

**SUMMARY FOR CITIZENS
OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL
PROGRAMME "ENVIRONMENT 2014-2020" (OPE 2014-2020)
FOR 2019**

As of the end of 2019, 165 grant contracts were concluded (orders for providing grants were issued) under Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020. They amount to BGN 3.2 billion or 92.3% of the programme budget. At the end of 2019, 139 projects with a grant amount of BGN 3.13 billion were under implementation, and the remaining 26 were successfully completed and amounted to BGN 68 million.

Until the end of 2019, a total of 16 procedures for BGN 2,582,189,537 were launched under Priority Axis "Water", 39 contracts/orders for the provision of grants were concluded/issued for a total amount of BGN 1,829,939,217. In 2019, 13 contracts were concluded for the provision of financing for BGN 831,737,264. The projects under implementation are 33, 6 projects have been successfully completed. The reported newly built/reconstructed waste- water treatment plants are 6 – (Radnevo, Bansko, Tervel, Vratsa, Vidin and Shumen), in addition to them, 2 more have been put into operation so far. (Asenovgrad and Dobrich). In 2019 the Managing Authority created all the necessary preconditions for the submitted project proposals to be approved and negotiated by the WSS operators. The main part of these projects was evaluated and approved between July and October 2019, and the beneficiaries were announced more of the public procurements for the main project activities.

A total of 9 procedures for BGN 709,624,864 were launched, and 38 contracts with amount of BGN 516,510,491 were concluded under Priority Axis "Waste". As of 31.12.2019, 38 projects are being implemented. In order to implement the strategy under the axis, the MA initiated a number of procedures to build the necessary additional capacity for waste recycling and recovery of municipal waste, thereby achieving both the objective of the programme (reduction of the amount of landfilled municipal waste) and the objectives and deadlines resulting from European and national legislation for reducing the amount of landfilled municipal waste, including biodegradable waste and recycling. The scope of the axis includes new measures related to the cleaning up of landfills which are subject to an EU law infringement procedure under case C-145/14 for the failure of the Republic of Bulgaria to comply with its obligations on deposit of waste. Within the axis "Waste", a "major project" within the meaning of Art. 100 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 is being implemented with beneficiary Sofia Municipality for "Design and Construction of Installation for Cogeneration in Sofia with Recovery of RDF – Third Phase of the Integrated System for Municipal Waste Management of Sofia Municipality". A Project Approval Decision was issued by the EC in March 2020.

By the end of 2019, 16 procedures worth BGN 127,348,886 were launched under the Priority Axis "Natura 2000 and Biodiversity". 20 projects were approved for BGN 78 million, 1 project was completed. In 2019, 4 procedures were launched, significantly accelerating the pace of implementation of the axis. The announced procedures support the conservation of biodiversity so that conservation activities can be carried out in order to improve the conservation status of birds, species and natural habitats. The MA continues the preparation of procedures for 2020 in order to further accelerate the pace of axis implementation and ensure the achievement of the target values of the indicators under the axis.

As of the end of 2019, under the Priority Axis “Flood and Landslide Risk Prevention and Management”, 6 procedures worth BGN 164,835,799 were launched, 15 contracts were concluded/order were issued with a total grant value of BGN 107,639,745, 14 projects are in the process of implementation, and 1 project was completed. Activities to reduce the number of people at risk of landslides by strengthening landslides have been successfully carried out. With the implementation of projects, nearly 10,000 people are at reduced risk of landslides and landslide processes. In May 2019, a contract was concluded with the selected contractor under the project “Establishment of a Water Management System in the Iskar River Basin (WMS-IRB) as the first phase of the National Real-Time Water Management System (NRTWMS)”. The system is expected to be in place by January 2021.

As of the end of 2019, a total of 5 procedures worth BGN 615,522,102 were launched under Priority Axis “Improvement of Ambient Air Quality”, a total of 36 projects with a grant value of BGN 608,753,830 were approved, 11 projects were completed, and 25 projects were under implementation. The procedure “Measures for improvement of ambient air quality” finances activities aimed at reducing the amount of PM10 and increasing the population covered by measures for reducing the quantities of PM10 and nitrogen oxides on the territory of municipalities with poor air quality by replacing solid fuel heating devices. In 2019, the MA took actions to accelerate the implementation of the axis, including by amending the programme and changing the financing approach. In July 2019, the procedure “Measures addressing the transport as a source of air pollution” was launched. Transport was identified as the second main air pollutant. Measures taken with the help of the procedure will lead to the achievement of strategic environmental priorities by reducing the amount of PM10/Nox.

At the end of 2019, BGN 935,923,085 or 27% of the programme budget was paid under OPE 2014-2020. The funds certified before the European Commission amount to BGN 812,611,212, representing 23.5% of the programme budget.