outermost and northern sparsely populated														
ESF+	More developed														
	Transition														
	Less developed														
	Outermost														
CF															
EMFF															
Total															

*Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

3.1 Financial appropriations by year

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(i)

Table 10: Financial appropriations by year

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3.2 Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing^{XIV}

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(ii), Article 17(6)

For Jobs and growth goal:

Table 11: Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing										
Policy objective No or TA	Priority	Basis for calculation EU support (total or public)	Fund	Category of region*	EU contribution (a)	National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)**	Cofinancing rate (f)=(a)/(e)**
							public (c)	private (d)		
	Priority 1	P/T	ERDF	Less developed						
More developed										
Transition										
Special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions										
	Priority 2		ESF+	Less developed						
More developed										
Transition										
Outermost										

^{XIV} Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, financial appropriations for the years 2021 to 2025 only.

	Priority 3		CF							
TA	TA Art 29 CPR		ERDF or ESF+ or CF							
	TA Art 30 CPR		ERDF or ESF+ or CF							
Total ERDF				More developed						
				Transition						
				Less developed						
				Special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions						
Total ESF+				More developed						
				Transition						
				Less developed						
				Outermost						
Total CF			N/A							
Grand total										

* For ERDF: less developed, transition, more developed, and, where applicable special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions. For ESF+: less developed, transition, more developed and, where applicable, additional allocation for outermost regions. For CF: not applicable. For technical assistance, application of categories of region depends on selection of a fund.

** Where relevant for all categories of region.

For the EMFF:

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(iii)

Table 11 A						
Priority	Type of area of support (nomenclature set out in the EMFF Regulation)	Basis for calculation of EU support	EU contribution	National public	Total	Co-financing rate
Priority 1	1.1	Public				
	1.2	Public				
	1.3	Public				
	1.4	Public				
	1.5	Public				
Priority 2	2.1	Public				
Priority 3	3.1	Public				
Priority 4	4.1	Public				
Technical assistance	5.1	Public				

3. Enabling conditions

Reference: Article 19(3)(h)

Table 12: Enabling conditions							
Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective (N/A to the EMFF)	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification

Updated planning for required investments in water and wastewater sectors	ERDF	Promoting of sustainable development of the water sector	No	<p>For each or both sectors, a national investment plan is in place and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An assessment of the current state of implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) 91/271/EEC [and the recast of the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) 98/83/EC] 2. The identification and planning of any public investments, including an indicative financial estimation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Required to implement the UWWTD, including a prioritization with regard to the size of agglomerations and the environmental impact, with investments broken down for each wastewater agglomeration b. Required to implement the DWD Directive 98/83/EC c. [Required to match the needs stemming from the proposed recast (COM(2017)753 final), regarding in particular the revised quality parameters detailed in annex I] 3. An estimate of investments needed to renew existing wastewater and water supply infrastructure, including networks, based on their age and depreciation plans 4. An indication of potential sources of public financing, when needed to complement user charges. 	No	[500]	<p>Under point 1. and 2. Preparation of an updated assessment of the implementation of Directive 91/271 / EEC and Directive 98/83 / EC, incl. of the requirements for amending the Directive.</p> <p>According to point 3. Update of the evaluation of the necessary investments for the reconstruction of the existing water supply and sewage infrastructure.</p> <p>Under point 4. Preparation of analysis for potential sources and ways of public financing</p> <p>Deadline: June 2020</p>
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Updated planning for waste management	ERDF	Promoting the transition to a circular economy	No	<p>Waste management plan(s) are in place in accordance with Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive EU 2018/851/EU and covering the entire territory of the Member State and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An analysis of the current waste management situation in the geographical entity concerned, including the type, quantity and source of waste generated and an evaluation of their future development taking into account the expected impacts of measures set out in the Waste Prevention Programme(s) developed in accordance with Article 11149/19 ADD 1 AFG/NTC/cs 37 ANNEX ECOMP.2 EN 29 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive 2018/851/EU 2. An assessment of existing waste collection schemes, including the material and territorial coverage of separate collection and measures to improve its operation, as well as the need for new collection schemes 3. An investment gap assessment justifying the need for the closure of existing waste installations and additional or upgraded waste infrastructure, with an information of the sources of revenues available to meet operation and maintenance costs 4. Information on how future site locations will be determined and on the capacity of future waste treatment installations. 	No	<p>Development and adoption of a National waste management plan for the period 2021-2028, including:</p> <p>Under point 1. An analysis of the current waste management situation;</p> <p>Under point 2. An assessment of the current waste collection schemes;</p> <p>Under point 3 and 4 - Preparation of assessment of the investments gap and information on future waste treatment sites.</p> <p>Deadline: December 2020</p>
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Effective disaster risk management framework.	ERDF	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	No	<p>A national or regional disaster risk management plan, established on the basis of risk assessments, taking due account of the likely impacts of climate change and the existing climate adaptation strategies, is in place and includes:</p> <p>1. A description of key risks, assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 (1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU8, reflecting current and evolving risk profile. The assessment shall build, for climate related risks, on climate change projections and scenarios.</p> <p>2. Description of the disaster prevention, preparedness and response measures to address the key risks identified. The measures shall be prioritized in proportion to the risks and their economic impact, capacity gaps, effectiveness and efficiency, taking into account possible alternatives</p> <p>3. Information on financing resources and mechanisms available for covering the operation and maintenance costs related to prevention, preparedness and response</p>	No	<p>Preparation and adoption of a National disaster risk management plan, including:</p> <p>Under point 1 - Development of risk assessment methodology; collecting data on damage and losses from disasters and identifying threats and risks at national level;</p> <p>Under point 2 - Development of a National disaster risk reduction programme;</p> <p>On point 3 - Provision of financial support mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response activities</p> <p>Deadline for point 1-3: December 2020</p>
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4. Programme authorities

Reference: Article 17(3)(j); Article 65, Article 78 CPR

Table 13: Programme authorities			
Programme authorities	Name of the institution [500]	Contact name [200]	E-mail [200]
Managing authority			

Audit authority			
Body which receives payments from the Commission			

5. Partnership

Reference: Article 17(3)(g)

Text field [10 000]

The specifics of OP “Environment” and its main priority areas, require wide partnership with organizations at national level. This is guaranteed by the Thematic working group (TWG), dedicated to the development of OPE 2021-2027, in accordance with Article 7 of Council of Ministers Decree 142/7.06.2019. The experience from both programming periods - 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 shows the key importance of the cooperation on EC level for the efficient management and implementation of the programme.

In August 2019 an internal working group (IWG) is established with task to prepare the necessary analyses to be the basis for the work of the OPE 2021-2027 TWG. In the IWG the specialized administrations of MoEW are represented that are responsible for the policy making in the field of environment and climate change, subject of funding in the framework of OPE 2021-2027. For the IWG work is prepared a working version of the programme. Based on it the first OPE draft is developed. The draft includes a strategy for programme contribution to the policy objectives / thematic objectives for 2021-2027 programming period. The strategy is developed on the basis of analysis of the member state engagements, regarding the European and national legislation on environment and climate change; analysis of the current situation; lessons learned from past experience; challenges about the administrative capacity and governance and is based on relevant national documents (plans, programs and strategies) as well as on EU documents. Justification for the selected policy objectives / thematic objectives is developed, and also priorities of the operational programme, incl. specific objectives of each priority.

In October 2019 a meeting of the IWG is held, during which the main parameters of the 2021-2027 programming period are discussed, the commitments of each unit, the terms and the way of functioning of the IWG. As a result of the work of this group, all documents necessary for the preparation of the first draft of the operational programme are elaborated.

As next step, OPE MA initiates establishment of a thematic working group (TWG) for development of OPE 2021-2027, in pursuance of Article 7, paragraph 1 of Council of Ministers Decree 142 / 2019 and with members in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, paragraph 4 of the Decree. Represented within the TWG are: Central coordination unit (CCU); the programmes’ certification and audit bodies for the 2014-2020 programming period; the ministries, designated by the Council of Ministers to develop the programmes; administrations, responsible for the respective sector policies; regional development councils; employers and workers representative organizations; nationally representative organizations of and for people with disabilities, National association of the Municipalities, National statistical institute, academic community representatives; Fund Manager of Financial Instruments, etc. To ensure representation of non-profit legal organisations, working in public interest in the fields in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 4, point 14 of Decree 142 / 2019, on 24.9.2019 the respective invitation is published. Applications are submitted by the relevant representatives of the NGO sector.

Due to the lack of applications by organizations working in the field of social inclusion and integration of marginalized groups, the invitation was re-published (on 21.10.2019), aiming to guarantee their representation.

The working group composition is coordinated at national level with the CCU. The first meeting of the TWG is organized and held on 09.01.2020. During the meeting, the documents elaborated by the IWG, are presented and discussed, as well as the requirements on the programme development and the general context of the TWG work. Based on the comments and suggestions received during the meeting, the draft OPE 2021-2027 was updated and resent to the working group members for follow-up comments and proposals with an extended review period of 15 working days.

After analysis and consideration of the received materials, on 11.3.2020 a new updated draft of OPE 2021-2027 is sent to the members of the TWG for review and proposals, and the comments received are reflected in the current document.

Following the partnership principle, the Thematic working group is subsequently transformed into a OPE Monitoring committee 2021-2027.

6. Communication and visibility

Reference: Article 17(3)(i) CPR, Article 42(2) CPR

Text field [4 500]

Objectives

Main objective:

Promoting the role of OP "Environment" 2021-2027 and the European union in ensuring healthy environment in Bulgaria (incl. through improving environmental infrastructure) and enhancing the quality of life of Bulgarian citizens.

Specific objectives:

SO1: Raising awareness of the general public for better understanding of the scope, results and best practices of OPE funded projects;

SO2: Informing potential beneficiaries, partner organizations and other stakeholders about the funding opportunities provided by OPE;

SO3: Raising awareness and competence of beneficiaries in project implementation;

SO4: Developing environmental awareness in all citizens of the country as a guarantee for sustainability of the measures taken

SO5: Ensuring maximum transparency of the OPE management and implementation process and raising awareness and confidence in the opportunities provided by the EU through the European structural and investment funds.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- General public - active adult population living on the territory of the country and Bulgarian citizens abroad;

- Children and adolescents – students (in school and university);

- Potential beneficiaries – beneficiaries eligible for participation in a specific procedure;

- Organizations that have awarded a grant contract for implementation of a project with European funding;

- Administration - all units and bodies involved in the management of EU funds in Bulgaria with functions in managing and administration of operational programmes, as well as the ones responsible for environmental and climate change policies;

- Mediators / disseminators of information - institutions and persons who inform, opinion and attitude makers, influence in the decision-making process, support the activities of beneficiaries / potential beneficiaries and the governing administration - media, environmental NGOs and other related to OPE projects, European institutions, information networks, end-users of project results

1. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The planned activities are focused on all target groups and the choice of specific measures is linked to the goals set. Use of various communication channels is envisaged, and in all cases, where appropriate, an active communication and feedback will be sought with the target groups:

- Information and education campaigns (incl. online);
- Conduction of information events (incl. Online);
- Conduction of the monitoring committee meetings;
- Management of the OPE website www.eufunds.bg/en/opus and social media presence;
- Meetings and information days with potential beneficiaries, training seminars / information meetings for beneficiaries, public discussions;
- Others.

2. CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

- Electronic media;
- Print media;
- Online media (online platforms of information sites, social networks);
- Direct communication (events, information days, seminars, discussions, trainings, etc.);
- OPE website www.eufunds.bg/en/opus;
- Information portal of the European structural and investment funds – www.eufunds.bg;
- Information system for management and monitoring of EU funds in Bulgaria - UMIS;
- Monitoring Committee;
- 28 information centers network for promotion of EU Cohesion policy in Bulgaria;
- Economic and social partners;
- Others

3. BUDGET

The planned budget (estimated only on the basis of European co-financing) is 0.3% of ESIF share under the programme, which amounts to nearly BGN 10 mln (EUR 5 mln.). The communication and transparency budget is based on the whole programme budget and is to be refined on the basis of national contribution. The indicative budget shall be distributed for each year from the 2021-2027 programming period.

4. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT INDICATORS

Quantitative Indicators: Measurement of the achieved quantitative parameters of physical performance / progress (outputs)

- number of campaigns carried out;
- number of Monitoring committees meetings held;
- number of information events held (incl. online);
- number of publications on www.eufunds.bg/en/opus;
- number of hits on the OPE website and social networks (web analytics, social media indicators);
- of broadcasts / publications in the electronic / print media;
- meetings and information days with potential beneficiaries and branch organizations for presenting open calls and eligible activities;
- training seminars / information meetings for beneficiaries for implementation of OPE funded projects.

Qualitative indicators: Measurement of effect/result, as well as of lasting impact, by conducting national representative social surveys to measure the level of public awareness:

Level of public awareness as a result of the OPE information and communication measures implemented.

These indicators will be set at procedures level in order to report the contribution of the programme to raising awareness and transparency, regarding the public ESIF funds spending.

7. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 88 and 89 CPR

Table 14: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Indication of use of Articles 88 and 89:*	Priority No	Fund	Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)
Use of reimbursement of eligible expenditure based on flat rates under priority according to Article 88 CPR (simplified cost options) will be applied for indirect costs under all Programme’s priorities – organization and management, information and communication, elaboration of tender documentation.	Priority 1 “Water”	ERDF	Promoting of sustainable development of the water sector
	Priority 2 “Waste”	CF	Promoting the transition to a circular economy
Use of reimbursement of eligible expenditure based on unit costs under priority according to Article 88 CPR (simplified cost options) will be applied for direct costs under priority 5 Air – expenditures for replacement of heating device/installation using solid fuel.	Priority 3 “Biodiversity”	CF	Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution
	Priority 4 “Risk and climate change”	ERDF	“Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience”.
	Priority 5 “Air”	CF	Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

* Full information will be provided according to the models annexed to the CPR.

APPENDICES

- Reimbursement of eligible expenditure based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates (Article 88 CPR)
- Financing not linked to costs (Article 89 CPR)
- EMFF action plan for small-scale coastal fishing
- EMFF action plan for each outermost region

Appendix 1: Reimbursement of eligible expenditure from the Commission to the Member State based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission
(Article 88)

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective (jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	Category of region	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the SCO will be applied in % (estimate)	Type(s) of operation		Corresponding indicator name(s)		Unit of measurement for the indicator	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Corresponding standard scales of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (in national currency)
					Code	Description	Code	Description			
Water	ERDF										
Waste	CF										
Biodiversity	CF										
Risk	ERDF										
Air	CF										

B. Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)

Did the managing authority receive support from an external company to set out the simplified costs below?

If so, please specify which external company: Yes/No - Name of external company

Types of operation:

1.1. Description of the operation type	
1.2 Priority /specific objective(s) concerned (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	
1.3 Indicator name ¹	
1.4 Unit of measurement for indicator	
1.5 Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	
1.6 Amount	
1.7 Categories of costs covered by unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	
1.8 Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation? (Y/N)	
1.9 Adjustment(s) method	
1.10 Verification of the achievement of the unit of measurement - what document(s) will be used to verify the achievement of the unit of measurement? - describe what will be checked during management verifications (including on-the-spot), and by whom. -what arrangements to collect and store the data/documents described?	
1.11 Possible perverse incentives	

¹ Several complementary indicators (for instance one output indicator and one result indicator) are possible for one type of operation. In these cases, fields 1.3 to 1.11 should be filled in for each indicator.

or problems caused by this indicator, how they could be mitigated, and the estimated level of risk	
1.12 Total amount (national and EU) expected to be reimbursed	

C: Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data; where the data are stored; cut-off dates; validation, etc.).

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation is relevant to the type of operation.

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and attached to this annex in a format that is usable by the Commission.

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

Appendix 2: Financing not linked to cost

Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission

(Article 89)

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	Category of region	<i>The amount covered by the financing not linked to cost</i>	Type(s) of operation	Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved	Corresponding indicator name(s)		Unit of measurement for the indicator
							Code	Description	
The overall amount covered									

B. Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)

Types of operation:

1.1. Description of the operation type			
1.2 Priority / specific objective(s) (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF) concerned			
1.3 Conditions to be fulfilled or results to be achieved			
1.4 Deadline for fulfilment of conditions or results to be achieved			
1.5 Indicator definition for deliverables			
1.6 Unit of measurement for indicator for deliverables			
1.7 Intermediate deliverables (if applicable) triggering reimbursement by the Commission with schedule for reimbursements	Intermediate deliverables	Date	Amounts
1.8 Total amount (including EU and national funding)			
1.9 Adjustment(s) method			
1.10 Verification of the achievement of the result or condition (and where relevant, the intermediate deliverables) - describe what document(s) will be used to verify the achievement of the result or condition - describe what will be checked during management verifications (including on-the-spot), and by whom. - describe what are the arrangements to collect and store the data/documents			
1.11 Arrangements to ensure the audit trail Please list the body(ies) responsible for these arrangements.			

Appendix 3: EMFF action plan for small-scale coastal fishing

Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

1. Description of the small-scale coastal fleet

Text field [5 000]

2. General description of the strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing

Text field [5 000]and indicative overall EMFF amount allocated

3. Description of the specific actions under the strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing

Description of the main actions	Indicative EMFF amount allocated (EUR)
Adjustment and management of fishing capacity <i>Text. field [10 000]</i>	
Promotion of sustainable, climate resilient and low-carbon fishing practices that minimize damage to the environment <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Reinforcement of the value chain of the sector and the promotion of marketing strategies <i>Text. field [10 000]</i>	
Promotion of skills, knowledge, innovation and capacity building <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Improvement of health, safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels <i>Text. field [10 000]</i>	
Increased compliance with data collection, traceability, monitoring, control and surveillance requirements <i>Textfield [10 000]</i>	
Involvement of small-scale operators in the participatory management of the maritime space, including Marine Protected Areas and Natura 2000 areas <i>Textfield [10 000]</i>	
Diversification of activities in the broader sustainable blue economy <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Collective organisation and participation of small-scale operators in the decision-making and advisory processes <i>Textfield [10 000]</i>	

4. Where appropriate, the implementation of the FAO voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

Text field [10 000]

5. Where appropriate, the implementation of the regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Text field [10 000]

6. Indicators

Table 1: Output indicators			
Title of the output indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)

Table 2: Result indicators				
Title of the result indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)

Appendix 4: EMFF action plan for each outermost region

Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

1. Description of the strategy for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries and the development of the sustainable blue economy

Text field [30 000]

2. Description of the main actions envisaged and the corresponding financial means

Description of the main actions	EMFF amount allocated (EUR)
Structural support to the fishery and aquaculture sector under the EMFF <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Compensation for the additional costs under Article 21 of the EMFF <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Other investments in the sustainable blue economy necessary to achieve a sustainable coastal development <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	

3. Description of the synergies with other sources of Union funding

Text field [10 000]

4. Description of the synergies with the action plan for small-scale coastal fishing

Text field [10 000]