

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014BG16M1OP002
Name	Operational programme "Environment"
Ver.	2019.1
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	2020/05/11

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	1
2. ... REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ART. 50 (2) AND ART. 111 (3) (A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	4
11.1. Key information on the implementation of the operational programme for the year concerned, including financial instruments in relation to financial and indicator data.	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (Art. 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	7
11.1. Implementation overview	7
11.2. Common and specific programme indicators (Art. 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	14
Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 1/6ii	14
Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 2/6a	20
Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 3/6d	23
Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 4/5ii	26
Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 5/6iv	30
Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 6	33
Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance - 6/1	35
Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance - 6/2	36
Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance - 6/3	37
Table 3B: Number of enterprises supported by the multilateral support network for the same enterprises of the operational programme	38
N/A. Table 5: Information on milestones and target values set in the performance framework	38
3.4 Financial data (Art. 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	42
Table 6: Financial information at priority axis and programme level	42
Table 7: Distribution of cumulative financial data by combination of categories of intervention for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund (Article 112 (1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)	43
Table 8: Use of cross-financing	44
Table 9: Expenditure on operations outside the programme area (ERDF and Cohesion Fund under the "Investment for growth and jobs" objective)	45
N/A. Table 10: Expenditure incurred outside the Union (ESF)	45
4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS	47
6. PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES ADOPTED (Article 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	53
7. CITIZENS' SUMMARY	62
" Fund of funds"	63
Financial instruments under PA1 Water, OPE 2014-2020	65
"Fund of funds"	66
Guarantees	67
Loans	68
" Fund of funds "	71
8. . Non-binding information on possible inclusion in the report to be submitted in 2016 that is not required for other mini reports: ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL THE EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES	74
N/A. PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (Articles 101 (h) and 111 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	75
11.1. Major projects	76
11.2. Joint action plans	81

10 Evaluation of the implementation of the operational programme (Articles 50 (4) and 111 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).....	84
10.1 Information in Part A and achievement of programme objectives (Article 50 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	84
10.2 Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular the promotion of accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the provisions introduced to ensure the integration of the gender equality perspective into the operational programme and operations (Articles 50 (4) and 111 (4), second subparagraph, item (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).....	84
10.3 Sustainable development (Articles 50 (4) and 111 (4), second subparagraph, point (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	84
10.4 Reporting on the support used for climate change objectives (Article 50 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	85
10.5 Role of the partners in the implementation of the programme.....	85
11. MANDATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 111 (4), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, ITEMS (a) and (b) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013	86
11.1 Progress in the implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations..	86
11.3 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy	88
12. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL THE EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (Article 50 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) (the information may be included in the report to be submitted in 2016 (see paragraph 9 above), but mandatory to be included in the 2017 report) Option: progress report	89
13. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE ADDED, DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (items (a), (b), (c), (d), (g) and (h) of the second subparagraph of Article 111 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	90
13.1 Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the operational programme.....	90
13.2 Progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds	90
13.3 Progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions	90
13.4 Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies	90
13.5 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate.....	92
13.6 Progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty, discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployed and young people not in employment, including, where appropriate, the financial resources used.....	92
14. FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (Articles 21 (2) and 22 (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).....	93
N/A. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (Progress Report option)	93
15. PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ADOPTED MEASURES - PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (Article 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	95
Documents	96
Latest validation results	97

2. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ART. 50 (2) AND ART. 111 (3) (A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

11.1. Key information on the implementation of the operational programme for the year concerned, including financial instruments in relation to financial and indicator data.

Following data can be provided for the process of implementation of Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020 (OPE) in 2019:

As of the end of the reporting period, a **total of 165 grant contracts/ orders were concluded** amounting to BGN 3.2 billion or 92.3 % of the budget, of which: BGN 2.5 billion for the Cohesion Fund (CF) and BGN 649.6 million for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In 2019 alone, 56 contracts/orders with a total amount of grants of BGN 1,548,451,532 were concluded/issued under OPE 2014-2020.

At the end of 2019, 139 projects with a grant amount of BGN 3,127,944,426 were being implemented and the remaining 26 projects for BGN 67,979,754 were successfully completed.

The amounts paid until the end of December 2019 amounted to BGN 935,923,085 representing 27% of the programme budget, of which BGN 750,401,726 were paid under the CF (28.8%) and BGN 185,521,359 under the ERDF (21.7%).

The total expenditure certified to the European Commission (EC) under OPE 2014-2020 until the end of 2019 amounted to BGN 812,611,212, representing 23.5% of the programme budget, of which BGN 656,056,297 were certified under the CF and BGN 156,554,915 under the ERDF.

For 2019, a **decommitment risk** under the Cohesion Fund of EUR 68,986,787 and under the European Regional Development Fund of EUR 3,275,494 **was initially identified**. To overcome this risk for 2019 under the CF, a proposal from the Managing Authority of OPE (MA) to announce a procedure for addressing transport as a source of air pollution was asserted before the EC services. Support is provided for activities related to replacement of the composition of public transport by environmentally friendly vehicles - electric buses, trolleys and trams. The aim of the procedure is improving air quality both directly - by replacing diesel vehicles with electric vehicles and indirectly - by providing public transport that offers citizens an alternative to replace their own cars with more environmental friendly transport. The proposal was approved, as a result of which on 02.07.2019 MA announced the procedure "Measures addressing the transport as a source of air pollution" with a financial resource of BGN 500 million. The advance payments under the grant contracts were certified in accordance with Art. 131, item 4 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, thereby overcoming the decommitment risk. Under the ERDF, this risk for 2019 was covered by the costs incurred in implementing the project activities under the priority axes financed by the Fund.

There was no decommitment of funds under the programme in 2019. The positive result is a consequence of the efforts of the MA to accelerate the projects' implementation by supporting applicants in the preparation of quality project proposals, encouraging beneficiaries to submit requests for funds, as well as accelerating the verification process.

Amendment of Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020

In 2019 OPE has been amended once and the revisions concern Priority Axes (PA) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Pursuant to Art. 96, para. 10 of Reg. (EU) No. 1303/2013, the amendments fall within the scope of the elements approved by an EC Decision. The proposed amendment was approved by the EC by Decision No C (2015) 4144 of 19 November 2019.

The main changes result from the transfer of the performance reserve from PA 3 to PA 2 and PA 4 to PA 5, as well as in relation to the updated "Ex-ante evaluation of financial instruments". The amendments are reflected in:

1. Reallocation of performance reserve of 6% under PA 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the programme in implementation of Art. 21 and Art. 22 of Reg. (EU) No 1303/2013, and as a result revisions in the values of:

- the proportion of resources for each thematic objective and investment priority;
- the financial indicator “Total amount of expenditure certified by the Certifying Authority” under priority axes 2, 3, 4 and 5;
- the allocation of funds by intervention code under priority axes 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- the amounts under the respective PA in the financial plan of the programme in Section 3 "Financing plan";

2. An update of “Ex-ante assessment of financial instruments and investment strategy for financial instruments under Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020” and based on the carried out market studies, it is proposed to change the values of the initially proposed in 2014 indicative resource for financial instruments (FI) under Priority Axes 1 and 2 as follows:

- the resource from 10 % under PO1 has been changed to 11,4%;
- the resource of 10% for FI under PO 2 is set at 9.10%.
- the update of the investment strategy for FI is also linked to change in the allocation of funds by intervention codes under PA 1.

3. Extension of the scope of the measures financed under PA 2 (proposed after the update of the investment strategy for FI) and also including, as a pilot measure and for demonstration purposes, a new measure for construction of reuse centers for construction waste and a measure for landfills recultivation.

4. Inclusion of a new major project within the meaning of Art. 100 of the Reg. (EU) No. 1303 under PA 1; table 27 "List of major projects“ has been completed and refined.

5. Technical revisions in PA 3 and those resulting from regulatory changes are reflected.

The reallocation of the financial flows is being carried out with additional programme amendment in 2020 , which reflects revisions of the result/output indicators in relation to the proposed reallocations.

Monitoring Committee (MC) of OPE 2014-2020

In 2019, 2 (two) meetings of the Monitoring Committee (MC) of OPE 2014-2020 were held, as well as 3 (three) written procedures for decision-making by default.

The decisions taken by the MC concern:

- approval of the amendment of OP Environment 2014-2020;
- agreement on the Indicative Annual Work Programme (IAWP) for 2020;
- amendments to the Indicative Annual Work Programme for 2019;
- approval of the Annual Implementation Report of OPE for 2018;
- approval of methodologies and criteria for the evaluation of project proposals under award procedures.

Implementation of Indicative Annual Work Programme 2019 (IAWP) as of 31.12.2019

During the reporting period the IAWP 2019 was amended and agreed by MC 2 (two) times: at the thirteenth meeting of the MC, held on 14.03.2019 and at the fourteenth meeting of the MC on 28.05.2019. In the reporting period, **18 grant procedures for BGN 739.27 million were opened/announced.**

Financial instruments (FI)

In implementation of procedure "Providing financial contribution under Priority Axis 2 "Waste" of OPE 2014-2020 for financial instruments“, a financial agreement was concluded between MA of OPE and “Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria” EAD (FMFIB) amounting to BGN 52,431,581.62, the MA is conducting negotiations aimed at expanding the areas of intervention. The

financial instruments aim at achieving sustainable municipal waste management by improving the financing conditions of the economic operators operating in the sector. In April 2018, an ancillary agreement was signed that changed the deadline for selection of financial intermediaries. The update of the investment strategy proposes to provide loans to potential beneficiaries instead of guarantees. Progress in the implementation of financial instruments has not been reported at present, leading to significant delays and putting the absorption of funds under the priority axis at risk. In this regard, the Parties commit to a specific deadline, namely implementation review for 2020 (to be carried out in June 2021). This review will identify the amounts that have been or are to be invested on the basis of contracts concluded with final recipients or on the basis of forthcoming contracts on loan requests from final recipients together with a developed business plan. After the review, the remainder of the funds for FIs will be released from commitment in order to be used through other forms of support, in accordance with the objectives of OPE 2014-2020. In the absence of results after these deadlines, it is envisaged to proceed with the withdrawal of the resource involved in FI through signing an annex to the financing agreement with FMFIB.

Under procedure "Providing funding under Priority Axis 1 "Water" of OPE 2014-2020 to FMFIB EAD for implementing investments through financial instruments.", according to the last ancillary agreement, the support amounted to BGN 266,736,721.19. An operational agreement was concluded between FMFIB EAD and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to finance investments in the WSS sector, under which public funds of EUR 115 million are provided by the Fund and mobilise co-financing of at least the same amount by EBRD. Under the agreement, the Bank provides loans and guarantees. Regarding the loan window, 9 projects passed the first step of approval (concept review). The EBRD has sent mandate letters to all regional WSS operators with reviewed concepts, with 5 regional WSS operators having signed mandate letters and due diligence has been carried out or is under way. Two projects (Ruse and Smolyan) were approved by the Council and loan agreements were signed (Ruse on 29.01.2020; Smolyan on 20.05.2020). EBRD negotiates final loan agreements according to a provisional timetable as follows: with WSS Stara Zagora and WSS Vratsa – expected early October 2020; with WSS Kardzhali – by the end of 2020. Under the guarantee window, EBRD selected two financial institutions for co-investment through competitive selection, namely UniCredit Bulbank and Raiffeisen Bank. Unicredit Bulbank informed EBRD that it has no interest in participating in the guarantee scheme due to the limited volume of work and lack of experience of the commercial bank in the water sector. EBRD finalized the stage of negotiations on the Guarantee Agreement with Raiffeisen Bank and at present it is already signed. Meanwhile, Raiffeisen Bank is conducting internal review in order to accelerate the approval processes. The initial intentions are to support three to five Operators, with a higher certainty for WSS Varna, WSS Plovdiv, WSS Burgas (mandate letter issued) and intentions also for WSS Silistra and WSS Yambol. WSS Vidin is to be reviewed in order to identify its attractiveness for the Bank. However, EBRD is ready to support Vidin through the loan window if Raiffeisen Bank does not agree to provide a guarantee. For the rest 4 WSS Operators – Dobrich, Pernik, Shumen, Sliven, consultations are foreseen by EBRD with the relevant stakeholders (incl. MRDPW as principal of the Companies) to apply the necessary mechanisms for these Operators to become “bankable”.

Technical Assistance (TA) is planned for the WSSOs planning to take advantage of the loan window. The TA is planned to be provided through the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) under a direct grant procedure for in-depth screening of the financial and operational capacity of the companies and development of plans of measures to ensure the sustainability of this capacity, guarantee of the services and access to commercial financing. For the operators planning to use FI from the guarantee window, there is currently no need to provide a TA. It should be noted that on 29.01.2020 the first agreement was signed between the EBRD and WSS Ruse to provide a loan in support of the implementation of the measures for construction of WSS infrastructure. In 2020 MA of OPE, together with FMFIB EAD, will discuss the pace of absorption of the resource provided as FI, after which options for amending the financial agreement will be analysed.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ART. 50 (2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

11.1. Implementation overview

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key events, significant problems and the steps taken to address these problems
1	Water	<p>A total of 16 procedures for BGN 2,582,189,537 were announced for implementation of the two SOs of PA1 by end of 2019 (110%), 39 contracts/orders for provision of grants of BGN 1,829,939,217 were signed/issued (78.2 %). For 2019 alone, 13 contracts were concluded for provision of financing for BGN 831,737,264 The projects under implementation are 33, 6 were completed. The verified costs are BGN 440,689,479 (18.8%) and those certified before the EC amount to BGN 436,305,861 (18.9%). Grant contracts for BGN 432 million are to be concluded and a direct award procedure for MRDPW for BGN 2.1 million is to be announced in order to assist the WSS operators in improving their operational and financial capacity and successful absorption of FIs. In 2019 a procedure “Support for regional investment planning of the WSS sector -Phase II” was announced, under which a contract was signed with MRDPW. The project’s objective is preparation of regional feasibility studies (RFSs) for investments in WSS infrastructure for 6 (six) newly consolidated operators. In order to achieve the target values “Additional population served by improved water supply“, “Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment “ and “ New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents “, the implementation of the project activities continues in 2019. Given that Priority Axis 1 focuses mainly on construction of WSS infrastructure, the overall progress will be taken into account by the period of completion of the sites. The reported newly constructed / reconstructed waste-water treatment plants are 6 (Radnevo, Bansko, Tervel, Vratsa, Vidin and Shumen), 2 more have been put into operation until now (Asenovgrad and Dobrich) that will be reported in 2020.</p> <p>Regarding the WSS projects, the Managing Authority created all the necessary preconditions for the project proposals submitted by the WSSOs to be evaluated and approved. Grant contracts for the main part of these projects were concluded between July and October 2019 and the beneficiaries have currently announced most of the public procurement procedures for the main activities to be implemented. Despite the granting of a significant financial resource in the short term, delays in the tendering were generated – most of the tendering procedures were launched late March and beginning of April 2020. Due to the COVID-19 the deadlines for offer submission were prolonged twice, which caused additional delays. Currently (by 20.08.2020) thirteen of the fifteen WSS operators had launched tendering procedures for construction - a total of 14 grant contracts. These are WSS Burgas-3, WSS Varna-4, WSS Vidin-1, WSS Vratsa-3, WSS Kardzhali-5 (selection of a contractor for one of the public procurements is forthcoming), WSS Pernik-2, WSS Plovdiv-9, WSS Ruse-4 (one of the public procurements is with a selected contractor, the contract is to be concluded by end of August 2020), WSS Silistra-4 (all engineering public procurements are with selected contractors), WSS Sliven-5 (selection of contractors for four of the public procurements is forthcoming), WSS Stara Zagora-6, WSS Shumen-4 (one of the public</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key events, significant problems and the steps taken to address these problems
		<p>procurements is with a selected contractor, the contract is to be concluded by end of August 2020) and WSS Yambol-1. WSS Smolyan has concluded all contracts for construction activities (5 contracts) and construction supervision (5 contracts). Construction works are to be launched, as well as the design envisaged within the contracts under Yellow FIDIC. Significant progress in the implementation is expected in 2020. WSS Yambol has concluded two contracts for engineering.</p> <p>The main problem on the axis is the fact that the majority of WSS operators have announced public procurement for the main activities later than planned. Given the time needed to conduct these procedures and the practice of appeal, MA of OPE does not expect construction works to start in 2020, with the exception of the WSS Smolyan project. These are major infrastructure projects which take a significant period of time, ranging from 3 to 5 years, and practice shows that tenders for construction activities are usually appealed for at least 6 months. In practice, for actual construction to the end of the eligibility period will remain up to 3 years for projects with already announced public procurements.</p> <p>MA creates preconditions for implementation of the projects also by providing technical and expert assistance and trainings. In June 2019, a meeting was organised between the EC and the WSS operators to clarify the need for timely announcement of public procurements. Correspondence was exchanged, meetings were held and intensive communication was carried out to motivate and support fast-track procurement procedures. The delay generated to date and the anticipated appeals against the procedures for selection of contractors are serious objective reasons which put at risk the completion of the activities of these projects within the eligibility period. After an analysis of the projects in progress, the MA prepared a forecast for the expected PA1 absorption, which showed that the absorption is about 79% of the budget of the axis, and the resource that could remain unused is estimated at BGN 490 million, or 21% of the budget. Although it is expected to negotiate 100% of the resource on the axis, the MA expects to realize significant savings, both from the implementation of projects and from non-completion of some of the infrastructure projects. Given the expectations for partial absorption of the financial resource under PA1, and considering the infringement procedure under Judgment of the EU Court Case C-488/15/5.04.2017, after consultations with the EC services and their consent, in 2019 MA proceeded to support measures under PA5 related to the purchase of environmentally friendly vehicles. It was agreed the funding reallocation from PA1 to PA5 to be done with programme amendment in 2020. With Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020, the European Commission approved the programme amendment and in this regard BGN 452 721 958 from PA1 are transferred to PA5.</p>
2	Waste	A total of 9 procedures for BGN 709,624,864 were announced for the implementation of SO under PA 2 (123 %). 38 contracts amounting to BGN 516,510,491 were concluded (89.6%), as of 31.12.2019. 38 projects are

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key events, significant problems and the steps taken to address these problems
		<p>implemented. The verified costs are BGN 112,780,147 (20%) and those certified before the EC amount to BGN 112,780,147 (20%). In order to implement the strategy under the axis, the MA initiated a number of procedures to build the necessary additional capacity for waste recycling and recovery of municipal waste, thereby achieving both the objective of the programme (reduction of the amount of municipal waste going to landfills) and the objectives and deadlines resulting from European and national legislation to reduce the amount of landfilled municipal waste (including biodegradable waste) and recycling. The currently funded project activities under five of the announced procedures contribute to implementation of the main indicator under the priority axis “Additional waste recycling capacity”, as well as to building capacities for pre-treatment of municipal waste, thereby further reducing the total amount of landfilled municipal waste. The objective of building additional waste recycling capacity at the end of the reporting period has been reached at 16%. MA expects the final objective to be exceeded in the successful implementation of the agreed projects.</p> <p>In 2019, a total of 2 procedures were announced - an open call and a direct award. On PA 2 is reported achievement of the milestones and in 2019 continued the implementation of projects aimed at achieving the target values of the indicators. To report results on the indicators in their entirety, it is necessary to have a high degree of completeness. The scope of PA 2 includes new measures related to recultivation of landfills subject to EU law infringement proceedings in Case C-145/14.</p> <p>Under PA 2, a “major project“ within the meaning of Art. 100 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 is implemented with a beneficiary Sofia Municipality for "Design and construction of installation for cogeneration in Sofia with recovery of RDF – third phase of the integrated system for municipal waste management of Sofia municipality". A grant contract was concluded with the beneficiary on 30.11.2018 and in October 2019 state aid for environmental protection and energy was notified. A letter was received from the EC: SA. 54042 (2019N) Bulgaria - Sofia production of electricity from municipal waste/cogeneration with utilization of RDF, dated 26.11.2019, announcing that the Commission has decided not to raise objections to the aid on the grounds that it is compatible with the internal market pursuant to Art. 107, para. 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). On 20.03.2020 a Decision was issued for approval of the project by the EC. Through technical assistance on the project provided in the framework of Memorandum of Understanding on support for EU projects between the Government of Republic of Bulgaria and European Investment Bank and the concluded Agreement on provision of services, the tender documentation for selection of contractors for engineering and construction supervision/FIDIC Engineer will be elaborated with support of EIB. According to information provided by Sofia municipality on the activities performance, the technical assistance is contracted, the preparation of tender documentation is ongoing and construction contracts are forthcoming. Given the deadlines for implementation of the main activities of the project, maximum mobilization by the beneficiary is necessary in order to complete the project within the period of eligibility of expenditure.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key events, significant problems and the steps taken to address these problems
3	Natura 2000 and biodiversity	<p>PA 3 has one SO - improvement of the conservation status of species and habitats of Natura 2000, 16 procedures for BGN 127,348,886 have been announced to achieve it (69 %). 20 grant contracts/orders amounting to BGN 77,9999,660 were concluded/issued (42.2 %). The projects under implementation are 19, 1 project was completed. The verified costs are BGN 9,059,114 (4.9%) and those certified before the EC amount to BGN 9,019,275 (4.9 %).</p> <p>Regarding the milestones, the indicator “Species supported in order to attain a better conservation status“ has been met. Indicators CO23 and 7 are not met due to delays in establishment of national and regional Natura 2000 management bodies and due to the three-year appeal against public procurement for activities under project "Analysis and survey of species and natural habitats, subject of reporting under Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive and Art. 12 of the Birds Directive". In 2019, 4 procedures were announced, significantly accelerating the pace of implementation of the axis. By Decision of the Council of Ministers of 05.03.2020, an amendment to the Biodiversity Act was approved, designating bodies for the management of Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria. In parallel to the forthcoming consideration of the Act by the National Assembly, MA's efforts are focused on launching conservation procedures aiming to achieve the priority axis objectives. In the first quarter of 2020 with the unprecedented spread of COVID-19 virus and in line with the decisions taken at national level to mobilize unused resources under ESIF, the PA3 budget was reduced with BGN 49 453 000 (non-committed under planned procedures and savings of projects implementation). The resources are transferred to OPIC 2014-2020 in support of measures to minimize the negative effects of the virus outbreak and promote the process of providing support to the Bulgarian economy in relation to small and medium-sized businesses. The reallocated budget will neither affect announced procedures, nor procedures to be announced with aim to achieve the indicators under PA3. The transfer is reflected in OPE 2014-2020 amendment approved with Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission.</p> <p>In parallel, in order to maintain and even accelerate the pace of implementation of the axis to ensure achievement of PA3 indicators' targets, efforts to prepare 2020 procedures are ongoing. MA starts preparing the technical assistance procedures for the management bodies (at the amount of about EUR 7 mln) in order to announce them immediately after the adoption of the Act by the Parliament. Guidelines for application are under development also for conservation activities for natural habitats (at the amount of EUR 3.8 mln). In addition on 11.06.2020, the birds procedure targeting the birds species was reopened, for which no projects have been submitted under the ended procedure (including for the Red-breasted Goose) – EUR 2.6 mln.</p>
4	Flood and landslide risk prevention and management	<p>6 procedures worth BGN 164,835,799 were announced to achieve the two SOs of the PA (114%). The concluded contracts/issued orders are 15 with a total grant value of BGN 107,639,745 (74.6%), 14 projects are in progress, 1 project is completed. The verified costs are BGN 30,034,066 (20.8%) and those certified before the EC amount to BGN 29,314,047 (20.3%).</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key events, significant problems and the steps taken to address these problems
		<p>The progress towards the end of 2018 under the indicator "Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures" was insufficient to reach the milestone. The failure to achieve the milestone under Priority Axis 4 stems from the almost 2-year appeal under project " Establishment of a Water Management System for the Iskar river basin (WMS-IBR) as Phase I of the National Real Time Water Management System (NRTWMS) ". With the withdrawal of the complaint in 2019, a contract was concluded with the selected contractor, signed in May 2019. As of March 2020, the general concept of NRTWMS and a conceptual design of WMS-IRB were approved. A technical design on WMS-IRB is developed, submitted to the Beneficiary (Water Management Directorate) and approved by himin July 2020. The actual phase of establishment and deployment of the system has been started and is expected to be completed by January 2021. The activities related to communication strategy for the public and to carry out environmental assessment, compliance and assessment of the applicability of the proposed developments, services and the system under establishment are being implemented in accordance with water management policies; public procurements are finalized and contractors are selected. The project is expected to be completed by April 2022. The projects contracted under procedure "Landslide prevention and resilience in order to reduce the landslide risks (incl. on the national road network) " and project "Prevention and resilience to landslide processes on the Republican road network - Phase 1" are ongoing. Measures are being carried out successfully to reduce the number of people at risk of landslides through fortification of landslides. In this regard, in 2019, under the indicator "Population at risk of landslides", account was taken of the reduction achieved with the implementation of the projects "Prevention and resilience to landslides on the Republican road network - Phase 1" of the RIA - 7,063 persons and " Strengthening the landslide LOV19.44327.02 - rap on a road to a Regional landfill for solid household waste - "Sinchets" Str. in the town of Lukovit " from Municipality Lukovit - 2,726 persons.</p>
5	Improvement of ambient air quality	<p>A total of 5 procedures worth BGN 615,522,102 have been announced to achieve SO under PA 5 (495%), a total of 36 grant contracts/orders were concluded/ issued amounting to BGN 608,753,830 (489.9%). By the end of 2019, 25 projects were in progress and 11 were completed. The verified costs are BGN 190,445,971 (153.3%) and those certified before the EC amount to BGN 190,436,389 (153.3%). Achieving all milestones (2018) is a result of the measures taken by the MA to accelerate the implementation of PA 5, including by amending the programme and changing the financing approach.</p> <p>In implementation of the contracts under the procedure announced in 2018 „Measures for improvement of the ambient air quality“, three of the seven beneficiaries are tendering the first stage of the projects and four have already concluded contracts. The activities are aimed at reducing the amount of PM10 and increasing the population covered by measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and nitrogen oxides in municipalities with poor air quality by financing measures to replace solid fuel heating appliances. First deliverable are expected to be presented in the 4 quarter of 2020 (with a deadline May 2021). MA is ready to review these, which will enable</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key events, significant problems and the steps taken to address these problems
		<p>beneficiaries to start activities on the actual replacement of the appliances, thus, directly contribute positively to the objectives of the priority axis - improvement of the ambient air quality by reducing the levels of PM₁₀. MA has taken a number of measures to meet the performance targets on the axis. As a result of preliminary consultations, in order to address transport as main air pollutant and to ensure complementarity of the measures in terms of reducing the levels of excessive pollution through replacement of solid fuel heating appliances, a procedure "Measures addressing the transport as a source of air pollution" was announced in July 2019. The transport has been identified as the second main pollutant, the replacement of the outdated diesel bus fleet contributes directly to improving the air quality and of the the old heavily depreciated electric fleet contributes indirectly: makes the public transport more attractive and thus divert citizens away from the use of private cars. Under the procedure, 12 project proposals were submitted and 12 grant contracts for almost BGN 500 million were contracted, with which new environmentally friendly vehicles for public transport will be delivered (292 buses, 60 trolleys and 25 trams). It focuses a resource on solving the severe ambient air quality problem compromised by high PM₁₀ levels. The measures taken through the procedure will lead to achievement of strategic priorities for environmental protection by reducing harmful emissions, by improving vehicle performance characteristics, by reducing the ambient air pollution, namely reducing PM₁₀/NO_x quantities, by changing the travelling behaviour and reducing travelling by private cars. The projects will also have a positive effect on reducing the noise and vibration and significantly saving energy, as well as improving the health and quality of life of the population. Given the contracted financial resource significantly exceeds the PA5 budget and the expected absorption exceeds the available funding under the axis, under OPE amendment initiated in 2020 EC approved the transfer of resource under PA1 (in the amount of BGN 452,721,958 and identified to remain non-committed) to PA5 with Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020. In order to reflect both the actual projects implementation under PA5 and the reallocated amounts, the target values of the result and outputs indicators under the axis have been revised.</p>
6	Technical assistance	<p>Under PA 6, 2 procedures with a total value of BGN 92,973,317 were announced (100%), 17 orders were issued with a total grant value of BGN 55,081,237 (59.2 %). The provision of grants under the axis is implemented through budget lines with a maximum duration of 36 months. By the end of 2019, 10 budget lines are being implemented and 7 have been completed. The verified costs are BGN 34,759,105 (37.4%) and those certified before the EC amount to BGN 34,755,493 (37.4 %).</p> <p>The budget lines shall ensure implementation of the three specific objectives defined under the priority axis - strengthening the administrative capacity of the responsible structures for the effective and efficient implementation of activities related to programming, management, monitoring, evaluation and control; raising the public awareness about the programme and the ESIF contribution and ensuring publicity and information of</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key events, significant problems and the steps taken to address these problems
		<p>relevance for all target groups; and strengthening the the capacity of OPE beneficiaries for the successful implementation of the projects.</p> <p>The main results of the implementation of the budget lines in 2019 are related to provision of activities aimed at strengthening and upgrading the administrative capacity of MA, organizing and conducting trainings for beneficiaries. Over 300 representatives of the beneficiaries were trained in 2019. In view of the need to create necessary capacity for project implementation and management, training topics covering the entire project cycle have been identified for beneficiaries of the programme. The trainings are dedicated to specific project/s, thus allowing their practical orientation, providing lessons learned and good practices, gaining knowledge on avoiding repetitive mistakes in project elaboration and subsequent performance. During the reported period the MA questionnaire also surveys the overall satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the logistical organization of the trainings, the qualifications of the speakers, the included guidance materials, provided instructions, multimedia materials and presentations, which indirectly contributes and thus additionally affects the level of satisfaction.</p> <p>The analysis of the feedback received by filling out questionnaire cards shows high level of satisfaction by the beneficiaries with the trainings. The feedback received by filling out questionnaire cards shows 97 % satisfaction by beneficiaries with the trainings. Thematic areas have been defined for MA staff, covering the necessary competences related to management and implementation of the programme.</p> <p>In the implementation of a budget line to provide information and communication measures, a 76% level of public awareness of OPE was achieved. Events have been organised to inform potential beneficiaries, partner organisations and other interested groups about funding opportunities provided by the programme.</p> <p>During the reporting period, by implementing a budget line under an assessment of the progress in implementation of PA 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 was carried out under the axis. An evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of PA 5, which ends in March 2020, has been contracted and is ongoing.</p> <p>It should be noted that in 2019 an agreement was signed with European Investment Bank, through which expert support will be provided to MA and beneficiaries in the implementation of projects for construction of WSS infrastructure under OPE 2014- 2020 in the designated territories of 16 WSS operators. This ensures effective implementation of strategic investments in the water sector by applying a regional approach in 16 consolidated areas served by 1 WSS operator: Smolyan, Burgas, Varna, Vidin, Vratsa, Dobrich, Kardzhali, Pernik, Plovdiv, Ruse, Silistra, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Shumen, Yambol and Sofia.</p> <p>In addition, the budget lines funded so far under Priority Axis 6 have synergistic action on the remaining priority axes by ensuring effective management of the programme, strengthening administrative capacity of beneficiaries and MA and promoting the results of the programme implementation to the public.</p>

11.2. Common and specific programme indicators (Art. 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Water
Investment Priority	6ii - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements.

Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 1/6ii

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
F	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	persons		220 000,00			95 720			The target value of CO18 indicator (1 800 000 persons) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The update is based on the additional population that will be served by improved water supply, according to the data provided by the administrative grant contracts and on an analysis of the project proposals in evaluation. Up to August 2020 the achieved value for the indicator is 99 547 persons.
S	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	persons		220 000,00			1 770 744			As by territorial location some agglomerations fall within the scope of both projects with beneficiaries-municipalities and projects with beneficiaries-WSS Operators, manual reporting is applied for the indicators in terms of persons/population equivalent. Consideration shall be given to avoiding overlaps at programme level between procedures and to ensure absence of double counting in relation to connectivity/treatment elements (sewage) as well as in relation to connectivity (water supply), the higher value of the relevant indicator of the two projects shall be taken into account. The smaller number of PE/p under one project is considered to be included in the greater number of PE/p under the other project, as it concerns the same eligible activities on the territory of the same settlements, although the actual interventions are of different territorial scope. Guarantee of no overlapping and of risk of double funding is provided at the stage of evaluation of the project proposals. Thus, at programme level, indicators CO18, CO19 and 1.1 are only counted

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
											once, taking into account the value of the project indicator by which the greater number of PE/p is reported. The target value of CO18 indicator (1 800 000 persons) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The update is based on the additional population that will be served by improved water supply, according to the data provided by the administrative grant contracts and on an analysis of the project proposals in evaluation.
F	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	population equivalent		1 473 384,00			148 713			
S	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	population equivalent		1 473 384,00			1 873 124			As by territorial location some agglomerations fall within the scope of both projects with beneficiaries-municipalities and projects with beneficiaries-WSS Operators, manual reporting is applied for the indicators in terms of persons/population equivalent. Consideration shall be given to avoiding overlaps at programme level between procedures and to ensure absence of double counting in relation to connectivity/treatment elements (sewerage) as well as in relation to connectivity (water supply), the higher value of the relevant indicator of the two projects shall be taken into account. The smaller number of PE/p under one project is considered to be included in the greater number of PE/p under the other project, as it concerns the same eligible activities on the territory of the same settlements, although the actual interventions are of different territorial scope. Guarantee of no overlapping and of risk of double funding is provided at the stage of evaluation of the project proposals. Thus, at programme level, indicators CO18, CO19 and 1.1 are only counted once, taking into account the value of the project indicator by which the greater number of PE/p is reported. The target value of CO19 indicator (1 900 000 population equivalent) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The update is based on the additional population that will be served by improved wastewater treatment, according to the data provided by the administrative grant

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
											contracts and on an analysis of the project proposal in evaluation.
F	1.4	Constructed/rehabilitated/reconstructed WWTP	Number		16,00			6			The target value (25 WWTP's) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission and determines the number of WWTPs that will be constructed / expanded or reconstructed on the territory served by consolidated RWOs in order to comply with Directive 91/271/EEC. The value of the indicator is calculated on the basis of the target values for the WWTP measures set out in the administrative grant contracts and on the analysis of the project proposals under evaluation.
S	1.4	Constructed/rehabilitated/reconstructed WWTP	Number		16,00			24			The target value (25 WWTP's) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission and determines the number of WWTPs that will be constructed / expanded or reconstructed on the territory served by consolidated RWOs in order to comply with Directive 91/271/EEC. The value of the indicator is calculated on the basis of the target values for the WWTP measures set out in the administrative grant contracts and on the analysis of the project proposals under evaluation.
F	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number		18,00			15			
S	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number		18,00			24			The value is reported by the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental assessment and appropriate assessment preparation for the adoption of River Basin Management Plans 2016 - 2021 and the Marine Strategy and their respective Programmes of Measures – 5 pcs.; • Effectiveness, management and institutional capacity support for WSS sector- 10 pcs.; • Completion of water quantity monitoring networks- 1 pc. The target value (8 pcs.) is included of the individual indicator for procedure "Preparation and development of a third cycle of river basin management plans for the period 2022-2027" is 8 pcs. In this way, an additional contribution will be made to the achievement of the indicator.

(1) S = Cumulative value – results to be implemented by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F = cumulative value – results implemented by operations [actually achieved]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
F	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	95 720,00			0,00			0,00		
S	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	253 746,00			238 113,00			225 015,00		
F	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	140 634,00			16 317,00			0,00		
S	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	1 343 295,00			795 324,00			562 863,00		
F	1.4	Constructed/rehabilitated/reconstructed WWTP	4,00			1,00			0,00		
S	1.4	Constructed/rehabilitated/reconstructed WWTP	17,00			15,00			10,00		
F	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	14,00			8,00			0,00		
S	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	24,00			15,00			15,00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	0,00			0,00		
S	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	0,00			0,00		
F	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0,00			0,00		
S	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0,00			0,00		
F	1.4	Constructed/rehabilitated/reconstructed WWTP	0,00			0,00		
S	1.4	Constructed/rehabilitated/reconstructed WWTP	0,00			0,00		
F	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	0,00			0,00		
S	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	0,00			0,00		

Priority axis	1 - Water
Investment Priority	6ii - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements.
Specific objective	1 - Protection and improvement of the water resources status

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
1.1	Amount of pollution load that receives full collection and treatment in compliance with the legislation	Equ.p.		196 271,00	2013	1 669 655,00	196 271,00	196 271,00	The baseline value is reported.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
1.1	Amount of pollution load that receives full collection and treatment in compliance with the legislation	196 271,00		0,00		0,00		0,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
1.1	Amount of pollution load that receives full collection and treatment in compliance with the legislation	0,00	

Priority axis	1 - Water
Investment Priority	6ii - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements.
Specific objective	2 - Improving the water status assessment

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance.

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
1.2	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the quantitative status	Number		90,00	2013	140,00	90	90	The baseline value is reported.
1.3	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the chemical status	Number		153,00	2013	173,00	153	153	The baseline value is reported.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
1.2	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the quantitative status	90,00		0,00		0,00		0,00	
1.3	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the chemical status	153,00		0,00		0,00		0,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
1.2	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the quantitative status		0,00
1.3	Water bodies with improved monitoring of the chemical status		0,00

Priority axis	2 - Waste
Investment Priority	6a - Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements

Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 2/6a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
F	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	tonnes/year	Less developed regions	105 000,00			17 316			The target value (240 000 tonnes/year) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The reason for the update is to guarantee more accurate and verifiable reporting of the actual contribution of OPE, given the indicator corresponds to the relevant indicators set out within the grant contracts under PA2. The achieved progress for the indicator until now (August 2020) is 21 216 tonnes/year.
S	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	tonnes/year	Less developed regions	105 000,00			222 224,94			The target value (240 000 tonnes/year) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The reason for the update is to guarantee more accurate and verifiable reporting of the actual contribution of OPE, given the indicator corresponds to the relevant indicators set out within the grant contracts under PA2.
F	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	Tonnes/year	Less developed regions	180 000,00			0			
S	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	Tonnes/year	Less developed regions	180 000,00			180 000			

(1) S = Cumulative value – results to be implemented by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F = cumulative value – results implemented by operations [actually achieved]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
F	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	17 316,00			0,00			0,00		
S	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	189 075,94			17 336,00			0,00		
F	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	180 000,00			0,00			0,00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	0,00			0,00		
S	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	0,00			0,00		
F	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy))	0,00			0,00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	0,00			0,00		

Priority axis	2 - Waste
Investment Priority	6a - Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements
Specific objective	1 - Reducing the amount of landfilled municipal waste

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
2.1	Amount of waste going to landfills	tonnes	Less developed regions	2 323 000,00	2012	2 038 000,00	2 323 000,00	2 323 000,00	The baseline value is reported.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
2.1	Amount of waste going to landfills)	2 323 000,00		0,00		0,00		0,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
2.1	Amount of waste going to landfills		0,00

Priority axis	3 - Natura 2000 and biodiversity
Investment Priority	6d - Protecting and restoring the biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000 and green infrastructures

Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 3/6d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
F	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	Less developed regions	1 565 668,00			0			
S	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	Less developed regions	1 565 668,00			248 432,27			
F	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	Less developed regions	2 878 749,00			0			
S	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	Less developed regions	2 878 749,00			0			
F	3.5	Mapped Natura 2000 marine sites	Number	Less developed regions	17,00			0			
S	3.5	Mapped Natura 2000 marine sites	Number	Less developed regions	17,00			17			
F	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	Number	Less developed regions	3,00			1			
S	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	Number	Less developed regions	3,00			3			
F	3.7	Natura 2000 area with established management structure	hectares	Less developed regions	4 104 320,00			0			
S	3.7	Natura 2000 area with established management structure	hectares	Less developed regions	4 104 320,00			0			

(1) S = Cumulative value – results to be implemented by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F = cumulative value – results implemented by operations [actually achieved]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
F	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	247 723,96			247 723,96			0,00		
F	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0,00			0,00			0,00		
F	3.5	Mapped Natura 2000 marine sites	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	3.5	Mapped Natura 2000 marine sites	17,00			17,00			0,00		
F	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	1,00			0,00			0,00		
S	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	3,00			3,00			0,00		
F	3.7	Natura 2000 area with established management structure	0,00			0,00			0,00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
S	3.7	Natura 2000 area with established management structure	0,00			0,00			0,00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0,00			0,00		
S	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0,00			0,00		
F	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0,00			0,00		
S	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0,00			0,00		
F	3.5	Mapped Natura 2000 marine sites	0,00			0,00		
S	3.5	Mapped Natura 2000 marine sites	0,00			0,00		
F	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	0,00			0,00		
S	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	0,00			0,00		
F	3.7	Natura 2000 area with established management structure	0,00			0,00		
S	3.7	Natura 2000 area with established management structure	0,00			0,00		

Priority axis	3 - Natura 2000 and biodiversity
Investment Priority	6d - Protecting and restoring the biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000 and green infrastructures
Specific objective	1 - Improving the conservation status of species and habitats from the Natura 2000 network

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
3.1	Species with improved conservation status	%	Less developed regions	48,36% species show favorable status in 2013	2013	49.18% species show favorable or improved conservation status in 2020	48,36%	48,36%	The baseline value is reported.
3.2	Birds with improved status	%	Less developed regions	82.5% birds show secure status in 2013 .	2013	83.33% birds show improved or secure status in 2020	82,50%	82,50%	The baseline value is reported.
3.3	Habitats with improved conservation status	%	Less developed regions	5,56% habitats show favorable status in 2013.	2013	7.78% show favorable or an improved conservation status in 2020	5,56%	5,56%	The baseline value is reported.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
3.1	Species with improved conservation status		48,36%		0		0		0
3.2	Birds with improved status		82,50%		0		0		0
3.3	Habitats with improved conservation status		5,56%		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
3.1	Species with improved conservation status		0
3.2	Bird with improved status		0
3.3	Habitats with improved conservation status		0

Priority axis	4 - Flood and landslide risk prevention and management
Investment Priority	5ii - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems

Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 4/5ii

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
F	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons		2 750 000,00			55 783			The value was reported under project "Centres for increasing the preparedness of the population to respond to floods"
S	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons		2 750 000,00			1 457 539			The value is reported by the following projects: "Centers for increasing the population preparedness for reaction in case of floods " - 91,114 persons; " Establishment of a Water Management System for the Iskar river basin (WMS-IBR) as Phase I of the National Real Time Water Management System (NRTWMS)" - 1,300,000 persons; "Rehabilitation of "Sinkevitsa" dam and its facilities, located in Slavovtsi, Gabrovo"- 53,063 persons; „ Restoration and strengthening of the wall of the "Haidushko kladenche" and its facilities, located on the territory of the municipality of Galabovo, in order to improve its technical and operational condition, to protect the technical and social infrastructure and to increase the protection of the population against floods “- 11,844 persons; “Introduction of measures for prevention and management of the flood risk on Kelandzhik Dam“- 1518 persons.
F	4.3	Centers for increasing the population preparedness for flood response established	Number		6,00			2			
S	4.3	Centers for increasing the population preparedness for flood response established	Number		6,00			6			
F	4.4	Reinforced landslide area	hectares		80,00			3,47			9 projects are contracted by August 2020 with a total target value of 95,01 ha. The implementation of these projects will ensure the achievement of the overall target value of the indicator
S	4.4	Reinforced landslide area	hectares		80,00			30,40			

(1) S = Cumulative value – results to be implemented by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F = cumulative value – results implemented by operations [actually achieved]

(I)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
F	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	15 051,00			0,00			0,00		
S	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	1 391 114,00			1 391 114,00			1 391 114,00		
F	4.3	Centers for increasing the population preparedness for flood response established	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	4.3	Centers for increasing the population preparedness for flood response established	6,00			6,00			6,00		
F	4.4	Reinforced landslide area	3,47			0,00			0,00		
S	4.4	Reinforced landslide area	11,00			0,00			0,00		

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	0,00			0,00		
S	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	0,00			0,00		
F	4.3	Centers for increasing the population preparedness for flood response established	0,00			0,00		
S	4.3	Centers for increasing the population preparedness for flood response established	0,00			0,00		
F	4.4	Reinforced landslide area	0,00			0,00		
S	4.4	Reinforced landslide area	0,00			0,00		

Priority axis	4 - Flood and landslide risk prevention and management
Investment Priority	5ii - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
Specific objective	1 - Increasing the protection and preparedness of the population for an adequate response to floods

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
4.1	Areas with significant potential flood risk which population has no preparedness for an adequate response to floods	Number		116,00	2013	26,00	116	116	The baseline value is reported.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
4.1	Areas with significant potential flood risk which population has no preparedness for an adequate response to floods	116,00		0,00		0,00		0,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
4.1	Areas with significant potential flood risk which population has no preparedness for an adequate response to floods	0,00	

Priority axis	4 - Flood and landslide risk prevention and management
Investment Priority	5ii - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
Specific objective	2 - Increasing the protection of the population from landslides

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
4.2	Population at risk of landslides	persons		520 000,00	2012	460 000,00	510 211	510 211	<p>The reduction was reported under the implementation of projects "Prevention and response to landslide processes on the Republican road network - Phase 1" of the RIA - 7,063 persons and "Strengthening the landslide LOV19.44327.02 - rap on a road to a Regional landfill for solid household waste - "Sinchets" Str. in the town of Lukovit " from Municipality Lukovit - 2,726 persons.</p> <p>The target value (300 000 persons) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The update reflects the reduced population at risk, falling within the scope of the landslides under the contracted projects and based on analysis of projects in evaluation update is required as a result of the revision and extension of the indicative list of landslides.</p>

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
4.2	Population at risk of landslides	520 000,00		0,00		0,00		0,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
4.2	Population at risk of landslides		0,00

Priority axis	5 - Improvement of ambient air quality
Investment Priority	6iv - taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures

Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 5/6iv

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
F	5.3	Population benefitting from the measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and NOx	persons		1 300 000,00			0			The target value (3 000 000 persons) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The amendment in the target value covers the population in the municipalities implementing projects under the two procedures addressing the main air pollutants - domestic heating and transport.
S	5.3	Population benefitting from the measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and NOx	persons		1 300 000,00			3 016 535			In order to achieve the target value 18 projects were contracted with the municipalities of Sofia (4 grant contracts), Montana, Burgas (2 grant contracts), Pleven, Varna, Haskovo, Sliven and Ruse. To avoid double reporting the target values of projects implemented by the municipalities of Burgas (2) and Sofia (4) were reported once, taking the higher value as follows: 1,341,938 persons for Sofia Municipality and 207,988 persons for Burgas. The target value (3 000 000 persons) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The amendment in the target value covers the population in the municipalities implementing projects under the two procedures addressing the main air pollutants - domestic heating and transport.
F	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number		5,00			0			The target value (19 projects) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The revised target value is based on the number of project proposals submitted through UMIS 2020 under the two procedures addressing the main air pollutants - domestic heating and transportation, focusing namely at reducing PM10 and NOx.
S	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number		5,00			18			In the second half of 2019 the MA launched an additional procedure with measures addressing the transport as a source of air pollution. As of the end of 2019 18 AGCs were concluded for implementation of projects aimed at reducing the quantities of PM10 and NOx with the municipalities of Sofia, Montana, Burgas, Smolyan, Dimitrovgrad, Plovdiv, Vidin, Vratsa, Stara Zagora, Pleven, Varna, Haskovo, Sliven and Ruse. The target value (19 projects) is updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The revised target value is based on the number of project proposals submitted through UMIS 2020 under the two procedures addressing the main air pollutants - domestic heating and transportation, focusing namely at reducing PM10 and NOx.

(1) S = Cumulative value – results to be implemented by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F = cumulative value – results implemented by operations [actually achieved]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
F	5.3	Population benefitting from the measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00			0,00		

(I)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
S	5.3	Population benefitting from the measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00			0,00		
F	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00			0,00		

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	5.3	Population benefitting from the measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00		
S	5.3	Population benefitting from the measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00		
F	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00		
S	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	0,00			0,00		

Priority axis	5 - Improvement of ambient air quality
Investment Priority	6iv - taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures
Specific objective	1 - Reducing ambient air pollution by lowering the quantities of PM10/NOx

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
5.1	Quantity of PM10	tonnes/year		7347.71	2011	7 017.71	7 347.71	7 347.71	The baseline value is reported. The target value (7 001,15 tonnes/year) is revised with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. Given the resource allocated to the transport procedure, the revised target value reflect the contribution of these projects for lowering the PM10 levels. The revision is also based on the CBAs of the projects, namely on the methods for calculation of the direct contribution – emissions of the new vehicles compared to the emissions of the replaced ones; estimations regarding diverted passengers to public transport ceasing to use personal cars; and reduced PM emissions from electricity production (as part of the energy mix of the country) that is used by the old vehicles and reduced with the energy efficiency of the new stock.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
5.1	Quantity of PM10		7 347,71		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
5.1	Quantity of PM10		0

Priority axes for technical assistance

Table 3A: The common and specific programme indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund implementation (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of ERDF region) - 6

Priority axis		6 - Technical assistance									
(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
F	6.10	Beneficiaries' officials trained	Number		1 400,00			0			The progress in the indicator's implementation will be reported towards the end of the programming period when the operation is fully completed and will cover the results reported under all budget lines.
S	6.10	Beneficiaries' officials trained	Number		1 400,00			590			
F	6.11	Trainings for beneficiaries' officials	Number		40,00			0			The progress in the indicator's implementation will be reported towards the end of the programming period when the operation is fully completed and will cover the results reported under all budget lines.
S	6.11	Trainings for beneficiaries' officials	Number		40,00			40			The cumulative value of the indicator is determined in accordance with the established Algorithm for calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".
F	6.5	MA officials trained	Number		123,00			0			The progress in the indicator's implementation will be reported towards the end of the programming period when the operation is fully completed and will cover the results reported under all budget lines.
S	6.5	MA officials trained	Number		123,00			123			The cumulative value of the indicator is determined in accordance with the established Algorithm for calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".
F	6.6	Trainings for MA officials	Number		24,00			0			The progress in the indicator's implementation will be reported towards the end of the programming period when the operation is fully completed and will cover the results reported under all budget lines.
S	6.6	Trainings for MA officials	Number		24,00			24			The cumulative value of the indicator is determined in accordance with the established Algorithm for calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".
F	6.7	Employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA.	Number		123,00			0			The progress in the indicator's implementation will be reported towards the end of the programming period when the operation is fully completed and will cover the results reported under all budget lines.
S	6.7	Employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA.	Number		123,00			121			The cumulative value of the indicator is determined in accordance with the established Algorithm for calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".
F	6.8	Conducted evaluations on the programme	Number		5,00			0			
S	6.8	Conducted evaluations on the programme	Number		5,00			5			
F	6.9	Number of information campaigns	Number		7,00			4			The cumulative value of the indicator is determined in accordance with the established Algorithm for the calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".

(1)	ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) - total	Target value (2023) - men	Target value (2023) - women	2019 Total	2019 Men	2019 Women	Notes
S	6.9	Number of information campaigns	Number		7,00			5			

(1) S = Cumulative value – results to be implemented by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F = cumulative value – results implemented by operations [actually achieved]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Men	2018 Women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women
F	6.10	Beneficiaries' officials trained	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	6.10	Beneficiaries' officials trained	590,00			240,00			240,00		
F	6.11	Trainings for beneficiaries' officials	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	6.11	Trainings for beneficiaries' officials	40,00			23,00			23,00		
F	6.5	MA officials trained	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	6.5	MA officials trained	123,00			123,00			123,00		
F	6.6	Trainings for MA officials	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	6.6	Trainings for MA officials	24,00			4,00			4,00		
F	6.7	Employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA.	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	6.7	Employees) (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA.	123,00			123,00			123,00		
F	6.8	Conducted evaluations on the programme	0,00			0,00			0,00		
S	6.8	Conducted evaluations on the programme	5,00			1,00			1,00		
F	6.9	Number of information campaigns	3,00			1,00			0,00		
S	6.9	Number of information campaigns	3,00			3,00			1,00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	6.10	Beneficiaries' officials trained	0,00			0,00		
S	6.10	Beneficiaries' officials trained	0,00			0,00		
F	6.11	Trainings for beneficiaries' officials	0,00			0,00		
S	6.11	Trainings for beneficiaries' officials	0,00			0,00		
F	6.5	MA officials trained	0,00			0,00		
S	6.5	MA officials trained	0,00			0,00		
F	6.6	Trainings for MA officials	0,00			0,00		
S	6.6	Trainings for MA officials	0,00			0,00		
F	6.7	Employees (full-time) whose salaries are co-financed by TA.	120,00			0,00		
S	6.7	Employees (full-time) whose salaries are co-financed by TA.	123,00			0,00		
F	6.8	Conducted evaluations on the programme	0,00			0,00		
S	6.8	Conducted evaluations on the programme	0,00			0,00		
F	6.9	Number of information campaigns	1,00			0,00		
S	6.9	Number of information campaigns	1,00			0,00		

Priority axis	6 - Technical assistance
Specific objective	1 - Strengthening the administrative capacity of the responsible structures for the effective and efficient implementation of activities related to the programming, management, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPE.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance - 6/1

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
6.1	Average time for a project approval	days		155,00	2013	147,00	58		The cumulative value of the indicator is reported in accordance with the established Algorithm for calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance". The target value (90 days) is revised with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission and it is in line with the legislative deadlines for project proposals evaluation set in Art. 33, Para 2 of the Act on Management of Funding from ESIF.
6.2	Average time for beneficiary payments request verification	days		90,00	2013	85,00	46		The cumulative value of the indicator is reported in accordance with the established Algorithm for calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
6.1	Average time for a project approval	58,00		0,00		61,00		90,00	
6.2	Average time for beneficiary payments request verification	45,00		0,00		10,00		0,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
6.1	Average time for a project approval	0,00	
6.2		0,00	

Priority axis	6 - Technical assistance
Specific objective	2 - Raising the public awareness about the programme and the ESIF contribution, and ensuring publicity and information of relevance for all identified target groups.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance - 6/2

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
6.3	Level of public awareness of the OPE	%		40,00	2014	60,00	76 %		The cumulative value of the indicator was reported in accordance with the Algorithm for calculation of the indicators under Priority Axis 6 “Technical Assistance“ based on annual sociological surveys to enquire the level of public awareness of the OPE.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
6.3	Level of public awareness of the OPE	57,00		0,00		45,70		41,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
6.3	Level of public awareness of the OPE		0,00

Priority axis	6 - Technical assistance
Specific objective	3 - Strengthening the capacity of OPE beneficiaries for the successful implementation of projects under the programme.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); also applicable to the priority axis for technical assistance - 6/3

ID	Indicator	Unit	Category of region	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target value 2023	2019 Total	2019 Quality	Notes
6.4	Level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the TA measures and training provided	%		35,00	2013	60,00	97		The cumulative value of the indicator is reported in accordance with the established Algorithm for the calculation of indicators under Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Quality	2017 Total	2017 Quality	2016 Total	2016 Quality	2015 Total	2015 Quality
6.4	Level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the TA measures and training provided	49,00		0,00		48,92		0,00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Quality
6.4	Level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the TA measures and training provided	0,00	

Table 3B: Number of enterprises supported by the multilateral support network for the same enterprises of the operational programme

Indicator	Number of enterprises supported by the multilateral support network of the OP
-----------	---

N/A.

Table 5: Information on milestones and target values set in the performance framework

Priority axis	Type of indicator	Id. No	Indicator	Unit	Fund	Category of region	2019 Total, cumulative	2019 Men, cumulative	2019 Women, cumulative	2019 Annual total	2019 Annual total, men	2019 Annual total, women
1	O	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)		95 720					
1	O	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	Population equivalent	Cohesion Fund (CF)		148 713					
1	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		223 083 066					
1	O	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		15					
2	O	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	Tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	17 316					
2	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	57 664 458					
2	I	2.3	Major project signed grant contract	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1					
2	O	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0					
3	O	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0					
3	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	4 611 553					
3	I	3.8	Species supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1					
3	O	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0					
3	O	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1					
4	O	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)		55 783					
4	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		14 988 264					
4	O	4.4	Reinforced landslides	hectares	Cohesion Fund (CF)		3,47					
5	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		97 370 073					
5	I	5.5	Submitted projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		18					
5	O	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		0					

Priority axis	Type of indicator	Id. No	Indicator	Unit	Fund	Category of region	2018 Total, cumulative	2017 Total, cumulative	2016 Total, cumulative	Notes
1	O	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)		95 720,00	0,00		
1	O	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	Population equivalent	Cohesion Fund (CF)		140 634,00	16 317,00		
1	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		165 208 617,00	47 228 821,43		
1	O	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		14,00	8,00		

Priority axis	Type indicator	of Id. No	Indicator	Unit	Fund	Category of region	2018 Total, cumulative	2017 Total, cumulative	2016 Total, cumulative	Notes
2	O	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	Tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	17 316,00	0,00		
2	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	45 341 508,00	6 702 063,30		
2	I	2.3	Major project signed grant contract	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1,00	0,00		
2	O	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0,00	0,00		
3	O	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0,00	0,00		
3	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	970 005,00	260 565,19		
3	I	3.8	Species supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1,00	0,00		
3	O	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0,00	0,00		
3	O	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1,00	0,00		
4	O	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)		15 051,00	0,00		
4	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		10 195 940,00	10 686,16		
4	O	4.4	Reinforced landslides	hectares	Cohesion Fund (CF)		3,47	0,00		
5	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		749 137,00	315 175,95		
5	I	5.5	Submitted projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		3,00	0,00		
5	O	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		0,00	0,00		

Priority axis	Type of indicator	Id. No	Indicator	Unit	Fund	Category of region	2015 Total, cumulative	2014 Total, cumulative
1	O	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
1	O	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	Population equivalent	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
1	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
1	O	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
2	O	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	Tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
2	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
2	I	2.3	Major project signed grant contract	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
2	O	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
3	O	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
3	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
3	I	3.8	Species supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
3	O	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
3	O	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		
4	O	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
4	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
4	O	4.4	Reinforced landslides	hectares	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
5	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
5	I	5.5	Submitted projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)			
5	O	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)			

Priority axis	Type indicator	of Id. No	Indicator	Unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 - total	Milestone for 2018 - men	Milestone for 2018 - women	Final target (2023) - total	Final target (2023) - men	Final target (2023) - women
1	O	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)		89 000			220 000,00		
1	O	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	Population equivalent	Cohesion Fund (CF)		100 000			1 473 384,00		
1	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		169 764 705,88			1 196 318 599,00		
1	O	1.5	New/Updated analytical/programming/strategic documents	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		10			18,00		
2	O	CO17	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	Tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	20 000			105 000,00		
2	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	20 144 907,00			294 604 764,00		
2	I	2.3	Major project signed grant contract	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1			1,00		
2	O	2.2	Additional capacity for recovery of waste (to generate energy)	tonnes/year	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0			180 000,00		

Priority axis	Type of indicator	Id. No	Indicator	Unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 - total	Milestone for 2018 - men	Milestone for 2018 - women	Final target (2023) - total	Final target (2023) - men	Final target (2023) - women
3	O	CO23	Nature and Biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	247 723,962			1 565 668,00		
3	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	7 097 300,00			94 569 626,00		
3	I	3.8	Species supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1			1,00		
3	O	3.4	Surface area of species habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	0			2 878 749,00		
3	O	3.6	National information campaigns carried out	Number	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	1			3,00		
4	O	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	Cohesion Fund (CF)		1 300 000			2 750 000,00		
4	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		4 500 000			73 816 624,00		
4	O	4.4	Reinforced landslides	hectares	Cohesion Fund (CF)		2			80,00		
5	F	7	Total amount of the eligible expenditure certified by the Certifying authority	Euro	Cohesion Fund (CF)		743 151			63 535 229,00		
5	I	5.5	Submitted projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		2			5,00		
5	O	5.4	Projects for lowering the quantities of PM10 and NOx	Number	Cohesion Fund (CF)		0			5,00		

3.4 Financial data (Art. 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

(as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [template for the transmission of financial data])

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis	Total for the fund	Co-financing rate	Total eligible expenditure of operations selected for support	Share of the total allocation covered by the selected operations	Eligible public expenditure for operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority.	Share of total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	Cohesion Fund (CF)		Public	1 196 318 599,00	85,00%	1 029 141 123,86	86,03%	935 633 064,91	259 396 886,82	21,68%	39
2	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	Public	294 604 764,00	85,00%	344 166 283,84	116,82%	264 087 620,62	23 827 431,56	8,09%	38
3	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	Public	94 569 626,00	85,00%	39 880 592,76	42,17%	39 880 592,76	5 552 200,75	5,87%	20
4	Cohesion Fund (CF)		Public	73 816 624,00	85,00%	55 035 327,66	74,56%	55 035 327,66	15 772 614,36	21,37%	15
5	Cohesion Fund (CF)		Public	63 535 229,00	85,00%	312 685 070,36	492,14%	311 250 890,92	1 123 948,74	1,77%	36
6	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	Public	47 536 503,00	85,00%	28 162 589,50	59,24%	28 162 589,50	17 985 668,83	37,84%	17
Total	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions		436 710 893,00	85,00%	412 209 466,10	94,39%	332 130 802,88	47 365 301,14	10,85%	75
Total	Cohesion Fund (CF)			1 333 670 452,00	85,00%	1 396 861 521,88	104,74%	1 301 919 283,49	276 293 449,92	20,72%	90
Total Record				1 770 381 345,00	85,00%	1 809 070 987,98	102,19%	1 634 050 086,37	323 658 751,06	18,28%	165

Table 7: Distribution of cumulative financial data by combination of categories of intervention for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund (Article 112 (1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

Priority axis	Characteristics of costs		Dimensional categorisation								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	Intervention field	Form of financing	Territorial Dimension	Territorial mechanism for performance	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible expenditure for operations selected for support	Eligible public expenditure for operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority	Number of operations selected
1	Cohesion Fund (CF)		020	01	07	07	06		11	BG	325 515 753,74	288 241 124,35	38 906 486,72	25
1	Cohesion Fund (CF)		021	01	07	07	06		11	BG	35 346 020,93	35 346 020,93	13 722 417,23	6
1	Cohesion Fund (CF)		022	01	07	07	06		11	BG	515 573 341,10	460 731 892,43	164 042 303,79	32
1	Cohesion Fund (CF)		022	04	07	07	06		11	BG	119 631 858,82	119 631 858,82	28 912 198,07	1
1	Cohesion Fund (CF)		022	05	07	07	06		11	BG	16 748 461,45	16 748 461,45	7 228 049,52	1
1	Cohesion Fund (CF)		023	01	07	07	06		22	BG	16 325 687,82	14 933 706,93	6 585 431,49	7
2	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	017	01	07	07	06		11	BG	113 400 714,55	101 730 749,37	16 825 361,61	33
2	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	017	05	07	07	06		11	BG	26 807 842,00	26 807 842,00	6 701 960,50	1
2	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	018	01	07	07	06		11	BG	157 538 011,21	91 813 152,92	0,00	1
2	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	023	01	07	07	06		22	BG	46 419 716,08	43 735 876,33	300 109,45	3
3	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	085	01	07	07	06		22	BG	9 265 842,12	9 265 842,12	630 884,87	1
3	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	086	01	07	06	06		22	BG	95 429,71	95 429,71	0,00	1
3	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	086	01	07	07	06		22	BG	30 519 320,93	30 519 320,93	4 921 315,88	18
4	Cohesion Fund (CF)		087	01	07	07	05		21	BG	55 035 327,66	55 035 327,66	15 772 614,36	15
5	Cohesion Fund (CF)		083	01	07	07	06		22	BG	312 685 070,36	311 250 890,92	1 123 948,74	36
6	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	121	01	07	07			23	BG	21 982 211,94	21 982 211,94	14 697 905,49	10
6	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	122	01	07	07			24	BG	3 872 993,34	3 872 993,34	1 940 104,73	4
6	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Less developed regions	123	01	07	07			24	BG	2 307 384,22	2 307 384,22	1 347 658,61	3

Table 8: Use of cross-financing

1	2	3	4	5	6
Use of cross-financing	Priority axis	Amount of EU support to be used for cross-financing based on selected operations (in EUR)	As a share of EU support under the priority axis (%) (3/EU support under the priority axis*100)	Amount of EU support used under the cross-financing on the basis of eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the Managing Authority (in EUR)	As a share of EU support under the priority axis (%) (5/EU support under the priority axis*100)

N/A.

Table 9: Expenditure on operations outside the programme area (ERDF and Cohesion Fund under the “Investment for growth and jobs” objective)

1	2	3	4	5
Priority axis	Amount of EU support to be used for operations outside the programme area, based on the selected operations (in EUR)	As a share of EU support under the priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme (%) (2/EU support under the priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme*100)	Amount of EU support for operations outside the programme area based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (in EUR)	As a share of EU support under the priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme (%) (4/EU support under the priority axis at the time of adoption of the programme*100)

N/A.

Table 10: Expenditure incurred outside the Union (ESF)

The amount of expenditure to be incurred outside the Union under thematic objectives 8 and 10 on the basis of the selected operations (in Euro)	Share of total allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or part of an ESF programme financed by several Funds (%) (1/total allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or part of an ESF programme financed by several Funds*100)	Eligible expenditure incurred outside the Union declared by the beneficiary to the Managing Authority (in EUR)	Share of total allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or part of an ESF programme financed by several Funds (%) (3/total allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or part of an ESF programme financed by several Funds*100)

N/A.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Summary of the findings of all evaluations of the programme submitted in the previous financial year, indicating the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used

In accordance with the OPE evaluation plan, during the reporting period an assessment of the progress in the implementation of PA 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 was carried out. The evaluation was carried out by the Ekostil Association and outlines the results as of 30.09.2019, the final evaluation report was presented on 06.12.2019. An evaluation under Axis 5 is performed under Contract No Д-30-24/01.04.2019, will end in 2020 and is not subject of this report.

The main findings of the assessment report on PA 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are presented below for each of the assessment topics:

- **Relevance of support**

The support under OPE in sectors: water, waste; Natura 2000 and biodiversity and „floods and landslides" strand is relevant to the country's needs and contributes to achieving the objectives of the national strategic documents as well as to better fulfilling the requirements of the European legislation.

Focused and prioritised support for construction of wastewater discharge and treatment infrastructure from settlements is provided in the Water sector. The support is provided through integrated investments for consolidated designated territories served by one WSS operator, allowing for more complete addressing of needs. The providing of support for accompanying activities, such as water supply infrastructure and sludge management, create conditions for sustainability of results. The support related to water monitoring is also appropriate and aims at improving the water monitoring capacity (including drinking water), as required by the legislation.

The support in the Waste sector corresponds to the needs in the field of municipal waste management, but the objective for additional waste recycling capacity could be more ambitious given the resources earmarked for this purpose. The proposed extension of the scope of the PA to recycling of municipal waste other than biodegradable waste will provide better opportunities to achieve the specific objective set and meet the needs of the beneficiaries. Support is also needed to run information campaigns and work with citizens. The proposed change in the scope of the PA envisages investments to improve the management of construction waste and the recultivation of landfills that are relevant to the national needs.

The support in the Natura 2000 and Biodiversity sector aims to contribute to achievement of the national and European biodiversity conservation objectives. A key outcome on this axis - the establishment of Natura 2000 network management bodies - is not yet in place as there is no consensus among the stakeholders. In order not to delay the implementation of conservation measures, PA3 support strategy has been modified to allow for implementation of such measures which are not linked to the establishment of Natura 2000 network management bodies. This is the only axis under OPE where Community-led local development approach is applied. In line with the objectives, the approach is used to support implementation of conservation measures. The implementation of this approach, in line with the objectives of the PA for fulfilling national commitments, is not particularly appropriate as the implementation of such measures makes it difficult for beneficiaries and the contribution of projects financed through CLLD to achieving the objectives of the PA is limited. The reason is that the conservation measures target a small number of highly specific species, the majority of which inhabit specific area-limited habitats subject to conservation in protected sites.

The support for achievement of the objectives under the Floods and Landslides strand addresses the priority needs. At the same time, there is little interest on the part of municipalities in participating in flood and landslide risk prevention activities.

The strategy for providing technical assistance (PA 6) corresponds to the real situation regarding the administrative capacity of MA and the responsible structures related to the management of OPE, as well as information needs for OPE and the needs to strengthen the capacity of the beneficiaries.

- **Efficiency of achievement of the objectives**

The milestones in PA 1 and PA 2 have been achieved both in terms of actual implementation and in terms of absorption. Under PA 3, two of the three milestones have been achieved, while the third milestone is at zero. The failure to achieve the milestone, as well as the poor financial performance, is due to delays in establishment of Natura 2000 network management bodies. This issue has a negative impact on the overall implementation of the priority axis.

As of September 2019 little progress has been made in achieving the objectives and targets of the performance indicators due to the specificities of the projects.

The main factors posing a risk for achieving the objectives are delays in preparation and implementation, including due to appeals against public procurement; lack of financial capacity and technical expertise to implement infrastructure projects; need to ensure partnership; lack of consensus on management structures for Natura 2000.

In the field of water and waste, if all projects are successfully completed within the programming period, the targets set will be met and, in many cases, exceeded. In the later launched projects under PA 1, as well as in the major project of Sofia Municipality, there is a risk that the activities will not be completed by the end of 2023.

In the area of biodiversity and floods and landslides, the contribution of the procedures to some of the performance indicators is still small at the time of the evaluation, but is expected to increase once contracts are concluded.

In order to mitigate the risk of loss of funding, the MA plans to overbook the available financial resources.

In case of successful implementation of PA1 in the field of WSS, significant progress is expected in achieving the objectives of the Urban Wastewater Directive. For each project under procedure BG16M1OP002-1.016 „Construction of WSS infrastructure” is set the indicator "Reduction of total water losses - percentage". By August 2020, given the initial stage of project implementation, no progress is reported on this indicator.

With regard to water monitoring, the procedures create opportunities to improve the assessment of the water status.

The programme will help build capacity in municipalities for waste treatment.

The delays in the establishment of a management approach and structures for the management of Natura 2000 have a significant negative impact on the implementation of the SO of PA3, on elaboration of management plans for protected sites, on a governance structure for the National Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 and establishment of a sustainable management and investment system for Natura 2000.

In the area of flood protection, the tackling of small municipal water reservoirs needs a new approach, given the insufficient interest of municipalities in maintaining and managing water bodies. The axis has not yet supported ecosystem-based solutions for flood risk prevention and management, but such support is planned. Investments in priority landslides will solve the landslides problems where the state owns the land.

- **Efficiency of implementation**

The overall efficiency of the programme implementation is good, but there is room for improvement in some areas.

The application guidelines are of good quality and are clear to beneficiaries. There is scope for improvement in regards of the requirements for demonstrating the capacity of beneficiaries.

The grant system works well. The processes of evaluation of project proposals take place within the statutory deadlines, and the use of UMIS 2020 for submission and evaluation of project proposals improves the efficiency. The delays observed are due to the revision of the project proposals in

accordance with the remarks made by the MA, as well as delays in the provision of documents under the spatial development procedures.

A major risk in the performance of contracts are delays in conducting of the public procurements. Other risks are delays in implementing the infrastructure projects and ensuring coordination of technical assistance activities.

The data collection system for the indicators enables progress to be reported at project, procedure and programme level. Compliance with the hierarchy of indicators is ensured - the indicators set are included in the procedures and hence in the individual projects. This sequence, as well as the detailed description of the Indicator System in the Rules of Procedure, enable the effective reporting of the progress made.

Effective approaches to dialogue and interaction with stakeholders shall be pursued.

- **Implementation of financial instruments**

The implementation of FI in the field of PA 1 for the construction of WSS infrastructure and in the field of waste - PA 2 is envisaged.

There is interest in the financial instruments from a large part of the WSS operators who rely on them to provide co-financing for the implementation of their investment projects. In the field of waste, there is little interest in FI on the part of municipalities, which are main beneficiaries of the procedures launched so far.

The identified difficulties in the implementation of FI are both common and specific to the two sectors. The lack of experience so far is a key factor in the horizontal difficulties encountered. The challenges in the implementation of FIs in the Waste sector are mainly related to the lack of a clear concept for their use in the sector and the “competition“ between the grant and the FI.

The implementation of the instruments will require attention: encouraging the participation of private sector investors and financial institutions; identifying the most appropriate and flexible forms of support; combining financial instruments with grants;

- **Implementation of horizontal policies and fulfilment of preconditions**

The horizontal principles are integrated into the processes of preparation and implementation of OPE and are part of the programme texts and the procedures for providing support. The national legislation supports the implementation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination and environmental protection. Given the nature of the Programme, a large part of the indicators set out in it and in the procedures make it possible to measure its contribution to the horizontal principle of sustainable development.

- **Recommendations and measures taken** (information related to EC Letter Ref.Ares(2020)5076575-28/09/2020 on Annual Implementation Report 2019)

Concerning the recommendations under the evaluation of Priority axes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020 the following should be noted:

Concerning the recommendation for the update of Strategic Plan for the implementation of Priority Axis 2 "Waste" MA updates the strategic plans for all priority axes every six months. The strategic plan for the implementation of Priority Axis 2 "Waste" is updated, accordingly, also to address the approved revisions of the operational programme are reflected within the document.

The updated strategic plans contain the planned procedures until the end of the programming period, as well as the reductions in the financial frameworks after the transfer of the unused resources under the respective priority axes in order to provide support to Bulgarian economy (namely small and medium business), to address the COVID-19 crisis impact.

As for the recommendation on measures for implementation of information campaigns and raising awareness among citizens, such are eligible for support under the pilot competitive procedure “Implementation of demonstration projects for waste management”. The measures are also envisaged as eligible for funding under priority “Waste” in draft PE 2021-2027.

Regarding the implementation of "soft" biodiversity measures within the CLLD approach in the next programming period, taking into account the experience from 2014-2020 programming period and

the gained capacity within the Local Actions Groups, some of the measures set out in the draft NPAF 2021+ may be identified as applicable to be supported under PE 2021-2027. These are both conservation measures for species and habitat types of local importance and measures aimed at capacity building and communication and information activities. Detailed measures to be funded under the CLLD procedures financed by priority 3 of PE 2021-2027 shall be determined based on the final NPAF 2021+.

Regarding the recommendation to implement measures for monitoring of water quantity in a coherent manner in order to optimise the achievements and ensure synergy of the measures being implemented, OPE MA holds regular coordination meetings with participation of beneficiaries under both axes, thus ensuring synchronized implementation of the projects. According to guidelines for application, the monitoring and data processing systems shall allow integration of information and data exchange, which is a guarantee that they are implemented in a coherent manner. Additionally, PE 2021-2027 reflects the link between actions envisaged to be supported under priority 1 and these under priority 4 as well as the complementarity and contribution of the measures to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and EU Flood Directive, as well as RBMPs and FRMPs. The proposed measures under PE 2021-2027 are defined in such a manner to ensure clearer link with the challenges in these sectors.

Regarding the recommendation to consider as a potential beneficiary in PE 2021-2027 the established in 2018 state-owned enterprise “Management and operation of dams” during the coordination procedures so far within the Thematic working group, there was no interest expressed by the company, or by its principal - the Ministry of Economy to be included as a potential beneficiary under PE 2021-2027. The PE text may be revised at a later stage if there is such consideration.

Regarding the recommendation to supplement the existing landslides registry with areas with risk of erosion and abrasion, the Competent authorities to provide and support registry for landslides for the territory of the country are the Ministry of regional development and public works and the Geo protection state companies. Landslide registries are available online on the internet sites of the companies and they are regularly updated when new event occurs. However, consultations with Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works are ongoing for the options to support the establishing of a national system to monitor processes related to land movements integrating the information of these registries. Up to present such activities are envisaged as eligible under PE 2021-2027.

Regarding the recommendation that there is a risk of meeting the targets of some indicators. MA ensured a close monitoring and took actions to update indicator’s target values that reflect the MA prognosis on the realistic implementation of the projects. The new target values of the indicators were updated with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No EC (2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. However, taking into consideration the deadline of the eligibility period, no more conservation procedures are planned to be opened under Priority axis 3 of OP Environment 2014-2020 in addition to the currently being opened one (November 2020) for improvement of habitat types.

As for the recommendation for conduction of intensive information campaigns under competitive selection procedures and for maintaining active communication with direct beneficiaries, MA ensures active communication with direct beneficiaries on a day-to-day basis – both formal (correspondence, working meetings, trainings) and informal (regular gatherings, phone calls, mail correspondence, etc.). OPE MA also provides information campaigns under competitive selection procedures with the assistance of the 28 district information centres under the Central Coordination Unit within the Council of Ministers in order to provide sufficient information and guidance that would improve the quality of the project proposals to be submitted. Simplification of the requirements and strengthening the beneficiaries’ capacity are also being considered.

As for the recommendation on improving the monitoring system it is performed under the revision of the System of indicators and the Algorithm for their calculation with updated clarifications on the

scope of some indicators. New target values are determined to reflect the amendments of the Operational Programme, approved by Decision No EC (2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission.

Regarding the facilitation of application of the financial instruments, it has to be highlighted that MA representatives took part in a training on financial instruments provided by the Institute for public administration with speakers from Fund Managers of FIs in Bulgaria. During the training the scope, logic and rules for the application of financial instruments; the differences between financial instruments and grants; the advantages of financial instruments were discussed. Trainings for potential beneficiaries shall be organized when the target group is determined in a greater detail. Similarly, communication strategy for final recipients may be developed only when they are specifically defined in order to determine the most appropriate communication channels and tools. Procedures on monitoring and control of the application of financial instruments have been developed under the Procedural Manual of OPE.

The evaluation under Axis 5 “Improvement of ambient air quality” was performed under Contract No D-30-24/01.04.2019, it ended in 2020 and is not subject of this report. The following information is given in connection with the topics discussed at the Annual Review Meeting which was held on 30.10.2020.

Regarding the recommendation to initiate activities to prioritise measures for municipalities and Regions for air quality assessment and management and prepare their funding under the next Operational Programme, it has to be borne in mind that the solid fuel for domestic heating is the major pollutant contributing to the recorded exceedances of the air quality standard caused by PM10 and PM 2,5. Total 28 municipalities with poor air quality fall within the scope of the Judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU in case C-488/15 of 5 April 2017 on non-compliance with the norms for PM10 in ambient air in agglomerations and areas of the country and the non-compliance with the obligations under Directive 2008/50 / EC with regard to limit values for PM in ambient air. Both National programmes developed by the World Bank (National air pollution control programme (NAPCP 2020–2030) and National Air Quality Management Programme (NAQMP 2018-2024) sets objectives to implement the obligations for emission reduction for 2020 and 2030. The NAQMP sets a complex of measures to contribute to achieve the PM standards according to Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE) and the national legislation, not later than 2024. The proposed measures are related to reducing the primary PM10 emissions of both sources – domestic heating on solid fuel and transport. Given the measures addressing domestic heating are related only to replacement of the solid fuel heating devices and those focused on transport are clearly demarcated among the programmes for the next programming period, and taking into account that additional restrictions of the scope of support of ESIF is currently set within the draft ERDF/CF Regulation (namely on the use of fossil fuels), no additional prioritization may be applied under Programme Environment 2021-2027.

As for the comment to seek synergies with other operational programmes and other funding sources, these are being ensured within the programming process for 2021-2027 period. As for the comment on exploring the feasibility of application of financial instruments this option is being reviewed under the ex-ante evaluation of FIs that is ongoing under an assignment contracted by Ministry of Finance horizontally for the infrastructure programmes – transport, development of regions and environment. The recommendation to plan air pollution public awareness campaigns is addressed by envisaging eligible communication measures for all target groups within draft PE 2021-2027, both on national and on regional level.

In addition to reflect the comment to support measures which can demonstrate at the application stage clear effect on improving ambient air quality PE 2021-2027 is envisaged to support namely the measures that are included in the NAQMP 2018-2024. The National Programme sets the complex of measures with a maximum contribution for achieving the PM standards according to Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE) and the national legislation.

As for the possibility of applying competitive selection procedures, three are the main starting points in determining the approach for the implementation of air priority measures. First one is the Judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU in case C-488/15 of 5 April 2017 on non-compliance with the norms for PM10 in ambient air in agglomerations and areas of the country and the non-compliance with the obligations under Directive 2008/50 / EC with regard to limit values for PM in ambient air. Second one is the targets set in the National Air Quality Management Programme NAQMP 2018-2024. These targets shall be achieved the PM standards according to Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE) and the national legislation, not later than 2024. Last but not least is the allocated financial resources to achieve the minimum mandatory targets set by the Court of Justice and the NAQMP 2018-2024. Taking these three points into consideration, it is obvious that competitive selection procedure is not applicable, moreover with the defined municipalities with poor air quality under the infringement procedure. Also, the measures concern the issue of citizens' health that do not allow potential beneficiaries to be left outside of the scope of support.

Regarding the last recommendation to consider introducing a requirement for co-financing by the beneficiaries in some procedures the final beneficiaries of the main measure addressing domestic heating are the households. A large part of the citizens using solid fuel stoves have limited financial capacity. The up to present (November 2020) lessons learnt during the 2014-2020 period shows that there is still no significant interest in replacing the stoves despite the grant funding. In addition, in the lack of ban on the use of solid fuel for heating, a requirement for co-financing for the main measure is not applicable. However, options to apply FIs for other measures addressing air pollution from other sources are being reviewed under the ex-ante evaluation of FIs that is ongoing.

6 PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES ADOPTED (Article 50 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

a) Problems related to the implementation of the programme and the measures adopted

After the end of the reporting period, an analysis of the main problems related to the implementation of OPE 2014-2020 was carried out.

Given that Priority Axis 1 is aimed at construction of WSS infrastructure, the overall progress will be taken into account by the period of completion of the sites. Three waste water treatment plants (Asenovgrad, Vidin and Dobrich) have been put into operation in 2019.

Regarding the WSS projects, the Managing Authority created all necessary preconditions for the submitted project proposals to be approved and contracted with the WSSOs. The main part of these projects were granted between July and October 2019 and the beneficiaries have currently announced most of the public procurement procedures for the main activities to be implemented. Despite the contracting of a significant financial resource in the short term, delays in tendering were generated – most of the tendering procedures were launched late March and beginning of April 2020. Due to COVID-19 the deadlines for offer submission were prolonged twice, which caused additional delays. Currently, by 20.08.2020, thirteen of the fifteen WSS operators had launched tendering procedures for construction - a total of 14 grant contracts. These are WSS Burgas-3, WSS Varna-4, WSS Vidin-1, WSS Vratsa-3, WSS Kardzhali-5 (selection of a contractor for one of the public procurements is forthcoming), WSS Pernik-2, WSS Plovdiv-9, WSS Ruse-4 (one of the public procurements is with a selected contractor, the contract is to be concluded by end of August 2020), WSS Silistra-4 (all engineering public procurements are with selected contractors), WSS Sliven-5 (selection of contractors for four of the public procurements is forthcoming), WSS Stara Zagora-6, WSS Shumen-4 (one of the public procurements is with a selected contractor, the contract is to be concluded by end of August 2020) and WSS Yambol-1. WSS Smolyan has concluded all contracts for construction activities (5 contracts) and construction supervision (5 contracts). Construction and works are to be launched, as well as the design envisaged within the contracts under Yellow Fidic. Significant progress in implementation is expected in 2020. WSS Yambol has concluded two contracts for engineering.

The main problem on the axis is the fact that the majority of WSS operators have announced public procurement for the main activities later than planned. Given the time needed to conduct the public procurement procedures and the practice of appeal, MA of OPE does not expect to start construction works in 2020, with the exception of the WSS Smolyan project. These are major infrastructure projects which take a significant period of time, ranging from 3 to 5 years, and practice shows that tenders for construction activities are usually appealed for at least 6 months. In practice, for actual construction to the end of the eligibility period will remain up to 3 years for projects with already announced public procurements.

The implementation of the project activities depends on the mobilization of the beneficiaries for compliance with the time schedules, as well as on the contractors under contracts for implementation of the set deadlines. The main corrective actions of the MA are aimed at overcoming in a timely manner the difficulties of different nature and effective implementation of the overall programming cycle. At verification stage, MA creates conditions for rapid reimbursement of costs incurred by the beneficiaries, which in turn led to acceleration of the construction of the sites in 2019. Under the projects, ongoing monitoring of implementation is carried out to identify shortcomings or challenges encountered, as MA offers optimal solutions and provides expert

assistance within its competences. The necessary corrective actions and guidelines are being discussed with the beneficiaries in order to prevent delays in time schedules and accelerate the pace of work. In order to achieve the planned objectives of the programme, MA maintains daily communication with beneficiaries to avoid deviations from the predefined values of payment claims and deadlines for submitting expenditures for verification and certification.

MA creates preconditions for implementation of the projects and by providing technical and expert assistance and training. In June 2019, a meeting was organised between the EC and the WSS operators to clarify the need for timely announcement of public procurements. Correspondence has been exchanged, meetings have been held and intensive communication is carried out to motivate and support the acceleration of the procurement procedure. The delay generated to date and the expected appeal of the procedures for selection of contractors are serious objective reasons that put the completion of the activities of these projects within the eligibility period at risk.

In response to the identified risk, the MA took the following timely measures within its competence:

- holding a number of meetings with beneficiaries, requiring adequate action and maximum mobilisation of the project implementation teams;
- correspondence with all interested parties - representatives of the beneficiaries, MRDPW as principal of the companies, FMFIB and EBRD as intermediary for the provision of financial instruments in the sector.
- assistance to beneficiaries through the support provided under the MRDPW projects to increase the capacity of operators and through allocation of funds in the form of a financial instrument to provide own contribution to the projects.
- continuous ongoing monitoring of the implementation;
- an agreement with the European Investment Bank was signed in 2019, through which expert support will be provided to MA and the beneficiaries in the implementation of projects for the construction of WSS infrastructure in the designated territories of 16 WSS operators. This ensures the effective implementation of the strategic investments in the water sector by applying a regional approach in 16 consolidated areas served by 1 WSS operator: Smolyan, Burgas, Varna, Vidin, Vratsa, Dobrich, Kardzhali, Pernik, Plovdiv, Ruse, Silistra, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Shumen, Yambol and Sofia;
- analysis of risk projects and monthly forecasts;
- ancillary agreements were concluded with the WSS operators under which it was possible to pay a 10 % advance before issuing construction permits for all construction sites.

In addition, a tender schedule has been submitted to the MA, daily communication is maintained, regular consultations are held with representatives at both expert and management level of the WSS operators, continuous support is provided, including through the conditions provided for the use of financial instruments. In this context, the EBRD reaffirms its commitment to finalise the provision of financial instruments in the sector by the end of 2020 to ensure the implementation of projects of such importance. The initial intentions are to support three to five Operators, with a higher certainty for 3 projects – for WSS Varna, WSS Plovdiv, WSS Burgas (mandate letter issued) and intentions also for WSS Silistra, WSS Vidin and WSS Yambol. WSS Vidin is to be reviewed in order to identify its attractiveness for the Bank. However, EBRD is ready to support Vidin through the loan window if Raiffeisen Bank does not agree to provide a guarantee. For the rest 4 WSS Operators – Dobrich, Pernik, Shumen, Sliven, consultations are foreseen by EBRD with the relevant stakeholders (incl. MRDPW as principal of the Companies) to apply the necessary mechanisms for these Operators to become “bankable”.

In order to facilitate the entire process of implementation of FI for the water and sewerage sector, the MA of OPE develops a direct grant award procedure to the MRDPW, which will allow EBRD to provide technical support to the WSS operators. The objective is to build on the operational and financial capacity of the WSS companies beyond the mere fact that they use the financial instruments efficiently, namely to achieve sustainability related in general to provision of services and access to different sources of funding. Despite the

timely measures by the Managing Authority and the accelerated pace of work in order to overcome the initial delay in the start of the operational programme, the risk of delay exists and for achieving the PA1 final targets it is crucial that WSS operators conduct public procurement for selection of contractor for the main project activities.

Under PA 2, a “major project“ within the meaning of Art. 100 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 is implemented with a beneficiary Sofia Municipality for "Design and construction of an installation for cogeneration in Sofia with recovery of RDF - third phase of the integrated system for municipal waste management of Sofia Municipality". A grant contract was concluded with the beneficiary on 30.11.2018 and in October 2019 state aid for environmental protection and energy was notified. A letter was received from the EC: SA. 54042 (2019N) Bulgaria - Sofia production of electricity from municipal waste/cogeneration with utilization of RDF, dated 26.11.2019, announcing that the Commission has decided not to raise objections to the aid on the grounds that it is compatible with the internal market pursuant to Art. 107, para. 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. On 20.03.2020 a Decision was issued for approval of the project by the EC. Through the technical assistance on the project provided in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on support for EU projects between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Investment Bank and the concluded Agreement on the provision of services, the tender documentation for selection of contractors of engineering and construction supervision/FIDIC Engineer will be prepared with the support of the EIB. According to information provided by Sofia municipality on the activities performance, the technical assistance is contracted, the preparation of tender documentation is ongoing and construction contracts are forthcoming. Given the deadlines for implementation of the main activities of the project, maximum mobilization by the beneficiary is necessary in order to complete the project within the period of eligibility of expenditure.

For the financial instruments under Axis 2 - MA of OPE has provided the necessary conditions for their implementation, as well as regular consultations with FMFIB. Extension of the measures under PA 2 is proposed in the EBRD's update of the ex-ante evaluation of financial instruments under OPE 2014-2020 and the updated investment strategy for PA 2 of the programme. The Investment Strategy also identifies the terms and conditions under which, in absence of concrete results on the implementation of FI in the Waste sector, to proceed with releasing the committed resource and redirecting it to another type of measures, respectively another form of support by the MA of OPE. Progress in the implementation of the financial instrument has not been reported at present, leading to significant delays and putting the absorption of funds under the priority axis at risk. In this regard, the Parties commit to a specific deadline, namely implementation review for 2020 (to be carried out in June 2021). This review will identify the amounts that are or are to be invested on the basis of contracts concluded with final recipients or on the basis of forthcoming contracts on loan requests from final recipients together with a developed business plan. After the review, the remainder of the funds for FIs will be released from commitment in order to be used through other forms of support, in accordance with the objectives of OPE 2014-2020. In the absence of results after these deadlines, it is envisaged to proceed with the withdrawal of the resource involved in FIs.

The identified difficulties in the implementation of FIs are both common and specific to the two sectors. As mentioned in the programme evaluation report, the lack of experience to date in the implementation of financial instruments in the area of support under the programme is a major factor in the horizontal difficulties encountered. The challenges in the implementation of FI in the Waste sector are mainly related to the lack of a clear concept for their use in the sector and the “competition“ between the grant and the FI.

MA of OPE has confidence that the objectives for 2023 under PA 1 and PA 2 will be achieved. According to the timetable for implementation of the activities under the major project of Sofia Municipality under PA 2 “Waste”, it is expected that the objective of recovery will be fully achieved and achievement of the recycling targets will be ensured through implementation of the current projects. For the purposes of PA1, it should be borne in mind that the MA of OPE, in coordination with the principal - MRDPW, monitors the implementation of the water projects extremely closely and is ready to take all necessary corrective actions.

Another factor influencing the implementation is the delay in establishing the Natura 2000 network management bodies, which has a negative impact on establishment of conservation objectives and conservation measures required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Ministry of Environment and Water developed a draft Act for amending the Biodiversity Act. After a considerable delay, it was approved by a Council of Ministers Decision No. 147 of 05.03.2020. MA of OPE has confidence that it will also be approved by the National Assembly, thus the management approach will be a fact in 2020. This will allow timely implementation of the activities under OPE 2014-2020 to achieve the objectives under Priority Axis 3. In parallel to submitting the Act to the National Assembly, MA of OPE started work on the preparation of the technical assistance procedures for the new bodies in order to speed up as much as possible the process of announcement and the subsequent bodies' actual establishment. In addition, measures have been identified in 2019 that can be supported prior to the establishment of the bodies. Some of them have already been included in the 4 procedures announced in 2019, and others are planned in 2020.

In view of the circumstances listed, leading to a risk of completing all activities within the eligibility period, the amount of programme resources used would be lower than that laid down in the approved financial framework.

The main corrective actions of the MA are aimed at overcoming in a timely manner the difficulties of different nature and effective implementation of the overall programming cycle. At verification stage, MA creates conditions for rapid reimbursement of costs incurred by the beneficiaries, which in turn led to acceleration of the construction of the sites in 2019. Under the projects, ongoing monitoring of implementation is carried out to identify shortcomings or challenges encountered, as MA offers optimal solutions and provides expert assistance within its competences. The necessary corrective actions and guidelines are being discussed with the beneficiaries in order to prevent delays in time schedules and accelerate the pace of work. In order to achieve the planned objectives of the programme, MA maintains daily communication with beneficiaries to avoid deviations from the predefined values of payment claims and deadlines for submitting expenditures for verification and certification.

In addition, the possibility to absorb the agreed amounts is also reduced due to savings under public procurements, uncertified costs and financial corrections imposed in connection with violations by beneficiaries.

In order to prevent the negative impact of irregularities, MA applies the instrument for self-assessment of the risk of fraud. The related control measures introduced at system level aim to identify specific situations that may arise in implementation of operations that can be characterised as specific indicators of fraud ("red flags"), as well as to provide for and take effective and proportionate measures to improve the management and control systems, as a reflection of MA's anti-fraud policy. The use of a fraud risk self-assessment tool is introduced, which is annexed to the European Commission Guidelines for Member States and authorities responsible for the programmes, with No EGESIF 14-00-21-00/16.06.2014 (the Guidelines). Identified are the main risks of fraud in MA's activities, taking into account the Guidelines, namely: risk of fraud in project proposal selection; risk of fraud in implementation and verification; risk of fraud in certification and payments; risk of fraud in awarding contracts by MA.

The specific fraud risks, which are further assessed as part of the risk management process, have been identified on the basis of information from previous cases of Cohesion Policy implementation, as well as other generally recognised and recurrent fraud schemes.

MA also applies comprehensive procedures for carrying out analysis of the presence of indicators ("red flags") for irregularities and fraud that are relevant to the public procurements carried out by beneficiaries. On a case-by-case basis, when checking the legality of the conducted public procurements, in event of a deviation, additional analysis is being carried out for the presence of indicators of irregularities and fraud ("red flags"), namely: indicators of conflict of interest fraud; indicators of contractual fraud in bidding; indicators of fraudulent award of one contractor.

In addition to the implemented initiatives aimed at successful implementation of the physical and financial targets, MA applies a number of measures to increase the administrative capacity and therefore to prevent the common weaknesses.

During the reporting period, trainings for beneficiaries continued as a proven good practice. During the training sessions, clarifications and methodological guidance are being provided on various technical issues related to all stages of preparation, setting and submission of the documentation required for the purpose of verification of expenditures. MA assists the beneficiaries in administration of the project cycle, which is related to submission and reporting of expenditures in the electronic system UMIS 2020. Another successful initiative is periodic holding of workshops at which solutions to emergent cases are proposed in the implementation of project activities.

Regarding the gaps in the field of public procurements, MA of OPE took preventive actions that are targeted on providing information on the risks of allowing frequent violations by the beneficiaries. In this regard, documents and requirements for awarding public procurements under OPE were approved to support tendering of construction works. The documents include standardised templates and requirements for procurement for engineering (design and construction) of wastewater treatment plants and WSS networks and construction supervision under FIDIC.

In the programme section of the electronic information portal **eufunds.bg**, MA publishes and regularly updates and supplements, as amended in the legal framework, manuals and instructions for beneficiaries. During the reporting period, the revised "Frequently made errors/violations under the Public Procurement Act in the implementation of projects funded under OPE 2014-2020" and "Instruction for the beneficiaries under OPE 2014-2020 on the reporting of AGC/GO in UMIS 2020" were published.

(b) Assessment of whether the progress towards the targets is sufficient to ensure their implementation, indicating any corrective action taken or planned, where appropriate.

In assessing the physical and financial progress made under the priority axes aimed at building environmental infrastructure, it is noteworthy that progress has been made towards the milestones. Given that the programme finances projects which take a significant period of time to implement, it is difficult to fully cover the physical progress achieved at the end of the reporting period. The actual progress on physical indicators will be taken into account at the completion of the projects due to the need for a high degree of completion or commissioning of the sites for measuring the results of operations.

The main corrective actions of the MA are aimed at overcoming in a timely manner the difficulties of different nature and effective implementation of the overall programming cycle. At the programming stage, options are reviewed to announce procedures for contracting grants to projects that will contribute to achievement of the indicators set out under all priority axes. MA took a number of corrective measures in this direction, consisting in initiating changes to the programme that were presented and coordinated with EC. Thus, fulfilling the specific objectives and achieving the indicators is ensured by signing of contracts and allocating the necessary financial resources. Evaluation and negotiation are carried out in short time as MA conducts consultations with the applicants (where applicable) and necessary support is provided. At verification stage, MA creates conditions for rapid reimbursement of costs incurred by the beneficiaries, which in turn led to acceleration of the construction of the sites in 2019. Under the projects, ongoing monitoring of implementation is carried out to identify shortcomings or challenges encountered, as MA offers optimal solutions and provides expert assistance within its competences. The necessary corrective actions and guidelines are being discussed with the beneficiaries in order to prevent delays in time schedules and accelerate the pace of work. In order to achieve the planned objectives of the programme, MA maintains daily communication with beneficiaries to avoid deviations from the predefined values of payment claims and deadlines for submitting expenditures for verification and certification.

During the period MA also took actions to amend the programme. Decision No C (2015) 4144 of the EC of 19 November 2019 approved the reallocation of a performance reserve - funds amounting to 6% of PA 3 were transferred to PA 2 and from PA 4 to PA 5. The scope of PA 2 includes new measures related to the recultivation of landfills subject to EU law infringement proceedings in Case C-145/14. In addition, the procedure announced in 2019 under PA 5 has a budget that exceeds the financial resources under the axis. In early 2020, on the basis of Art. 30 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, additional amendment of the programme was developed in order to update the financial plan of the programme to reflect the respective financial reallocations, and aligning the values of the indicators with these reallocations between the priority axes. This amendment includes a new indicator in PA 2 to reflect the programme's contribution to landfills recultivation.

Under Priority Axis 1 in 2019 MA has made efforts to accelerate the process of awarding grants for WSS projects submitted during the period, which is directly related to the aim to ensure achievement of the final target values under the axis. The grant contracts concluded, together with the forthcoming ones, may ensure achievement of the programme's targets. However, the pace of projects' implementation varies. In the Water sector, 31 infrastructure projects have been contracted, and so far 5 have been implemented (municipalities of Radnevo, Tervel, Bansko, Shumen and Asenovgrad), 3 are close to completion (municipalities of Vidin, Aytos and Primorsko), on 9 construction works are being carried out (municipalities of Varna, Yambol, Vratsa, Dobrich, Pleven, Elhovo, Chirpan, Tutrakan and Plovdiv municipalities), 2 are with signed construction contracts (WSS Smolyan and WSS Yambol), 13 beneficiaries are conducting procedures under the Public Procurement Act (WSS Burgas, WSS Varna, WSS Vidin, WSS Vratsa, WSS Kardzhali, WSS Pernik, WSS Plovdiv, WSS Ruse, WSS Silistra, WSS Sliven, WSS Stara Zagora, WSS Shumen and WSS Yambol). MA expects projects with concluded contracts to be completed within the period of eligibility of costs. For those which are currently tendering the risk of not completing on time is relatively small – in case of prolonged appealing some of the components end could exceed the eligibility period.

In order to implement **the strategy under Priority Axis 2**, the MA initiated a number of procedures to ensure the necessary additional capacity for waste recycling and recovery of municipal waste, thereby achieving both the objective of the programme (reduction of the amount of landfilled municipal waste) and the objectives and

deadlines resulting from European and national legislation to reduce the amount of landfilled municipal waste, including biodegradable waste and recycling. The currently funded project activities under five of the announced procedures contribute to implementation of the main indicator under the priority axis „Additional waste recycling capacity,, as well as to building capacities for pre-treatment of municipal waste, thereby further reducing the total amount of municipal waste going to landfills. The objective of building additional waste recycling capacity at the end of the reporting period has been reached at 16%. MA expects the final objective to be exceeded in the successful implementation of the projects.

In 2019, a total of 2 procedures were announced - an open call procedure and a direct award one. On PA 2 achievement of the milestones is reported and in 2019 continued the implementation of projects aimed at achieving the indicators targets. To report results on the indicators in their entirety, it is necessary to have a high degree of completeness.

Under the axis, 38 grant contracts were signed for construction of installations (composting and pre-treatment) and 1 major project is contracted. So far 2 project have been completed (Sevlievo and Sandanski), 27 have concluded construction contracts, 4 are conducting procedures for construction under the Public Procurement Act and 5 have not started tendering procedures. There is one project under evaluation. MA assesses the risk of not completing the projects within the last two groups (without contracts and in evaluation) at low to medium. Out of 55 projects for recultivation of landfills received, 48 grant contracts have been signed so far, while the rest are in evaluation.

Overall, in both sectors - **water and waste** - there is a risk that some projects will not be completed in time. For the water sector this risk is real, while for the waste sector it is rather hypothetical. In the event that all construction contracts are announced in 2020, in the waste sector the activities may be completed within the remaining time and the axis target values will be fully achieved. However, in the water sector, the projects are of longer duration and any delays will have an impact on achievement of the final targets of both the projects themselves and the programme.

Under Priority Axis 3, 4 procedures were announced in 2019, significantly accelerating the pace of implementation of the axis. By Decision of the Council of Ministers of 05.03.2020, an amendment to the Biodiversity Act was approved, designating bodies for the management of the Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria. In parallel to the forthcoming approval by the National Assembly, MA starts preparing the technical assistance procedures for the newly formed bodies in order to announce them immediately after the adoption of the Act by the Parliament. In order to maintain and even accelerate the pace of implementation of the axis to ensure achievement of the targets, efforts to elaborate procedures for 2020 are ongoing. Conditions are being developed for application for conservation activities for natural habitats and, on 11.06.2020, the birds procedure targeting the birds species was reopened, for which no projects have been submitted under the ended procedure (including for the Red-breasted Goose). As a corrective action addressing the delays generated in the implementation of Natura 2000 measures, a procedure "Implementation of priority measures in wetlands" addressing implementation of measure 22 "Curbing anthropogenic water pollution" and measure 109 "Investments in conservation activities for maintenance/improvement the conservation status of species and natural habitats" of NPAF was announced in 2019. The objective of the procedure is to improve the conservation status of species and types of natural habitats on Natura 2000 network territory within wetlands designated as such of international importance (Ramsar sites). As of the end of the reporting period, a grant order was signed with RIEW Ruse for implementation of project " Management of succession processes and improvement of the quality of the habitats and protected wetlands species in Srebarna Managed Reserve Wetland" , which will contribute to fulfilment of the final targets of the indicators under the axis. A grant order for RIEW Burgas is signed on 13 of April 2020 for implementation of the project "Improving the Water Regime and Management of Succession Processes in Wetlands of International Importance Ropotamo Complex, Poda protected site and Vaya Lake", which will also has a positive contribution to the objectives of the axis. Under the procedure announced in 2018 "Improvement of species and habitats conservation status on the territory of Natura 2000 network falling within national parks, natural parks and managed nature reserves", 21 projects aimed at measure 43 "Improvement of the structure and functions of the forest habitats" and measure 98 "Building and maintenance of infrastructure required for the restoration of natural habitats and species" under NPAF are implemented. MA expects through successful completion of the

project activities to have a significant impact on the objectives of the axis. In the same context, procedure "Improving the conservation status of birds" was announced during the reporting period, which supports the implementation of activities under measure 109 "Investments in conservation activities to maintenance/improvement of the conservation status of species and natural habitats" of NPAF.

The failure to achieve the milestones under **Priority Axis 4** stems from the almost 2-year appeal under the project "Establishment of a Water Management System for the Iskar river basin (WMS-IRB) as Phase 1 of the National Real Time Water Management System (NRTWMS)". With the withdrawal of the complaint in 2019, a contract was concluded with the selected contractor, signed in May 2019. As of March 2020, general concept of NRTWMS and a conceptual design of WMS-IRB were approved. A technical design on WMS-IRB is developed, submitted to the Beneficiary (Water Management Directorate) and approved by him in July 2020. The actual phase of establishment and deployment of the system has been started and is expected to be completed by January 2021. The activities related to communication strategy for the public and to carry out environmental assessment, compliance and assessment of the applicability of the proposed developments, services and the system under establishment are being implemented in accordance with water management policies; public procurements are finalized and contractors are selected. The project is expected to be completed by April 2022.

During the period covered, the projects contracted under procedure "Landslide prevention and resilience in order to reduce the landslide risks (incl. on the national road network)" and project "Prevention and resilience to landslide processes on the Republican road network - Phase 1" are ongoing. Measures are being carried out successfully to reduce the number of people at risk of landslides through construction works for strengthening the landslides. In this regard, in 2019, under the indicator "Population at risk of landslides", account was taken of the reduction achieved with the implementation of projects "Prevention and response to landslides on the Republican road network - Phase 1" of the RIA - 7,063 persons and "Strengthening the landslide LOV19.44327.02 - rap on a road to a Regional landfill for solid household waste – "Sinchets" Street, in the town of Lukovit" from Municipality Lukovit - 2,726 persons. By August 2020 the achieved value for the indicator 4.4. "Reinforced landslide area" is 3,47 ha., which is relatively low. 9 projects are contracted so far with a total target value of 95,01 ha. The implementation of these projects will ensure the achievement of the overall target value of the indicator. In the meantime, in order to ensure complementarity and interaction for risk prevention and management, a procedure was announced "Integration, upgrade and optimisation of the processes on prevention, preparedness and response to natural based risks" with a target value of 7,000,0039 persons and beneficiary DG FSCP at the Ministry of Interior. The expected result is provision of a national information system (platform) integrating the existing local systems, compatible with the National Real Time Water Management System (NRTWMS), respectively with the pilot project for the river Iskar and possible subsequent integration with the European Population Disclosure System. The implementation of the project will contribute to achievement of indicator "Population benefiting from flood protection measures" by 2023. In addition, part of the analyses under this project will present the main data, the necessary studies and justifications for implementation of 2021-2027 thematic enabling condition "Effective disaster risk management framework - disaster risk management plan is in place".

Under Priority Axis 5, in implementation of the contracts under the procedure announced in 2018 „Measures for improvement of the ambient air quality“, three of the seven beneficiaries are tendering the first stage of the projects and four have already concluded contracts. The activities are aimed at reducing the amount of PM10 and increasing the population covered by measures to reduce the quantities of PM10 and nitrogen oxides in municipalities with poor air quality by financing measures to replace solid fuel heating appliances. The first deliverables are expected to be submitted in the 4 quarter of 2020 (with a deadline May 2021). The MA is ready to review these results, which will enable the beneficiaries to start activities on the actual replacement of the appliances, thus, directly contributing to the objectives of the priority axis - improvement of ambient air quality by reducing the levels of PM10. MA has taken a number of measures to meet the performance targets on the axis. As a result of preliminary consultations, in order to address transport as the main air pollutant and to ensure complementarity of the measures in terms of reducing the levels of excessive pollution through replacement of solid fuel heating appliances, a procedure "Measures addressing the transport as a source of air pollution" was announced in July 2019. The transport has been identified as the second main pollutant, the replacement of the outdated diesel bus fleet

contributes directly to improving the air quality and the replacement of the old heavily depreciated electric fleet contributes indirectly: make the public transport more attractive and thus divert citizens away from the use of private cars. Under the procedure, 12 project proposals were submitted and 12 grant contracts for almost BGN 500 million were concluded, with which new environmentally friendly vehicles for public transport will be delivered (292 buses, 60 trolleys and 25 trams). The procedure focuses a resource on solving the severe ambient air quality problem compromised by high PM10 levels.

In 2019, 11 projects under the procedure "Elaboration /update of municipal plans for ambient air quality" were successfully completed, through which municipal programmes under Art. 27 of the Clean Ambient Air Act were developed or updated, presenting measures to reduce the levels of pollutants and achieve the established ambient air quality standards. The beneficiaries are municipalities with exceeding levels of pollutants (particulate matter, nitrogen oxides). Through implementation of the projects some measures to improve the ambient air quality were planned in order to achieve the specified standards. In the meantime, during the reported period an identical procedure was announced targeting municipalities that did not submit project proposals within the initially set deadline.

The main results of the implementation of **Priority Axis 6** are related to the provision of activities aimed at strengthening and upgrading the administrative capacity of MA, organizing and conducting trainings for beneficiaries. The implemented events have a direct contribution to achievement of the final targets of indicators "Trainings for MA officials", "MA officials trained", "Trainings for beneficiaries' officials" and "Beneficiaries' officials trained". Over 300 representatives of the beneficiaries were trained in 2019. In view of the need to create a specific capacity for project implementation and management, 8 main training topics have been identified for the beneficiaries. The trainings aim at forming certain skills for administering the project cycle. The topics of the training are: UMIS 2020; Introduction training for project implementation under OPE; Upgrading training for project implementation under OPE; Public Procurement Act training, Indicator reporting training; Simplified cost options reporting training; Information and Communication trainings; Frequently made errors in project management. The analysis of the feedback received by filling out questionnaire cards shows high level of satisfaction by the beneficiaries with the trainings. The results obtained are baseline for implementation of the indicator "Level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the TA measures and training provided". 24 thematic areas have been defined for the MA staff, covering the necessary competences related to programme's management and implementation. In the implementation of a budget line for the provision of information and communication measures, more than 76% of indicator "Level of public awareness of the OPE" was achieved. For 2019 progress is also reported on the other result indicators "Average time for a project approval"- 58 days and "Average time for beneficiary payments request verification"- 46 days, with achieved averages exceeding the planned final values for 2023. During the reporting period, by implementing a budget line under the axis, an assessment of the performance of PA 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 was carried out. Evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of PA5 implementation had been commissioned, was conducted and ended in March 2020. The results are reflected as progress under indicator "Conducted evaluations on the programme"

During the reporting period, the implementation of the priority axis provided the necessary support for management of the programme, its implementation, monitoring and control. The analysis of the results in 2019 and the forthcoming implementation of envisaged activities will ensure achievement of the target values set out in PA 6.

7. CITIZENS' SUMMARY

The citizens' summary of the content of the annual and final implementation reports shall be published and uploaded as a separate file in the form of an annex to the annual and final implementation reports.

You can upload/find the Citizens' Summary under General Information > SFC2014 Program Documents

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

I. Identification of the programme and priority or measure from which support from the ESI Funds is provided (Article 46(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
1. Priority axes or measures supporting the financial instrument, including fund of funds, under the ESI Fund programme.	
1.1. Priority axis supporting the financial instrument under the ESI Fund programme	1 - Water
2. Name of ESI Fund(s) supporting the financial instrument under the priority axis or measure	CF
3. Thematic objective(s) referred to in the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 supported by the financial instrument	06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
3.1. Amount of ESI Funds committed in funding agreements from the individual thematic objective chosen in field 3 (optional)	
4. other ESI Fund programmes providing contribution to the financial instrument	
4.1. CCI number of each other ESI Fund programme providing contributions to the financial instrument	
30. Date of completion of the ex ante assessment	05-Sep-2014
31. Selection of bodies implementing financial instrument	
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched	Yes
II. Description of the financial instrument and implementation arrangements (Article 46(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
5. Name of the financial instrument	" Fund of funds"
6. Official address/place of business of the financial instrument (name of the country and city)	Sofia, Bulgaria
7. Implementation arrangements	
7.1. Financial instruments set up at Union level, managed directly or indirectly by the Commission referred to in Article 38(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, supported from ESI Fund programme contributions	No
7.1.1. Name of the Union-level financial instrument	
7.2. Financial instrument set up at national, regional, transnational or cross-border level, managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority referred to in Article 38(1)(b), supported from ESI Fund programme contributions under point (a), (b), (c) and d) of Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Entrustment of implementation tasks, through the direct award of a contract
7.3. Financial instrument combining financial contribution from MA with EIB financial products under European Fund for Strategic Investment in accordance with Article 39a, referred to in Article 38(1)(c)	
8. Type of the financial instrument	Fund of funds
10. Legal status of the financial instrument, pursuant to Article 38(6) and Article 39a(5)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for financial instruments referred to in Article 38(1)(b) and (c) only): fiduciary account opened in the name of the implementing body and on behalf of the managing authority or separate block of finance within a financial institution	Fiduciary account
III. Identification of the body implementing the financial instrument, and the body implementing fund of funds where applicable, as referred to under point (a), (b) and (c) of Article 38(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	

11. Body implementing the financial instrument	
11.1. Type of implementing body pursuant to Article 38(4) and Article 39a(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013: existing or newly created legal entity dedicated to implementing financial instruments; the European Investment Bank; the European Investment Fund; international financial institution in which a Member State is a shareholder; a publicly-owned bank or institution, established as a legal entity carrying out financial activities on a professional basis; a body governed by public or private law; managing authority undertaking implementation tasks directly (for loans or guarantees only)	Body governed by public or private law
11.1.1. Name of the body implementing the financial instrument	"Fund manager of financial instruments in Bulgaria" EAD
11.1.2. Official address/place of business (country and town name) of the body implementing the financial instrument	38 "Alabin" Str., city of Sofia, Bulgaria
12. Procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument: award of a public contract; other procedure	Others
12.1. Description of the other procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument	Inter-agency cooperation pursuant to Article 12 (4) of Directive 2014/24/EU
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	20-Jul-2018
IV. Total amount of programme contributions, by priority or measure, paid to the financial instrument and management costs incurred or management fees paid (Article 46(2)(d) and (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
14. Total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement (in EUR)	136,382,412.20
14.1. out of which ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	115,925,050.37
14.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR) (optional)	
15. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	36,140,801.95
15.1. out of which amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	30,719,681.66
15.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	30 719 681,66
15.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
15.2. out of which total amount of national co-financing (in EUR)	5,421,120.29
15.2.1. out of which total amount of national public funding (in EUR)	5,421,120.29
15.2.2. out of which total amount of national private funding (in EUR)	0.00
16. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument under Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) (in EUR)	0.00
17. Total amount of management costs and fees paid out of programme contributions (in EUR)	752,466.82
17.1. out of which base remuneration (in EUR)	752,466.82
17.2. out of which performance-based remuneration (in EUR)	0.00

21. Contributions of land and/or real estate in the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
VI. The performance of the financial instrument, including progress in its set-up and in selection of bodies implementing the financial instrument (including the body implementing a fund of funds) (Article 46(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
32. Information whether the financial instrument was still operational at the end of the reporting year	Yes
32.1. If the financial instrument was not operational at the end of the reporting year, date of the winding-up	
VII. Interest and other gains generated by support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument, programme resources paid back to financial instrument from investments as referred to in Articles 43 and 44, amounts used for differentiated treatment as referred to in Article 43a, and the value of equity investments with respect to previous years (Article 46(2)(g) and (i) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
35. Interest and other gains generated by payments from ESI Funds to the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
37. Amounts of resources attributable to ESI Funds used in accordance with Article 44 and 43a	0.00
37.1. out of which amounts paid for differentiated treatment of investors operating under the market economy principle, who provide counterpart resources to the support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument or who co-invest at the level of final recipient (in EUR)	0.00
37.2. out of which amounts paid for the reimbursement of management costs incurred and payment of management fees of the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
37.3. out of which amounts to cover losses in the nominal amount of the ESI Funds contribution to the financial instrument resulting from negative interest, if such losses occur despite active treasury management by the bodies implementing financial instruments (in EUR)	0.00
VIII. Progress in achieving the expected leverage effect of investments made by the financial instrument and value of investments and participations (Article 46(2)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.1. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (in EUR)	20,457,361.83
38.1A. Contributions under EIB financial product committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (only for the instruments under Article 38(1)(c)) (in EUR)	0.00
38.2. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	5,421,120.29
38.2.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	5,421,120.29
38.2.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	0.00
38.2A. Contribution under EIB financial product paid to FI (only for the instruments under Article 38(1)(c)) (in EUR)	0.00

II. Description of the financial instrument and implementation arrangements (Article 46(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
5. Name of the financial instrument	Financial instruments under PA1 Water, OPE 2014-2020

6. Official address/place of business of the financial instrument (name of the country and city)	Sofia, Bulgaria
8. Type of the financial instrument	Fund of funds specific fund
8.2. Related Fund of Funds	"Fund of funds"
8.1. Tailor-made or financial instruments complying with standard terms and conditions i.e. "off-the-shelf instruments"	Tailor-made
9. Type of products provided by financial instrument: loans, micro-loans, guarantees, equity, or quasi-equity investments, other financial product or other support combined within the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	
9.0.1. Loans (\geq EUR 25,000)	No
9.0.2. Micro-loans ($<$ EUR 25,000 and provided to micro-enterprises) according to SEC/2011/1134 final	No
9.0.3. Guarantees	Yes
9.0.4. Equity	No
9.0.5. Quasi-equity	No
9.0.6. Other financial products	Yes
9.0.7. Other support combined with a financial instrument	No
9.1. Description of the other financial product	Loans
9.2. Other support combined within the financial instrument: grant, interest rate subsidy, guarantee fee subsidy pursuant to Article 37(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	
10. Legal status of the financial instrument, pursuant to Article 38(6) and Article 39a(5)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for financial instruments referred to in Article 38(1)(b) and (c) only): fiduciary account opened in the name of the implementing body and on behalf of the managing authority or separate block of finance within a financial institution	Separate block of finance
III. Identification of the body implementing the financial instrument, and the body implementing fund of funds where applicable, as referred to under point (a), (b) and (c) of Article 38(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
11. Body implementing the financial instrument	
11.1. Type of implementing body pursuant to Article 38(4) and Article 39a(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013: existing or newly created legal entity dedicated to implementing financial instruments; the European Investment Bank; the European Investment Fund; international financial institution in which a Member State is a shareholder; a publicly-owned bank or institution, established as a legal entity carrying out financial activities on a professional basis; a body governed by public or private law; managing authority undertaking implementation tasks directly (for loans or guarantees only)	International Financial Institutions
11.1.1. Name of the body implementing the financial instrument	The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
11.1.2. Official address/place of business (country and town name) of the body implementing the financial instrument	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; One Exchange Square; London EC2A; 2JN
12. Procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument: award of a public contract; other procedure	Others

12.1. Description of the other procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument	Entrusting implementation tasks, through the direct award of a contract
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	04-Oct-2018
IV. Total amount of programme contributions, by priority or measure, paid to the financial instrument and management costs incurred or management fees paid (Article 46(2)(d) and (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
14. Total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement (in EUR)	115,021,764.29
14.1. out of which ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	97,768,499.64
14.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR) (optional)	
15. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	28,755,441.07
15.1. out of which amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	24,442,124.91
15.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	24,442,124.91
15.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
15.2. out of which total amount of national co-financing (in EUR)	4,313,316.16
15.2.1. out of which total amount of national public funding (in EUR)	4,313,316.16
15.2.2. out of which total amount of national private funding (in EUR)	0.00
16. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument under Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) (in EUR)	0.00
17. Total amount of management costs and fees paid out of programme contributions (in EUR)	0.00
17.1. out of which base remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
17.2. out of which performance-based remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
18. Capitalised management costs or fees pursuant to Article 42(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant only for final report) (in EUR)	
19. Capitalised interest rate subsidies or guarantee fee subsidies pursuant to Article 42(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant to final report only) (in EUR)	
20. Amount of programme contributions for follow-on investments in final recipients pursuant to Article 42(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
21. Contributions of land and/or real estate in the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
V. Total amount of support paid to final recipients, or to the benefit of final recipients, or committed in guarantee contracts by the financial instrument for investments in final recipients, by ESI Funds programme and priority or measure (Article 46(2)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
22. <i>Name of financial product offered by the financial instrument</i>	Guarantees
22.1. Type of financial product offered by the financial instrument	G- Guarantee

24. Total amount of programme contributions committed in this loan, guarantee, equity, quasi-equity or other financial product contracts with final recipients (in EUR)	0.00
24.1. out of which total amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	0.00
25. Total amount of programme contributions paid to final recipients through this loan, micro-loans, equity or other products, or, in the case of guarantee, committed for loans paid to final recipients, by product (in EUR)	0.00
25.1. out of which total amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
25.2. out of which total amount of national public co-financing (in EUR)	0.00
25.3. out of which total amount of national private co-financing (in EUR)	0.00
26. Total value of loans actually paid to final recipients in relation to the guarantee contracts signed (EUR)	0.00
26.1. Total value of new debt finance created by the SME Initiative (CPR Art. 39 (10) b)	
27. Number of loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity/other financial product contracts signed with final recipients, by product	0
28. Number of loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity/other financial product investments made in final recipients, by product	0
29. Number of financial recipients supported by the financial product	0
29.1. out of which large enterprises	0
29.2. out of which SMEs	0
29.2.1. out of which microenterprises	0
29.3. out of which individuals/natural persons	0
29.4. out of which other type of final recipients supported	0
29.4.1. description of other type of final recipients supported	
33. Total number of disbursed loans defaulted or total number of guarantees provided and called due to the loan default	0
34. Total amount of disbursed loans defaulted (in EUR) or total amount committed for guarantees provided and called due to loan default (in EUR)	0.00
39. Expected and achieved leverage effect, by reference to the funding agreement	
39.1. Expected leverage effect for loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity investment/other financial product, by reference to the funding agreement, by product	1.52
39.2. Achieved leverage effect at the end of reporting year for loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity investment/other financial product, by product	
39.3. Investment mobilised through ESIF financial instruments for loan/guarantee/equity and quasi-equity investment, by product (Optional)	
22. Name of financial product offered by the financial instrument	Loans
22.1. Type of financial product offered by the financial instrument	L-Loan
24. Total amount of programme contributions committed in this loan, guarantee, equity, quasi-equity or other financial product contracts with final recipients (in EUR)	0.00
24.1. out of which total amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	0.00

25. Total amount of programme contributions paid to final recipients through this loan, micro-loans, equity or other products, or, in the case of guarantee, committed for loans paid to final recipients, by product (in EUR)	0.00
25.1. out of which total amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
25.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
25.2. out of which total amount of national public co-financing (in EUR)	0.00
25.3. out of which total amount of national private co-financing (in EUR)	0.00
27. Number of loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity/other financial product contracts signed with final recipients, by product	0
28. Number of loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity/other financial product investments made in final recipients, by product	0
29. Number of financial recipients supported by the financial product	0
29.1. out of which large enterprises	0
29.2. out of which SMEs	0
29.2.1. out of which microenterprises	0
29.3. out of which individuals/natural persons	0
29.4. out of which other type of final recipients supported	0
29.4.1. description of other type of final recipients supported	
33. Total number of disbursed loans defaulted or total number of guarantees provided and called due to the loan default	
34. Total amount of disbursed loans defaulted (in EUR) or total amount committed for guarantees provided and called due to loan default (in EUR)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.3. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds mobilised at the level of final recipients (in EUR)	
38.3.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	
38.3.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	
38.3A. Contribution under EIB financial product mobilised at the level of final recipient (only for the instruments under Article 38(1)(c)) (in EUR)	
39. Expected and achieved leverage effect, by reference to the funding agreement	
39.1. Expected leverage effect for loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity investment/other financial product, by reference to the funding agreement, by product	1.36
39.2. Achieved leverage effect at the end of reporting year for loan/guarantee/equity or quasi-equity investment/other financial product, by product	
39.3. Investment mobilised through ESIF financial instruments for loan/guarantee/equity and quasi-equity investment, by product (Optional)	0.00
VI. The performance of the financial instrument, including progress in its set-up and in selection of bodies implementing the financial instrument (including the body implementing a fund of funds) (Article 46(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
32. Information whether the financial instrument was still operational at the end of the reporting year	Yes
32.1. If the financial instrument was not operational at the end of the reporting year, date of the winding-up	

VII. Interest and other gains generated by support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument, programme resources paid back to financial instrument from investments as referred to in Articles 43 and 44, amounts used for differentiated treatment as referred to in Article 43a, and the value of equity investments with respect to previous years (Article 46(2)(g) and (i) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
35. Interest and other gains generated by payments from ESI Funds to the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
36. Amounts repaid to the financial instrument attributable to support from ESI Funds by the end of the reporting year (in EUR)	0.00
36.1. out of which capital repayments (in EUR)	0.00
36.2. out of which gains, other earnings and yields (in EUR)	0.00
37. Amounts of resources attributable to ESI Funds used in accordance with Article 44 and 43a	0.00
37.1. out of which amounts paid for differentiated treatment of investors operating under the market economy principle, who provide counterpart resources to the support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument or who co-invest at the level of final recipient (in EUR)	0.00
37.2. out of which amounts paid for the reimbursement of management costs incurred and payment of management fees of the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
37.3. out of which amounts to cover losses in the nominal amount of the ESI Funds contribution to the financial instrument resulting from negative interest, if such losses occur despite active treasury management by the bodies implementing financial instruments (in EUR)	0.00
VIII. Progress in achieving the expected leverage effect of investments made by the financial instrument and value of investments and participations (Article 46(2)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.1. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (in EUR)	79,254,215.66
38.1A. Contributions under EIB financial product committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (only for the instruments under Article 38(1)(c)) (in EUR)	0.00
38.2. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	4,313,316.16
38.2.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	4,313,316.16
38.2.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	0.00
38.2A. Contribution under EIB financial product paid to FI (only for the instruments under Article 38(1)(c)) (in EUR)	0.00
IX. Contribution of the financial instrument to the achievement of the indicators of the priority or measure concerned (Article 46(2)(j) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	

I. Identification of the programme and priority or measure from which support from the ESI Funds is provided (Article 46(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
1. Priority axes or measures supporting the financial instrument, including fund of funds, under the ESI Fund programme.	
1.1. Priority axis supporting the financial instrument under the ESI Fund programme	2 - Отпадъци
2. Name of ESI Fund(s) supporting the financial instrument under the priority axis or measure	ERDF

3. Thematic objective(s) referred to in the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 supported by the financial instrument	06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
3.1. Amount of ESI Funds committed in funding agreements from the individual thematic objective chosen in field 3 (optional)	
4. other ESI Fund programmes providing contribution to the financial instrument	
4.1. CCI number of each other ESI Fund programme providing contributions to the financial instrument	
30. Date of completion of the ex ante assessment	05-Sep-2014
31. Selection of bodies implementing financial instrument	
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched	Yes
II. Description of the financial instrument and implementation arrangements (Article 46(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
5. Name of the financial instrument	" Fund of funds "
6. Official address/place of business of the financial instrument (name of the country and city)	Sofia, Bulgaria
7. Implementation arrangements	
7.1. Financial instruments set up at Union level, managed directly or indirectly by the Commission referred to in Article 38(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, supported from ESI Fund programme contributions	No
7.1.1. Name of the Union-level financial instrument	
7.2. Financial instrument set up at national, regional, transnational or cross-border level, managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority referred to in Article 38(1)(b), supported from ESI Fund programme contributions under point (a), (b), (c) and d) of Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Entrustment of implementation tasks, through the direct award of a contract
7.3. Financial instrument combining financial contribution from MA with EIB financial products under European Fund for Strategic Investment in accordance with Article 39a, referred to in Article 38(1)(c)	
8. Type of the financial instrument	Fund of funds
10. Legal status of the financial instrument, pursuant to Article 38(6) and Article 39a(5)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for financial instruments referred to in Article 38(1)(b) and (c) only): fiduciary account opened in the name of the implementing body and on behalf of the managing authority or separate block of finance within a financial institution	Fiduciary account
III. Identification of the body implementing the financial instrument, and the body implementing fund of funds where applicable, as referred to under point (a), (b) and (c) of Article 38(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
11. Body implementing the financial instrument	
11.1. Type of implementing body pursuant to Article 38(4) and Article 39a(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013: existing or newly created legal entity dedicated to implementing financial instruments; the European Investment Bank; the European Investment Fund; international financial institution in which a Member State is a shareholder; a publicly-owned bank or institution, established as a legal entity carrying out financial activities on a professional basis; a body governed by public or private law; managing authority undertaking implementation tasks directly (for loans or guarantees only)	Body governed by public or private law

11.1.1. Name of the body implementing the financial instrument	"Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria" EAD
11.1.2. Official address/place of business (country and town name) of the body implementing the financial instrument	38 "Alabin" Str., city of Sofia, Bulgaria
12. Procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument: award of a public contract; other procedure	Others
12.1. Description of the other procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument	Inter-agency cooperation pursuant to Article 12 (4) of Directive 2014/24/EU
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	10-Jan-2017
IV. Total amount of programme contributions, by priority or measure, paid to the financial instrument and management costs incurred or management fees paid (Article 46(2)(d) and (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
14. Total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement (in EUR)	26,808,253.21
14.1. out of which ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	22,787,015.23
14.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR) (optional)	
15. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	6,702,063.30
15.1. out of which amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	5,696,753.80
15.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	5,696,753.80
15.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
15.2. out of which total amount of national co-financing (in EUR)	1,005,309.50
15.2.1. out of which total amount of national public funding (in EUR)	1,005,309.50
15.2.2. out of which total amount of national private funding (in EUR)	0.00
16. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument under Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) (in EUR)	0.00
17. Total amount of management costs and fees paid out of programme contributions (in EUR)	236,775.64
17.1. out of which base remuneration (in EUR)	236,775.64
17.2. out of which performance-based remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
21. Contributions of land and/or real estate in the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
VI. The performance of the financial instrument, including progress in its set-up and in selection of bodies implementing the financial instrument (including the body implementing a fund of funds) (Article 46(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
32. Information whether the financial instrument was still operational at the end of the reporting year	Yes

32.1. If the financial instrument was not operational at the end of the reporting year, date of the winding-up	
VII. Interest and other gains generated by support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument, programme resources paid back to financial instrument from investments as referred to in Articles 43 and 44, amounts used for differentiated treatment as referred to in Article 43a, and the value of equity investments with respect to previous years (Article 46(2)(g) and (i) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
35. Interest and other gains generated by payments from ESI Funds to the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
37. Amounts of resources attributable to ESI Funds used in accordance with Article 44 and 43a	0.00
37.1. out of which amounts paid for differentiated treatment of investors operating under the market economy principle, who provide counterpart resources to the support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument or who co-invest at the level of final recipient (in EUR)	0.00
37.2. out of which amounts paid for the reimbursement of management costs incurred and payment of management fees of the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
37.3. out of which amounts to cover losses in the nominal amount of the ESI Funds contribution to the financial instrument resulting from negative interest, if such losses occur despite active treasury management by the bodies implementing financial instruments (in EUR)	0.00
VIII. Progress in achieving the expected leverage effect of investments made by the financial instrument and value of investments and participations (Article 46(2)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.1. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (in EUR)	4,021,237.98
38.1A. Contributions under EIB financial product committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (only for the instruments under Article 38(1)(c)) (in EUR)	0.00
38.2. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	1,005,309.50
38.2.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	1,005,309.50
38.2.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	0.00
38.2A. Contribution under EIB financial product paid to FI (only for the instruments under Article 38(1)(c)) (in EUR)	0.00

8. NON-BINDING INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016 THAT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR OTHER MINI REPORTS: ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL THE EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

Table 14: Actions taken to fulfil the applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General conditionalities	Ex ante	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions undertaken	Deadline	Responsible structures	Action completed by the end of the period	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of the remaining actions	Comment
--------------------------	---------	------------------------	--------------------	----------	------------------------	---	--------------------	--	---------

N/A.

Table 15: Actions taken to fulfil the applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

General conditionalities	Ex ante	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions undertaken	Deadline	Responsible structures	Action completed by the end of the period	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of the remaining actions	Comment
--------------------------	---------	------------------------	--------------------	----------	------------------------	---	--------------------	--	---------

N/A.

PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLES 101 (H) AND 111 (3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

11.1. Major projects

Table 12: Major projects

Project	CCI		Total Investments	Total amount of eligible expenditure	Planned notification /submission date	Date of tacit agreement /approval by the Commission	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date	Priority axes/ investment priorities	Current stage of implementation - Financial progress (% of expenditure certified to the Commission relative to the total eligible expenditure)	Current stage of implementation - physical progress Main stage of project implementation	Main outputs	Date of signing of the first works contract	Notes
Integrated Water Project for the District of Burgas	2020BG16CF MP001	Submitted	256 919 339,05	182 424 372,85	2019, second quarter		2019, fourth quarter	2023, quarter 4	1 - 6ii	0	Design	According to JASPERS Completion Note submitted on 12.03.2020	12.03.2020	The date of JASPERS' Completion Note is given. The project name is revised and precised with the approved amendment of the Programme by Decision No C(2020)4105 - 16/06/2020 of the European Commission. The grant contract was signed on 17.06.2020.
Vratsa integrated water project	2017BG16CF MP001	Approved	57 752 689,00	45 363 156,00	2017, second quarter	21.09.2017	2016, fourth quarter	2021, quarter 4	1 - 6ii	23,31	Construction	Constructed WWTP WSS network built Population served by improved water supply Population served by improved wastewater treatment	11.09.2012	
Design and construction of installation for cogeneration in Sofia with recovery of RDF - third phase of the integrated system municipal waste management of Sofia Municipality	2018BG16RF MP003	Approved	189 045 613,45	157 538 011,21	2018, second quarter	20.03.2020	2018, fourth quarter	2023, quarter 4	2 - 6a	39,80	Design	Providing additional capacity for municipal waste recovery (to obtain energy) - 180,000 tonnes/year	30.11.2018	The date of conclusion of the grant agreement between MA and Sofia Municipality is indicated.

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

PA 1 provides for implementation of two "major projects":

A phased project “**Vratsa Integrated Water Project** “ is currently being implemented with Vratsa Municipality as beneficiary.

Activity 1. Rehabilitation of steel and reconstruction of existing asbestos-cement water supply pipeline from Srechenska Bara dam to the town of Vratsa: Contract No. C-260/19.12.2013 was signed for implementation of the activity in the first phase of the project. In 2019, the procedures related to private, municipal and state property (within the scope of activity 8) were completed and a Construction Permit No. RS-53/31.05.2019 was issued by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. On 27.01.2020, Protocol 2a (of Ordinance 3/31.07.2003 on the preparation of acts and protocols during construction) was signed for the opening of the construction site and definition of the construction line and level of construction. The Contractor has mobilized a resource, the site received first supplies of pipes and has started execution of construction works. **Activity 2. Reconstruction of water supply and reconstruction and extension of the sewerage network of the town of Vratsa – Stage 1:** The site was commissioned with a Permit to Use. The one-year DNP has expired. A Performance Certificate has been issued under FIDIC contractual terms. **Activity 3. Reconstruction of the water supply and reconstruction and extension of the sewerage network of the town of Vratsa - Stage 2:** The activities under WSS - Stage 2 have been suspended since 30.10.2018 due to expiry of the construction supervision/FIDIC Engineer contract. Act 10 establishing the state of construction in event of construction being halted was signed. The contracting authority has terminated WSS-Stage 2 contract on the basis of clause 15.2 [Termination by the contracting authority], due to the fault of the contractor. Independent technical expertise was commissioned by Vratsa Municipality to examine and establish the status of the construction works performed under the terminated contract.

The elaboration of tendering documentation is ongoing for new contracting the completion of the remaining activities under the terminated contract, as well as for removal of poorly performed works established by the independent technical expertise.

Activity 4. Reconstruction of WWTP: The site was commissioned with a Permit to Use. The one-year DNP has expired. A Performance Certificate has been issued under FIDIC contractual terms. **Activity 7. Construction supervision:** The delays in construction of the main activities led to the expiry of the original construction supervision contract. Vratsa Municipality prepared tender documentation and conducted a procedure under the Public Procurement Act for selection of a new contractor, with two lots as follows: Lot 1 - for construction supervision under Activities 2, 3 and 4, and Lot 2 for construction supervision under Activity 1. Two contracts have been concluded and currently being executed. **Activity 8. Purchase/acquisition/expropriation of land:** On the basis of an approved SDP-PP, which entered into force by Order No. ПД-02-15-13/12.02.2016 of the Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Vratsa Municipality conducted procedures for settling rem-rights relations with property owners along the route of the water supply pipe from Srechenska Bara dam to the town of Vratsa.

In 2019, the procedures were successfully finalized, as a result of which the technical design was approved for replacement of the main water supply pipeline from Srechenska Bara dam to the town of Vratsa. It was subsequently agreed and a Construction Permit No. RS-53/31.05.2019 was issued by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works - the prerequisite for starting implementation of activity 1.

A project proposal was presented for "**Integrated Water Project for the District of Burgas**“ from "Water Supply and Sewerage" EAD Burgas, which has been approved by MA of OPE and the grant contract was signed on 17.06.2020. The draft proposal was submitted for approval by EC on 12.05.2020 via SFC.

Under PA 2, a “major project“ within the meaning of Art. 100 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 is implemented with a beneficiary Sofia Municipality for **Design and construction of installation for cogeneration in Sofia with recovery of RDF - third phase of the integrated system municipal waste**

management of Sofia Municipality ". A grant contract was concluded with the beneficiary on 30.11.2018 and in October 2019 state aid for environmental protection and energy was notified. A letter was received from the EC: SA. 54042 (2019N) Bulgaria - Sofia production of electricity from municipal waste/cogeneration with utilization of RDF, dated 26.11.2019, announcing that the Commission has decided not to raise objections to the aid on the grounds that it is compatible with the internal market pursuant to Art. 107, para. 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). On 20.03.2020 a Decision was issued for approval of the project by the EC. Through technical assistance on the project provided in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on support for EU projects between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Investment Bank and the concluded Agreement on provision of services, the tender documentation for selection of contractors of engineering and construction supervision/FIDIC Engineer will be prepared with support of EIB. According to information provided by Sofia municipality on the activities performance, the technical assistance is contracted, the preparation of tender documentation is ongoing and construction contracts are forthcoming .. Given the deadlines for implementation of the main activities of the project, maximum mobilization by the beneficiary is necessary in order to complete the project within the period of eligibility of expenditures.

Every planned change to the list of major projects under the operational programme

In 2020, the amendment of the programme envisages only refining the name of the major project of WSS Burgas to "Integrated Water Project for the District of Burgas". Inclusion of a new major project is not foreseen.

11.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of the various stages of the Joint Action Plans.

--

N/A.

Table 13: Joint Action Plans (JAPs)

Name of the JAP	CCI	Implementation Phase of the JAP	Total amount of eligible expenditure	Total public support	Contribution of OP to the JAPs	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] presentation to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total amount of eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Notes
-----------------	-----	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------------	---------------	-------------	--	-----------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	--	-------

N/A.

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

--

N/A.

PART B

REPORTS PRESENTED IN 2017, 2019 AND FINAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION (Articles 50 (4) and 111 (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

10 EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLES 50 (4) AND 111 (4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A.

10.1 Information in Part A and achievement of programme objectives (Article 50 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A.

Priority axis	1 - Water
---------------	-----------

--

Priority axis	2 - Waste
---------------	-----------

--

Priority axis	3 - Natura 2000 and biodiversity
---------------	----------------------------------

--

Priority axis	4 - Flood and landslide risk prevention and management
---------------	--

--

Priority axis	5 - Improvement of ambient air quality
---------------	--

--

Priority axis	6 - Technical assistance
---------------	--------------------------

--

10.2 Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular the promotion of accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the provisions introduced to ensure the integration of the gender equality perspective into the operational programme and operations (Articles 50 (4) and 111 (4), second subparagraph, item (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A.

--

10.3 Sustainable development (Articles 50 (4) and 111 (4), second subparagraph, point (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A.

--

10.4 Reporting on the support used for climate change objectives (Article 50 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A.

--

10.5 Role of the partners in the implementation of the programme

N/A.

--

11. MANDATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 111 (4), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, ITEMS (A) AND (B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

11.1 Progress in the implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

N/A.

--

Status	Name	Fund	Year of conclusion of the evaluation	Evaluation type	thematic objective	Subject	Findings (completed)	Follow-up (completed)
--------	------	------	--------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------	---------	----------------------	-----------------------

N/A.

11.3. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

N/A.

--

12.ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL THE EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (ARTICLE 50 (4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013) (THE INFORMATION MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016 (SEE PARAGRAPH 9 ABOVE), BUT MANDATORY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2017 REPORT) OPTION: PROGRESS REPORT

N/A.

13 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE ADDED, DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ITEMS (A), (B), (C), (D), (G) AND (H) OF THE SECOND SUBPARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 111 (4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

N/A.

13.1 Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the operational programme

N/A.

--

13.2 Progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds

N/A.

--

13.3 Progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions

N/A.

--

13.4 Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As set out in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Article 27 (3) on the "content of the programmes", Article 96 (3) (e) on the "content, adoption and modification of operational programmes under the "Investment for growth and jobs" goal, Article 111 (3), Article 111 (4) (d) on the "implementation reports under "Investment for growth and jobs " goal and Annex 1, Section 7.3 on the "contribution of the main programmes to the macro-regional and sea basin strategies", this Programme shall contribute to macro-regional and/or sea-basin strategies:

The implementation of the Programme shall contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the priority areas of Pillar 2 "Protecting the environment in the Danube Region" of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) planned to be implemented by 2020 by financing measures set out in Priority Axes 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the Programme:

- On Priority area 1: "To restore and maintain water quality" - contribution for achievement of the objectives by supporting measures under Priority Axis 1 in coherence with measures set out in the RBMPs and within the programme;
- On Priority area 2: "To manage environmental risks" - OPE contributes to achievement of the objectives in this area by financing measures under Priority Axis 4 in coherence with the measures set out in the FRMPs and within the programme;
- On Priority area 3: "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils " - the operations implemented under OPE are intended to have contribution to the objectives under NPAF, as well as through implementation of measures to reduce air pollution under Priority Axis 5.

OPE complements in full synergy, but also in clear demarcation, the priorities of the Danube Strategy, as well as the Connecting Europe Facility, Interreg programmes and the Danube programme. A National Coordination Mechanism for participation of Bulgaria in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region is currently operational, implemented through joint expert working groups on specific objectives of the Strategy for construction and maintenance of infrastructure as well as for protection and restoration of biodiversity in the Danube Region.

- The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
 - ✓ **The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)**
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alps Region (EUSALP)

Atlantic Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

13.5 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate

N/A.

--

13.6 Progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty, discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployed and young people not in employment, including, where appropriate, the financial resources used

N/A.

--

**PART C - REPORTS PRESENTED IN 2019 AND FINAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
(Article 50 (5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
14.FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (ARTICLES 21
(2) AND 22 (7) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

N/A.

SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (PROGRESS REPORT OPTION)

Information and evaluation on the contribution of the programme for the implementation of the Union strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

--

N/A.

15.PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ADOPTED MEASURES - PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50 (2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made towards the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework shows that some milestones and targets have not been achieved, the Member States should indicate the main reasons for failure to achieve milestones in the 2019 report (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

--

N/A.

DOCUMENTS

Name of policy document	Document type	Document date	Local reference number	Commission Reference number	Files	Date of submission	Submitted by
-------------------------	---------------	---------------	------------------------	-----------------------------	-------	--------------------	--------------

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
----------	------	---------