**Annex V**

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

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| **CCI** |  |
| **Title in EN** | [255 characters**[[1]](#footnote-2)**]PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT 2021-2027 |
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| **NUTS regions covered by the programme** (not applicable to the EMFF) |  |
| **Fund concerned** | ☑ ERDF |
| ☑ Cohesion Fund |
| □ ESF+ |
| □ EMFF |

1. **Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses**

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

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| *Text field**[30 000]***GENERAL INFORMATION AND HORIZONTAL PRINSIPLES**Programme “Environment” (PE) is a horizontal tool for implementation of environmental and climate change policies. This predetermines the compliance with the horizontal principles set out in Art. 3 of TEU and Art. 10 of TFEU, taking into account the EU Charter of fundamental rights – observation of disabled person rights and provision of access, eliminating inequalities and promoting gender equality, as well as opposition to discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The sectoral scope of the programme predefines its main objective – to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment as set in Art. 11 and Art. 191, para. 1 of TFEU (respecting the “polluter pays” principle). PE 2021-2027 supports investments that focus on resource efficiency, transition to a circular economy, in particular related to management of waste, use of environmentally friendly heating alternatives respecting the “do no significantly harm” principle. The implementation of green public procurement will be encouraged, where possible, and also, opportunities shall be sought for providing support to vulnerable groups, e.g. when selecting final recipients of support for replacement of solid fuel heating appliances, priority will be given to energy-poor households and other representatives of vulnerable groups. The EU's review of the suitability of the air quality directives (Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC) founds that air pollution also leads to social costs in terms of inequalities and social sustainability. Therefore, measures to reduce air pollution and comply with air quality directives can have a positive effect on improving social sustainability.**SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHALLENGES**1. **Overall economic conditions, lessons learnt and investment needs based on challenges identified in EU and national recommendations**

In the last 10 years Bulgaria remains macroeconomically stable. The Cohesion Policy has a significant influence on the EU economy and, in particular, on Bulgarian, leading to cumulated long-term investment effects. It is foreseen that the EU-funded investments will continue to stimulate economic growth[[2]](#footnote-3). The increase in public investments clearly shows relation between European programmes and country’s progress in the social and economic sphere.After joining EU, Bulgaria increases its expenditures for environmental protection and achieves improvement of its ecological indexes, but there are still some notable challenges. As a result of the experience gained in the previous programming periods, taking into account the specific recommendations in the Annual Country Report Bulgaria 2019, five areas have been identified for financing by the PE for the period 2021 - 2027, focused on Policy Objective 2 of the Coommon Provisions Regulation 2021 - 2027. The envisaged investments shall contribute to achieve the national priorities defined in the strategic framework document National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030 (NDP Bulgaria 2030), in particular priorities “Circular and Low-Carbon Economy” and “Clean Air and Biodiversity” under development axis 2 “Green and Sustainable Bulgaria” and priority “Local Development” under development axis 3 “Connected and Integrated Bulgaria”.1. **Water**

**Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**The centralized **water** supply systems cover 99,4% of the population and provide drinking water with relatively good quality. However, the cases of water regimes become more frequent. The main causes are related to climate change but also to water losses, due to the high water supply network amortization - the average age of the pipes is 36 years and more than 50% of the water is “non-revenue generating”, which predetermines the investment needs in the water supply networks to contribute for reduction of water losses given the importance of this problem. Regarding Directive 98/83/EC and Directive (EU) 2020/2184, significant investments are required in order to guarantee that the water quality and the use of resources in the water supply meet the requirements of the EU Directives. Regarding the sewerage and wastewater treatment plants the population’s connectivity is increasing along with improvement of the treatment technologies. However, the infrastructure investment needs in the sector remain high, considering the requirements of the EU Acquis. Bulgaria has not yet achieved compliance with the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC. There are 332 agglomerations in the country (99 agglomerations of more than 10 000 P.E.). 253 agglomerations of them are on a territory of a consolidated region (a total of 22 consolidated regions). The non-consolidated regions are 6 with 79 agglomerations. It has to be taken into account that the development of Regional Feasibility Studies (RFSs) only for territories of consolidated WSS regions results in revision of the size and scope of some agglomerations. This results in updating the number of agglomerations, hence the data differ from those in OPE 2014-2020 text.The compliance grows significantly as a result of the increased quantity of wastewater collected and treated by the newly constructed infrastructure and better data reporting and assessment in the RFSs, –incl. by support of OPE 2007-2013 and OPE 2014-2020. OPE 2014-2020 supports achieving compliance in 50 agglomerations of more than 10 000 P.E. in 15 consolidated regions (with EUR 1 bln.). In order to achieve full compliance with the Directive for agglomeration with more than 10,000 P.E. in consolidated regions investments are needed in another 20 agglomerations (in the 6 newly consolidated regions and in Sofia Municipality). The investements planned to be supported in the period 2021-2027 shall upgrade the results from 2014-2020 period, as PE shall continue supporting the most significant needs of high priority in the WSS sector, respecting the water reform and ensuring water loss reduction and improved drinking water quality. In implementation of the WSS reform, a draft Law on WSS has been proposed, which makes the consolidation of WSS operators mandatory for all districts in the country. The draft law has been published for public consultations.The EU environmental legislation regarding water sector requires the potential climate change impact to be taken into account in the relevant planning tools (River Basin Management Plans – RBMPs, Flood Risk Management Plans – FRMPs, Maritime Strategy, etc.). The ecological status is good or very good in 46% of all assessed water bodies. Based on that, it is concluded that Bulgaria has to intervene additionally in order to achieve the goals for good water status in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In this regard, it is necessary to continue the efforts to improve the condition of water bodies by implementing the measures set out in the RBMPs. **Contribution to objectives of strategic documents and macro-regional strategies**1. The envisaged investments under priority 1 “Water” will ensure consistency with and shall contribute to achieve national objectives under priority 9 “Local development” of the NDP Bulgaria 2030 and to the UNO objective “Insuring accessible and sustainable management of waters and wastewater networks for everyone”. The eligible measures will insure complementarity with the indicative actions stipulated in Art. 4, para 2, p. d of the draft Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund “investments in the deployment of technology and infrastructures for affordable clean energy, in greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy” (trough considering possibilities for utilization of sludge from WWTP). **Waste**

**Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**Regarding the **waste** policies and the effective use of resources, decrease in the resource intensity of Bulgaria’s economy is observed, but at a slower pace, compared to EU. Significant element of the resource efficiency is recycling through internal reuse of materials and reducing waste generation. In this regard, initiatives are taken, incl. legislative, for harmonization of the policies of Bulgaria with the policies at European level for the reduction of the amount of waste and for the transition to a circular economy.It should be noted that significant results are achieved – the generated domestic waste shows a lasting reduction tendency for the last 10 years. However, landfilling still remains more than three times the EU27 average. The share of treated domestic waste increases, but reducing the share of waste going to landfill remains a challenge. Since joining the EU, the relative share of landfilled waste has decreased significantly, but the level achieved in 2017 (61.8%) remains higher than the EU average. The share of the population covered by waste collection system is 99.8% and includes 4 698 settlements (NSI, 2018). The recycling level is 34.6%, which is still behind the EU values of 46.4%. For example, despite most of the construction and demolition waste has a high potential for recycling and recovery and different recycling technologies are available, the conclusions of the NWMP 2021-2028 and the Strategy and Action Plan for Transition to a Circular Economy 2021-2027 show that there is not enough capacity to recycle this type of waste and illegal disposal is still observed in practice. In 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 support is provided aiming to achieve the 2020 objectives regarding municipal waste management and regional waste management. Through OPE 2014-2020 more than EUR 260 mln. are focused on ensuring separate collection of green and/or biodegradable municipal waste and construction of composting installations (43 installations serving 98 municipalities from 24 waste management regions) and anaerobic installations (3 installations serving 13 municipalities from 3 waste management regions) and pre-treatment installations (19 installations for 74 municipalities from 17 waste management regions); as well as 1 RDF recovery installation with energy production (for 1 municipality from 1 region). Funding in the period 2021-2027 will comply with the regional waste management principle as a good practice from the two programming periods, which has proven its advantages in the overall approach to reducing the amount of landfilled municipal waste. Priority is given to develop and upgrade municipal waste management systems at a region level, in particular waste management infrastructure which aims at reuse, recycling and separate waste collection in order to achieve the 2030 objectives. The investments in the regional infrastructure to achieve the goals by 2030-2035 will be directed to the needs identified in the NWMP 2021-2028. More efforts are also needed to raise public awareness and increase the knowledge as key actions to improve waste management.The investments in 2021-2027 period will be focused on interventions to stimulate the transition to a circular economy.. Support for demonstration projects under OPE 2014-2020 contributes in this direction, including by raising public awareness of the waste management hierarchy, by generating “good practices” and ideas, as well as enabling their subsequent implementation on a wider scale with funding other than that provided under the programme.**Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**To fulfill the commitments, set in the European legislation, Bulgaria takes steps for transforming its economy from linear to circular. The concept for transition to circular economy is in accordance with the sustainable development goals from the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the achieving of which guarantees a sustainable economic growth. Some goals are dedicated to promoting the effective use of resources during their whole lifetime cycle, including repair, reuse and recycling, which will not only lead to waste amount reduction, but will also reduce the need of new resources extraction. The implementation of measures that guarantee separate collection at source and recycling of priority waste flows is encouraged. It is also important to facilitate separate collection and proper treatment in accordance with the waste hierarchy and with the objective to reduce greenhouse gases emissions from landfills.1. **Biodiversity**

**Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**In sector **biodiversity** **and Natura 2000** the efforts continue to be focused on biodiversity conservation, maintenance and restoration. Through the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 began the process of establishing Natura 2000 ecological network. The act also introduces the requirements of both European environmental Directives. From 2002 to 2006, a national list of Natura 2000 sites is elaborated through the implementation of several projects. In the period 2008-2019, the national list is supplemented and expanded a couple of times. The contriburion of the country to the pan-European network is 41.5 km2 protected areas (38,7 million km2 of them are terrestrial and 2,8 million.km2 are marine territory). Subject to conservation in Natura 2000 in Bulgaria are 92 types of habitats and 121 species, other than birds – including 28 priority habitats and 8 priority species, as well as 239 birds subject to conservation in protected ares in Bulgaria. In the period 2007-2013, support from the ESIF and national budget is dedicated to the implementation of projects in the protected territories and sites, which are of fundamental importance for the sector: “Mapping and determining the nature conservation status of natural habitats and species - Phase I”, which provides that the country presents its first report to the EC under Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive and Art. 12 of the Birds Directive; development and introduction of an information system for the Natura 2000 network of protected sites, containing all the available information on the status of species and habitats; National information and communication strategy for the Natura 2000 network, where priority topics, stakeholders and communication channels are defined for a 10 year period. In 2014-2020 investments (nearly EUR 60 mln.) are fully focused on the Natura 2000 network. Measures are supported related to the completion of the process of establishing the network in the marine environment, as well as a number of conservation measures for wetlands, bird species, natural habitats. Protected sites management approach has been developed which is among the most important measures identified in the NPAF 2014-2020 as well as in the EC Position paper for 2014-2020 programming period. A delay has been generated in the process of its implementation due to the need to reach a consensus among all stakeholders. By Decision № 147/05.03.2020, the Council of Ministers approved the amendments to the Biodiversity Act proposing the establishment of a national management body within the central management of the MoEW and regional management bodies within the existing Regional Inspectorates for Environment and Water. The national body shall prepare the methodological guidelines, instructions, manuals, procedures and shall summarize the available information for the purposes of reporting under Art. 12 and Art. 17 of both Directives. The regional bodies have responsibilities for the elaboration of territorial management plans with the necessary conservation measures on the sites. As of January 2021, the proposal for amendment of the Biodiversity Act (which is expected to finalize the legislative establishment of the management structure) has not been approved yet by the National Assembly, therefore, the development of management plans, including the necessary active communication with stakeholders to ensure their support, understanding and continuity, is foreseen in the period 2021-2027.The main objective is to support implementation of conservation measures in order to attain better conservation status of species and habitats. In this regard, in 2021-2027 support will be provided for conservation measures for species and habitats in Natura 2000 to achieve compliance with Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. Support is envisaged also outside the network, as measures will correspond to the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and to other documents at national level.**Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**The planned investments are based on the analyses, conclusions and measures determined within the National Prioritization Action Framework for the period 2021-2027. However, they are also in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the management plans for protected areas and sites and action plans. They are based on scientific analysis and prioritization in order to preserve or significantly improve the condition of natural habitats and species. The implementation of these measures shall contribute to achieve the objectives of Development axis 2 “Green and Sustainable Bulgaria”, priority 5 “Clean Air and Biodiversity” of NDP Bulgaria 2030. 1. **Risk and climate change**

**Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**As far as disaster **risk and climate change** **adaptation** are concerned, floods remain the most significant nature disaster in Bulgaria, as a consequence of climate change. It is reported that they have caused major damages, followed by landslides, droughts and wildfires, storms and whirlwinds, earthquakes (NSI, 2018). Disaster damages indicate that society is still not protected and prepared enough to stand such risks. This lead to the conclusion, also as set in the Country Report Bulgaria 2019, that support should be provided for establishment of a comprehensive disaster risk management system oriented rather towards preventing and averting such risks. The increased frequency of extreme events and disasters on the territory of the country affects socio-economic and natural systems. The assessment of climate change costs is difficult for the different sectors and researches show that even minor climate change can result in significantly high costs. Key horizontal problem for all sectors is the vulnerability to extreme weather events and the need to develop resilience and preparedness through a comprehensive management and disaster risk prevention. In order to implement the WFD and Directive 2007/60/EC requirements, Bulgaria implements a long-term planning to reduce the flood risk by developping a six-year period FRMPs for the territory of the four basin management regions. For 2014-2020 financial resources aimed at impelementing the Programmes of measures to the FRMPs. OPE 2014-2020 funding (over EUR 55 mln.) supports measures for prevention, preparedness, protection and response of the population - construction of 6 regional centers to raise population's preparedness for an adequate response to floods. Support is provided for the development of unified model for capacity building to react in case of floods and subsequent crises; a pilot of a National Real Time Water Management System is being established – for Iskar river, complemented with a system integrating local systems for early warning; 13 landslides are fortified.For the period 2021-2027 investments continue to be directed towards the implementation of the FRMPs measures due to the needs related to flood risk and prevention measures. The scope of supported measures is expanded and priority is set to implementation of green infrastructure measures for higher population protection through performance of environmentally sound measures that offer alternatives to standard solutions. Where feasible and viable a holistic approach will be promoted for investments in ecosystem-based options together with grey infrastructure as the efforts will target the areas with significant potential flood risk in compliance with the national documents (FRMPs). Land-mass movements in general remain a challenge and dealing with it shall be targeted in 2021-2027. In comparison with the measures supported in 2014-2020 period focused on fortification of lanslides on municipal territories, the actions envisaged to be financed in 2021-2027 period shall target all type of land-mass movements. The main objectives are to ensure remote monitoring and to perform subsequent interventions on site, incl. along the road network, where such risks occur as a threat to the population (related also to road safety); thus, contributing to the protection of human life and health, and additionally from an evironmental point of view with regard to the protection of biodiversity. The range of the extreme natural disasters on the territory of the country becomes broader. Support for measures aimed at disaster monitoring and early warning, additional strengthening of capacity for prognosis and preparedness for reaction (incl. earthquakes) is envisaged through investmens in the Unified Safety System (USS) and extending the System for early warning and announcement of the population. The USS includes all bodies, authorities and organizations (ministries and agencies, municipalities, companies, emergency medical care centers, non-profit organizations, including voluntary formations) responsible for disaster risk prevention and reaction, as well as for protection of human life and health. Measures raising public awareness and providing information and trainings for the population are outlined as a priority.**Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**The programme implementation contributes to achieving goals of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action plan, which set out the strategic framework and priorities for climate change adaptation by 2030 and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2018-2030. Recommendations under other strategic documents (Country Report Bulgaria 2019) are also considered, as the investments will have contribution for implementation of the objectives of priority 9 “Local Development” under development axis 3 “Connected and Integrated Bulgaria” of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030. The envisaged actions contributes to the achievement of the objectives of Priority area 5 – Ecological risks of the Danube Strategy.1. **Air**

**Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**As regards the **air quality** domestic heating and transport are one of the main air pollutants with particulate matter (PM). PM10 and PM2.5 are the most problematic pollutants affecting human health. Despite the significant investments in 2014-2020 programming period (over EUR 300 mln.), upscaling is needed to overcome the poor air quality problems considering also the relatively low standard of living, traditions in people’s behaviour and attitude related to heating and private transport, etc.The main objective of the National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP 2020–2030), developed under OPE 2014-2020 is to outline the policies and measures that provide an opportunity to achieve the national obligations for emission reduction for 2020 -2029 and 2030. These commitments are related to the annual common anthropogenic emissions of: sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds, ammonia (NH3) and PM2.5, compared to the emissions in the basic year 2005, according to Directive (EU) 2016/2284 requirements. The NAQMP 2018-2024, developed by the World Bank team with OPE 2014-2020 support, sets a complex of measures to contribute to achieve the PM standards according to the legislation, not later than 2024. The proposed measures are related to reducing the primary PM10 emissions of certain sources with main focus on domestic heating on solid fuel. Replacing solid fuel stoves/boilers with alternative heating options will contribute to reduction of the harmful emissions and hence air quality improvement, which will lead to significant benefits to human health. The choice of alternatives will take into account the do no significant harm principle, according to the European Green Deal. A positive effect will also have the contribution to both households’ resource efficiency and energy efficiency. One of the lessons learnt from the replacement of heaters in 2014-2020, shows that the two-stage projects lead to excessive delays in the real replacement of heating appliances with environmental alternatives. The preparatory process was justified by the lack of experience and the need to prepare the main activity in a good quality. There were difficulties in collecting applications from citizens due to the insufficient awareness of the target group that investing in clean air is an investment in the health of their families and society as a whole. The need to submit applications for participation requires the final beneficiary to make an informed choice of the most appropriate heating alternative, which further slows down the process. In order to address these difficulties, in 2021-2027 technical support will provided to form teams that will consult citizens and assist them in the selection and in the subsequent administrative steps. Experience has shown that timely, pro-active, direct communication with the final recipients of the support – the citizens, is key to the effective implementation of projects. Funding will also be provided for targeted regional information campaigns, taking into account the regional specifics, as well as for a broad national campaign focused on the announcement of the opportunities for free replacement of heating appliances, including the presentation of households that already use environmentally friendly heating supported by EU Funds. Regarding transport, personal cars are identified as a serious polluter given the outdated private fleet (predominantly diesel above 15 years). Promoting the phasing out of high-emission diesel vehicles is aimed to reduce the exceeding PM and NOx levels. The e-cars are proving to be not only low-emission but also cost-effective – the benefits for human health are complemented by low maintenance costs. Pre-Euro and Euro 1 diesel cars contribute to almost 55% of PM emissions emitted by private vehicles in the big cities. It is a good practice in most EU Member States to offer financial instruments to support electric mobility versus giving for recycling the high-emission used cars. The intervention under PE 2021-2027 will be focused on the territory of the municipalities with impaired air quality.**Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**The programme support aims to contribute for achiving compliance with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE) and Directive (EU) 2016/2284. Bulgaria is in a violation due to excessive PM10 pollution (Judgment of the EU Court of Justice in Case C 488/15), at the same time, in December 2020, the European Commission brought an action before the EU Court of Justice against Bulgaria for non-compliance with its previous decision. Exceedances of the air quality standards for PM2,5 and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, defined as benzo (a) pyrene, have also been registered.The envisaged invetments plan to address the main challenges outlined within the National Air Quality Management Programme (2018-2024) and the National Air Pollution Control Programme (2020-2030) and to contribute to achieving their main objectives and compliance with EU air quality legislation. The funds provided under the programme will contribute to the achievement of the objectives for improving air quality set in Priority 5. Clean air and biodiversity of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030.**PE 2021-2027 contribution to the socio-economic recovery from the pandemic of COVID-19** Тhe coronavirus outbreak is a major shock for the European and global economies. It constitutes a challenge for the state economies and the livelihood of citizens. During this health crisis it is vital to protect critical sectors by ensuring new job opportunities and workers’ confidence as well as to invest in measures that shall improve ecosistems and the environmental conditions and as consequence prevent further spread of the virus. Lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic have a direct, short-term positive impact on the environment, especially in terms of emissions and air quality, as this effect is more likely to be temporary. Scientists are studying the impact that air pollution can have on the severity of illness. Exposure to polluted air has been associated with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, both of which have been identified as pre-existing health problems, lethal outcome risk factor in COVID patients. The link between air pollution and coronavirus reinforces the need for pollution reduction measures in subsequent recovery actions. The UNO remarks that the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the critical importance of sanitation and adequate access to water to prevent and limit morbidity. Access to drinking water and sanitation is extremely important in this regard, especially in order to protect human life and health. The provision of adequate infrastructure for drainage and treatment of wastewater is an essential factor for reducing the pollution of groundwater and surface water from the discharge of untreated wastewater, further contributing to improving the quality of life and protecting human health.Last but not least, the contribution of investment to job creation should be noted, especially in the context of such an unprecedented situation, which reflects on the economy not only of the country but also throughout the EU. Significant infrastructure investments provide an opportunity for additional business impetus in addressing the current difficulties in overcoming unemployment, generating GDP and, last but not least, providing opportunities for activities to be carried out by businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.**Programme Environment in the light of the European Green Deal** Compliance of the programme’s interventions with the European Green Deal objectives for transition to CO2 neutrality shall be strongly promoted. The support under the PE shall demonstrate how climate and environmental challenges may be turned into opportunities regarding the efficient use of resources, moving to a clean, circular economy and restoration of ecosistems and biodiversity and cutting pollution, especially in relation to water and air sectors. In this regard, the main contribution of PE through the planned procedures to the Green Transaction policies relates to the "ambition of zero pollution for a non-toxic environment" and in particular to improve the monitoring, reporting, prevention and elimination of air and water pollution. “Do no harm” principle will be respected in the investments. **Challenges in administrative capacity and governance**Despite the experience gained during the two programming periods, some of the beneficiaries lack sufficient capacity in the preparation and subsequent implementation of projects. It is planned to upgrade the good practice by organizing trainings, conducting awareness campaigns, as well as introductory trainings after the conclusion of the grant contracts with beneficiaries. Applicable tools will be used in this regard, incl. among those recommended in the document “Roadmaps for building administrative capacity. A Practical Toolkit ”, developed by the OECD, which includes a set of operational clarifications, methodological and practical support, good practices and examples. With the help of the developed tools, the accumulated experience and lessons learnt in the interaction between the MA with the beneficiaries will continue developing throughout the cycle of preparation and implementation of projects. The regular interaction of the MA with the beneficiaries and their partners will continue through consultations, workshops (including online), on-the-spot checks, publication of standard documents, detailed written guidelines, instructions, etc. Trainings are provided for units and structures of the Ministry of Environment and Water, supporting the work with specific expertise by sectors, and for the Monitoring Committee of PE 2021-2027 as partners in the monitoring and implementation of the programme. Support is planned on topics identified on the basis of a needs analysis with support through the Technical Assistance priority. This ensures the upgrading of the results of project “Analysis and measures to improve the capacity of structures within the MoEW for implementation of projects under OPE 2014-2020”, with the needs of the individual types (potential) beneficiaries for 2021-2027.Needs for upgrading the capacity of the Managing Authority with a focus on simplified costs, financial instruments and state aid have been identified. The challenge remains the retention of qualified and efficient employees, given the significant labor shortage and the growth of wages in the private sector. In addition, pursuant to Art. 68 (1) (c) of the CPR, priority is given to strengthening the capacity to detect, report and track irregularities and fraud, including by: - ​​reporting to the Irregularity Management System, including irregularities/frauds arising from OLAF cases/recommendations, and regular updating of all notifications; - development of an anti-fraud policy/position at programme level, in accordance with the National Anti-Fraud Strategy; and - making full use of available data retrieval tools such as ARAHNE |

*For Jobs and growth goal*

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| **Table 1** |
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| **Policy objective**  |

 | **Specific objective or dedicated priority\***  | **Justification (summary)** |
| 2 | Promoting sustainable water management |  [2 000 per specific objective or dedicated priority]Implementing Recommendation 3 of the Council from 05.06.19 regarding 2019 National Reform Programme of Bulgaria and containing statement regarding 2019 Convergence Programme of Bulgaria and continuing the efforts to comply with the WFD requirements and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 requirements, according to which the levels of connectivity and treatment of urban wastewater are relatively low. The analysis shows that the water supply and sewerage investments have significantly increased during the last decade, financed mostly by EU funding. However, weaknesses are identified in planning and managing these projects. The specific objective will address investment needs with high priority defined in 2019 Country Report to increase the level of connectivity and urban waste water treatment, aimed at stimulating sustainable water management and more specifically - improvement of water collection and waste water treatment with priority to agglomerations of more than 10 000 P.E. and reduction of water losses. Investments in agglomerations between 2 000 и 10 000 P.E. are planned to be supported if financial resources are available. Support for the development of RBMPs for 2028-2033 period is foreseen in order to implement the commitments under Art. 13 of WFDby addressing measures from the Plans. The investments contribute to implementation of the water reform under the Strategy for Development and Management of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bulgaria 2014-2023 and to National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030, reflecting the needs identified in the National investment plan in water and wastewater sectors.The planned investments will contribute also for the implementation of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely:* Improve monitoring capacities with a view to lower the dependence on expert judgment for assessing the ecological status/potential of the water bodies in accordance with the WFD
* Step up efforts to address compliance gap with the UWWTD.
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| 2 | Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | Implementing Recommendation 3 of the Council from 05.06.19 regarding 2019 National Reform Programme of Bulgaria 2019 and containing statement regarding Convergence Programme of Bulgaria 2019, continuing the efforts to comply with the requirements of Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC. Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 requirements, according to which the waste management is still challenging, although the generated waste quantity is under the EU-average. The percentage of landfilled municipal waste is among the highest in EU and the separate waste collection is not functioning optimally as this is also observed by the respective infrastructure and increasing public awareness, the capacity of municipalities to organize, contract and manage waste collection and treatment is limited. Addressing the recommendations aiming to support the transition to circular economy. The priority target is the municipal waste (according to the definition under Art. 3 (2b) of Directive 2008/98 / EC, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851), construction and demolition waste, through investment measures for achieving the 2030 recycling and landfilling reduction targets, with a focus on separate collection and recycling. The foreseen interventions will contribute also for the implementation of priority actions from EIR 2019 for Bulgaria: “Improve and extend separate collection of waste, including for bio-waste” and are in line with Priority 4. Circular and low-carbon economy of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030. The focus is “on the transition from landfilling to prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery of most of the formed waste from industrial and domestic processes”. The interventions also comply with the Analysis of the Socio-Economic Development of Bulgaria 2007-2017 for setting the national priorities for the period 2021-2027 in particular “Interventions oriented towards waste management will continue, in an effort to intensify the processes of transformation from linear to a circular economy and a reduction in the share of landfilled waste at the expense of recycled waste”. All measures address the identified needs within the NWMP 2021-2028. |
| 2 | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 - the efforts should focus on further establishment of effective management structures of Natura 2000. The focus is on maintenance and restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity within and outside Natura 2000. Interventions shall continue aimed at improving the status of species and habitats subjects of conservation in Natura 2000 sites, the activities of stakeholders capacity building to be effectively involved in Natura 2000 management processes shall be upgraded and providing public support for the network. Support is also planned for protected territories, as a priority, where they overlap with protected areas. The interventions foreseen will also contribute to the implementation of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely:* Establish efficient management structures for the Natura 2000 network, with sufficient administrative and financial capacity

Implementing the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations and continuing the efforts to comply with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC, by building on the investments from 2014-2020, addressing domestic heating and transport as main air pollutants. Investments will be in accordance with the National Air Quality Management Programme (NAQMP) 2018-2024 and will contribute to the objectives of the National Air Pollution Control Programme 2020-2030. Support is envisaged for investments in achieving ambient air quality standards and, where applicable, keeping compliance with these standards. The objective is to meet them for PM10 and PM2.5, according to the Directive and the national legislation. The implementation of measures will additionally lead to decrease in polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons emissions and will contribute to fulfill the commitments according to Directive (EU) 2016/2284. The interventions shall focus as a priority on replacement of heating devices on solid fuel, but also on transport, given according to the text of the NAQMP up to 2024 it is necessary to „encourage a faster uptake of more modern, cleaner vehicles”. The interventions foreseen will also contribute to the implementation of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely:* accelerate the reduction of NOx emissions and NO2 concentrations;
* accelerate reductions in PM2.5 and PM10 emission and concentration.
 |
| 2 | Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience  | Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations, according to which investments are necessary in emergency management systems for disaster prevention and reaction, for limitation of the risks and adaptation to climate change. Implementation of risk prevention and management measures focused on floods, landslides and building on the measures from 2014-2020 period with investments, addressing droughts, forest fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters, according to the documents, developed at national level (the Disaster risk management plan – enabling condition for the 2021-2027 period; National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action plan, National Disaster risk reduction strategy 2018-2030). It is planned to finance the implementation of measures within the FRMPs aiming to fulfill the commitments under the Flood Directive 2007/60/EC. The focus is on preventing the risks for population’s life and health; upscaling Iskar pilot with elaboration of the National Real Time Water Management System and extending the scope of water bodies covered by the System; further development of existing risk management and early warning systems, extending their scope with forest fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters; continuing the investments in increasing the population preparedness for reaction, aiming to reduce the risk of actions under affect. Support for transition from response-oriented management system to a more comprehensive disaster risk prevention and management system aimed to promote climate change adaptation. Implementation of preparedness measures is also envisaged to be supported focusing on the response reserve of the EU civil protection pool. In relation with the reduction of the impacts of drought on water resources, support is envisaged for the implementation of studies, evaluations and analyzes, incl. those related to the preparation of the FRMPs for the period 2028-2033. |

*\* Dedicated priorities according to ESF+ Regulation*

*For the EMFF:*

|  |
| --- |
| **Table1 A** |
| **Policy objective**  | **Priority** | **SWOT analysis (for each priority)** | **Justification (summary)** |
|  |  | Strengths [10 000 per priority]  | [20 000 per priority] |
| Weaknesses [10 000 per priority] |
| Opportunities [10 000 per priority] |
| Threats [10 000 per priority] |
| Identification of needs on the basis of the SWOT analysis and taking into account the elements set out in Article 6(6) of the EMFF Regulation [10 000 per priority] |

1. **Priorities other than technical assistance**

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

**Table 1 Т: Programme structure\***

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

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

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

**Priority 1 “Water”**

|  |
| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions |
| [ ]  This is a priority support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation] |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8 |

*\* Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.*

*\* \* If marked go to section 2.1.2*

**2.1.1. Specific objective[[3]](#footnote-4) – repeated for each selected specific objective for priorities other than technical assistance**

Specific objective: “Promoting sustainable water management”

**2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds**

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [8 000]** Infrastructure measures for collection, disposal and wastewater treatment to achieve compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC;
* Infrastructure measures in water supply to comply with Directive 98/83/EC contributing to the reduction of water losses on the water supply network;
* Development of a RFSs for future financing for newly consolidated regions Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Lovech, Montana, Pazardzhik, Razgrad – when the water reform is finalized and after the consolidation of the last 6 regions in the country;
* Development of strategic, programming and planning documents in Water sector and WSS sector, incl. RBMPs;
* Strengthening the capacity for planning, managing and implementing the commitments in Water and WSS sectors;
* Other RBMPs measures to improve water condition and to achieve WFD objectives; measures to improve the quality of the water intended for human consumption.

Investments in WSS infrastructure are determined within financial plan – an enabling condition for the water sector. They are in compliance with the water reform and their implementation follows the principle “one separate WSS territory – one consolidated WSS operator – one RFS – one project”. According to the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC, priority is given to agglomerations with more than 10 000 P.E. For 2021-2027 it is planned investments to start in the consolidated regions of Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Pleven, Sofia-district, Sofia-city, Targovishte and Haskovo that are with developed RFSs. These activities complement both the measures under the National Resilience and Recovery Plan (support for the construction of WSS infrastructure in agglomerations between 5 000 and 10 000 P.E.) and those of the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development for the period 2021 – 2027 for agglomerations below 2 000 P.E.In addition, in consolidated WSS regions in which full compliance has been achieved for agglomerations with more than 10 000 P.E., it is eligible, if financial resource is available, to support infrastructure measures in agglomerations between 2 000 P.E. and 10 000 P.E. in demarcation to the investments in the National Resilience and Recovery Plan.Measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of stakeholders, which are factors of the funded policy or its implementation, will be supported with the aim to acquire specialized knowledge for implementation of the up-to-date legislation in the Water and WSS sectors. |

*List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):*

*Text field [2 000]*

The projects for construction of WSS infrastructure in agglomerations above 10 000 P.E. are outlinded as operations of strategic importance. They shall be listed based on specific terms of application and at the beginning of 2021 there are 7 - for WSS territories Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Pleven, Sofia-city, Sofia-district, Targovishte and Haskovo. These operations provide key contribution to the achievement of the PE’s objectives in the WSS sector with regard to achieveing compliance with the Wastewater Directive, given it is directly related to citizens’ quality of life and environmental protection.

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

*Text field [1 000]*

Bodies with obligations according to Environmental Protection Act, Water Act and Regulation of Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act, about implementation of eligible activities, financial intermediaries in cases of funding through financial instruments; the population in agglomerations above 10 000 P.E., the population of the country in general and the business. The support will be directed mainly to the bodies responsible for implementation of the respective policy, e.g. the regional WSS operators, Bulgarian Water and Sewerage Holding, Sofia Municipality, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, structures of/within the Ministry of Health and structures of/within the Ministry of Environment and Water. In addition, support for implementation of other RBMPs measures will be focused on municipalities and other interested parties by application of integrated territorial investment approach.

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

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

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

*Text field [2 000]*

The aim is to support the construction of sanitary protection zones of water sources for protection of waters designated for human consumption, in order to achieve the targets of Directive 2000/60/EC Framework for Community action in the field of water policy. Eligible measures are also those laid down in the RBMPs, which are different from the construction of WSS infrastructure. The measures must meet the provisions of the RBMPs, such as their necessity/priority at local and regional level should be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS 2 regions. The PE projects that are eligible under the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The PE projects will be implementated in co-ordination with the projects under the other programmes, financing the relevant integrated concept.

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

*Text field [2 000]*

The planned eligible measures contribute to strategic objective 2 “Stimulating urban development”, Pillar 2 “Protecting the Environment”, Priority Area 4 “Water Quality” of the draft revised Action plan to the Danube Strategy (as per Staff working document of the EC from 06.04.2020) through investments in infrastructure for collection, disposal and wastewater treatment, protection of water resources and provision of water supply. In addition, support under the priority has a contribution to the current Maritime Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria and to protection and restoration of the Black Sea, as also to achieve "good status" of coastal waters as part of the RBMPs and establishing a policy to achieve or maintain a good state of the marine environment as part of the Maritime Strategy. At the same time, the development of documents of strategic importance, supported through PE 2021-2027 (e.g. RBMPs), imply interregional but often cross-border cooperation.

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

*Text field [1 000]*

FIs are planned in supporting financially viable investments, more concretely activities related to construction of WSS infrastructure taking into account the 2014-2020 lessons learnt. The type and the amount of the FIs will be determined based on the Ex-Ante Assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period, as the preliminary analyzes identify prerequisites for continuing the support approach from the programming period 2014-2020.

**2.1.1.2 Indicators[[4]](#footnote-5)**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 2: Output indicators** |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority**  |  |

 | **Specific objective** | **Fund**  | **Category of region**  | **ID [5]** | **Indicator** **[255]**  | **Measurement unit** | **Milestone (2024 г.)** | **Target (2029 г.)** |
| “Water” | Promoting sustainable water management | ERDF | Transition | RCO 32 | New or upgraded capacity for waste water treatment | population equivalent | 0 | 336 000 |
| Less developed |

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| --- |
| **Table 3: Result indicators** |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective**  | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **ID [5]** | **Indicator [255]** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline or reference value** | **Reference year** | **Target (2029** | **Source of data [200]** | **Comments [200]** |
| “Water” | Promoting sustainable water management | ERDF | Transition | RCR 41 | Population connected to improved public water supply | persons | 0 | 2021 | 1 400 000 | Projects supported, MRDPW, PE MA |  |
| Less developed |
| Transition | RCR 42 | Population connected to at least secondary public waste water treatment | persons | 0 | 2021 | 169 000 | Projects supported, PE MA |  |
| Less developed |

**2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention[[5]](#footnote-6)** (not applicable to the EMFF)

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field** |
| **Priority№** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 1 “Water” | ERDF | Transition | Promoting sustainable water management | 039 Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures,drinking water supply)  | 144 858 838,00 |
| Less developed | 116 540 698,00 |
| Transition | 040 Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction) | 8 098 566,00 |
| Less developed |  | 22 185 000,00 |
| Transition | 041 Waste water collection and treatment | 144 858 839,00 |
| Less developed | 116 540 697,00 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing** |
| **Priority№** | **Фонд** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 1 “Water” | ERDF | Transition  | Promoting sustainable water management  | 01 Grant | 294 736 243,00 |
| Less developed | 242 006 395,00 |
| Transition  | 02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of the Ex-ante assessment of FI | 3 080 000,00 |
| Less developed | 13 260 000,00 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 1 “Water” | ERDF | Transition  | Promoting sustainable water management  | 17 | 2 730 000,00 |
| Less developed | 22 185 000,00 |
| Transition | 48 | 295 086 243,00 |
| Less developed | 233 081 395,00 |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Tablei 8: Dimension 7 - ESF+\*, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension** |
|
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code (02 or 01 or 00)** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 1 “Water” | ERDF | Transition  | Promoting sustainable water management | 03 Gender neutral | 297 816 243,00 |
| Less developed | 255 266 395,00 |

**2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation**

*Reference: Article 17(3); CPR*

*Types of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Main target groups*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Criteria for the selection of operations [[6]](#footnote-7)*

*Text field [4 000 characters]*

**2.1** **Title of the priority [300]**

**Priority 2 “Waste”**

|  |
| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation] \*\* |
| [ ] This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under thet specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8 |

*\* Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.*

*\* \* If marked go to section 2.1.2*

**2.1.1.** **Specific objective[[7]](#footnote-8)** – repeated for each selected specific objective of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

**Specific objective**: “Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy”

**2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds**

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [8 000]*The eligible measures comply with the needs identified in the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) 2021-2028, its programmes and action plans, as well as in the Strategy and Action Plan for the Transition to a Circular Economy 2021-2027:- Measures for development/upgrade of infrastructure related to household waste management at regional waste management level, aiming to achieve the 2030 targets for waste recycling and landfilling;- Measures to prevent the generation of household waste – measures related to the generation of waste and measures related to the consumption and use phase;- Measures for construction of centers for preparation for reuse and repair;- Waste recycling measures – eligible combination with separate collection and pre-treatment; - Construction, extension and/or upgrade of separate municipal / regional waste collection systems and /or recycling of separately collected waste to achieve the 2030-2035 targets for recycling and reducing the amount of landfilled municipal waste; - Models for optimizing the process of municipal waste management by the municipalities in Bulgaria and testing these models in three regional waste management systems;- Raising awareness on practices and behavior in connection to sustainable consumption, circular economy, waste monitoring, as well as information and awareness campaigns for stakeholders and population;- Other measures identified in the NWMP 2021-2028 and in the Strategy and Action Plan for Transition to the circular economy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2021 - 2027, the implementation of which will have a complementary contribution to achieving the targets by 2030 - 2035.The measures relate to the waste that fall within the scope of the Waste Management Act (household, industrial, construction and hazardous) and aim to reduce the amount of landfilled municipal waste and increase the share of separately collected and recycled waste to support the transition to a circular economy. Priority is given to measures focused on municipal waste, as its management is within the obligations of the municipalities (“municipal waste” as per the definition in Article 3 (2b) of Directive 2008/98*/*EC on waste and repealing certain Directives, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 - *with exclusion of packaging waste, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators and textiles*).Measures for household waste management infrastructure focus mainly on regions with needs to complete their waste management systems to meet regulatory targets at regional level by 2030-2035, incl. but not only construction of recycling and separate waste collection facilities; lacking installations for pre-treatment of mixed household waste or with a need to be upgraded with additional section for stabilization of the organic fraction. Support will be provided to those waste management regions whose needs for completion/upgrading of infrastructure are identified in the NWMP 2021-2028Waste recycling measures carried out by recycling companies do not relate to waste that is generated by own production or manufacturing. These measures are also eligible in combination with pre-treatment and/or separate collection of the waste to be recycled. Measures for separate waste collection in industrial zones will be supported in combination, if necessary, with recycling of waste (with the exception of industrial and hazardous waste, packaging waste, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators, textiles, which will be covered by the Programme “Competitiveness and Innovation in Enterprises” 2021-2027 (PCIE) and by the RRP).The eligible measures do not apply to activities financed from product fees/royalties[[8]](#footnote-9) and in this regard no support is allowed for recovery organizations under the Waste Management Act. The construction of instalations for incineration and/or other recovery of waste with energy production will not be supported.The measures will be implemented in complementarity and in demarcation, according to the NWMP 2021-2028 and the Strategy and Action Plan for Circular Economy of Republic of Bulgaria for 2021-2027. Synergy of the measures towards promoting the transition to a circular economy will be achieved by ensuring complementarity between PE and PCIE support, following the demarcation with regard to enterprises: PE will support recycling activities for waste within the scope of the Waste Management Act that are carried out by recycling companies, with exclusion of the waste generated from own production or manufacturing; the PCIE and the Economic Transformation Program, proposed by the Ministry of Economy for funding under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, will support measures in enterprises in the field of product design, production processes and waste management. Improving waste management includes prevention and reduction of waste generation, preparion for re-use and recycling, as well as industrial symbiosis, with recycling within the enterprise itself, i.e. the use of waste back into production. Support for technological development, innovation and resource efficiency for waste pre-treatment enterprises is also envisaged as part of the recycling sector. Thus, complementarity of investments towards circular economy will be ensured at national level. |

*List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):*

*Text field [2 000]*

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

*Text field [1 000]*

The main target groups arethe population of Republic of Bulgaria, the business, the municipalities, including consolidated in waste management regions. The support will be directed mainly to the bodies responsible for implementation of the respective policy, e.g. to municipalities that need to improve the waste management systems and to the recycling business respecting the demarcation and complementarity with othere EU financial instrumentsding. Non-profit legal entities may be supported to implement information and awareness campaign measures. In addition, the National Association of the Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria is directly involved in assisting the municipalities in developing models for optimizing the process of municipal waste management in Bulgaria, therefore it is envisaged to provide a direct financing to the Association for the implementation of this measure.

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [2 000]* Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports transition to circular economy, decrease of the generated waste and of the waste going to landfils, increace of the recycled waste, etc.  |

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

*Text field [2 000]*

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the ITI approach at the NUTS 2 region. According to PE MA preliminary assessment, the following measures are identified as eligible:

- construction of centers for preparation for reuse and repair,

- ensuring separate waste collection in combination, if necessary, with recycling of waste in industrial zones (excluding industrial and hazardous waste, packaging waste, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators, textile).

The need for such measures at local and regional level should be identified
in the integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS2 regions. The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The PE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other programmes, financing the relevant integrated concept.

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

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

*Text field [2 000]* NA

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

*Text field [1 000]*

FIs are planned in supporting financially viable investments, more concretely the eligible waste management activities under priority 2, taking into account the 2014-2020 lessons learnt. The type, the scope and the amount of the FIs will be determined based on analyzes and studies on the preparation of the Ex-Ante Assessment of the FIs about the 2021-2027 periodand conducted consultations and studies for interest in using a financial instrument under the priority. According to preliminary studies, the measures for combined support through loans to finance own participation in projects financed with grant, as well as waste recycling measures, including in combination with separate waste collection, have the potential to provide a financial instrument.

**2.1.1.2 Indicators[[9]](#footnote-10)**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 2: Output indicators**  |
| **Priority**  | **Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)** | **Fund** | **Category of region**  | **ID [5]** | **Indicator** **[255]**  | **Measurement unit**  | **Milestone**  **(2024 )** | **Target**  **(2029)** |
| ”Waste” | Support of transition to circular and resource efficient economy | CF |  | RCO 34 | Additional capacity for waste recycling | tonnes/ year | 0 | 177 000 |
| RCO 107 | Investments in facilities for separate waste collection | euro | 0 |  40 515 532,74  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 3: Result indicators**  |
| **Priority**  | **Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)** | **Fund** | **Category of region**  | **ID [5]** | **Indicator** **[255]** | **Measurement unit**  | **Baseline or reference value**  | **Reference year**  | **Target** **(2029)** | **Source of data**  **[200]** | **Comments**  **[200]** |
| “Waste” | Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | CF |  | RCR 103 | Waste collected separately | tonnes/year | 0 | 2021 | 277 000 | Supported projects, PE MA |  |
|  | RCR 47 | Waste recycled | tonnes/year | 0 | 2021 | 177 000 | Supported projects, PE MA |  |

**2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention [[10]](#footnote-11)** (not applicable to the EMFF)

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field**  |
| **Priority** **№** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective**  | **Code**  | **Amount** **(EUR)** |
| 2 “Waste” | CF |  | Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | 042 Household waste management: prevention, minimization, sorting, reuse, recycling measures | 77 821 737,00 |
| 042bis Household waste management: residual waste treatment  | 117 680 063,00 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing** |
| **Priority** **№** | **Fund** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category of region**  |  |

 | **Specific objective**  | **Code**  | **Amount** **(EUR)** |
| 2 “Waste” | CF |  | Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | 01 Grant | 182 463 857,00 |
| 02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante Assessment of FIs | 13 037 943,00 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus** |
| **Priority** **№** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective**  | **Code**  | **Amount**  **(EUR)** |
| 2 “Waste” | CF |  | Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | 17 | 23 496 975,00 |
| 48 | 172 004 825,00 |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 8: Dimension 7 - ESF+\*, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension** |
|
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region** | **Specific objective**  | **Code (02 or 01 or 00)** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 2 “Waste” | CF |  | Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | 03 Gender neutral | 195 501 800,00 |

**2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation**

*Reference: Article 17(3); CPR*

*Types of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Main target groups*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Criteria for the selection of operations [[11]](#footnote-12)*

*Text field [4 000 characters]*

**2.1 Title of the priority [300]**

**Priority 3 “Biodiversity”**

|  |
| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation] |
|  [ ] This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8 |

*\* Table applicable to ESF+ priorities*

*\* \* If marked go to section 2.1.2*

**2.1.1. Specific objective [[12]](#footnote-13) (Jobs and growth goal) or Area of support (EMFF**) – repeated for each selected specific objective or area of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

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

**2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds**

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [8 000]*Eligible measures aimed at implementing the country’s commitments under the European biodiversity legislation, specified in strategic and planning documents at European and national level:- Measures related to development of NATURA 2000 network:* Development of territorial management plans for Natura 2000 sites – elaboration of guidelines; development of 15 management plans for protected sites covering the entire territory of Natura 2000 in Bulgaria, including research in relation to clarifying the distribution, population size, impacts and threats for species and natural habitats, incl. conducting public awareness campaigns and involving stakeholders in the process of developing plans;
* Implementation of the management approach in Natura 2000 sites – ensuring support for the management bodies of Natura 2000 sites.
* Improving the knowledge for species and natural habitats through field research (including mapping where defined in NPAF) and determining their conservation status; verification of taxonomic affiliation; identifying the effects of resettlement of non-indigenous spicies, etc.
* Development of action plans for species.
* Capacity building of stakeholders to implement conservation measures, incl. measures from NPAF and from the protected sites management plans.

- Measures aimed to improve the conservation status of habitats and species (incl. birds, fish, cave-bats, reptiles, vascular plants, and coastal, rock, dune types of natural habitats, freshwater habitat types, shrub habitats, etc.), subject to conservation in Natura 2000 network:* Improving the conservation status of species and habitat types by restoring the hydrological regime; removal of abandoned and/or unusable infrastructure causing fragmentation; building sea connections; restoration of the natural water regime of wetlands and maintenance of appropriate water regime; restoration of nesting sites of species; partial restoration of natural reservoirs that are drained in the past; management of reed massifs; eliminating invasive alien species; limiting grazing; reintroduction into potential habitats; placing electric fencеs; restoration of damaged areas; purchase of land; securing electricity grids, etc.
* Improving the conservation status of species through pilot restoration of existing /potential wetlands and meanders along the Danube and its tributaries.

- Measures for protection/restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity outside Natura 2000 – implementation of measures from the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation and National Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Genetic Resources 2020 – 2024, measures from management plans for protected territories. and action plans for species.Complementarity of the priority measures will be ensured through implementation of the measures set out in the NPAF for Natura 2000 which are supported by other sources of funding. The framework identifies measures as well as their funding sources – programmes cofinanced by Cohesion Policy funds , national budget, Common Agricultural Policy etc., thus ensuring both synergistic effect of improving the conservation status of species/types of natural habitats and providing demarcation among the respective interventions envisaged. In addition, the envisaged development of specific objectives and measures for protected sites with support from the RRP will serve as a basis for the subsequent development of protected sites management plans. |

*List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):*

*Text field [2 000]*

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

*Text field [1 000*] Priority interventions are directed to all stakeholders related to the policies for improvment and conservation of the biodiversity, as well as the management of the Natura 2000 network. These are not only the institutions responsible for the formation, implementation and enforcement of Natura 2000 policy and for the improvement of the conservation status of species and natural habitats, but also local authorities, legal entities with for-profit and non-profit purposes, local initiative groups, the scientific and academic community, land owners and users. Last but not least, it should be brought out as a main target group the population of Republic of Bulgaria considering the benefits of improving the quality of life - according to UN Goal 15, aimed at preventing the loss of biodiversity “well-managed protected areas and territories benefit” healthy “ecosystems, which in turn contributes to the protection of human health”.

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [2 000]* Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports nature preservation by restoration and support of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity. |

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

*Text field [2 000]*

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the ITI approach at the NUTS 2 region under the ITI approach and the community-led local development (CLLD) approach.

The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach should be based on the analyzes and conclusions in NPAF and will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders with the participation of Natura 2000 management bodies. A specific demarcation between programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by the Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, implemented by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

Regarding the implementation of the CLLD approach, taking into account the experience from the programming period 2014-2020, soft measures are envisaged such as regulation of pasture, combat against invasive species, etc. derived from the analyzes in the NPAF. Under ITI approach conservation measures are planned related to construction of infrastructure and facilities, including facilities for public access; information boards, restoration of state or municipal territories, such as riverbeds, river banks, etc.

ITI and CLLD within the priority are two separate instruments for territorial development, which are based on different territorial levels, with the respective differences, both in the scale of investments and in terms of their territorial significance and impact. Both approaches will be applied in addition to ensure the complexity of the measures for restoration and maintenance of species and habitats at regional and local level, as demarcation between them is at measure level on the base of NPAF. Measures requiring a change in the attitude of local communities are referred to CLLD approach and those for the construction of facilities and infrastructure are envisaged under the ITI approach with the participation of regional and local authorities, as well as competent environment and water authorities. This guaranties the implementation of measures in compliance with environmental legislation and ensures their sustainability.

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

*Text field [2 000]* The planned eligible measures contribute to strategic objective 2 “Stimulating urban development”, Pillar 2 “Protecting the Environment”, Priority Area 6 “Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils” of the draft revised Action plan to the Danube Strategy (as per Staff working document of the EC from 06.04.2020). In addition, support under the priority has a direct contribution to the current Maritime Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria and to protection and restoration of the Black Sea, as also to achieve and maintain a good state of the marine environment, especially with regard to protection of species and habitats in Black Sea aquatoria.

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

*Text field [1 000* *]*

No FIs are planned under this priority*.*

**2.1.1.2 Indicators**

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

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| **Table 2: Output indicators** |
| **Priority**  | **Specific objective** | **Fund**  | **Category of region**  | **ID [5]** | **Indicator [255]**  | **Measurement unit**  | **Milestone** **(2024)** | **Target** **(2029)** |
| “Biodiversity” | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | ERDF | Transition  | RCO 37 |  | ha | 7 600 000 | 14 000 000 |
| Less developed |

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| **Table 3: Result indicators** |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective**  | **Fund**  | **Category of region** | **ID [5]** | **Indicator** **[255]** | **Measurement unit**  | **Baseline or reference value**  | **Reference year**  | **Target (2029)** | **Source of data** **[200]** | **Comments** **[200]** |
| “Biodiversity” | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | ERDF | Transition  | Programme-specific indicator | NPAF’s measures supported under PE 2021-2027  | number | 0 | 2021 | 40 | Projects supported, PE MA |  |
| Less developed |  |  |  |

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

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

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| **Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region**  | **Specific objective**  | **Code**  | **Amount** **(EUR)** |
| 3 “Biodiversity” | **ERDF** | Transition  | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | 049 Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites | 11 317 870,00 |
| Less developed | 75 742 670,00 |
| Transition  | 050 Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources green and blue infrastructure | 1 300 000,00 |
| Less developed | 8 700 000,00 |

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| **Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region**  | **Specific objective**  | **Code**  | **Amount** **(EUR)** |
| 3 “Biodiversity” | **ERDF** | Transition | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution |  | 10 635 172,00 |
| Less developed | 86 425 368,00 |

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| **Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus**  |
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region**  | **Specific objective**  | **Code**  | **Amount** **(EUR)** |
| 3 “Biodiversity” | **EFRD** | Transition | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | 17 | 2 204 930,00 |
| Less developed | 17 918 085,00 |
| Transition | 27 | 1 605 240,00 |
| Less developed | 13 044 780,00 |
| Transition  | 48 | 6 825 002,00 |
| Less developed | 55 462 503,00 |

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

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| **Table 8: Dimension 7 - ESF+\*, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension** |
|
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region**  | **Specific objective**  | **Code (02 or 01 or 00)** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 3 “Biodiversity” | ERDF | Transition | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | 03 Gender neutral | 10 635 172,00 |
| Less developed | 86 425 368,00 |

**2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation**

*Reference: Article 17(3); CPR*

*Types of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Main target groups*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Criteria for the selection of operations [[13]](#footnote-14)*

*Text field [4 000 characters]*

**2.1 Title of the priority [300]**

**Priority 4 “Risk and climate change”**

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| --- |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]\*\* |
| [ ] This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8 |

*Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.*

*\*\* If marked go to section 2.1.2*

**2.1.1. Specific objective[[14]](#footnote-15)**– repeated for each selected specific objective or area of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

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

**2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds**

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

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

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| *Text field [8 000]*In relation to the identified broader scope of natural disasters and the strategic objectives at national level, the following measures are eligible:* Flood and drought risk prevention and management measures (with priority to green infrastructure and, if applicable, in combination with grey infrastructure), giving priority to the implemention of measures identified in the FRMPs.

It should be noted that the implementation of green measures under the priority contributes both to the achievement of the objectives of the WFD and the Flood Directive concerning actions planned under the RBMPs and FRMPs for natural water retention, restoration of wetlands, etc. These measures have a positive effect on the environment and water quality improvement, and on reducing drought effect – RBMPs requirement, and on the flood risk management – FRMPs objective. In addition, investments included in the RBMPs programme of measures and foreseen to be supported under priority 1 (incl. construction/reconstruction of sewerage systems) shall contribute to mitigate the negative effects of floods, drought and water scarcity. The reduction of water loses as a result of the investments planned in water supply infrastructure shall reduce the water abstraction as a measure directed to climate change adaptation.* Risk analyses and implementation of prevention and protection measures concerning processes related to land-mass movement – landslides, erosion, abrasion, collapsible soils, etc. (incl. green infrastructure, if applicable, in combination with grey infrastructure). The measures are eligible both in urban areas and on the national road network, where they are identified as a threat to the life and health of the population (once in the light of road safety, but also related to environment with regard to the protection of the biodiversity).
* Measures aimed at increasing the population preparedness and the capacity of the responsible units for an adequate response to floods, fires and earthquakes - construction of regional polygons on the territory of the country for practical training of the population and expanding and upgrading the operational capacity of disaster response structures, development of methodologies for management of the available human and material resources to manage disaster risk, strengthening the capacity of the Unified Safety System in order to ensure coordinated and organised actions for management and prevention of the risk of floods, fires and earthquakes, etc., including crossborder coordination and raising the effectiveness of joint action in the event of a fire. These measures also includeraising public awareness, trainings, information and education measures in order to define, apply and implement the climate change and disaster protection policy goals.
* Establishing new and optimizing and/or expanding existing warning, monitoring, reporting, forecasting and alarming systems; development of digital models, analysis and forecаsts in relation to climate change such as:
* further development and completion of the National Real Time Water Management System establishment for the rest 12 main rivers;
* expanding the System for early warning and announcement of the population (at NUTS 3 level) on the territory of the country;
* landslides monitoring – pilot project for a prioritized territory with regard to population’s life protection.
* Researches, analyzes and assessments, incl. regarding FRMPs development for the period 2028-2033.
 |

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

*Text field [1 000]* Population of Republic of Bulgaria, Unified Safety System’s structures (ministries and agencies, municipalities, companies, emergency centers, non-profit organizations, voluntary organizations – all with the respective responsibilities for the prevention and response to natural disasters, as well as for the protection of human life and health).

The support under the priority shall be targeted to wide range of potential beneficiaries according to their repsonsiblities and powers, e.g. municipalities, regional administrations (district government), Road Infrastructure Agency, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), Structures of/within MoEW, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH), Structures of/within Ministry of Interior, etc.

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

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| --- |
| *Text field [2 000]* Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports natural disasters risk prevention and management, focused on protection of life and health of all Bulgarian citizens and on protection of the property.  |

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

*Text field [2 000]*

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the ITI approach at the NUTS 2 region. According to PE MA preliminary assessment, measures for flood risk and drought prevention and management (including green infrastructure, if applicable, in combination with gray infrastructure), are eligible for financing under the ITI approach. This will ensure a holistic approach towards the management of the flood risk, given the mesures may be performed in a coordinated and complemented manner by the different responsible stakeholders; e.g. the municipal mayor – along the river on the territory of the municipality, and the regional governor – along the river on the territory of the region in accordance with their respective powers and responsibilities.

The need of such measures at local and regional level should be identified
in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS 2 regions. The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The OPE projects will be implementated in co-ordination with the projects under the other programmes, financing the relevant integrated concept.

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

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

*Text field [2 000]*

The planned eligible measures contribute to strategic objective 2 “Stimulating urban development”, Pillar 2 “Protecting the Environment”, Priority Area 5 “Environmetal risks” of the draft revised Action plan to the Danube Strategy (as per Staff working document of the EC from 06.04.2020). In addition, support under the priority has a direct contribution to the measures in the current Maritime Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria and to protection and restoration of the Black Sea with regard to the processes related to land-mass movement, as well as to the FRMPs measures.

The interventions planned to increase the capacity of the responsible units for an adequate response to fires envisage crossborder cooperation for joint action in the implementation of the expected results. This will additionally outline the sustainability of the projects implemented under INTERREG-IPA-Bulgaria-Turkey and INTERREG-V-A-Greece-Bulgaria- 2014 - 2020.

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

*Text field [1 000]*

No FIs are planned under this priority*.*

**2.1.1.2 Indicators**

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

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| **Table 2: Output indicators** |
| **Priority**  | **Specific objective**  | **Fund**  | **Category of region**  | **ID [5]** | **Indicator [255]**  | **Measurement unit** | **Milestone (2024)** | **Target (2029)** |
| “Risk and climate change” | Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience | ERDF | Transition  | RCO 24  | Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems | Euro | 0 | 62 000 000 |
| Less developed |
| Transition  | RCO 27 | National and sub-national strategies addressing climate change adaptation | number | 0 | 5 |
| Less developed |
| Transition  | RCO 106 | Landslide protection facilities newly built or consolidated | ha | 0 | 230 |
| Less developed |

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| **Table 3: Result indicators** |
| **Priority**  | **Specific objective** | **Fund**  | **Category of region**  | **ID [5]** | **Indicator [255]** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline or reference value** | **Reference year** | **Target (2029)**  | **Source of data [200]**  | **Comments [200]**  |
| “Risk and climate change” | Promoting climate change adaptation,risk prevention and disaster resilience | ERDF | Transition  | RCR 35 | Population benefiting from flood protection measures | persons | 0 | 2021 | 3 880 000 | Project supported, PE MA |  |
| Less developed |

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

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

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| **Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field**  |
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region**  | **Specific objective**  | **Code**  | **Amount** **(EUR)** |
| 4 “Risk and climate change” | ERDF | Transition  | Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience | 035 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem approaches) | 18 342 264,00 |
| Less developed | 149 056 087,00 |
| Transition  | 036 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem approaches) | 3 761 335,00 |
| Less developed | 30 566 000,00 |
| Transition  | 038 Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem approaches. | 3 306 333,00 |
| Less developed |  | 26 868 502,00 |

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| **Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing**  |
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 4 “Risk and climate change” | ERDF | Transition  | Promoting climate change adaptation,risk prevention and disaster resilience | 01 Grant | 25 409 932,00 |
| Less developed | 206 490 589,00 |
| **Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 4 “Risk and climate change” | ERDF | Transition  | Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience | 17 | 4 095 000,00 |
| Less developed | 33 277 500,00 |
| Transition  | 21 314 932,00 |
| Less developed | 173 213 089,00 |

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

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| **Table 8: Dimension 7 - ESF+\*, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension** |
|
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code (02 or 01 or 00)** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 4 “Risk and climate change” | ERDF | Transition | Promoting climate change adaptation,risk prevention and disaster resilience | 03 Gender neutral | 25 409 932,00 |
| Less developed | 206 490 589,00 |

**2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation**

*Reference: Article 17(3); CPR*

*Types of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Main target groups*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Criteria for the selection of operations[[15]](#footnote-16)*

*Text field [4 000 characters]*

**2.1 Title of the priority [300]**

**Priority 5 “Air”**

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| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions |
| [ ]  This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation] |
| [ ] This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation8 |

*\*Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.*

*\*\* If marked go to section 2.1.2*

**2.1.1.** **Specific objective[[16]](#footnote-17)**– repeated for each selected specific objective of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

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

**2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds**

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

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

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| *Text field [8 000]** Measures, addressing reduction of air pollution from domestic heating - gradual replacement of solid fuel heaters with environmentally friendly alternatives, taking into account the do no significant harm principle (with priority to energy efficient homes), introduction of low-emission zones; promoting the use of renewables, hydrogen, other innovative alternatives, where applicable. The investments will expand and upgrade the results achieved by the projects under OPE 2014-2020 and the integrated project under the Life Programme “Bulgarian municipalities work together to improve air quality” (LIFE-IP Clean Air);
* Measures, addressing reduction of air pollution from transport – phasing out the use of high emission personal vehicles by promotion of electromobility; introduction of low emission zones, etc.;
* Measures addressing secondary dusting – green infrastructure in urban areas, incl. establishment/expansion of green belts/zones, street sweeping machines, etc.;
* Improvement of AAQ monitoring, incl. upgrade of the National AAQ Real Time Monitoring System and the Information AAQ Data Reporting System;
* Development/update of strategic/programme/planning/analytical documents, regarding ambient air quality, carrying out scientific studies, forecasting, modeling;
* Training and information-educational measures.

The focus of the interventions will be on municipalities with poor air quality, as a main priority are those that fall within the scope of the Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union 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 particulate matter in ambient air. Support for measures addressing sources of air pollution is also eligible for municipalities where there are no permanent monitoring points, but excessive pollution has been registered under the PM10 indicator with the mobile automatic stations of the Executive Environment Agency.Measures to reduce air pollution from domestic heating support the gradual replacement of solid fuel heaters, incl. through promotion of renewable energy, hydrogen and other innovative alternatives, where applicable, and by introduction of low-emission zones. The measure for replacement of solid fuel heaters is a key one, given the highest effectiveness and the expected fastest direct result in terms of reducing PM emissions, which are the cause of premature death of over 12 thousand Bulgarian citizens in 2018, according to the European Environment Agency's (EEA) 2020 Air Quality Report.The activities will be in synergy with the energy efficiency measures of the housing under the Programme Development Regions (in municipalities with poor air quality PDR will support measures related to repair or replacement of air conditioning systems and of heating systems with exclusion of the ones that use solid fuel), as well as those supported by the Recovery and Resilience Plan, InvestEU and the national budget. PE will support the replacement of solid fuel heating appliances with a priority to energy efficient buildings. On one hand, the replaced heating appliances will additionally contribute for the improvment of the energy efficiency of the housing in general, and on the other – the improved energy efficiency of the buildings will result in lower energy consumption, which contributes to reduction of air pollution emissions. An additional effect is expected from achieving higher health and environmental standards by ensuring good air quality in line with the Commission Communication on “Rehabilitation wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving the quality of life”.According to EEA Report No 22/2018 [“Uneven exposure and uneven impact: social vulnerability to air pollution, noise and extreme temperatures in Europe”, published on 04.02.2019] areas with lower socio-economic status, tend to have higher levels of PM2.5, PM10 and O3 pollution. One of the findings in the report is that in Bulgaria nearly 40% of all households have difficulties in providing heating for their homes. Taking this into account, in the process of selection the final recipients of the aid, different factors will be subject to prioritization, such as energy poverty and investment efficiency in terms of unit cost for saving PM emissions in order to replace old heating appliances in as many households as possible.The measures for reduction of air pollution from transport are in complementarity with the envisaged measures under Programme Transport Connectivity (measures related to intermodality in urban environment and Programme Development of Regions. (sustainable urban mobility interventions, replacement of public transport fleet). The support for the promotion of electric mobility will focus on the phasing out of the use of conventional high-emission vehicles (pre-Euro and Euro 1 diesel vehicles) and the transition to electric cars. The final recipients will be citizens living in the territory of municipalities with poor air quality, who will hand over for recycling registered high-emission diesel cars.. The procedure is a pilot and envisages the use of financial instruments. The funding for the introduction of low-emission transport zones will be concentrated in cities with poor air quality and significant traffic problems.Actions for the establishment/expansion of green belts/zones will be supported on the territory of municipalities with poor air quality. The support for the maintenance of newly planted plant species will be limited to a period not longer than 3 years when the necessary justification is provided. Green infrastructure under the measure includes green walls, green areas, landscaping of “mud spots”, green roofs, green schoolyards, etc., including innovative and intelligent green solutions. The measures will have an additional positive effect also given the findings in the National Biodiversity Strategy that in Bulgaria the indicator "green areas per person" in large settlements varies from 3-15 sq.m./person., which is far from the European requirements for 20 sq.m. green areas per person. The implementation of green measures in urban environment, incl. creation/expansion of green belts/zones, will ensure complementarity, where is applicable, with green infrastructure measures in the cities set out in the PDR (overall interventions for green areas, incl. parks, lanes, resting spots, etc.).The PE focus is on the air quality through investments in plant species with highest effectiveness with regard to the capture of PM and air purification.There is also a possibility to support with financial instruments the supply of street cleaning machines, as well as other appropriate equipment for maintaining the cleanliness of city streets in municipalities with poor air quality. The main measure to combat secondary dusting is regular cleaning and washing of street pavements.The intervention to improve air quality monitoring supports the modernization of air quality measurement stations, an integral part of the National Real-Time Air Quality Monitoring System, managed by the Executive Environment Agency. A significant part of the equipment has been in operation for more than 15 years. Investments in the replacement of equipment with modern alternatives and upgrading of the reporting module will lead to improved quality of data, including those transmitted in real time, quality assurance through automatic checks and more.The support for development/updating of documents and carrying out scientific studies regarding air quality in Bulgaria, related to new European and national policies and standards for air purity, identified good practices, applicable innovative technologies, etc. The analytical documents will support the work of the specialized units in the MoEW and the municipalities, which are directly responsible for air quality, as well as the MA of PE. The developed strategic and programme documents, as well as the results from the scientific studies, will be publicly available and open for use by all stakeholders.The training measures are key, given the fact that they will be directed to the beneficiaries of the programme, as well as at the public structures engaged in the development and implementation of policies and activities related to air quality, including the control over their implementation. There will be a possibility for cooperation/exchange of experience with other member states organisations.The information and educational measures will be directed both to the general public and to specific target groups such as citizens in the municipalities with impaired air quality, youth and students. The change in the thinking of citizens is crucial for a change in their overall attitude and behavior to the problems of air quality. The consciousness of people that investments in clean air are investments in the health of their families and for a better quality of life, will stimulate the refusal of use of solid fuel heaters and high-emission diesel cars.  |

*List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):*

*Text field [2 000]*

The projects for phasing out the use of heating devices on solid fuel is outlinded as operations of strategic importance. They shall be listed based on specific terms of application, taking into account the average annual and average daily emissions’ exceedances, the compliance of the Municipal Air Quality Management Plans, etc. These are projects of municipalities falling under Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union Case C-488/15 of 5 April 2017. for non-compliance with the limit values for PM10 in zones and agglomerations and failure to fulfil the obligations under Directive 2008/50/EC on limit values for PM10 concentrations. These operations provide a key contribution to the achievement of the PE’s objectives and is the most representative of the programme embodying its goal on achieving air quality standards, given it is directly related to citizens’ health and quality of life.

As operations of strategic importance may be also outlined the planned pilot investments in heating systems based on hydrogen technologies as alternative domestic heating option.

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

*Text field [1 000]* Inhabitant of municipalities with poor air quality, as well as public structures responsible for the development and implementation of policies and activities related to air quality, including control over their implementation, the population of the country in general. The potential eligible beneficiaries are municipalities, Executive Environment Agency, profit legal persons (for secondary dusting measures), Association of environmental experts from the municipalities in Bulgaria (for training and information-educational measures; creation of a network of experts in the field of air quality), natural persons (for combined financial instruments for enhancing e-mobility).

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [2 000]* Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports ambient air quality improvement investments aiming at health protection of all citizens in Republic of Bulgaria*.* |

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

*Text field [2 000]*

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the ITI approach at NUTS 2 regions. According to PE MA preliminary assessment, green measures in urban areas, incl. establishment of "green belts/zones" on the territories of municipalities with poor AAQ, in compiance and demarcation with measures, financed under PDR are eligible.

The need for such measures at local and regional level should be identified
in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS 2 regions. The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The PE projects will be implementated in co-ordination with the projects under the other programmes, financing the relevant integrated concept.

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

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

*Text field [2 000]*

The planned eligible measures contribute to strategic objective 2 “Stimulating urban development”, Pillar 2 “Protecting the Environment”, Priority Area 6 “Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils” of the draft revised Action plan to the Danube Strategy (as per Staff working document of the EC from 06.04.2020). In addition, the MA of PE will explore the possibility of promoting options for cooperation with beneficiaries from at least one Member State through cross-border, interregional or transnational activities and in particular - support for the exchange of experience and good practice, if applicable.

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

*Text field [1 000]* FIs are planned in supporting financially viable investments, more concretely activities for promotion of e-mobility taking into account the 2014-2020 lessons learnt. In the draft Preliminary Assessment of FIs for the period 2021-2027 the possibility to provide a combined financial instrument for the purchase of electric vehicles has been identified. The phased priority removal of diesel cars PRE-EURO and EURO 1 and their replacement with non-polluting vehicles with PM will have the highest effect on reducing emissions from private cars. In the National Programme for Improvement of Air Quality 2018-2024 it is estimated that nearly 55% of the emissions from private vehicles for the city of Sofia are emitted by diesel cars PRE-EURO and EURO 1. Electric cars are the most environmentally friendly alternative in terms of reducing PM emissions. The scope of the final beneficiaries will include citizens living in the municipalities with impaired air quality, who have registered diesel cars PRE-EURO and EURO 1 in these municipalities. A mandatory condition for the final recipient will be the transfer of the personal high-emission diesel car (with pririty PRE-EURO and EURO 1) to licensed recycling organizations.

**2.1.1.2 Indicators**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 2: Output indicators**  |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **ID [5]** | **Indicator [255]**  | **Measurement unit** | **Milestone (2024)**  | **Target (2029)**  |
| “Air” | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | **CF** |  | RCO 36 | Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change | ha | 10 | 160 |
|  | Programme specific indicator | Dwellings with replaced solid fuel heating installations  | number | 0 | 90 000 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 3: Result indicators** |
| **Priority** | **Specific objective** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **ID [5]** | **Indicator [255]** | **Measurement unit** | **Baseline or reference value** | **Reference year** | **Target (2029)**  | **Source of data [200]** | **Comments [200]** |
| “Air” | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | CF |  | RCR 50 | Population benefiting from measures for air quality | persons | 0 | 2021 |  3 904 000 | Supported projects,PE MA |  |

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 5 “Air” | CF |  | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | 048 Air quality and noise reduction measures | 442 314 500,00 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 5 “Air” | CF |  | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution  | 01 Grant | 416 814 500,00 |
| 02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI | 25 500 000,00 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Specific objective** | **Code** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 5 “Air” | CF |  | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | 17 | 396 236 000,00 |
| 48 | 46 078 500,00 |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 8: Dimension 7 - ESF+\*, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension** |
|
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region** | **Specific objective**  | **Code (02 or 01 or 00)** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| 5 “Air” | CF |  | Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | 03 Gender neutral | 442 314 500,00 |

**2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation**

*Reference: Article 17(3); CPR*

*Types of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Main target groups*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support*

*Text field [2 000 characters]*

*Criteria for the selection of operations [[17]](#footnote-18)*

*Text field [4 000 characters]*

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

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

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

2.B.1.1 Intervention from the Funds

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [8 000]*Objective 1: Improving the capacity of programme bodies and bodies related to the management of PE 2021-2027, supported by the ERDF and the CF.Objective 2: Strengthening cooperation with partners, both within and outside the country.In 2021-2027 the targeted support for (potential) beneficiaries on topics with a specific focus continues, contributing to the quality development and adequate implementation of projects under PE 2021-2027 by priorities, where trainings on specific policies are envisaged. Focus is also placed on performing analyzes of possible gaps and basic needs for capacity building by types of beneficiaries, in order to adequately address the identified needs. The enhancement and upgrading of MA capacity takes into account the elaborated in 2020 “Analysis and assessment of the current state of the organizational structure, work processes and human resources of the General Directorate OPE”, as a result of which a Strategy for development of the administrative capacity of DG OPE for the period 2020-2023 has been prepared, together with an Implementation Plan. After 2023, it is planned to upgrade this Strategy based on the accumulated experience and the need for additional knowledge and skills.Taking into account the provisions of Art. 6 of the General Regulation for the period 2021-2027, the good management of the programme is based on cooperation and dialogue with key partners such as public authorities, socio-economic organizations, employers, non-governmental sector. The partnership principle ensures the application of mechanisms for exchange of experience and knowledge between different stakeholders, generates alternatives for a flexible and optimal approach to solving problems and allows effective management of actions with the participation of a wide range of actors at different levels - national, regional and local. This ensures a high degree of compliance of the selected actions with the real needs.At the same time, the implementation of communication measures addressing all target groups in the programme is in line with the measures envisaged in the Аnnual action plans. The main focus is the development of environmental awareness among young people - children, pupils and students. The good practices for organizing information campaigns according to key procedures, as well as regular cooperation with media, information centers and networks continue.Eligible activities are related to:1. **Providing support for activities related to preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control**, including:
2. Strengthening the capacity of (potential) beneficiaries, their partners, of MA, of structures supporting the MA activities; performing training needs analysis and developing and implementing training programmes; organization of (participatory and virtual) practical seminars, meetings, conferences, upgrading trainings, information days, working meetings, exchange of experience and good practices; providing methodological assistance in the form of standard documents, manuals and written instructions on the requirements for project preparation and subsequent sustainable management of the acquired assets / results, etc.;
3. Carrying out assessments, analyzes, studies, research, data collection for PE 2021-2027 implementation; support for organizing project evaluation and selection processes; activities related to monitoring, financial control and audit, risk assessment, anti-fraud measures, irregularities, anti-corruption; legal, translation and other external services related to preparation, impemenetation, monitoring, evaluation and control; activities related to the completion of OPE 2014-2020 and the preparation of the programming period 2028+, etc.;
4. Financing the remuneration expenses of human resources involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control in accordance with the national legislation or the developed rules (including insurance and health contributions and all other associated expenses), logistical and technical provision of the facilities, technical equipment and management information systems of the programme.
5. **Strengthening the interaction with the partners** - members of the Monitoring Committee (MC), target groups of the programme, representatives of the EC services, representatives of bodies / structures from other Member States, including:
6. Logistical and technical support for the functioning of the MC; organizing and conducting trainings and workshops for members and meetings of working subgroups within the MC (participatory and virtual);
7. Providing the necessary support for information, communication, publicity, transparency and awareness raising for PE 2021-2027 according to the Annual action plans;
8. Logistical and technical support for the exchange of experience and good practices with other EU Member States, incl. through the TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER initiative.
 |

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

|  |
| --- |
| The general public, mass media representatives, partners within the Thematic Working Group and MC; potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries and their partners; stakeholders, the administration responsible for environmental and climate change policies; students (in school and university). The MA of the programme shall be a direct beneficiary under the TA priority. |

2.B.1.2. Indicators

Output indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets

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

|  |
| --- |
| Table 2: Output indicators |
| **Priority** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **ID [5]** | **Indicator [255]**  | **Measurement Unit** | **Milestone (2024)** | **Target (2029)** |
| TA | ERDF | ***Transition*** | ***TA1*** | Officials of (potential) beneficiaries/partners trained to increase its administrative capacity | persons | 120 | 720 |
|  | ***TA2*** | Trainings for MA officials to increase administrative capacity | number | 40 | 240 |
|  | ***TA3*** | MA officials supported by TA | persons | 118 | 121 |
|  |  | ***TA4*** | Information campaigns held | number | 1 | 4 |
|  |  | ***TA5*** | Carried out internal and external evaluations under the programme | number | 1 | 4 |

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

*Description of technical assistance under flat rate payments – Article 30*

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [5 000]*  |

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Text field [3 000]*  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 8: Dimension 1 – intervention field** |
| **Priority №** | **Fund** | **Category of region** | **Code**  | **Amount (EUR)** |
| P6 TA | ERDF | Transition  | 140 Information and communication  | 2 940 000,00 |
| 141 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control | 23 499 001,00 |
| 142 Evaluation and studies, data collection | 5 600 000,00 |
| 143 Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners  | 5 600 000,00 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 8: Dimension 7 - ESF+\*, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension** |
|
| **Priority №** | **Fund**  | **Category of region** | **Specific objective**  | **Code (02 or 01 or 00)** | **Amount (EUR)** |
| P6 TA | ERDF | Transition  | NA | 03 Gender neutral | 37 639 001,00 |

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

**3. Financial plan**

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

**3.A Transfers and contributions**[[18]](#footnote-19)

*Reference: Article 10; Article 21; CPR*

* Programme amendment related to Article 10, CPR (contribution to Invest EU)
* Programme amendment related to Article 21, CPR (transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management between shared management funds)

**Table 15: Contributions to InvestEU\***

**Table 15A: Contributions to InvestEU\* (breakdown by year)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fund** | **Category of****region** | **InvestEU window(s)** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **Total** |
| ERDF | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transition |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ESF+ | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transition |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CF | N/A | 1 |  | 15 000 000,00 | 10 000 000,00 |  |  |  |  | 25 000 000,00 |
| EMFAF | N/A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 15B: Contributions to InvestEU\* (summary)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Category of regions** | **Window 1****Sustainable****Infrastructure** | **Window 2****Innovation****and Digitisation** | **Window****3 SME** | **Window 4****Social Investment and Skills** | **Total amount** |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (f)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d) |
| ERDF | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less developed |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transition |  |  |  |  |  |
| [Outermost and northern sparsely populated |  |  |  |  |  |
| ESF+ | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less developed |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transition |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outermost |  |  |  |  |  |
| CF |  | 25 000 000,00 |  |  |  | 25 000 000,00 |
| EMFAF |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  | 25 000 000,00 |  |  |  | 25 000 000,00 |

\*Cumulative amounts for all contributions done through programme amendments during the programming period. With each new request for transfer, a programme amendment shall set out the total amounts transferred for each year by Fund and by category of region.

\*\*Number and names of the windows as it the InvestEU regulation.

*Text field [3500] (justification), taking into account how those amount contribute to the achievement of policy objectives selected in the PA in line with Article 9(1) of InvestEU regulation)*

The support from the CF will contribute to PO 2 through investments in applying best available techniques for companies with the aim to comply with the requirements of the EU and the national legislation on environment and energy efficiency respecting the “do no harm” principle, e.g. renewable energy, wastewater treatment. In particular, the support through InvestEU will additionally contribute to overcome the issues related to the poor progress of the last years in Bulgaria in the area of RES and the relatively low level of compliance with the requirement of Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

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

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

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

\*Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

**Table 17: Transfers between shared management funds\***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ERDF** | **ESF+** | **CF** | **EMFF** | **AMF** | **ISF** | **BMVI** | **Total** |
| More developed | Transition | Less developed | Outermost and northern sparsely populated | More developed | Transition | Less developed | Outermost |
| **ERDF** | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transition |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outermost andnorthern sparselypopulated |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***ESF+*** | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transition |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outermost |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***CF*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***EMFF*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\*Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

1. **Financial appropriations by year**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 10: Financial appropriations by year** |
| **Fund** | **Category of region** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |  | **2026** | **2027** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **Financial appropriation without flexibility amount** | **Flexibility amount** | **Financial appropriation without flexibility amount** | **Flexibility amount** |  |
| ERDF | Less developed | 20 861 936,00 | 45 300 203,00 | 71 526 637,00 | 102 623 394,00 | 102 623 394,00 | 51 311 697,00 | 51 311 697,00 | 51 311 697,00 | 51 311 697,00 | 548 182 352,00 |
| More developed |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Transition | 14 138 064,00 | 30 699 797,00 | 48 473 363,00 | 69 547 531,00 | 69 547 531,00 | 34 773 765,00 | 34 773 766,00 | 34 773 765,00 | 34 773 766,00 | 371 501 348,00 |
| Outermost and northern sparsely populated |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Total  |   | 35 000 000,00 | 76 000 000,00 | 120 000 000,00 | 172 170 925,00 | 172 170 925,00 | 86 085 462,00 | 86 085 463,00 | 86 085 462,00 | 86 085 463,00 | 919 683 700,00 |
| ESF+ | Lessdeveloped |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| More developed |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Transition |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Outermost |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Total |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Cohesion Fund | N/A | 15 000 000,00 | 64 000 000,00 | 80 000 000,00 | 119 704 074,00 | 119 704 074,00 | 59 852 038,00 | 59 852 038,00 | 59 852 038,00 | 59 852 038,00 | 637 816 300,00 |
| **EMFF** | N/A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Total  |   | 50 000 000,00 | 140 000 000,00 | 200 000 000,00 | 291 874 999,00 | 291 874 999,00 | 145 937 500,00 | 145 937 501,00 | 145 937 500,00 | 145 937 501,00 | 1 557 500 000,00 |

1. **Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing[[19]](#footnote-20)**

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

*For Jobs and growth goal:*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 11: Total financial appropriations by fund and national co** | **-financing** |  |  |  |
| **Policy objecive****No or****TA** | **Priority** | **Basis for calculation EU support (total or public)** | **Fund** |  | **Category of region\*** | **EU contrubution** | **National contribution** | **Indicative breakdown of national contribution** | **Total** | **Co­financing rate** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **public** | **private** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | (a) | (b)=(c)+(d) | (c) | (d) | (e)=(a)+(b)\*\* | (f)=(a)/(e)\*\* |
|  | Priority 1 | Public | ERDF |  | Less developed | 255 266 395,00 | 45 047 011,00 | 45 047 011,00 | 0,00 | 300 313 406,00 | 84,9999999667% |
|  |  |  |  |  | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Transition | 297 816 243,00 | 127 635 533,00 | 127 635 533,00 | 0,00 | 425 451 776,00 | 69,9999999530% |
|  |  |  |  |  | Special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Priority 2 | Public | CF |  | 195 501 800,00 | 34 500 318,00 | 34 500 318,00 | 0,00 | 230 002 118,00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Priority 3 | Public | ERDF | Less developed | 86 425 368,00 | 15 251 536,00 | 15 251 536,00 | 0,00 | 101 676 904,00 | 84,9999996066% |
| Transition  | 10 635 172,00 | 4 557 931,00 | 4 557 931,00 | 0,00 | 15 193 103,00 | 69,9999993418% |
|  | Priority 4 | Public | ERDF | Less developed | 206 490 589,00 | 36 439 517,00 | 36 439 517,00 | 0,00 | 242 930 106,00 | 84,9999995472% |
| Transition  | 25 409 932,00 | 10 889 971,00 | 10 889 971,00 | 0,00 | 36 299 903,00 | 69,9999997245% |
|  | Priority 5 | Public | CF |  | 442 314 500,00 | 78 055 500,00 | 78 055 500,00 | 0,00 | 520 370 000,00 | 85,0000000000% |
| TA | TA Art 29 CPR |  | ERDF orESF+ orCF |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | TA Art 30 CPR | Public | ERDF |  | 37 640 001,00 | 16 131 429,00 | 16 131 429,00 | 0,00 | 53 771 430,00 | 70,0000000000% |
| **Total ERDF** |  |  | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Transition | 371 501 348,00 | 159 214 864,00 | 159 214 864,00 | 0,00 | 530 716 212,00 | 69,9999999246% |
|  |  | Less developed | 548 182 352,00 | 96 738 064,00 | 96 738 064,00 | 0,00 | 644 920 416,00 | 84,9999997519% |
|  |  | Special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total ESF+** |  |  | More developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Transition |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Less developed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Outermost |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total CF** |  | N/A |  | 637 816 300,00 | 112 555 818,00 | 112 555 818,00 | 0,00 | 750 372 118,00 | 84,9999999600% |
| **Grand total** |  |  |  | 1 557 500 000,00 | 368 508 746,00 | 368 508 746,00 | 0,00 | 1 926 008 746,00 |  |

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

\*\* Where relevant for all categories of region.

*For the EMFF:*

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

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

**4. Enabling conditions**

*Reference: Article 17(3)(h)*

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

|  |
| --- |
| Updated planning for required investments in water and wastewater sectors  |

 | ERDF | Promoting of sustainable development of the water sector | No | For each or both sectors, a national investment plan is in place and includes:1. An assessment of the current state of implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) 91/271/EEC [and the recast of the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) 98/83/EC].2. The identification and planning of any public investments, including an indicative financial estimationa. Required to implement the UWWTD, including a prioritization with regard to the size of agglomerations and the environmental impact, with investments broken down for each wastewater agglomerationb. Required to implement the DWD Directive 98/83/ECc. [Required to match the needs stemming from the proposed recast (COM(2017)753 final), regarding in particular the revised quality parameters detailed in annex I].3. An estimate of investments needed to renew existing wastewater and water supply infrastructure, including networks, based on their age and depreciation plans.4. An indication of potential sources of public financing, when needed to complement user charges. | No | [500] | Under point 1. and 2. Preparation of an updated assessment of the implementation of Directive 91/271/EEC and Directive 98/83 / EC, incl. of the requirements for amending the Directive.According to point 3. Update of the evaluation of the necessary investments for the reconstruction of the existing water supply and sewage infrastructure.Under point 4. Preparation of analysis for potential sources and ways of public financing.Deadline: December 2020  |
| Updated planning for waste management | CF | Promoting the transition to a circular economy | No | Waste management plan(s) are in place in accordance with Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive EU 2018/851 and covering the entire territory of the Member State and include:1. An analysis of the current waste management situation in the geographical entity concerned, including the type, quantity and source of waste generated and an evaluation of their future development taking into account the expected impacts of measures set out in the Waste Prevention Programme(s) developed in accordance with Article 29 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851.2. An assessment of existing waste collection schemes, including the material and territorial coverage of separate collection and measures to improve its operation, as well as the need for new collection schemes. | No |  | Development and adoption of a NWMP for the period 2021-2028, including:Under point 1. An analysis of the current waste management situation;Under point 2. An assessment of the currеnt waste collection schemes. |
|  |  |  |  | 3. An investment gap assessment justifying the need for the closure of existing waste installations and additional or upgraded waste infrastructure, with an information of the sources of revenues available to meet operation and maintenance costs.4. Information on how future site locations will be determined and on the capacity of future waste treatment installations. |  |  | Under point 3 and 4 - Preparation of assessment of the investments gap and information on future waste treatment sites. Deadline: December 2020 |
|

|  |
| --- |
| Effective disaster risk management framework.  |

 | ERDF | Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience | No | A national or regional disaster risk management plan, established on the basis of risk assessments, taking due account of the likely impacts of climate change and the existing climate adaptation strategies, is in place and includes:1. A description of key risks, assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 (1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, reflecting current and evolving risk profile with an indicative 25-35 years time span. The assessment shall build, for climate related risks, on climate change projections and scenarios.2. Description of the disaster prevention, preparedness and response measures to address the key risks identified. The measures shall be prioritized in proportion to the risks and their economic impact, capacity gaps, effectiveness and efficiency, taking into account possible alternatives.3. Information on financing resources and mechanisms available for covering the operation and maintenance costs related to prevention preparedness and response. | No |  | Preparation and adoption of a National disaster risk management plan, including:Under point 1 - Development of risk assessment methodology; collecting data on damage and losses from disasters and identifying threats and risks at national level;Under point 2 - Development of a National disaster risk reduction programme. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | On point 3 - Provision of financial support mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response activities.Deadline p. 1-3: December 2021Deadline p.2: December 2020 |

**5.Programme authorities**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 13: Programme authorities** |
| **Programme authorities** | **Name of the institution** [500] | **Contact name** [200] | **E-mail** [200] |
| Managing authority | General Directorate “Operational Programme Environment” in the Ministry of Environment and Water | Valeria Kalcheva | vkalcheva@moew.government.bg |
| Audit authority | Executive Agency “Audit of EU Funds” | Lyudmila Rangelova | aeuf@minfin.bg |
| Body which receives payments from the Commission | “National Fund” Directorate in the Ministry of Finance | Manuela Milosheva | natfund@minfin.bg |
| Accounting authority | “National Fund” Directorate in the Ministry of Finance | Manuela Milosheva | natfund@minfin.bg |

**6. Partnership**

*Reference: Article 17(3)(g)*

*Text field [10 000]*

Pursuant to the provisions of Art. 6 of the General Regulation for the period 2021-2027 and taking into account the specifics of Programme “Environment” the partnership with a wide range organizations is a guiding principle in its development, implementation and management.. This is guaranteed by the Thematic working group (TWG), dedicated to the development of PE 2021-2027, in accordance with Article 7 of the Decree of the Council of Ministers № 142/7.06.2019 for development of the strategic and programme documents of the Republic of Bulgaria management of EU funds for the programming period 2021 - 2027. The experience from both programming periods - 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, shows the key importance of the cooperation on EC level for the efficient management and implementation of the programme.

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

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

As next step, OPE MA initiates the establishment of a thematic working group (TWG) for development of PE 2021-2027, in pursuance of Article 7, paragraph 1 of Council of Ministers Decree 142 / 2019 and with members in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, paragraph 4 of the the same Decree, as the document defines the composition and main obligations of the participants in the working groups, as well as the procedure for selection of non-profit legal entities for public benefit activities, whose representatives to participate in the thematic working groups.. To ensure representation of non-profit legal organisations, working in public interest in the fields in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 4, point 14 of Decree 142 / 2019, on 24.9.2019 The MA of PE started a procedure for selection of non-profit legal entities for public benefit, whose representatives to participate in the composition of the TWG for the development of PE 2021 - 2027. The invitation was published on the website of the Unified Information Portal and it specified the deadlines for the application, the documents to be completed and the criteria to be met by the applicant organizations, such as:

• Organizations working in the field of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and equal opportunities;

• Organizations working in the field of social inclusion and integration of marginalized groups;

• Environmental organizations;

• Organizations working in the field of education, science and culture;

• Organizations of local action groups and local fisheries action groups implemented the community-led local development approach;

Applications have been submitted by the relevant representatives of the NGO sector. Due to the lack of applications by organizations working in the field of social inclusion and integration of marginalized groups, the invitation was re-published (on 21.10.2019), aiming to guarantee their representation.The involvement of the widest possible range of departments, organizations and different stakeholders in the process of preparation of the Programme is a good practice that the MA of the PE continues to follow. The composition of the TWG for the preparation of PE 2021-2027 is determined by Order RD-949 / 17.12.2019, and is agreed at the national level with the CCU. The order was amended and addended with representatives from different stakeholders, agencies and organizations are involved as follows:

Directorates within the Ministry of Environment and Water:

- OPE 2014-2020;

- National Service for Nature Protection;

- Coordination of EU affairs and international cooperation;

- Environmental policies and coordination of control activities;

- Waste management and soil protection;

- Water management;

- Protection of air quality;

- Environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and pollution prevention;

- Climate change policy;

- Executive Environment Agency.

Directorates within the Council of Ministers:

- Central Coordination Unit;

- Good governance;

- Economic and social policy.

Ministry of Finance:

- Directorate “Economic and financial policy”;

- Directorate “State aid and real sector”;

- Directorate “National Fund”;

- Executive Agency “European Union Audit”;

- Executive Agency “Certification audit of European Agricultural Funds”. - Ministry of the Interior,

- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy,

- Agency for People with Disabilities,

- Ministry of Youth and Sports,

- Ministry of Energy,

- Ministry of Health,

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

- Ministry of Economy,

- Ministry of Education and Science,

- Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications,

- Ministry of Tourism,

- Ministry of Culture,

- Road Infrastructure Agency,

- Agency for Social Assistance,

- Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria,

- State Fund Agriculture",

- National Statistical Institute,

- Commission for Protection against Discrimination,

- The six regional development councils at NUTS 2 level

- Association of Industrial Capital in Bulgaria,

- Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

- Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria,

- Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce,

- Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria,

- Nationally representative organizations of and for people with disabilities,

- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria,

- Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,

- Council of Rectors,

- Agricultural Academy,

- Non-profit legal entities for public benefit, working in the field of environmental organizations,

- Non-profit legal entities for public benefit, working in the field of education, science and culture,

- non-profit legal entities for public benefit, working in the field of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and equal opportunities,

- Non-profit legal entities for public benefit, working in the field of social inclusion and integration of marginalized groups.

The order defines the functions of the Thematic Working Group, which are:

• to prepare the draft programme “Environment” for the programming period 2021-2027;

• to perform the functions provided for in Art. 10, para. 1, items 1-7 of the Council of Ministers № 142/2019;

• to discuss and reflect the proposals received during the public discussions and consultations of the programme, as well as the comments received from the European Commission on the submitted draft programme "Environment" 2021-2027.

The organization and activities of the TWG are regulated in Internal Rules for the operation of the TWG, and current information on the progress of the programme is published in the section "Operational Programme" Environment "of the Single Information Portal of the European Structural and Investment Funds - [www.eufunds](http://www.eufunds).

According to the internal rules, communication with the group members is carried out by the TWG secretariat, which sends timely documents and information materials before and after the meetings, processes, summarizes and disseminates the received feedback and comments in order to ensure compliance with the principles of partnership and good communication. with all stakeholders involved.

In the performanceits functions, the working group interacts with the thematic working groups for the development of other programmes and the working group for the development of the Partnership Agreement for the programming period 2021-2027, regularly exchanging information on progress in developing the Partnership Agreement and programmes.

Simultaneously with the development of the programme, according to art. 20 para. 2 of the Ordinance on the terms and conditions for carrying out environmental assessment of plans and programmes, for the programme "Environment" 2021-2027 an Environmental assessment report is being developed. For the report consultations were held with the public, the interested bodies and third parties, for which public access was provided to the documentation on the OPE website for the statutory deadlines.

Observing the principle of partnership and continuity, the composition of the Thematic Working Group subsequently "merged" into the composition of the Monitoring Committee of the PE 2021-2027, again with the representation of a wide range of stakeholders who are involved in monitoring the entire investment cycle of the programme, from the planning and implementation process to the stage of monitoring, evaluation and achievement of its objectives. It is envisaged that the representatives of the MC of PE will participate in trainings and presentation of good practices, as well as on-site visits to projects financed under POS 2021-2027.

The partnership principles set out in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) № 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on a European Code of Conduct for Partnerships under the European Structural and Investment Funds will continue to be applied by the MA of the programme in the future.

**7. Communication and visibility**

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

*Text field [4 500]*

Efforts will be focused on informing the general public and potential beneficiaries of PE opportunities. MA considers that citizens are not only end users of the results of projects, but also partners in environmental protection overall goal. The involvement and active civil sector participation in raising the awareness and engagement of the population on environmental issues is among the incentives contributing to improving population health and quality of life. Analogous to the activities of "At school of open cohesion", in which Bulgaria has some good practices, opportunities will be sought to engage students in monitoring the effectiveness of investments through the use of public open data, as well as to promote a culture of active citizenship and raising awareness of Cohesion Policy (CP). Opportunities for implementation of the results of the project "Integrity Pact - Civil Control Mechanism for Protection of EU Funds" will also be sought.

Pursuant to Art. 43 (2) of the CPR 2021-2027, the communication officer monitors the timely implementation of the planned measures, ensures information and good practices exchange within the INFORM network with officials in the country and other MS.

In 2014-2020, the programme stood out as the most recognizable among the others. The MA will once again focus its efforts on raising awareness of the benefits of the programme for the individual citizen.

**Objectives:**

 1.Ensuring transparency in the implementation of PE, raising awareness, and increasing confidence in the opportunities provided by the EU through the European funds.

 2. Informing potential beneficiaries, partner organizations and other stakeholders about the funding;

 3.Developing environmental awareness among the younger generation and all citizens of the country as a guarantee for sustainability of the measures taken;

**Target audiences**

 - General public - active adult population;

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

- Potential beneficiaries – beneficiaries and their partners;

- Administration - units and bodies involved in the management of EU funds in the environmental sector with functions in managing and administration of the programme,

- Mediators / disseminators of information

**Communication activities**

For effective implementation of the activities Annual action plans are developed, which describe specifically the measures, taking into account the specifics of each stage of the programme implementation, with appropriate key messages and channels to the respective target audience::

- educational and information campaigns ;

- information events;

- management of the PE website www.eufunds.bg/en/opos and social media presence;

- meetings and information days with (potential) beneficiaries.Training seminars for beneficiaries, public discussions, as well as the participation and involvement of local communities in regular online surveys, sociological surveys, round tables, focus groups, open discussions, etc.

**Channels of communication**

- Electronic and print media (press conferences, publications, interviews, reports, commercial spots, audio and /or video broadcasts, press releases, seminars, etc.);

- Online communication e.g. Youtube - for visualization of attractive projects; Facebook, Instagram - opportunities to convey the messages of the programme to the general public; TikTok - campaigns aimed at teenagers;), OPE website [www.eufunds.bg/en/opos](http://www.eufunds.bg/en/opos), UMIS;

- Direct communication (events, information days, discussions, trainings, etc.);

- The network of district information centers for promotion of EU Cohesion Policy in Bulgaria;

- Europe Direct Network;

- Economic and social partners;

- Others

**Budget**

0.3% of the European support under the programme.

**Monitoring and assessment indicators**

 The indicators will be reported in the reports of each Annual action plans.

- number of meetings / information days with potential beneficiaries for presentation of open calls and eligible activities;

- number of training seminars /information meetings for beneficiaries for project implementation;

- number of campaigns and information events held (incl. online);

- number of publications on PE website;

- number of visits on website and social networks (web analytics, social media indicators);

- number of broadcasts / publications in the electronic / print media;

- number of people covered by information campaigns and communication measures.

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

*Reference: Articles 88 and 89 CPR*

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indication of use of Articles 88 and 89:\*** | **Priority No** | **Fund** | **Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

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

**APPENDICES**

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

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of submitting the proposal |  |
| Current version |  |

**A. Summary of the main elements**

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

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

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

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

Types of operation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.1. Description of the operationtype |  |
| 1.2 Priority /specific objective(s) concerned (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF) |  |
| 1.3 Indicator name1 |  |
| 1.4 Unit of measurement for indicator |  |
| 1.5 Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate |  |
| 1.6 Amount |  |
| 1.7 Categories of costs covered by unit cost, lump sum or flat rate |  |
| 1.8 Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation? (Y/N) |  |
| 1.9 Adjustment(s) method |  |
| 11.10 Verification of the achievement of the unit of measurement* what document(s) will be used to verify the achievement of the unit of measurement?
* describe what will be checked during management verifications (including on-the-spot), and by whom.
* what arrangements to collect and store the data/documents described?
 |  |
| 1.11 Possible perverse incentives |  |

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

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

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

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data; where the data are stored; cut-off dates; validation, etc.).
2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation is relevant to the type of operation.
3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and attached to this annex in a format that is usable by the Commission.
4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.
5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

***Appendix 2:* Financing not linked to cost**

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission
(Article 89)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of submitting the proposal |  |
| Current version |  |

**A. Summary of the main elements**

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

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

Types of operation:

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

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

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of submitting the proposal |  |
| Current version |  |

**1. Description of the small-scale coastal fleet**

*Text field [5 000]*

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

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

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

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

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

*Text field [10 000]*

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

*Text field [10 000]*

1. **Indicators**

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

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

***Appendix 4:* EMFF action plan for each outermost region**

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of submitting the proposal |  |
| Current version |  |

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

*Text field [30 000]*

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

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

1. **Description of the synergies with other sources of Union funding**

*Text field [10 000]*

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

*Text field [10 000]*

1. Numbers in square brackets refer to number of characters. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Seventh Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion,

<https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/bg/information/cohesion-report/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, breakdown for the years 2021 to 2025 only. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, breakdown for the years 2021 to 2025 only. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Which are designed to cover all the costs of managing the waste stream concerned and are spent on activities related to the implementation of waste recycling/use targets. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, breakdown for the years 2021 to 2025 only. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. . [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation + . [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. С изключение на специфичната цел, посочена в член 4, параграф 1, буква в), точка vii) от регламента за ЕСФ + . [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. Applicable only to programme amendments in line with Article 10 and 21, CPR. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, financial appropriations for the years 2021 to 2025 only. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)