



Brussels, 15.4.2021
C(2021) 2778 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 15.4.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Regions in Growth" for support from the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Bulgaria

CCI 2014BG16RFOP001

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006¹, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 4343, certain elements of the operational programme "Regions in Growth" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Bulgaria were approved.
- (2) On 22 March 2021 Bulgaria submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to this operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Bulgaria proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i) to (v) and (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in allocating part of the REACT-EU resources made available to Bulgaria as external assigned revenues in accordance with Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094² under the new thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy" and should cover the year 2021.

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

² Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 23).

- (4) Pursuant to Article 25a(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Bulgaria requests to apply a co-financing rate of 100% to expenditure declared in payment applications during the accounting year starting on 1 July 2020 and ending on 30 June 2021 for the new priority axis of this operational programme.
- (5) The amendment to the operational programme consists in the addition of a new priority axis 9 "Strengthening the health system for a better crisis response" with "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy" as investment objective. The planned actions are strengthening the capacity of the hospital network through reconstruction, design and repair activities for the establishment of isolated structures for the treatment of COVID-19 patients in 105 hospitals, providing medical and hospital equipment for 105 structures, established for treatment and care of COVID-19 patients, increasing the capacity of transfusion hematology centres for the diagnosis of COVID-19, implementing telemedicine in order to reduce the contacts of coronavirus-infected patients when receiving medical care, as well as other activities supporting investments in healthcare products and services and health and safety measures, including the provision of vaccines and medicines. In addition, specific COVID-19 related indicators are introduced, following the indicated allocation of REACT-EU resources and the previous CRII amendments.
- (6) In accordance with Article 30(1) and in accordance with the sixth subparagraph of Article 92b(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the need to temporarily alleviate the burden on public budgets responding to the crisis situation and help secure financial support for projects as well as to quickly deploy the REACT-EU resources for crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and to prepare a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy within the current programming period. The request for the amendment to the operational programme sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 92b(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council³, as well as of the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (7) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee, at its meeting of 14 January 2021, examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.
- (8) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

³ Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

(9) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.

(10) Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the operational programme "Regions in Growth" for support from the ERDF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Bulgaria and benefitting from the REACT-EU resources for 2021, submitted in its final version on 9 June 2015, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 22 March 2021, are hereby approved:";

2. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

"Article 2

The following priority axes shall be supported by the operational programme:

Priority axis 1 "Sustainable and integrated urban development";

Priority axis 2 "Support for energy efficiency in support centres in peripheral areas";

Priority axis 3 "Regional educational infrastructure";

Priority axis 4 "Regional health infrastructure";

Priority axis 5 "Regional social infrastructure";

Priority axis 6 "Regional tourism";

Priority axis 7 "Regional road infrastructure";

Priority axis 8 "Technical Assistance";

Priority axis 9 "Strengthening the health system for a better crisis response".";

3. in Article 4, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

"2. The total financial appropriation for the operational programme is set at EUR 1 377 800 138, to be financed from:

(a) the following specific budget line in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2014:

13 03 60: EUR 1 311 704 793 (ERDF – Less developed regions);

(b) the following REACT-EU resources made available to Bulgaria in accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 on the following specific budget line in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2021:

05 02 05 01: EUR 66 095 345 (ERDF REACT-EU).";

4. Annex I is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Decision;

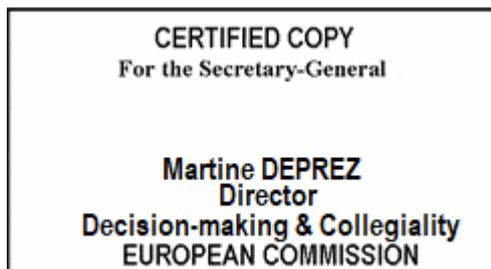
5. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at Brussels, 15.4.2021

For the Commission
Elisa FERREIRA
Member of the Commission



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ANNEX I
"ANNEX I

Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and the amounts related to the performance reserve per year (in EUR)

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	2022	Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Main allocation	Main allocation	Performance reserve
ERDF	Less developed	0	0	197,126,980	12,582,573	198,041,616	12,640,955	195,704,357	12,491,767	202,639,663	12,934,447	237,610,539	15,166,630	201,879,350	12,885,916			1,233,002,505	78,702,288
ERDF REACT-EU		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66,095,345	0	66,095,345	0
Total		0	0	197,126,980	12,582,573	198,041,616	12,640,955	195,704,357	12,491,767	202,639,663	12,934,447	237,610,539	15,166,630	201,879,350	12,885,916	66,095,345	0	1,299,097,850	78,702,288

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ANNEX II
"ANNEX II

Total financial appropriation for the support from the ERDF, the national co-financing for the operational programme and for each priority axis and the amounts related to the performance reserve

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e)	100% CO-FINANCING RATE FOR ACCOUNTING YEAR 2020-2021	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support (l) = (j) / (a) * 100
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)					Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) - (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a))	
1	ERDF	Less developed	Public	670,012,347	118,237,474.00	118,237,474	0	788,249,821.00	84.9999998922%		0	670,012,347.00	118,237,474.00	0	0.00	0.00%
2	ERDF	Less developed	Public	94,194,965	16,622,641.00	16,622,641		110,817,606.00	84.9999999098%		0	77,749,608.00	13,720,519.00	16,445,357	2,902,122.00	17.46%
3	ERDF	Less developed	Public	99,815,316	17,614,468.00	17,614,468		117,429,784.00	84.9999996594%		0	91,064,752.00	16,070,251.00	8,750,564	1,544,217.00	8.77%
4	ERDF	Less developed	Public	97,324,516	17,174,915.00	17,174,915		114,499,431.00	84.9999996943%		0	84,219,255.00	14,862,222.00	13,105,261	2,312,693.00	13.47%
5	ERDF	Less developed	Public	36,538,825	6,448,028.00	6,448,028		42,986,853.00	84.9999998837%		0	36,538,825.00	6,448,028.00	0	0.00	0.00%
6	ERDF	Less developed	Public	85,642,499	15,113,383.00	15,113,383		100,755,882.00	84.9999993053%		0	80,323,353.00	14,174,710.00	5,319,146	938,673.00	6.21%
7	ERDF	Less developed	Public	183,641,325	32,407,293.00	32,407,293		216,048,618.00	84.9999998611%		0	148,559,365.00	26,216,359.00	35,081,960	6,190,934.00	19.10%
9	ERDF REACT-EU		Public	66,095,345	0.00	0		66,095,345.00	100.0000000000%	X		66,095,345.00	0.00		0.00	0.00%
8	ERDF	Less developed	Public	44,535,000	7,859,118.00	7,859,118		52,394,118.00	84.9999994274%		0	44,535,000.00	7,859,118.00			
Total	ERDF	Less developed		1,311,704,793	231,477,320.00	231,477,320	0	1,543,182,113.00	84.9999998024%			1,233,002,505.00	217,588,681.00	78,702,288	13,888,639.00	6.00%

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e)	100% CO-FINANCING RATE FOR ACCOUNTING YEAR 2020-2021	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support (l) = (j) / (a) * 100
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)					Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) - (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a))	
Total	ERDF REACT-EU			66,095,345	0.00	0		66,095,345.00	100.0000000000%			66,095,345.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00%
Total	REACT-EU			66,095,345	0.00	0		66,095,345.00	100.0000000000%			66,095,345.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00%
Grand total				1,377,800,138	231,477,320.00	231,477,320	0	1,609,277,458.00	85.6160714332%		0	1,299,097,850.00	217,588,681.00	78,702,288	13,888,639.00	